

WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

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



Bulletin July 2023

CONTACT US

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Roadworks on Westgate: proposed and imminent!

As mentioned in our email sent out on 29th June, Westgate residents need to be aware that **THREE** different projects have alighted on us in the last fortnight and you, like many of us, could probably do with something in the way of a further explanation:

1. Whitehouse Farm (WHF) Phase 1 s.106 mitigation monies – imminent roadworks

Briefly, these are the monies which the WHF developers are obliged to pay our local authorities to mitigate the impact of the WHF development on both Sherborne Road and Westgate. The roadworks will include:

- More traffic calming measures on Sherborne Road
- Modification of the roundabout at the west end of Westgate
- Westgate 'improvement' works which will include the repair of the pink pavements and widening of the cycle bypass points
- Construction of the 'Dutch' roundabout at the east end of Westgate



Work has already started in Sherborne Road and will continue through the summer while works in Westgate and the 'Dutch' roundabout are scheduled for October 2023. More details are at: <https://community.mildrenconstruction.co.uk/projects/west-chichester-s278-works-for-whitehouse-farm/traffic-management/>

2. A proposal from West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) to improve cycling and walking facilities in Westgate and Fishbourne Road East

The first thing which needs to be said about these proposals - and you will recall that we were all invited to the consultation in County Hall on Monday 3 July 2023 - is that the County Council is testing the water! They want feedback. All comments received will help them identify the issues, the constraints, and the opportunities. This feedback will help them shape their proposals and in due course, we shall be asked to take part in a further consultation.

It is therefore **VITAL** that we all complete the survey at: <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/westgate-chichester>

The survey closes at 11:59pm on 7 August 2023.

This is our chance to improve provision for walkers and cyclists but, equally importantly, to improve the quality of life for Westgate residents by cutting speeding, eliminating rat-runners, and reducing the impact of ever-increasing volumes of traffic - and traffic congestion - in a street which should be a leafy and welcoming entrance into our city.



You need to be aware that when you are completing the survey, there is no provision for comments at the end of each section. However, there is provision at the end of the survey for comments. We understand that without enough positive response from residents, the proposals may be shelved.

3. Southern Access Road (SAR)

Last week, on Monday 10 July 2023, with my fellow-District Councillor, Clare Apel, we received an initial briefing on the many amendments which the WHF developers have lodged with the District Planning Officer as part and parcel of the WHF Phase 2 Planning Application. **Please note that as all these changes to the road network and related developments are still in the planning stage and it is likely to be some considerable time before any work takes place.**

The good news is that Bishop Luffa School (BLS) is re-negotiating the lease of the Oliver Whitby playing field with the District Council and the residents of Flaxman Avenue will not have the BLS staff car park behind their houses. The car park has been relocated nearer the new school entrance which is roughly where the current entrance to the school site is located near the bridge over the railway line for pedestrians and cyclists.

There will be two additional BLS playing fields on the west side of Centurion Way and, as a result, the school will now meet its playing field provision for its pupil numbers.

However, on the downside, it is particularly frustrating to report that our efforts to urge WGRA members to write and protest about the proposed plans for the SAR have not got us anywhere. There has been little change at all to the proposed plans.

The current roundabout will go at the junction of Westgate with Sherborne Road. Traffic from the south wishing to turn east onto Westgate will be forced to wait in the middle of the road because traffic going north-south along Sherborne Road will now have priority. Yes, the developers have conceded that there will be more traffic congestion, but they think that there will be a reduction in car use on Westgate because traffic will have to wait before turning east onto Westgate! We shall see!

This is why it is vital that you think about the options outlined in the survey described at 2 above – and complete said survey! Put bluntly, this is the only way to protect Westgate.

Our complaints about the left turn into lower Sherborne Road and the immediate pedestrian crossing have not resulted in any reconfiguration of this turning. The developers will cut back the foliage on the corner to improve sight lines and they have put an island in the middle of the crossing in lower Sherborne Road (which to my mind implies that there are issues here). They have also agreed that the speed limit at this point should be reduced to 40 mph (from 60 mph) but that is as far as our protests about road safety at this point have got us.

More anon!
Sarah Quail
WGRA Committee and
Chichester West District Councillor



Rachel Moriarty

Michael Moriarty, Rachel's husband, has notified us that Rachel's funeral will take place on Wednesday 26 July 2023 at 3.00pm at Chichester Cathedral. All are welcome. He would also like to thank the many people who have sent their condolences to him and his family. He has been deeply touched by the many letters and cards, and the fond memories of Rachel kindled by her sudden death on 4 July 2023.

Fly Tipping on Westgate

We were shocked to receive notice of this from Rosie Bell at the Chichester City Arts Centre (CCAC). A letter from her is copied below. We are dismayed that this should happen in Westgate, and we ask everyone to please respect your street and fellow neighbours!

"Dear Westgate residents,

Jenny, Ian and I were recently made aware of someone fly tipping in the garden of St. Bartholomew's Church. We were told that a man threw sacks of garden waste over the wall and then walked down Westgate and possibly into St. Bartholomew's Close. This happened at around 17:45 on Tuesday 11th July.

We feel really sad that someone would do this as we have spent countless hours clearing rubbish and tending to the garden to make it beautiful for all that use the Centre.

I attach a photo of these very distinctive bags of rubbish and would ask that if you saw this happen or see anything of this nature happening in the future to please let us know.

Thank you.

*Rosie, Jenny and Ian
CCAC partners"*



Click, Call, Connect – useful information from Sussex Police

For non-emergency incidents or crime prevention advice, click www.sussex.police.uk, (If you report a crime online, they will assess it in the same way as a 101 call).

Call 101 when you don't require an urgent response. In an emergency when life is threatened or there is immediate danger always call 999.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, you can contact the police using TypeTalk on 18000 or by sending a text to 65999.

Summer in Sussex !

Running out of ideas and looking to try something new and different? The County Council run website "Experience West Sussex" is full of inspiration on things to do and places to see to help you make the most out of summer. Have a look at:

<https://www.experiencewestsussex.com/>

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