

Westgate Residents' Association

Westgate, Henty Gardens, Mount Lane, St Bartholomew's Close and Tannery Close

NEWSLETTER

October 2019

Chairman's Letter

Dear Resident

Whitehouse Farm

I do hope you have had a good summer and are refreshed for the rigours of the winter. There has been a lull in activity regarding **Whitehouse Farm**, but things are getting going again and I have had three meetings in the last two weeks on this subject. Planning permission was deferred on the first reserved matters application for 73 houses in the north-east corner of the site when it first came before the District Council Planning Committee but it has now been approved and we can expect work to start on the roundabout and spine road in the near future. Those of you who have walked north from Bishop Luffa School along Centurion Way will have seen that there are earthworks on the site already. These are in fact part of the archaeological investigation.

Infrastructure Steering Group

The **Infrastructure Steering Group** has now met twice. Jubb, the new firm of traffic consultants, have produced some better plans for the roundabout at Sherborne Road and for the new traffic light junction with Orchard Street and the Avenue de Chartres. However, although the new plans are easier to understand, there are no real changes to the so-called 'Westgate Improvement Scheme'; a misnomer if ever there was one, as it is difficult to see what exactly has changed.

Fighting for improved traffic conditions

I am continuing to fight for something better to address the objectives of reducing the speed and volume of traffic caused by 'rat-running' and providing a safe cycle route along the whole length of Westgate between the two key junctions. However, I am met constantly with comments from Chichester District Council officers that the s. 106 Planning Agreement has been signed so no changes of principle can be made. You will recall that after the grant of outline planning permission, the s. 106 was signed off by District Council officers without any input from either councillors or the community; input which the Planning Inspector had charged officers to seek! The closure of Westgate to vehicles, from Mercers along the 'narrows' eastwards to the Orchard Street roundabout, has been suggested. I realise that this would affect our own car journeys but if this is the only way we can solve the current traffic problems and mitigate the effects of traffic lights, and queues of idling vehicles in the 'narrows' in the future, this may be the lesser of two evils.

Social Life

I am sorry that the Street Party had to be cancelled but the sale of tickets was slow and the organisers (Brian Raincock and the Beau-Belles) were worried that the event would make a loss. However, there will definitely be a street party next year on Friday 8 May 2020, to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe). So please put this date in your diary and remember to buy your tickets as soon as they become available.

Neighbours

Our thoughts are very much with Lois and Brian Cope. As many of you will know by now, Brian was knocked off his bicycle by a car outside the shops in Sherborne Road six weeks ago. As I write, he has just been moved from St Richard's Hospital to a local nursing home. He will not be standing again for election to the Westgate Residents' Association Committee.

Annual General Meeting

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at the AGM at 10.00 am on Saturday 23 November 2019 in St Wilfrid's Church Hall in Sherborne Road. I am delighted to report that the Mayor of Chichester, Councillor Richard Plowman, will be our Guest Speaker. Amongst other things, he will be speaking about his vision for the city.

With best wishes

Richard Brownfield

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Westgate Residents Association will take place at 10.00 am on **Saturday 23 November 2019** in St Wilfrid's Church hall in Sherborne Road. All Westgate residents and residents of the adjoining single-entry roads are invited to attend.

Officers and committee members are elected at the AGM for one year, at the end of which they all retire but are eligible for re-election for a further year. Those standing for re-election are Richard Brownfield (Chair), Bebette Jones (Secretary), Vince Waldron (Treasurer) and the following for committee positions: Finan Letts, Anthony Quail, Sarah Quail, Brian Raincock and Julia Smith. If you are interested in serving on the committee, we should be delighted to hear from you. A nomination form is printed below.

Contributions to the finances

We are very grateful indeed to those households which contributed to running costs in 2019-20. A new financial year begins at the AGM. The current contribution per household is £10.00 and the Treasurer will be delighted to receive your £10.00 notes or cheques (payable to Westgate Residents' Association) on the day! **If you are a 2018-19 'paid up' household, you will be entitled to vote at the 2019 AGM.** If we have your email address, you will also receive the free monthly email Bulletin from the Secretary which details what your officers and committee members are doing to promote the needs of local residents as well as details of the social programme. In addition, you will receive the Newsletter which is distributed free twice a year to every household.

