

WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

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



Bulletin December 2022

CONTACT US:

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AGM Report

Thank you to all the 59 members and guests who came along to this year's AGM. The Annual Report and Financial Accounts for 2022/23 were approved and all the committee members were re-elected with Sarah Quail as Chair, Vince Waldron as Treasurer, Bebette Jones as Secretary along with Julia Smith, Brian Raincock, Clare Heath and Kathryn Kellagher.

There were 2 informative slide presentations, first by Mark Record, campaigner and Secretary of Chicycle, on the SAR junction design followed by local resident, Geoff Thiels, on the wider problems Westgate faces in terms of traffic mitigation. These were very useful in giving members a better understanding of the current issues. Points raised included:

SAR

- There are serious safety issues in the staggered junction design with recommended guidelines not being followed. This has resulted in reduced visibility for motorists coming from the College Roundabout and the distance between the two junctions being too short.
- The reduction of safe provision for cyclists and pedestrians by the use of shared pavements.
- The concern that the current SAR design unintentionally creates a western bypass for Chichester through the Minerva Heights spine road (the SAR is the southern end). Sherborne Road will also become a link road between the A27 and the B2178
- There is no guarantee that Westgate will not continue to funnel rat running traffic into the city centre.
- National Highways have given the developers an extended period until January 2023 to provide additional modelling data to justify the design of the staggered junction.

Westgate and APNR update

- Implementing an ANPR scheme could displace over 70% of rat running traffic at rush hours onto the Via Ravenna which was designed 40 years ago as a relief road for Westgate!
- ANPR schemes have proved a better solution than the unpopular Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) that close residential roads to traffic.
- The scheme can be extended to other roads e.g. Sherborne Road and Parklands Road.
- Currently Westgate traffic has priority over Via Ravenna when entering the College Roundabout which causes Via Ravenna to back up at rush hours, thereby encouraging more rat runners to use Westgate. Less traffic on Westgate by using an ANPR scheme should consequently result in smoother running on Via Ravenna.
- Suggested alternatives for the SAR were to connect directly into the College Roundabout or possibly feeding directly into the A27.
- Despite successful ANPR schemes in London, a recent application to consider this for Westgate was however turned down for the time being.

A draft resolution drawn up by the Committee was then presented to the AGM. This resolution in its essentials was passed unanimously with the proviso that the committee should further refine it to include a reference to pollution and to recognize that a link to the College Roundabout was the favoured option of residents but not to dismiss other alternatives. The resolution is therefore as follows:

“That on the grounds principally of road safety, lack of capacity, congestion and resultant pollution, the Southern Access Road (SAR) SHOULD NOT follow the proposed route into the staggered junctions at the southern end of Sherborne Road where it meets Westgate and that the White House Farm developers, Miller Vistry, should adopt alternative routes. A possible alternative could join directly on to Chichester College roundabout - thereby protecting ALL adjoining residential areas.”

Other points/questions raised in the discussion following the presentations:

- Chichester City Council (CCC) have commissioned Phil Jones Associates to look closely at the developer’s capacity and safety figures and a workshop was held to understand the views of local people and residential groups. CCC is awaiting the report.
- The Committee will engage with WSCC regarding their lack of transparency in this consultation.
- The Committee will also attempt to engage with National Highways regarding traffic data modelling and to explore the possibility of an additional A27 junction.
- To have the maximum impact on the developer and councils, it is extremely important to have Residents’ Associations and Cycle Forums working together and to have a high volume of objections submitted.
- Westgate is part of the National Cycling Routes and an important pedestrian access in and out of Chichester, both of which must be preserved.
- Concerns were voiced that the APNR scheme might affect the ability of residents to park in the Narrows on Westgate and that it might make it more difficult for carers to access households who may not be comfortable using the latest technology. The AGM was assured that the flexibility of the system would address this concern.
- The delay in planning progress has left the Tannery site derelict for over 8 years. WSCC is awaiting a report from the Environment Department before redevelopment can begin. Members were assured that the Committee is keeping in close contact with WSCC.
- A request was made for a safe pedestrian crossing in the area of the Narrows. The Committee will follow up with WSCC regarding the timing of the proposed ‘Dutch’ roundabout at Orchard Road which will include safe crossings at each entry and exit point

