

Bulletin No. 49 August 2020

COMMITTEE NEWS

Update

As you will all know by now, Richard Brownfield has stood down as Chair of the Westgate Residents Association and we want to thank him for his five years' valiant service on our behalf.

Many of you may not be aware that a residents' association was formed originally to safeguard our street's interests as the new Tesco supermarket rose on the series of interchanges to the south and west of the Sherborne Road junction with Westgate. Some of the former officers still live in our midst, most notably Sue Doggart and Tony Schofield! However, with new issues threatening to disturb our relative peace such as Whitehouse Farm and its many ramifications, Richard; then Secretary Colin Hicks, and their fellow-Committee members breathed new life back into the organization.

We are now in a strong position to continue representing residents in planning debates and also to take on board much of what the Westgate Helpers have done to foster not only community initiatives during the current Covid-19 emergency but also the wider interests of local residents.

In the meantime, Treasurer Vince Waldron and Committee Member Sarah Quail are coordinating WGRA business along with Secretary Bebette Jones until the AGM on 14 November 2020.

Finally, you should note that Richard has closed his email address chair.wgra@gmail.com. Secretary Bebette Jones is monitoring this address until a new Chair takes it over and she should be consulted if you have any queries or any issues. For the record, her email address is sec.wgra@gmail.com.

Annual General Meeting

This meeting is scheduled for Saturday 14 November 2020 in St Wilfrid's Church Community Hall at 10.00 am. We hope very much that we can meet there but this may not be feasible. Possibly we shall have to hold a Zoom AGM instead. For the moment, note the date and we shall keep you posted!

The Way Forward

Advised to meet as soon as possible by Richard, the Committee held an Extraordinary Meeting on 21 July 2020. Arrangements were made to send representatives to meetings currently scheduled and, more importantly, it was agreed to bring forward for discussion and, hopefully, agreement at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 7 September 2020 plans for a devolved system of governance. Briefly, we are talking about setting up four sub-committees (actually it is three more as the Beaux-Belles exist already). Each would have their own leader who will report to the main Committee. The proposal is for the following sub-committees: Planning and Traffic; Community (Westgate Helpers etc.); Social (Beaux-Belles) and Communications (*Bulletin* and *Newsletter*).

As the Beaux-Belles have proved so successfully, it is possible to recruit willing hands to less formal groupings. Many people just do not have the time or inclination to serve on a formal committee and this is a way of increasing the numbers of interested WGRA volunteer workers - and of spreading the workload.

From the Treasurer

The subscriptions the Association have collected from members to date this year, are well down from the previous 2 years. In view of this, would Members who have not paid their 2020 £10 annual subscription so far, please do so as soon as possible but certainly before the end of October.

Many thanks in advance for your welcome contribution to our Association's finances- and of course it will entitle you to vote at the forthcoming AGM in November.

Please pay as follows:

By electronic banking

Account Name: Westgate Residents Association

Sort Code: 30-90-28

Account Number: 69382160

Reference: please use your address as reference.

Alternatively, if you prefer, you can pay by cheque. made out to 'Westgate Residents Association', or with a £10 note, put in an envelope marked with your name and address, and posted through my letterbox at 72 Westgate.

PLANNING AND TRAFFIC

Whitehouse Farm (WHF) Development

Westgate / Orchard Street Roundabout

The Phase I highways works (which include Westgate improvement works) have now been largely agreed. The major outstanding issue is the proposed Westgate/Orchard Street signalised junction to which the WGRA Committee, following the overwhelming result of the Questionnaire in March, is strongly opposed on traffic and environmental grounds. Installation of these traffic lights forms part of the Section 106 Agreement between WSCC and the developers and thus reversing it is no easy matter.

It has been suggested that the traffic lights would provide a safer journey for pedestrians and cyclists than the existing roundabout. West Walls Residents Association are however also strongly opposed and have put forward a compromise proposal. This retains the current roundabout but caters for the interests of pedestrians and cyclists by adding cyclist/pedestrian on demand traffic controls on each of the five roads leading off it. This is considered to be a sensible compromise by the WGRA Committee.

