# WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

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

## Bulletin - April 2021

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# Westgate Highways works – cycling provision and Narrows surface

We are pleased to say that our request to WSCC and the Developers to include the upgrade of the existing cycle narrowings in the Phase I works, rather than commute these works into a lump sum payment for future use, has been successful.

We have had a further discussion with Jubb (the Developer's highways engineers) and WSCC, on the relative merits of restoring the existing block paving in the Narrows or asphalting this area. Although an asphalt surface would be more durable and somewhat quieter than paving, there is a risk that this could encourage greater speeding and a dropped kerb would need to be introduced to deal with drainage.

We believe that the advantages of restoring the block paving in terms of preserving the character of the Conservation Area and traffic calming in this shared space outweigh any disadvantages. We also consider it important to keep the road surface flush with the pavement given that space in the Narrows is very constrained for cars to make way for wider vehicles.

We have therefore asked WSCC and the Developers to proceed with the restoration option and we are waiting to hear from them on this. An area of paving in the run-up to the new roundabout will be asphalted as part of the roundabout works. We have asked for red asphalt to be used here to give a feeling of entering a shared space.

The only other outstanding issue is the treatment of the buildout to the west of Henty Gardens where there is insufficient width to accommodate widened cycle lanes and bollards to separate the cycle lanes from the main carriageway. We have been pressing for the retention of bollards as without them the traffic- calming effect of the buildouts will be lost.

You will find the latest plans for the new roundabout and the Westgate highways works at the end of this Bulletin. If you have any comments, please send them to planning.wgra@gmail.com

There will be no further ISG design meetings for the Phase 1 highways works and we have been told that the works are still expected to start this summer with the dutch roundabout works starting in September.

### Chichester Neighbourhood Plan – Volunteers needed





# The Chichester Neighbourhood Plan – "Creating a PLACE for you"

## Can you spare two hours to help with a community audit of your local area?

Chichester is writing a neighbourhood plan. This is a document that will represent the views and voices of people who live in Chichester and enable the community to have a say in how the city develops into the future.

There are lots of ways that you can get involved and share your views.

The first opportunity is to fill out a PLACE audit whilst on a walk around your local area.

The PLACE audit is a community mapping exercise that will collect local knowledge and information about Chichester. This will allow the neighbourhood plan to focus decisions about where the town needs improvement and new developments, as well as what is special right now and needs protection.

### Want to join in?

We hope WGRA members will join committee members in carrying out this exercise. Working in a team of five or six, we will be walking around our neighbourhood and, using the themes of Planning, Landscape, Architecture, Culture or Engineering, we will undertake a critical analysis of the area and its immediate surroundings. Please let the Secretary know as soon as possible if you would like to take part (<a href="mailto:sec.wgra@gmail.com">sec.wgra@gmail.com</a>) More information with further links can be found at: <a href="mailto:https://chichestercity.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/">https://chichestercity.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/</a>

### Community Speedwatch Update

With the relaxation of lockdown measures there has been a noticeable increase in traffic along Westgate, and not surprisingly, instances of excessive speed. Fortunately, we're now able to resume the Community Speedwatch monitoring sessions that have such a noticeable effect on speeding drivers.



There will be a series of monitoring sessions this month so watch out for volunteers in yellow jackets brandishing a radar gun. We didn't record many speeding motorists the last time we were able to operate as most drivers realised what was happening and slowed down. The few that didn't were reported and way over the limit!

To be able to hold more sessions we really do need some more volunteers to act as operators. A regular presence sends a clear message to drivers to slow down which is what everyone wants to happen. It's not onerous, an hour or so a month makes a great deal of difference. The training is straightforward and the reception we get from pedestrians helps makes it worthwhile. For more information go to the website at www.communityspeedwatch.org or contact me by email, david@thethornleys.net

## The Social Programme – Latest Forecast: 'Unlockdown' Soirée – 21st June 2021



In the last Bulletin we had earmarked 26th June, very optimistically, as a possible date for the next Westgate Street Party. Although this was after the proposed 'end of lockdown' date of 21st June, the risk of any change by the Government was too great, bearing in mind the complicated arrangements for a Street Party. Sadly, this has therefore been postponed.

So instead, adopting a lower risk strategy, the Beau Belles are working on an 'Unlockdown Party' to be held in the garden of the Crate & Apple on Monday 21st June. Naturally even this date is still subject to confirmation but plans are underway! So once again please earmark the date and more details will be out shortly once

the Beau Belles have been able to meet to firm up arrangements.

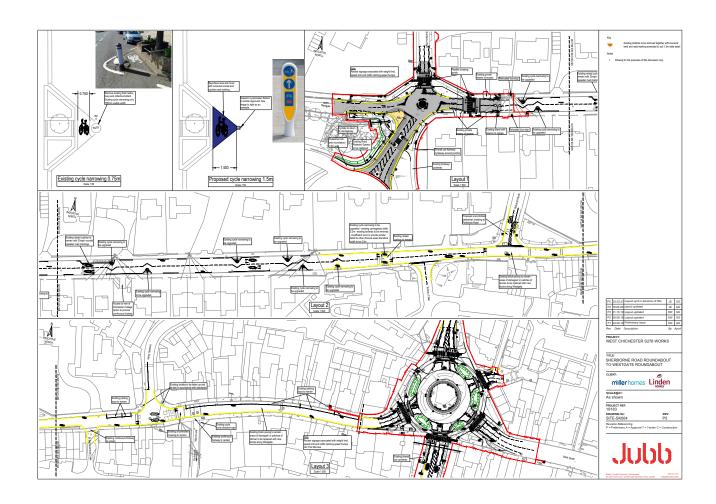
The Street party is still very much in our thoughts for later in the year, and once again as soon as we are 'unlocked', we will settle on a date."

### **Brewery Field**

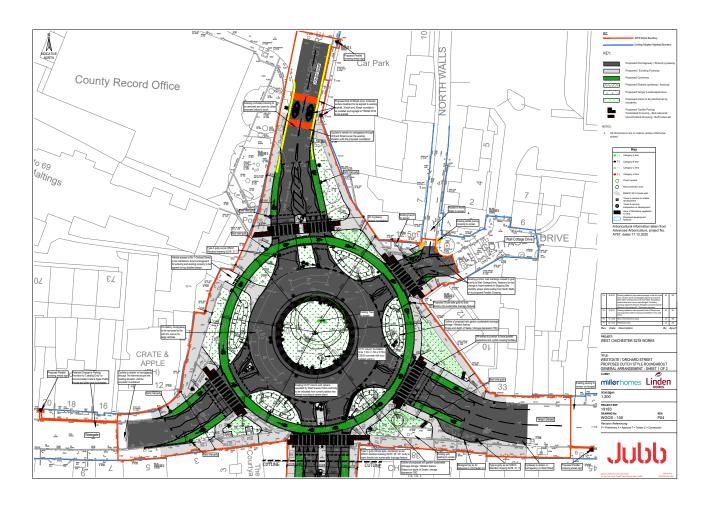
Some of you may still be unaware of this lovely green open space we have just around the corner from Westgate. Walk down the right-hand side of the Records Office on Orchard Street, go through the barriers into the car park and you will find the entrance gate to the field in the far left corner. There are benches so bring a picnic or a book, walk your dog, let the children kick a ball around and just enjoy! We need more people to visit the field so that we don't lose it to developers!!



#### The latest plans for Westgate from west to east:



### The new 'dutch' roundabout at the eastern end:



#### **Avenue de Chartres:**

