

CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 58 September 2017

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.

The AGM will be held on Friday 20 October 2017 at 7.00pm

Rory O'Brien, a Front of House Manager at the Theatre Royal, will give a talk on the history of the Theatre with many amusing stories.

Wine and canapés will be served after the meeting

If you have anything that you particularly wish to discuss please email Vivien on vgf.masongill@gmail.com or telephone 01284 750887 so that we can include your observations

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewals are due in October. Our membership year runs from 1st October, with membership continuing at £3 per person for the forthcoming year. You can renew your membership at our AGM on 20th October or put the money through my door at 25 Guildhall Street. Cheques should be made out to Churchgate Area Association.

I have standing Order forms available for those who wish to pay without being reminded each year. About one quarter of our members pay automatically by Standing Order: could you please consider being one of them? It would help us enormously if you could. I can bring a form or email one. Just contact Judy Broadway, Membership Secretary, on judy@jbroadway.co.uk or call at 25 Guildhall Street, tel: 724034. Thank you in advance.

NEWS IN THE GRID

LITTER PICKING

In late April about twenty members, families and friends gathered at MacDonalds for a litter pick in the Grid. Orange high-viz jackets were soon seen in abundance heading towards Westgate Street and down Friars' Lane.

As you can see a great deal of trash was collected and all agreed that it was a very worthwhile exercise.



Food Waste in Bury St. Edmunds and the surrounding areas

At a meeting in West Suffolk house I was astonished and horrified to learn that one third of all material thrown away in our black bins is food - that is food that is completely wasted. The average UK family throws away £700 of food every year much of which is fruit and vegetables. In our area this amounts to 7,500 tons of food p.a.

Mark Christie, the Service Manager at the Council, told us that Sainsbury's have given the Council £31,000 to trial a handy little gizmo called a Fresh Pod in 7,000 houses in the area. Fresh Pod is a local company. Inside the Fresh Pod is a sachet which absorbs the ethylene gas given off naturally as fresh produce ripens. The sachet utilises organically approved ethylene absorbing zeolite pellets.

A reaction oxidises ethylene gas converting the filter material to manganese dioxide which is an excellent plant fertiliser also approved for organics. Fresh Pod eliminates 98.9% of ethylene gas in a safe and non-toxic way.

The Fresh Pod consists of a green plastic slatted container 4" x 2.5" (10cm x 6.5 cm) into which the sachet is placed. When put in the salad drawer of the fridge (ethylene is heavier than air so works better if placed at the bottom) it extends the storage life of all fresh fruit and vegetables by up to four times longer. One year's supply of replacement sachets will cost £7.95.

Some of the households taking part will receive two visits from researchers and the Council will analyse the contents of 100 black bins to ascertain if food waste has been reduced through the use of the Fresh Pod.

If the trials are successful it is hoped to make more Fresh Pods available in the area.

For more information go to: www.freshpod.co.uk or telephone 01603 702374

VGF

Draft Town Centre Masterplan Local Open Meeting

About 100 local people met on 26 July at The Athenaeum to discuss their collective response to the Borough Council's consultation questionnaire about the consultants' "Draft Town Centre Masterplan" for Bury St Edmunds. The event followed on from the previous Open Meeting in March on the "Issues and Options" public consultation.

The Open Meeting was hosted by the Bury Society and the Churchgate Area Association and included representatives of local residents associations in the town.

Martyn Taylor, Chairman of the Bury Society, said ...

"The meeting supported the general direction of the Draft Town Centre Masterplan but was still concerned about the traffic and parking issues we discussed last time."

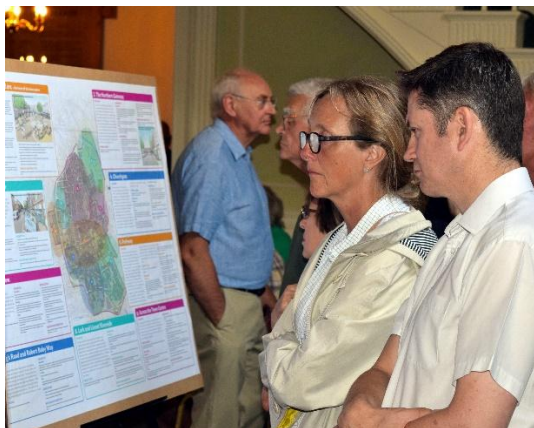
Vivien Gainsborough Foot, Chairman of the Churchgate Area Association, added ...

"We are delighted that so many local people came along to discuss the ideas for the various character areas and made some useful comments and suggestions."

The Open Meeting was coordinated by Richard Summers, a retired professional planner who lives in the town centre. Stephen Moody was the time-keeper and Rachel Hogger was the "friendly planner" from outside the town who bullet-pointed the discussion for all to see.

People looked at the Draft Masterplan panels before the meeting began. There was then a brief presentation of the main ideas and aspirations for the future.

Most people agreed with the character areas that have been identified as the discussion progressed. They were pleased to see that many of the points they had made before have been picked up.