This proposal has been with the developers for consideration for some time. Disappointingly they failed to provide a response at the recent ISG meeting. They have indicated that they expect to respond at the next ISG meeting in September.

WHF Phase II

Discussions are now underway between Councillors and the developers with regard to moving forward with Phase II of the WHF development. Sarah and Gabrielle attended a meeting on this last week with our Councillors and other community groups. Richard Plowman, our Mayor, is very keen to get community input into the masterplan for this phase. It is thought that an outline planning application will be brought forward in about 12 months' time.

Of key importance to Westgate residents will be the routing of the Southern Access Road linking the development with the A27 Chichester bypass. No specific proposal for this is publicly available yet. It appears however from plans prepared by the developers for other elements of the development that they will be seeking to route this along the westernmost part of Westgate to the Westgate/Sherbourne Road mini roundabout. Clearly this would have major implications for traffic/pollution levels all along Westgate as well as having a detrimental impact on the character of our residential area.

We stated our strong opposition to these plans and expressed our strong desire to see lower traffic levels along the whole length of Westgate. The implications of the various alternatives for the Southern Access Road will need to be worked through as the developer's proposals become clearer. We will of course keep residents informed and discuss with you the best way forward.

On a more positive note Richard Plowman asked for suggestions as to any community uses we would wish to see included in Phase II. He suggested a new crematorium and old people's home! Can we suggest any amenities which would benefit younger people?

We will report in the next bulletin on the proposed upgrading of the Chichester to Emsworth cycle route the final section of which runs along Westgate.

THE SOCIAL SCENE

Street Party 2020

As you are all well aware, this eagerly awaited event fell foul of the Covid 19 pandemic and had to be cancelled which meant that two years of street parties have been cancelled although for totally separate reasons. We had received a number of applications for tickets for 2020 together with the money but in view of the decision taken recently to delay until 2021, the cheques or cash will be returned over the next week or so.

Street Party 2021

Hopefully third time lucky and we have settled on the date which is the Queen's Official 95th Birthday on **Saturday 12th June 2021**. Full details will come in due course but it will be in Westgate – somewhere!

Christmas Carols Sing-a-long

The Beaux Belles are looking at alternative arrangements for this year's Sing-a-long and will publicize details as soon as possible – probable dates are either 9 or 16 December.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

20'S Plenty for Us

One of our residents suggested 20mph stickers to put on our wheelie bins to remind motorists (and cyclists) that Westgate is a 20mph street. The Committee thought it was a great idea and we hope residents will agree and support us. We plan to order stickers through the 20's Plenty campaign website and these will be available to pick up free at the AGM in November. Interesting facts:- in Wales the First Minister has set up a task group to implement a 20mph national default for residential roads while in February 2020 global ministers mandated 20mph speed limits wherever cyclists or pedestrians mix with motor vehicles. There's lots more information on the website: <http://-www.20splenty.org/>

20's Plenty



**Where people
are**

20's Plenty for Us campaigns for 20mph as the default speed limit for urban and village streets where people live, work, shop, play and learn.
www.20splenty.org

No. 65 Westgate and the Tannery Site

We are happy to report that the squatters who have inhabited No. 65 since March have finally been evicted and the building securely boarded up. We now await updates on the long-promised redevelopment of this site.

REGULAR WGRA EVENTS

WGRA Coffee Morning – our monthly coffee mornings are still on hold at the moment thanks to Covid 19 but there are tentative plans to restart in October depending on guidelines. Please look out for further updates.

Knitting & Social Group - a message from the organiser Sally Lowe (sallylowe10@gmail.com)
“The Knitting group is not starting up again at the moment, but individuals are more than welcome to meet for coffee on an informal basis”.

“Bavardage au Pub” - organiser Jane Davies (janedavies31@gmail.com) No Bavardage in August as the last Monday falls on a Bank Holiday.

If you do not wish to receive further communications from the WGRA, click [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) or contact the Secretary, Bebette Jones at 6 Tannery Close (sec.wgra@gmail.com)