

# WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

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



## CONTACT US

Chair: sq.westgate@gmail.com  
Secretary: sec.wgra@gmail.com

## Bulletin February 2023

### Update on Traffic Issues on Westgate!

#### Chichester District Council (CDC) Meeting 31 January 2023

As advised by Councillor Richard Plowman and reported in our January *Bulletin*, we need to 'up our ANPR game'! To this end, he suggested that someone should ask a question at a meeting of CDC. Penny Tomlinson, on behalf of the WGRA Safer Traffic Action Group (STAG), heroically posed the question at CDC's meeting last Tuesday. She set the scene graphically, describing the damaging effect of the traffic not only on local residents but on their health and their homes, and then asked whether CDC councillors would support the installation of an ANPR scheme on Westgate to deter motorists using this street as a rat run.

Mrs Penny Plant, the Cabinet Member for the Environment replied. Essentially, she said that this was a matter not for CDC but for West Sussex County Council (WSSCC). The response from WSSCC thus far has been only partially encouraging but they have not discounted the implementation of such a scheme once empowered to do so. Clearly, we all need to do more work on the whole subject of traffic mitigation on Westgate.

#### Chichester City Council (CCC)

Meanwhile, you will recall that CCC employed traffic consultants Phil Jones Associates (PJA) in October 2022 to look at Miller Vistry's (MV) proposals for the Southern Access Road (SAR) contained in WHF Phase 2 Planning Application 22/01485/OUTIEA. Most importantly, CCC asked PJA to look at the Traffic Assessment used by MV to inform their calculations. As anticipated, PJA took issue with the forecast figures in the Traffic Assessment which are based on 2014 traffic movements.

At the same time, National Highways (NH) lodged a holding objection with CDC: CDC should not consider the above Planning Application until NH received answers to a number of questions relating to the A27 that they posed MV. As reported in the January *Bulletin*, NH have now dropped their opposition to the proposals in MV's Planning Application on the understanding that sufficient work will be undertaken on the Fishbourne Roundabout, partly paid for by a levy which MV will pay on each house built on White House Farm!

But this still leaves unresolved some serious key issues relating to this Planning Application: the lack of an adequate Transport Assessment, the lack of certainty around the nature, timing, and delivery of the necessary improvements to the A27 and in particular to the Fishbourne Roundabout. And if extra traffic will be generated at the Fishbourne Roundabout, we have to ask how much more traffic will be generated at the junction of the SAR with Sherborne Road and Westgate. How much more traffic will be squeezing onto local roads already over-capacity?

CCC therefore voted sufficient funds last Monday afternoon at a meeting of their Finance Committee on the recommendation of the Planning and Conservation Committee to request a further report from PJA to include the following:

- an updated assessment of the highways impact reflecting and focussing on the new information provided by MV and addressing specifically capacity at the proposed SAR junction

- an assessment of the SAR junction layout as proposed in terms of safety, capacity and traffic flow
- an assessment of the potential of an alternative SAR junction layout proposed by the West of Chichester Group of local councillors and Resident Association Chairs in terms of safety, capacity, and traffic flow notwithstanding that there are landownership issues which MV would need to overcome to implement such an option.

### **CIL Monies and their potential for traffic mitigation**

Some £900,298 has been allocated to CCC in 2022. This is money which comes, ironically, from developers as part of an infrastructure levy on new housing developments. CIL is an acronym for Community Infrastructure Levy. CCC will establish a working group of councillors to take forward the discussion and presentation of possible ideas for the spending of this money.

I have suggested to Councillor Plowman that we should put down a marker as soon as possible for the implementation of traffic mitigation schemes for Westgate as soon as we can and this we shall do be they ANPR schemes; a modal filter, as advocated by PJA, or simply the implementation of the proposed scheme of some thirty-odd years ago which was simply to close Westgate at its junction with the roundabout at the *Crate and Apple*. This would have the added advantage of turning Westgate into the leafy and fitting space for those entering the city from the west be they pedestrians or cyclists. This was the intention of WSCC road traffic engineers when they constructed the Via Ravenna!

*Sarah Quail*

### **Chichester is now Twinned with Speyer, Germany**

You may not be aware that a Twinning Ceremony between the two cities was held in Speyer in December 2022 and a reciprocal ceremony will be held in the Chichester Assembly Room at 6pm on Monday 6 March 2023.

