

WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

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

Bulletin February 2022

CONTACT US:

Chair: chair.wgra@gmail.com
Secretary: sec.wgra@gmail.com
Website: www.westgatera.org.uk

Come along for Coffee & a Chat!

Start the week by popping in for a friendly coffee and chat on Monday mornings around the fireplace at the Crate & Apple. Every **Monday from 10-12 noon**. Everyone is very welcome.



Monthly Coffee Morning

Our February coffee morning at the Crate & Apple will be held on **5 February 2022** at 10am.

Update on Westgate traffic issues

There are two outstanding issues: the Westgate/ Sherborne Road roundabout and where we are now with the approval at our AGM of a Traffic, Congestion and Pollution Reduction (TCPR) scheme for Westgate. There is also a third issue which is exactly when any work is likely to begin on the Dutch roundabout at the east end of Westgate.

If I may deal with this last first, we have written to WSCC, and they have advised us that the WHF developers, Miller Vistry (who are paying for the redesign of this roundabout as part of the White House Farm (WHF) Phase 1 traffic mitigation scheme) have gone out to tender for the works and will doubtless hope to appoint a contractor shortly. Following the appointment of a contractor, a firm date for commencement will be agreed. WSCC has been advised that the works on the ground will be carried out this year.

As for the TCPR scheme, we learned just before Christmas that Miller Vistry, in conversation with former Mayor and District Councillor, Richard Plowman, expressed interest in the scheme. Richard Plowman, who was of course at our AGM and advised us to pass a resolution approving the proposal, asked me to send a copy of my paper on the subject to the developers which I have done. We wait to hear whether the proposal gains any traction with them. In the meantime, WGRA Committee member, Clare Heath will be approaching our County Councillor, Julian Joy, to establish what he may be able to do to help us take this proposal forward. Should the WHF developers decline to help us, we shall apply for a Community Transport Grant to take this project forward.

Finally, it remains to brief you on the Westgate/Sherborne Road roundabout. Briefly, the WGRA Committee met on 5 January 2022 to discuss the legal challenge mounted by Chicycle to WSCC on the issue of shared pavements at the Westgate/Sherborne Road roundabout and Chicycle's plea for assistance with the legal costs of this challenge. The substance of Chicycle's case rested on the County Council's complete failure to consult on their scheme for this roundabout with any disability groups. (WSCC claimed they consulted with an organisation which was in fact disbanded some 12 years ago!!) Chicycle also contended that WSCC had ignored all Government guidelines on cyclists on pavements and on required widths for such pedestrian/cycle paths.

We agreed unanimously to give a modest sum of £200 to Chicycle to help defray their legal costs. (They did not in fact proceed with their challenge because of the financial risk but had of course incurred solicitor's bills). However, the WGRA did send a letter to WSCC rescinding our original letter of last August on the grounds that WSCC had not consulted properly, as we had been led to believe, with disability groups. We had

agreed reluctantly then to shared use of pavements at this roundabout but only there. We stressed that this concession on our part was not to be construed as permission for any further 'mixed' use of Westgate pavements.

Further, we stressed that what we wanted was safe, segregated, and clearly signed, on road provision for cyclists at this roundabout. However, the 'elephant in the room' is of course the route of the Southern Access Road (SAR). Therefore, we suggested that as the WHF Phase 1 traffic mitigation plans for the Westgate/ Sherborne Road roundabout have taken such a long time to deliver and any work done now will need to be adjusted or, put more succinctly, dug up to take account of Phase 2 traffic mitigation plans, WSCC might as well drive Phase 1 and Phase 2 schemes together for this roundabout and devise a scheme which takes account of the need to keep pedestrians and cyclists apart!

We also suggested that WSCC might encourage less than confident cyclists to walk i.e. use the pavements and push their bikes, urge confident cyclists to stay on the road and enforce the 20mph speed limit until we know exactly where the SAR will be routed.

Well, I did not exactly get a flea in my ear, but we were left in no doubt at all that WSCC could not contemplate running the two schemes together, as the Traffic Road Order (TRO) for Phase 1 had been obtained already! As with Chicycle, they ignored completely in their reply, their failure to consult properly and advised us to contact the Police should any of us witness any speeding traffic.

Interestingly, WSCC reminded us that the SAR is dependent on the developers constructing some 700 properties before they need to build this road.

As and when we receive any further updates, we shall of course keep you posted.

*Sarah Quail
Chair*

Fouling on Westgate Pavements

Unfortunately, the unpleasant incidences continue to happen frequently which is very distressing for residents especially when it happens on their doorstep. We have still not been able to establish whether this originates from a person or a dog (I have called a local laboratory and my vets, but they were unable to offer any help – does anyone have any more ideas?).

Please make sure you take the time to report every incident. Chichester District Council acknowledge that this may be human faecal matter and they are now asking us, if you suspect this, to make a report to the police either by telephone on 101, or online at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk Please also continue to report to: Simon Ballard at SBallard@chichester.gov.uk (01243 534694) and please copy me in at sec.wgra@gmail.com so we can keep a record as well.

