

WGRA BULLETIN

WESTGATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Merry Christmas!

December 2020

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Westgate Advent Windows

We're delighted to have so many volunteers and are looking forward to seeing your creations as we count down to Christmas.

A couple of you have mentioned that you'd like to know which houses are taking part in the scheme, so you can look out for the unveiling of their number. You may have to look upwards to see a couple of them...

Thanks again for helping us add some Christmas cheer to the street!

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 December | 11 Westgate | 13 December | 48 Westgate |
| 2 December | 19 Westgate | 14 December | 15 Westgate |
| 3 December | 1 The Courtyard | 15 December | 30 Westgate |
| 4 December | Orthodontist | 16 December | 22 Westgate |
| 5 December | 20A Westgate | 17 December | 44 Westgate |
| 6 December | 19 Westgate | 18 December | 31 Westgate |
| 7 December | 9 Westgate | 19 December | 34 Westgate |
| 8 December | 38 Westgate | 20 December | 21 Westgate |
| 9 December | 42 Westgate | 21 December | 28 Westgate |
| 10 December | 32 Westgate | 22 December | 3 The Courtyard |
| 11 December | 17 Westgate | 23 December | 25 Westgate |
| 12 December | 27 Westgate | 24 December | The Cottage |

Westgate Residents Association

Chichester

working for:
Westgate,
Henty Gardens,
Mount Lane,
St Bartholomew's Close,
Tannery Close

CONTACT US:

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chair.wgra@gmail.com

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REPORT ON AGM 2020

We hope that all our members managed to have a look at the large package of AGM papers that were circulated by email before the AGM. The meeting was held by Zoom on Saturday 14 November and while the AGM business was done quickly and efficiently, we all missed the chance of a chat with neighbours and friends over coffee and cake afterwards! Here are a few notes from the meeting:

28 households attended including two visitors: Councillor John Henry Bowden and Mike Evans, Chair of West Walls Residents Association. **9 Apologies** were received and **24 Proxy forms** were returned **unanimously approving** all the resolutions proposed.

Committee Elections

The 2020/21 WGRA Committee line up is now:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Sarah Quail (Chair) | Brian Raincock |
| Vince Waldron (Treasurer) | Julia Smith |
| Bebette Jones (Secretary) | Gabrielle Abbott |
| | Richard Staughton |

Sarah thanked the committee members retiring this year:

“Most importantly, we have to thank Richard Brownfield who, as I said in a recent Bulletin, played a key role in setting up the reconstituted WGRA some five years ago. As chairman, his energy and enthusiasm, and, equally that of his wife, Sue, has contributed much to the Association’s success. I must also thank Fin Letts and Anthony Quail. Fin will remain as our Website Facilitator but is giving up the committee. Anthony, like Richard, was a founder-member of the new committee in 2015 and was a useful link with the Chichester Society. However, the demands of that organisation have meant that he can no longer give the time to our business that he could in the past. So, thank you, all of you, for the time and energy which you have given to the WGRA.”

And welcomed our new members:

“Brian, Julia and Gabrielle are former members of the committee while Richard Staughton is a new nominee. He is particularly interested in traffic issues in Westgate and will be joining the Planning and Traffic sub-group”.

Revised Constitution – new clause referring to Associate Members

Sarah added:

“The intention is that Associate Members will be appointed by the WGRA Committee to help with committee business under the direction of the committee. If approved, it is hoped that this new category of membership will also enable more people to become involved in WGRA activities without having to take on the responsibilities of full committee membership.

Our intention is to appoint as our first Associate Members: Fin Letts (Website Facilitator); Kathryn Kellagher (Community sub-group leader) and Louise Higham (Communications team leader).”

A.O.B.

There were two questions submitted in advance by members:

“The receipt of £10 from 70 households is woefully low for the number of households in our catchment area (280). Would the committee consider sending out a membership form for the collection of subscriptions? At present, there is no incentive to pay as everyone is treated the same apart from voting.”

Sarah Quail replied:

“There are in fact 245 households in our catchment area of which 139 are WGRA members which is 57% of total households and 70 of those are paid up i.e. 50%. So, yes, you can argue that this is not equitable. However, since the WGRA was reconstituted five years ago, it has been the wish of the committee to encourage participation in the Association and to prevail on the goodwill of households to chip in funds.

You say, Anne, that there is no incentive to pay but we have always felt that the right to vote was a very tangible incentive to pay up. In fact, over the last few years, several of our members have been mortified to discover they were not paid up members entitled to vote and have therefore paid very rapidly into the kitty!

The committee has discussed this subject at length on several occasions of late and we do take your point. However, the view is that this is not the best of times to make this a major issue and we would prefer to continue to rely on the goodwill of the membership in the interests of encouraging participation in activities.”

“Can we press CDC re the state of the road at the east end of Westgate? Cars cause water damage to walkers.”

