



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 41 July 2012

www.churchgateassoc.org.uk

The Association promotes the interests of all residents and businesses, not only in Churchgate Street, but also in the general area of all those streets that lead directly off it.

Welcome Hidden Gardens raised £20,000 for our Hospice; we have seen the Olympic torch pass through; Hatter Street is revelling, as we write, in the Big Dance event. As well as all the fun, there are other things we can do to help keep our part of town vibrant and pleasant. This Newsletter includes some ideas about which you may consider taking action.

The Borough Council's Vision 2031 proposals and the Centre of Bury St Edmunds

Andrew Hinchley : The meeting held on 22nd June on the future of Bury

The CAA leafleted our whole area for a meeting on the Future of Bury and more than 50 people attended. Cllr. Richard Rout put forward the key reasons why the Council wishes to build 6000 houses: the need to expand to maintain prosperity, the need to have a watertight plan which could not be overturned by a developer in court and finally that the proposed rate of adding new houses over the next 20 years was comparable to the last 20 years.

At the meeting residents' concerns focused on whether going-for-growth really did make sense and on the lack of evidence of planning directly for the extra pressure on jobs, hospitals, schools, education and roads.

Richard said there would be one more open consultation in November and then the plans would move through the formal hoops with final approval by central Government around the end of next year.

Cllr Trevor Beckwith presented the petition that he and several other Councillors were backing to formally request the Council to reconsider the original submission of nearly 6000 houses which St Edmundsbury had made to Government at the start of the current planning process. He invited those attending the meeting to sign the petition which currently has about 600

signatures, with a target of 1000 signatures before it is presented to the Council at the end of next month.

Vivien Gainsborough-Foot : Traffic and parking Congestion and parking are recognised as major issues but the Consultation document rules out any extra parking although traffic and parking must inevitably reach an intolerable level with a 30% growth in the number of cars. Since the Council abolished traffic wardens the situation will only become worse.

Our concerns are that no detailed masterplan has yet been produced for the town centre: how will the town cope with the extra traffic? Is there going to be a park and ride scheme? Are there going to be better bus routes? What will be done about the congestion on the routes coming into the town at peak hours? Will there be better co-ordination between the buses and the train station?

All these queries and more we would like addressed before the go-ahead is given for 6000 new houses.

Stephen Mills: Environment and Green Spaces Stephen spoke at the meeting about the need to maintain adequate green space for Bury residents to access once so much land around Bury had been taken for housing. He stated that the Council should continue to manage No Mans Meadow along the River Lark (adjacent to the

Abbey grounds) as a Nature Reserve. He proposed that the land on the other side of the River (Leg of Mutton) should not be developed with a hotel or any other major construction, but should be left in a natural state for recreation. The River Lark itself should not be developed as a through-way from the new estate (of 1250 houses), planned by St Edmundsbury, by the new police investigation centre opposite the rugby ground.

Judy Broadway: Balancing house building with keeping what's best about Bury

Because the proposals focus so much on house-building and particular site issues surrounding Bury, the effect on the central area seems to have taken a back seat.

It is noticeable that the consultation questions in the proposal do not mention the historic environment of the centre until Question 42 towards the end of the document. In order to keep Bury special and unique, and protect the town we all love, the Council should be seeking first and foremost to find ways to enhance and preserve the historic core and avoid swamping the centre with too much traffic or unsuitable development. The Vision 2031 document could have been an opportunity to explore more innovative proposals for the town centre, for example more pedestrianisation, much improved cycleways which link to the outer suburbs, better car parking for residents.

The idea of creating pockets of new housing scattered around the outskirts, and to expect the residents of the new centres not to travel into the centre, is naive in the extreme. The council proposes to give each new centre a food shop and a surgery, ignoring the need for schools, libraries, restaurants, cinemas, household and clothes shopping at the very least, all of which will mean travel around and into the centre and hence more traffic. Park and Ride has been dismissed as not necessary.

It is vital that the Borough is not left at the mercy of developers, whose agendas are based on profit. It is Councillors, not officers nor developers, who should be driving these proposals, insisting on good design, more social housing, and appropriate use of green space and local facilities. ♦

New Disability Access at the Unitarian Meeting House

J C George are undertaking work to improve access. This will allow more people and groups to use the Meeting House as a venue for a variety of events including more of Bury's Festival performances. The work is expected to be completed by the end of July. This work and previous improvements to the toilets have been funded following a successful local appeal to support this much loved venue.

Application for new licensed premises

There has been an application for a premises licence by Graze Restaurant 43-45 Churchgate Street. The description is a '60 seat restaurant with a bar, banquette style seating, table seating, waiter service, small plate dining and cocktails.'