Use this link to request the council to clean up any mess:

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/30351/Report-street-cleaning-problem-form>

The Queen's Platinum Anniversary Celebrations Westgate Street Party Sunday 5th June 2022

Preparations are underway for this very special occasion which will take place as usual in 'Old Westgate' and the District Council has given permission for us to close the road for the day. The tables are ordered but we need extra Gazebos in addition to the large White ones we already have so please, if you have one, let me know by email. Music by Dean Dyson is booked, and we have a number of other attractions and maybe a Competition, together with an up-market Raffle for a good cause. More details to come.

In the meantime, we have destroyed the cheques paid for the previous Street Party which had to be cancelled and will be returning any cash paid.

Contacts: braincock@clfl.co.uk or nixclarke3@gmail.com

Brian Raincock



A taste of spring in the Cathedral grounds and at West Dean Gardens!



Speedwatch

We have been given a new radar gun from the police that we are able to keep on a rolling basis and this will make it much easier for us to run more regular sessions at different times each month. The photo shows two of our Speedwatch team along with PCSO Jason Lemm who has been really supportive of what we're trying to do. If you would like to join the team, please contact David Thornley on 01243 839744 or email: david@thethornleys.net The initial training is online but don't be put off as it's quite simple and help is on hand.



Roads & Highways Local Reporting

There is lots of online resource available at West Sussex, and one of the really good things residents can do is report incidents or problems so that the authorities can take action and be aware of issues that need attention. So, if you see something that is not right in the neighbourhood, let our Council know. Highways are the responsibility of West Sussex, but many other local services are managed by the District Council. All these contact details are included as a separate attachment to the Bulletin email, to make it easier for you to print out and refer to.

To Enquire about parking, rubbish/recycling, planning, environmental, council tax and a wealth of other local services

Contact the District Council at <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/> or ring 01243 785166

Report anti-social driving or speeding vehicles

Whilst WSCC sets the speed limits, the enforcement of these limits rest with the Police. If you do witness anti-social driving or speeding vehicles, please report this via the Operation Crackdown website here <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

Report a crime or traffic incident or collision to the police

One of our residents was recently knocked off her bike at the Orchard Street roundabout - thankfully unhurt - but discovered that it is only by reporting the incident to the police that it gets logged. Even a near miss can be logged e.g. if someone was driving carelessly and nearly had a collision, even if someone was not hurt.

- Either ring 101
- report a crime or something suspicious: log online at <https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/report-something-else-btp/>
- road incident or a near miss: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/rti/rti-beta-2.1/report-a-road-traffic-incident/>

Report an issue with the Roads

Love West Sussex - The Love West Sussex site and app allow you to inform us of any highways issues such as potholes, overgrown vegetation, damaged kerbs, footpaths and verges, which you come across in the county. Download the app or use <https://love.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/home>

You can also report a wide range of issues at: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/contact-us/> which gives specific links to roads, travel, streetlights, potholes, emergencies etc.

Or telephone 01243 777100

Cars Parking Across Driveways

Some of our residents are having problems with cars parking over their drives, obstructing their exit due to cars parking over the white lines. The status of the white line markings is that cars can park there at any time provided they are not causing an obstruction. If your drive is obstructed, you can take a photo and report it on Love West Sussex or contact WSCC direct. Some of the street lines are quite faded but you can apparently have the white line outside your house repainted at a cost of £150, which WSCC are happy to arrange!

Highway Code Changes

Rules for all types of road users have been updated in The Highway Code to improve the safety of people walking, cycling, and riding horses. These changes came into effect from 29 January 2022.

To find out what's changed please click on:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDVSA/bulletins/307c8a2>

A new country park that you may not be aware of

Situated just to the west of Centurion Way, the builders of Whitehouse Farm / Minerva Heights have created a lovely new park. There is still work to be done but it's now possible to walk all the way round and to cross on boardwalks over the lakes and wetlands. There are two access points from Centurion way while a third close to Bishop Luffa School should be completed soon.



So far so good.....

This tree was planted at the corner of Parklands and Beech Avenue about a year ago when sadly it was nearly broken in two by some mindless vandalism. Thanks to some residents armed with broom sticks and masking tape, the tree was straightened and has survived with lots of buds now showing for spring!



Wordle

Time on your hands? Try the latest word game everyone's talking about.

Click on:

<https://www.powerlanguage.co.uk/wordle/>
to have a go.

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | R | A | I | L |
| T | R | A | C | K |
| C | R | A | M | P |
| C | R | A | B | S |
| C | R | A | Z | Y |
| C | R | A | Z | E |

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. The next ones are on **5th February** and **5th March**.

Coffee & a Chat!

Held every Monday at the Crate & Apple from 10am – 12 noon.

Bavardage au Pub

Our French speakers continue to meet on the last Monday of the month at the Crate & Apple at 6.00pm. Note that the next one is **a week later Monday 7th February**



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