Sarah Quail replied:

“We are sure that a number of locals will agree with you! Firstly, you must report an issue like this to the relevant local authority. This issue is one for West Sussex County Council’s (WSCC)Highways Department. You can either ring them up or log into <https://love.westsussex.gov.uk> which is probably the best option at the moment with so many staff working at home. There you can explain fully what the problem is and track your query.

If what you are reporting is posing a danger or there is a Health and Safety issue, WSCC is obliged to act. If you fail to get any response within a reasonable period, then do let us know and if you have not been in touch with your councillor by then, we can give you their contact details.

Basically, you must report problems! There were issues not so long ago about the state of Westgate. Street cleaning is in fact a Chichester District Council (CDC) responsibility and once we drew attention to the problem, Westgate is being swept more regularly.”

Finally, Sarah thanked those members attending the meeting and thanked all members for their support over the last twelve months and hopefully in the twelve months to come.

Bishop Luffa Land Swap – Neighbourhood plan vote

As you know our City Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Chichester. As part of this process a background paper and poll have recently been sent to residents' groups regarding the proposed Bishop Luffa land swap. Under this proposal the Bishop Luffa school would be relocated to a new building and its existing land developed for housing. We are asked to vote on whether a policy endorsing the land swap should form part of our Neighbourhood Plan.

The background paper can be accessed here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GnD8lYbwculwOsraAyyhFviEIVF1X3P9/view>

What would the land swap involve?

Under the proposal a new school for Bishop Luffa would be constructed on the southern part of the WHF site. The primary school (currently to be located in the Community Centre for WHF) would also be relocated here. Alongside these schools there would be shared public/school playing fields.

The existing Bishop Luffa school site would be redeveloped for residential use. Although not mentioned in the background paper we have been told that this would be a 'care village', including provision for end of life care. The maximum number of homes to be built here has now been increased from 300 to 400 homes.

Isn't this a good thing?

WRGA Committee supports the desire to upgrade the school's facilities. A new school would be built to a better design, be carbon neutral and significantly reduce annual running costs.

Regrettably however we are unable to support the proposal because of what we are asked to agree to with regard to the Bishop Luffa site redevelopment. In particular we have the following concerns about this:

- 400 homes require high density development. We are told that in order to achieve this building heights of up to 4 storeys will be required. This is not in keeping with surrounding areas or the character of our residential neighbourhood.
- We are not told how traffic would access the development or what the impact of this additional traffic (on top of the 1600 homes already envisaged for WHF) would be. Our existing traffic infrastructure is already over capacity.
- No plans or other information has been provided to show the nature of the development: what would be the type and mix of housing, what green space, amenity areas and community facilities would be included? In short, we have not been given adequate information on which to make such an important decision.
- Given the lack of information and meaningful public consultation, it is premature to have a poll on these important issues.

We are pleased to say that, following representations by ourselves and Parklands RA, it has been agreed that the results of the poll will not be actioned. Instead, this proposal will be brought forward again at a later date, when appropriate information can be provided and with a better level of community engagement. We are grateful to Parklands RA for their help and support in achieving this.

How you can help

Although the poll will not count, this proposal has not gone away. **We are still at risk of inappropriate high-density development on the Bishop Luffa site. We, therefore, urge residents to express their opposition to this by voting on these proposals as soon as possible via the online poll at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SchoolLandSwap>**

Voting closes on 15th December

If possible, please do make your concerns known by including comments with your vote. Alternatively, we suggest you direct comments to Gareth Bowen, Membership Services Support Officer at Chichester City Council: g.bowen@chichestercity.gov.uk

We would also welcome residents' feedback on this. Please email planning.wgra@gmail.com

A 'thank you' and reminder from our Treasurer

Firstly, a big thank you for all those Members who have already paid their £10 subscription (and more than £10 in some cases) for the year ahead.

Secondly, for all those Members who have not yet paid, may I ask them to give their £10 membership subscription as soon as possible. Our financial year runs from November 2020 to 31 October 2021, but please do not leave it until just before the next AGM.

If you have not given a subscription for some time, why not do so now and join your neighbours in giving your Residents Association financial support?

Electronic banking details are as follows:

Account Name: Westgate Residents Association
Bank Sort Code: 30-90-28
Account number: 69382160
Reference: either your name or address.

If you do not 'do' internet banking then you can put a £10 note or cheque made out to 'Westgate Residents Association' in an envelope and put it through my door at 72 Westgate, PO19 3HH. Please write your name or address on the envelope so I know who you are.

Thank you all for your support! Vince Waldron

Foodbank collection

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Foodbank collection this month. It was a wonderful response and we hope to organise another one in the New Year.

Sarah Adams from the Trussell Trust, pictured below, came to collect all the boxes and bags of groceries & toiletries. She is a very busy woman and co-ordinates the donation collections, logistics and volunteer schedules as well as providing the useful list of items particularly needed each month. We will follow her suggestions again next time as many of us found it useful to shop to her list.

