



CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 48 April 2014

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.

Licensing

Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP)

For the last three years the Borough has operated a 'Cumulative Impact Policy' (previously called a 'Special Area Policy') in relation to licensed premises in our area and also Abbeygate Street.

The policy does not absolutely prevent the extension of licensed premises but is helpful by requiring applicants to provide proof that their proposals to extend hours or create additional businesses will not have an adverse effect on the whole neighbourhood from a crime and disorder aspect.

The policy was intended to continue for a number of years, but due to Officer error, was issued with the wrong end date. The process of reinstating the policy requires everything to be done again, including consulting with local residents. Persuasive evidence is needed to inform the Borough licensing committee, which has a substantial non-Bury membership, of any effects in our area.

Your committee members are delivering questionnaires and knocking on all doors to make it easy for everyone to contribute information.

Full details of the consultation are on the Borough web-site at www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk > Council and Democracy > Public Consultations.

Individual responses carry weight in such consultations. If you wish to make any comments not covered by the questionnaire in respect of the proposed areas or to make any further suggestions, this should be done by email to

licensing@westsuffolk.gov.uk

www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=139392902558

or in writing to:

CIP Consultation

Business Regulation and Licensing Team

St. Edmundsbury Borough Council

West Suffolk House

Western Way

Bury St. Edmunds

Suffolk IP33 3YU

**Responses must be received by no later than 5pm
on the 1 May 2014**

David Bonnett/Cathy Friel

SPRING SOCIAL

7pm on Friday 2nd May
at the Churchgate Meeting House

Wine and Bonnes Bouchées

8000 years of ritual landscape in the
Lark river valley?

Our speaker is Dr. Duncan McAndrew - a renowned archaeologist and fascinating and passionate speaker. He will be speaking about the discovery of a Henge on the Mildenhall Road which he hopes to turn into a World Heritage Site.

Graffiti

The Council are concerned about the increase in graffiti in the town and have asked the CAA to help them in the task of trying to deal with each defaced area and put a stop to the practice. The CAA committee will be discussing what we can do. Please get in touch if you have ideas!

Andrew Hinchley

Cathedral Celebrations

Don't miss a unique chance to see an original copy of Magna Carta (on loan from Lincoln Cathedral). It will be housed in the Cathedral Treasury from 1-31 May. Entry is free but timed tickets must be obtained. These are available from www.westsuffolkdiary.co.uk/whats-on/2014/5 or in person at the Apex Box Office.

This year the Cathedral celebrates its centenary along with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. There are many special events to mark this anniversary including the Reflections Flower Festival at the Cathedral from 24-27 July which will see the Cathedral transformed with over 80 floral displays. Tickets cost £10 on the door.

Sarah Frizwell

Please note Vivien Gainsborough-Foot's new e-mail address: vgf.masongill@gmail.com

Parking

Illegal and inconsiderate parking in the Churchgate area

Illegal and inconsiderate parking is one of the issues that is regularly raised as a concern of the members of the CAA. The committee members of the CAA have undertaken to make records and report instances of illegal parking to the police and this has certainly raised the level of our concern with the police and produced some positive results.

It would be very useful if the members of the CAA could themselves also take a proactive approach to this matter and report illegal and inconsiderate parking to the police via the 101 non-emergency phone number. If you do not feel able to do this please e-mail Stephen Mills at caa2011@hotmail.co.uk with the details and he will be pleased to record and pass these on to the police where appropriate.

It is really only by everyone taking collective responsibility that we can hope to mitigate the difficulties caused by people who choose to ignore the regulations.

Stephen Mills

How did we do it?

As previously reported, the Town Council awarded the CAA its 'Best Residents Association 2013' award. These were our stated achievements and commitments in our application and the whole application can be read on our website.

Achievements - The CAA:

- * has achieved Borough Council adoption of the Special Area Policy which requires that a new licensing application in the Grid must demonstrate that there would be no cumulative impact on existing licensing objectives
- * has paid a Cambridge graduate to write a detailed traffic plan for the town centre following the introduction of the Borough Council's Vision 2031
- * fights any application to pull down ancient flint walls
- * fights any application to increase licensing hours in the Grid
- * has carried out two Residents' Surveys to discover residents' views which were subsequently sent to the St. Edmundsbury Borough Council Chief Executive
- * successfully objected to the building of flats at 57 and 59 College Street
- * stopped vehicles travelling the wrong way down Bridewell Lane
- * has increased the number of residents' parking bays

Ongoing commitments - The CAA committee:

- * sends out quarterly newsletters to keep residents informed
- * holds two Socials a year for residents to enjoy
- * continues a dialogue with Greene King
- * has joined the National Organisation of Residents Associations to obtain the latest news on Planning and Licensing regulations
- * maintains close co-operation with the police
- * is actively involved in removing unsightly waste bins from the pavements
- * regularly picks up litter

Your Committee welcomes your views

If you have something you would wish the committee to discuss please let Vivien Gainsborough-Foot or any other committee member know to put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Committee meetings are at 18.00 on the second Thursday of each month - 8 May, 12 June, 10 July, 14 August, 11 September, 9 October, 13 November and 11 December. Vivien is at vgf.masongill@gmail.com tel: 01284 750887. Other contact details at the foot of this newsletter.

Bury St Edmunds Guildhall Heritage Centre

The Guildhall Project was given a first round pass by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) last year, with an award of £76,300 towards the development phase costs. Our permission to start came in November, and a part-time project manager, James Mellish, has been recruited.

This phase of the project will examine in detail our vision for the Guildhall Heritage Centre and test it against a number of influential criteria, including the archaeology of the site, the current condition of the Grade 1 listed building, the potential to conserve and if appropriate modify it, and not least an accurate estimate of the overall cost of implementing the plan. We are now trying to assemble the best affordable team for this work. This will include professional experts and responsible bodies such as English Heritage and local planning officers. It has already become apparent that we are going to be stretched financially despite having raised ourselves some £20,000 in cash and £6,000 in non-cash contributions to the cost of this phase. Sarah Grieveson (fundraising1@btinternet.com) has embarked on an accelerated fundraising campaign and we are looking at ways of 'swallowing' some more of the costs ourselves, but if anyone has good ideas for raising more funds fairly quickly we would be delighted to hear.

We expect the development phase to take about a year. We are aiming to submit our second application to the HLF next Spring, and if that is successful to start work on the building in the Summer. The studies this year will refine our estimate of how long that work will take but we hope no more than 18 months.

Mike Jackson

Project Director

jackson.corsbie@btinternet.com

Your Committee 2014

Andrew Hinchley, Chairman, 14 Bridewell Lane, 762552 ahinchley@yahoo.co.uk

Vivien Gainsborough-Foot, Vice Chair, 69 Whiting Street, 750887

David Bonnett, Licensing, Bethany, Bridewell Lane, 754457

Judy Broadway, Membership/Website, 25 Guildhall Street, 724034

Nick Moon, Treasurer, 56 College Street, 07809 687536, nick@moon.me.uk

Stephen Mills, Planning, 39 Crown Street, 754366

Cathy Friel, Licensing/Minute Secretary, 42 Crown Street, 755549

Isobel Ashton, Newsletter, 6 College Lane, 754993 isobel.ashton@btinternet.com