A Thank You and Reminder from our Treasurer

Thanks to all those members who have already paid their **£10 subscriptions** for 2023. If you haven’t already done so, please get yours in either by:

BACS transfer: Account Name: Westgate Residents Association
Bank Sort Code: 30-90-28
Account No: 69382160
Ref: Your name and address

Or by cash or cheque (payable to Westgate Residents Association) in an envelope with your name and address and put through the door at 72 Westgate, PO19 3HH or alternatively at 44 Westgate or 6 Tannery Close.

WGRA Christmas Celebrations 2022 – Wednesday 14 December



Reminding everyone that there’s still time to book a ticket for the Westgate Christmas Party! We’d love to see you, singing carols at the beautiful Chichester Arts Centre, followed by a traditional Christmas meal at the Crate & Apple. Come to either or both! Pre-booking is essential for the meal. Another copy of the booking flyer is attached if you need it.

A last-minute request from our Social Committee who would be very grateful for contributions of evergreen Christmas foliage for decorations at these Christmas events. Please drop them in at 28 Westgate on Sunday 11th or Monday 12 December. Thank you!

Upcoming WGRA Coffee mornings at the Crate at 10am for coffee and a chat
Saturday 3 December
Saturday 7 January

Westgate Advent Windows

The Advent Windows will be going ahead this year so please watch out for each new window display! A huge thank you to all our decorators!

1 December	Crate & Apple	13 December	32 Westgate
2 December	9 Westgate	14 December	42 Westgate
3 December	20A Westgate	15 December	22 Westgate
4 December	32 Westgate	16 December	17 Westgate
5 December	21 Westgate	17 December	55 Westgate
6 December	30 Westgate	18 December	19 Westgate
7 December	27 Westgate	19 December	25 Westgate
8 December	34 Westgate	20 December	21 Westgate
9 December	25 Westgate	21 December	15 Westgate
10 December	15 Westgate	22 December	11 Westgate
11 December	44 Westgate	23 December	38 Westgate
12 December	48 Westgate	24 December	The Cottage, 15 Westgate

WGRA Residents in Action!

Thank you to many of our members who spent time tidying up the planters along Westgate. Thank you also for turning up for the Speed Awareness Action Day on 10 November to encourage motorists to keep to the 20mph limit.



Having a go on the radar speed gun!

Christmas Trees, Lights and Markets

There are new Christmas lights in town and the Christmas tree is in place at the Market Cross! The Chichester Christmas Market is back on North and East Streets with a wonderful array of festive stands from Saturday 3 December until Friday 23 December.

Timings are: Mondays to Saturdays: 9am - 5.30pm

Sunday: 10am - 4.30pm

Thursday 15 and 22 December – Late night opening until 7pm

Community Support during the Winter Months “Warm Spaces”

Across the country there has been much publicity of areas setting up Warm Spaces to support the local community. Local churches, Chichester Library and Chichester Festival Theatre are some of the many places opening up free, warm, welcoming spaces for the public over this winter. Although you may not need to use these facilities personally, please pass on the information to anyone who you think may be interested.

<https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>

For family fun....



The Nutcracker Trail

Guarding the city of Chichester throughout the festive period will be 11 magnificent Nutcracker Kings. Follow the trail to discover all their names for your chance to win prizes.

<https://chichesterbid.co.uk/event/chichester-christmas-nutcracker-trail/>

Starlight Trail 2022

Collect your Starlight Trail from The Novium Museum, Pallant House Gallery or Chichester Library to create a star lantern and take part in festive crafts and activities, collecting stamps along the way.

<https://www.thenovium.org/article/30516/Chichester-Starlight-Trail>



Sussex Landscape: Chalk, Wood, and Water

Highly recommended is the first major exhibition to celebrate Sussex as a place of inspiration for artists.

At the Pallant House Gallery until 23 April 2023.

<https://pallant.org.uk/whats-on/sussex-landscape-chalk-wood-and-water/>



and lastly to all our members.....



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