If you prefer to give money then do visit the Chichester District Foodbank at <https://chichesterdistrict.enthouse.com/#!/> in order to make a contribution towards buying any important missing items or towards petrol costs for the collection vans. You can also make a financial contribution to the Food Bank each month by standing order.

Thank you, Bridget Hicks



EXTENDED to JANUARY

Crowd Funding for a City Speed Indicating Device?

We have advised before how residents in the City of Chichester are being encouraged to support a local campaign to fund two mobile Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) for the Chichester City area.

These devices flash drivers' speeds, reminding them of the speed limit, along with an appropriate message (eg "Thank You" or "Slow Down") and can be moved around locations.

As well as helping to reinforce safe driving speeds, each SID provides data - how many drivers speed, when, and by how much.

There are **no** SIDS currently available for use in Chichester at all! Progress so far is that Chichester City Council has approved direct funding for one SID and a community Spacehive fundraiser for the second SID was launched and, due to Covid, the deadline for this has been extended to **19 January**. A renewed push to get donations collected is now underway - we are a third of the way there (as WSCC have agreed to fund £1000) so please support with a fiver or more if you can! Westgate are going to help pilot the SIDs and our committee is already working with Parklands on this.

To help, either please pledge a small donation now at <https://www.spacehive.com/community-safety-drive---chichester> where more information is available. This requires you to log your bank details but money will only be taken IF the total is reached. This is a regulated site, but if you would prefer to pledge in a different way, then our Treasurer, Vince Waldron, has kindly agreed to take and hold pledges for you, and to pledge a total online on behalf of WGRA residents - if you would feel happier to donate in this way. In this case, please drop in an envelope with either a cheque (payable to Westgate Residents Association) or a cash donation, clearly stating your name, address, telephone number and an email address for us to acknowledge receipt. Please mark your envelope "For SID" and drop it off at No. 72 Westgate or post to Vince Waldron, 72 Westgate, PO19 3HH.

If the funding target is not reached by 19 January, we will of course return your cheque or cash to you promptly. Hope this makes it easier for some of you to support this initiative - **WGRA cannot afford to buy a SID out of its funds, so this is our best chance of getting access to one!**

Crate and Apple Christmas Dinner and Carols

Regrettably, and with huge disappointment the Beaux Belles have decided that, with the Tier 2 Rules and the wish to keep everyone as safe and sound as possible, it would be wisest to cancel the Christmas Dinner and also forego any formal arrangements for a Carol singalong.

Very sorry, but looking on the bright side, the BB's are already starting on arrangements for the Street Party on 12th June when we hope that life will have returned to normal.



LIONS CLUB OF CHICHESTER

WHEN FATHER CHRISTMAS WILL BE IN YOUR AREA, DECEMBER 2020

Chichester Lions Club is doing its bit to raise happiness and wellbeing by bringing Father Christmas to the City." A spokes-elf for Father Christmas said he is pleased to accept the invitation from Lion President Linda Squires to carry on with a tradition that has been going for 3 generations and for Santa to spend time with us helping to put a smile on the faces of children of all ages, even if that means behind a mask."

In the last few years the Lions Club has averaged a collection of about £5000 to go to local needy causes and recognises that, this year, we are unlikely to raise any money but having brought the man in red to Chichester for over 40 years the Club felt it was important for the wellbeing and mental health of the people of Chichester. However if anyone wants to make a donation they can do so on our website at www.chilions.org.uk and at Santander North Street from December 1st.

All our evening routes start at 6pm. We try to complete each route but can't continue past 8.30pm. See our website on www.chilions.org.uk for full route details

Monday 7th CHICHESTER WEST. Start Bishop Luffa Close, Oliver Whitby Road, John Arundel Road, Newlands Lane, Oak Avenue, Cedar Drive, Beech Avenue, Parklands Road, Hawthorne Crescent, Parklands Road, Walnut Avenue, Sherbourne Road.

Wednesday 9th EAST BROYLE. Start Little Breach, Norwich Road, Carlisle Gardens, 2nd Worcester Road, Gloucester Way, Lincoln Green, Rochester Close, Durham Gardens, Hereford close, Guildford Place, Salisbury Way, Bristol Gardens, Exeter Road, Wells Crescent, Norwich Road, Winchester Drive.

Friday 11th STOCKBRIDGE. Start at The Meadows, Stockbridge Gardens, Gordon Avenue, Marden Avenue, Graydon Avenue, Stockbridge Gardens, Grosvenor Road, Waterside Drive, Bywater Way, Waterside Drive, Grosvenor Road, Belgrave Crescent, Southfields Close, Millpond Crescent, Ferry Drive.

We will not be collecting donations door to door as in past years, however if you would like to make a donation to our local welfare fund you can donate online at <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/3633>

If you do not wish to receive further communications from the WGRA, please contact the Secretary, Bebette Jones at 6 Tannery Close or sec.wgra@gmail.com