

WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

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

Bulletin September 2021

CONTACT US:

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Ongoing Westgate traffic issues

Thank you, everyone, who responded to the recent Traffic Surveys, and particularly Richard Staughton who collated the responses received.

We wanted a current snapshot – a straw poll you might call it - of households' views on traffic in Westgate and its feeder streets in the immediate post lockdown period.

We had 46 replies from a total number of 245 households (Westgate, Henty Gardens, St Bartholomew's, Tannery Close and Toll-house Close) *i.e.*, 19%. However, of these 245 households, only 139 are WGRA members so, of the membership, we got replies from 33%.

The number of replies from the Narrows *i.e.*, the old houses were higher (Orchard Street to Parklands Road). There are 59 households here of which 43 are members of WGRA. We got replies from 26 of the 43 households *i.e.*, 60%.

While WSCC road counters do not show that traffic has returned to pre lockdown volumes, Richard Staughton has captured the following views from householders along the length of Westgate:

- too much traffic
- unenforced speeding issues
- daily congestion at peak times at the western end of Westgate
- pedestrians' anxieties about cyclists, skateboarders and e-scooters on pavements particularly in the Narrows (narrow pavements!) but in fact this is a problem commented upon, as I say above, along the length of Westgate
- difficulties crossing the road for people with small children in tow or for those who are no longer so fleet of foot due to speeding vehicles
- concerns about rat running
- also, concerns about the effect of heavy vehicles *i.e.*, HGVs and buses which shake the fabric of the old houses in the Narrows
- air pollution
- noise pollution

We can only speculate, given that traffic volumes have yet to return to pre-lockdown levels, whether our concerns are born of the reprieve we enjoyed during lockdown or whether it is a cumulative issue *i.e.*, we are no longer prepared to put up with this growing aggravation to our lives without complaint! However, between us all, as the WGRA and as individuals, we have protested about the proposed route of the SAR (Southern Access Road). In addition, and further to my last note to you all:

- We have met with other nearby residents' associations (Parklands, East Broyle and West Walls) and together, we are asking for a meeting with Miller Vistry (the developers) on the subject of the SAR. Richard Plowman, our recent mayor and one of our local councilors, has been asked to progress this with Miller Vistry
- We have also written to WSCC Traffic Road Order (TRO) team relating to the WHF Phase 1 Traffic Order and put on record our concern about the creation of a shared pavement for cyclists and pedestrians round the Sherborne Road roundabout and have requested that the TRO team do not set this as the design standard for the pending Phase 2 WHF infrastructure changes
- We have learned that Miller Vistry has put in a pre-planning application to WSCC. What discussions are taking place will be confidential, but we understand that, amongst other things, WSCC have asked the developers to look again at the figures on which they have predicted likely future traffic flows through the proposed confluence of roads at the west end of Westgate (SAR, Westgate, and Sherborne Road)

- We are still waiting for a reply from Miller Vistry’s traffic engineers, Jubb, and have sent them a reminder that they promised to be in touch following our walkabout with them to discuss WHF Phase 1 s. 106 monies to be spent on traffic mitigation measures on Westgate. Subjects discussed on the walkabout included better signage, repair of the pavements in the Narrows, and a possible gateway feature at the western end of Westgate. **We also flagged with Jubb the possible need for more drastic traffic-calming measures in the future befitting a residential road and national cycle path.**
- We have also purchased our own air quality monitor!

In conclusion, we are waiting now for news of the SAR route Miller Vistry have chosen to take forward following their pre-application discussions with WSCC. We understand that the protests have been considerable relating to their original proposal.

The application for formal planning permission will be made by the end of the year. Once we have news of the route proposed in the planning application, we can decide on subsequent steps but in the meantime, our Planning and Traffic Group will be working with the Old Westgate Group to look at what we can do now to mitigate the effects of traffic not only in the Narrows but along the length of Westgate.

Sarah Quail
Chair

WGRA AGM – please make a note of the date

Our AGM this year will take place on **Saturday 20 November 2021 at 10am** at St. Wilfrid’s Church Community Hall. We look forward to seeing you all in person this year instead of by zoom !

Members are reminded that in order to vote at the AGM, they must have paid their 2021 subscription of £10. If you have not paid, please do so before the end of `October, otherwise you will not be able to vote!

You can pay by credit transfer with the following details:

A/C name: Westgate Residents Association

Sort Code: 309028

A/C No: 69382160

Ref: Your surname plus street number

If you do not use online banking, then please write a cheque to “Westgate Residents Association” or pay by cash, putting your sub in an envelope with your name and address on the back and posting it though the door at either 72 or 44 Westgate or 6 Tannery Close. If you have already paid, many thanks, and if you have yet to pay, your sub before the end of October will be greatly appreciated.

Vince Waldron
Treasurer

Community Speedwatch Update

August has been a particularly successful month for the Speedwatch group who held several productive sessions and added two new members.



A record number of drivers were observed exceeding the speed limit which have been passed on to the Police who will take action, sending warning letters in the first instance. Bebette and Brian had a particularly active session recording details of eleven vehicles at speeds ranging from 26 to 29 miles per hour; well done!

We’re pleased to welcome Michael Hinton and Michael Baker into the group as operators after completing their training. This includes an online course and hands on use of the equipment; it’s quite interesting and they’re both well prepared now.

We’d like to hold more sessions so more volunteers to act as operators would be really helpful. It’s not onerous, an hour or so a month makes a great deal of difference. It’s clearly of value and the reception we get from pedestrians helps make it worthwhile. For more information go to the website at www.communityspeedwatch.org or contact me by email:

david@thethornleys.net

David Thornley
Speedwatch Coordinator



St Bartholomew's Church

It would appear that the purchase of the church by the Rosemary Bell Academy of Dance is proceeding and their application to convert the church to a Dance Academy is now going through the planning stages. The link below takes you to the planning portal and the documents associated with the application. Residents living locally are maintaining a watching brief.

<https://publicaccess.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QXZ9VVEROYN00>

Over the Rainbow - Thank You to the NHS & Frontline Workers

This special event will take place on Chichester Day, Thursday 30th September from 5pm to 8pm in Priory Park. Free entry, with parades, Covid-19 Awards, entertainment and food all provided.

During Richard Plowman's Mayoral term of office, he promised to throw a party for the whole of the Chichester Community to say thank you to the NHS particularly St Richard's staff but to all the frontline workers, once the virus was manageable and most of us have had our jobs. It's also a big Thank You to the community for stepping up during the pandemic.



Bus survey

Bus Back Better is the title of a survey from the County Council. They want to hear what you think would improve local bus services and what would make you use buses more. They are keen to hear from people of all ages who already use buses and those who do not. You can read more and fill in the survey at yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/busbackbetter by 14th September.

WGRA Christmas Carols and Party 2021

It may be a little early to mention the 'C' word but plans are well underway for this year's carols and Christmas party. Final details will be in the next October Bulletin so watch this space!

WGRA Regular Social Events

Coffee Morning

Held on the first Saturday of each month at the Crate & Apple at 10pm so come along and meet up with neighbours, old and new, and catch up with the latest Westgate news.

Knitting & Social Group

Held every Monday at the Crate & Apple from 10am – 12 noon. Knitter or not, please come along for coffee or tea and a chat!

Bavardage au Pub

Our French speakers continue to meet on the last Monday of the month at the Crate & Apple at 6.30pm.



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