The period for representations ends on 26th July 2012.

The licensable activities are:

Supply of alcohol 12.00 – 23.00 Sunday – Thursday and 12.00 – 00.00 Friday and Saturday on the premises only. No seasonal variations and indoors only.

Playing of recorded music – same hours and conditions as supply of alcohol.

Late night refreshment Friday and Saturday 23.00 – 00.00.

As mentioned above the period for representations ends on 26th July 2012. There seems to be a problem with the council website and the above information was obtained by email.

Representations may be made by an interested party or responsible authority. The CAA Committee will be making representations as an interested party.

From our previous experience, and until we are notified to the contrary, to fulfil the requirements of the Licensing Act residents who wish to make representations need to do so *in writing* for the Licensing Authority to consider their views. The most important consideration when making a representation is that the points are 'Relevant' i.e. they relate to the effect of the grant of the licence on the promotion of the **licensing objectives**.

The Licensing Objectives are

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- the prevention of public nuisance
- ensuring public safety
- the protection of children from harm

In making representations the CAA will be considering the impact or likely impact of the granting of a license and the rights of residents not to be adversely affected by it. Churchgate Street is covered by the Special Area Policy – see

www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/Special-Area-Policy.cfm for reminder.

Representations should be sent to :
The Licensing Services Manager
Licensing Department
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St Edmunds
IP33 3YU

"STAGE TO STAGE: the 36 hour Relay Challenge

'Our Vision is to enrich life and change lives through theatre and performance'

We're doing it again! Remember the sponsored walks of 2006 and 2009? Well, the magical 3 years have elapsed and we are doing another! This time with a very

challenging difference. On Friday 28th September Sir Derek Jacobi CBE is waving us off from London's Globe Theatre as we undertake 71 miles within 36 hours, arriving at the Theatre Royal in time for lunch and a

party on Sunday 30th September. We would love it if you joined us for the last day's walking from the Queen's Head, Hawkedon, to the Theatre Royal. To register your interest or to sponsor our intrepid (insane?) walkers, go to stagetostage@theatreroyal.org or ring Julia Read on 01284 829942. If you would like to join in, all we ask is that you endeavour to raise a personal level of £100. The Dog & Partridge are providing a celebratory luncheon to welcome all our sponsored walkers as you limp home with great satisfaction in your hearts!

Julia Read – Theatre Royal

Be Alert

Police are again urging anyone considering buying a dog via the internet to be alert after further reports of a scam designed to get money under false pretences were received by officers.

A Suffolk resident responded to an advertisement online for a puppy for sale and paid several hundred pounds for the puppy and for it to be transported. The puppy was never delivered as promised.

Police have received several reports of residents in Ipswich, Stowmarket, Felixstowe and Bury St Edmunds being conned in a similar way in the past.

Police are urging anyone considering buying a dog off the internet to be cautious and not to send money if there are any doubts the seller may not be genuine.

As with any transaction it is always wise to speak to local sellers/ tradesmen to get quotes or view items before agreeing to purchase.

How was your Jubilee?

A message from Caroline (Whiting Street) following the Whiting Street residents' party on 5th June:-

You raised £187 for EACH.

Thank you everyone for your contributions and for making it a truly grand event

Bury in Bloom

The judges from Anglia in Bloom will be touring Bury, including our area, on Thursday 19th July. Volunteers have been helping St Edmundsbury gardeners to spruce up the Westgate Garden (corner of Westgate and Guildhall St). Are you ready too?

Advance notice

The AGM will be on Friday 26th October at the Guildhall Feoffment School.

Have you got a Story to Tell?

Does your house or business property have a history to tell? Most in our area will have something of interest to others. You are invited to share bite-sized pieces about the history of your property in this column.

As a brief kick-off - something about where we live on College Lane.

Our house is not that old. It was probably built in the 1850's as part of the Workhouse. The Workhouse was established after land was bought from Thomas Woodroffe in 1748. On the 1884 map for the sale of the workhouse (later moved to Mill Road) our plot was the girl's dormitory and wash-house. Our walled garden was then the 'Girls' Yard', the 'Aged Women's Yard', and the 'Able Womens' and Drying Yard'. There is much more to tell about the Workhouse.

Our house was altered internally and extended westward along the lane in the 1970s (left part of picture) and again, to the rear, after we came here in 1986.

Between the workhouse sale and its purchase by the Land family around 1914 the area was used as a builder's yard. In 1986 we found a somewhat jaded house and what had been a productive garden in need of care. Isobel and Ted Ashton



Stories to isobel.ashton@btinternet.com for a future CAA Newsletter.

Your Committee 2012

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