Character Area 1: Cornhill, Buttermarket and the arc. People broadly welcomed the expansion of the arc towards Parkway to provide more shopping provided that car parking could be replaced. Pedestrianisation of Cornhill and the Buttermarket was generally accepted.

Character Area 2: Northern Gateway. There was general support for improving the area between the railway station and the town centre. People were concerned about crossing Tayfen Road and asked if there would be more car parking at the station.

Character Area 3: St Andrew's Quarter. The environment of St Andrews Street North and South lets the town down. There were doubts about redevelopment, replacing the bus station with laybys and particularly about meeting the need for more car parking.

Character Area 4: Churchgate. The proposals to limit traffic and review the one-way system were broadly welcomed. But there were continued concerns about the health risks, safety risks and damage to roads and pavements caused by heavy lorries.

Character Area 5: Ram Meadow. The proposals for mixed use development were questioned mainly because of the problems of providing road access. Better pedestrian links with the town centre are needed. Concerns about protecting the river environment remained.

Character Area 6: Parkway. There was a lively discussion about swapping leisure and car parking either side of Parkway. Better pedestrian links are needed. There is a need for multi-storey car parking and a better bus station with redevelopment of St Andrews Street car park.

Character Area 7: Kings Road and Robert Boby Way. There was another lively discussion about possible redevelopment in this area to provide more shopping space. Better pedestrian and cycle links are needed across Kings Road and particularly across Parkway.

Character Area 8: Lark & Linnet Riverside. Someone asked "what about the tennis courts?" and planned studies for the Abbey of St Edmund were outlined. There were concerns about wildlife management and water quality in the rivers and current initiatives were explained.

Character Area 9: Across the Town Centre. People agreed that pedestrian and cycle routes should be improved. Concerns that development would affect heritage assets were echoed by a strong plea that the town centre should be for people and not cars !

A major theme was the need for more shopping. Many people at first said "no". But then others pointed out the effect of planned housing development, the draw of tourist attractions and the historic role of Bury St Edmunds as a market town that is still relevant today and for the future.



Lively discussions ranged from protecting our heritage to the need for more shopping

Road Works at the Spread Eagle Junction

Improvement works at the Spread Eagle junction in Bury St Edmunds from Monday 4 September 2017 to Saturday 24 February 2018.

Suffolk Highways have started making improvements to the Spread Eagle junction on Out Westgate, Petticoat Lane, Vinery Road and Horringer Road in Bury St Edmunds to improve both the traffic flow through the junction and crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

- The improvements to the junction will involve:
Upgrading the current traffic signals, which have been in place since 1998, with smarter technology that will prioritise and manage traffic flow. The current signals are fixed staged signals.
- Construction of bus stop bays along Out Westgate and Vinery Road, so buses stopping on these roads do not have to stop on the highway delaying traffic.
- A zebra crossing will be installed on Vinery Road and the traffic island on Horringer Road will be repositioned to improve crossing facilities for pedestrians.

The footpath around the junction will be widened to provide a new shared foot and cycle path. The new cycle path will link up with the cycle facilities along Holywaters Meadow and Cullum Road, providing easy access to Bury town centre.

Traffic Management

For the duration of the works, temporary traffic lights will be in place along Out Westgate, Horringer Road and Vinery Road. Petticoat Lane will be closed from Out Westgate to Hospital Road. Removing a turn on the junction during the works means traffic on Out Westgate will be able to flow more freely. It also creates a safer working environment for our staff. The works will be suspended from 22 December 2017 and will recommence on 4 January 2018. *For more information, including questions and answers on the work taking place please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk or call us on: 0345 606 6171.*

WHAT'S ON IN THE GRID

Tartuffe by Moliere, 5-7 October, Unitarian Meeting House. One of Moliere's best known comedies, Tartuffe is an entertaining tale of hypocrisy, trickery and comeuppance.

Tomb With A View by Norman Robbins, 16-18 November, UMH. In a sinister old library, presided over by the portrait of a grim-faced old man, a dusty lawyer reads a Will to an equally sinister family....Are they all what they seem? The plot twists and turns to its surprising conclusion in this comedy thriller, perfect for the long, dark evenings.

Tickets are available from the website www.burytheatreworkshop.org.uk or on the door.

SOFT POWER EDUCATION

Soft Power Education was the brainchild of a Bury woman Hannah Small who was working in Uganda and realised how overcrowded local schools were, lacking in sanitation and water with many classrooms unfit for use. From such small beginnings SPE has refurbished hundreds of schools, finances two pre-schools run by Ugandan staff, an education centre supporting pupils and young people, a special educational needs group with a Ugandan teacher, physiotherapist and occupational therapist and a conservation group supporting village projects in the north of Uganda.

In 2011 Hannah was awarded an MBE for services to education in Uganda and a jazz concert was held in Bury in celebration. These concerts have become a twice yearly event in April and October attracting lovers of jazz from far and wide. Tickets are available from the SPE office at 55 Guildhall Street and all profits go to SPE.

Your Committee 2016/17

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