Speyer, located on the left bank of the Rhine in southwest Germany, is one of Germany's oldest cities. The City of Speyer celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1990 and the original name Roman name of Speyer was Noviomagus, the same as Chichester. Speyer is also twinned, as is Chichester, with Chartres, France and Ravenna, Italy.

Speyer schools have already contacted three of their Chichester counterparts, a link has been established between the respective Rotary and Lions Clubs, and they already have a Friends of Chichester group with some 40 members of that group coming to visit Chichester for three days in July and August. There are moves to establish a Friends of Speyer group in Chichester and the Mayor will be chairing a public meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 28 February in the Assembly Room to discuss the formation of such an organisation.



The Cathedral in the German city of Speyer - Speyer Dom - is considered the most magnificent Christian church built in the Romanesque style.



**Community Speedwatch** Good news! We are delighted that Sussex Police has recommended that our Speedwatch team receive funding towards the purchase of our own Speedwatch monitoring device and the application was successful. In the past we have been loaned the equipment from the police for 6 months and since then have had to borrow it from our local station each time we ran a Speedwatch session. Having our own up to date equipment will make it much easier for us to run regular sessions which we hope to start again very soon. Meanwhile we are always looking for new volunteers to join our friendly team so please get in touch with me at [sec.wgra@gmail.com](mailto:sec.wgra@gmail.com)

**WGRA Coffee Mornings** Our monthly coffee mornings continue on the first Saturday of every month – 10am at the Crate & Apple. We hope you managed to get there in February while the next will be on Saturday 4 March 2023 hopefully along with some warmer spring weather!

**Fouling on Westgate pavements** Unfortunately there are still isolated incidences of human fouling on our pavements. If you do see any, please make a report immediately to the street cleaning team at [wasteandrecycling@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:wasteandrecycling@chichester.gov.uk)

This is considered to be a police matter, so Chichester District Council are asking residents to also make a report to the police directly on their website: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/> or by using the non-emergency 101 number. In addition CDC requests that we keep them informed of any further problems by emailing Edward Hand, Environmental Health Officer at [erahands@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:erahands@chichester.gov.uk)

I am very happy to help with making the reports to the police and CDC so please let me know if you see any more mess on our pavements so I can make the authorities aware. Bebette Jones ([sec.wgra@gmail.com](mailto:sec.wgra@gmail.com)) 07791237502.

**How to report a problem with roads and pavements** WSCC have changed the process for reporting road & pavement issues and residents are now requested to follow the link below:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

The Love West Sussex app is no longer in use, but it is also possible to make a report via the Love Clean Streets app on your mobile phone.

**The Chichester Local Plan** Chichester's Local Plan has now been completed but before submission, the District Council are running a public consultation from 3-17 February 2023 inviting people to comment on three specific questions. More information on this and all details of the Local Plan can be seen here:

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/37402/District-Dispatch---1-February-2023>

**Sussex Alerts** We understand from Sussex Police that there have been a few incidences of burglary and attempted burglary in our local area. We urge all our residents to make sure your property and belongings are safe and secure and to be aware of and to report anything you see that you may consider suspicious or out of the ordinary.

Sussex Alerts is provided by Sussex Police and is part of the National Neighbourhood Alert Network. It lets residents find out what is happening in their area and produces a weekly news bulletin. For more information, please click on:

<https://www.sussexalerts.co.uk/> If you join Sussex Alerts, you will get updates from your local police and

Neighbourhood Watch. Updates are sent by email or (occasionally) text message and are tailored for you based on where you live and what you are interested in.

**Laser Show at the Canal Basin.** Chichester District Council are putting on a laser light show over Chichester Canal Basin on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February. The event opens at 5pm each day with the laser shows to music at 6pm and 7.30pm.

More information at <https://chichestercanal.org.uk/laser-light-show/>



**Art Adventure 10-20 February 2023.** Chichester BID along with Pallant House Gallery, Chichester Cathedral and the Novium Museum are together running an epic art adventure trail this February half term giving families the chance to discover more about the amazing artwork that fills the streets of Chichester city centre. More information can be found at: <https://chichesterbid.co.uk/epic-kids-half-term-art-trail/>

---

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