Committee Nomination Form 2019

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

to serve as (circle) Chair – Secretary – Treasurer – Committee Member

Proposed by (name and address)

Seconded by (name and address)

Candidate's Agreement:

I agree to my name being proposed for election to the Westgate Residents' Association Committee.

Signed..... Date.....

Return to Bebette Jones, 6 Tannery Close or scan and email to sec.wgra@gmail.com

Coffee, tea and cake...

As at previous AGMs we shall be serving coffee, tea and cake after the business meeting. This is a plea to the bakers among you who would be prepared to make a cake and bring it along on the day. And if there is anyone prepared to come before the meeting to help set out cups and saucers etc and wash up afterwards, your assistance would be very much appreciated. Let me know if you can make a cake and/or help out in the kitchen.

Sarah Quail

sarah.quail@waitrose.com

Christmas Carols and the Christmas Supper

You will receive a flyer shortly from Brian Raincock and the Beau-Belles with full details of this year's festive events. Sadly, it does not look as if it will be possible to have carol singing in St Bartholomew's Church this year as, apparently, there are problems with insuring the building for our purposes. However, Andy Jeffcoate has kindly agreed that we can meet at *The Crate and Apple* for carol singing at the beginning of the evening. If the weather is kind, we can sing on his terrace or in the back garden! Afterwards the WGRA Christmas Supper will take place in *The Crate and Apple*, as it has done in recent years, and, you never know, there may be music and dancing at the end of the evening!

Other social events

- Coffee Mornings at *The Crate and Apple*. A sociable hour or so for locals. Catch up on news! We get a good crowd. First Saturday morning in the month at 10.00 am.
- Knitting and Social Group. (You do not have to knit just come along for tea or coffee and a chat!) Every Monday morning at *The Crate and Apple* 10.00 am to 12 noon. Contact: Sally Lowe sallylowe10@gmail.com
- 'Bavardage au Pub'. Brush up your French conversation! Last Monday in each month at 6.30 pm at *The Crate and Apple*. Contact: Jane Davies janedavies31@gmail.com

History notes...

Do you know about the Westgate cannon? I certainly did not until I was told about it by a neighbour and, thanks to our former secretary, Colin Hicks, there is a fuller account of the story of this gun on our website www.westgatera.org.uk . Briefly, it sits today in a flower bed outside Mercer's front door (which is actually on the side of their building). The firm itself kindly paid for the wooden stock on which the gun sits. It was actually discovered by a local history enthusiast, sticking out of the ground, when the brewery site was cleared in the mid-1980s.

There was some excitement initially that this might be a relic of the Civil War dramas which took place here in Westgate in December 1642 when Parliamentary troops, fresh from their success in taking Portsmouth, besieged Chichester and demolished the fronts of many of the properties in Westgate in an effort to achieve a better trajectory for their artillery which were trained on the Westgate itself. However, alas, this was not a civil war gun.

It was in fact a stock Armstrong Pattern 24-pounder, a British naval gun with a barrel length of 9 feet and a range of 200 yards. The Royal cipher which can just about be made out is probably that of George II (1727-60). Perhaps the gun fell off its transport on its way to or from Portsmouth dockyard and was reutilised in due course as a bollard on the brewery site. Westgate is in fact described as the Portsmouth Road on many early as well as more recent maps and sketch maps of Westgate.

Neighbourhood Plan

On Monday evening, 14 October 2019, in the Assembly Rooms, the Mayor of Chichester, Councillor Richard Plowman, launched the Chichester City Council Neighbourhood Plan project to a full hall of fellow-councillors, representatives of local residents' associations, the Chichester Society and Chichester Conservation Area Advisory Committee, and members of the general public. Our chairman represented the interests of the Westgate Residents' Association. The plan will set out what type of development we want (and don't want) and where we want it. The council hopes as many Chichester residents as possible including students and young people, employees and business owners get involved and help shape the future of the city. The initial public consultation is open now and you are urged to complete the first survey at neighbourhoodsurvey.chichestercity.gov.uk which you can access on the City Council's website. Do take this opportunity to get involved with the process so that the final document does reflect what we want to see. You can find out more about the whole concept on the City Council's website: www.chichestercity.gov.uk. We also hope to hear more about it when the Mayor speaks to us at our AGM on 23 November and you will have the opportunity to ask him questions.

Published by the Westgate Residents Association. Newsletter Editor: Sarah Quail 44 Westgate, Chichester PO19 3EU sarah.quail@waitrose.com