

The Churchgate Area Association (the CAA) is a residents' and business association for all householders and businesses in the Historic Grid with a Constitution and 260 members. The Association is very active locally, is concerned with and acts upon issues such as petty vandalism, illegal parking, cycling on pavements, speeding, noise restrictions, and planning and licensing issues.

The inaugural meeting of the CAA was in 2003 to fight the planning application for a nightclub in Churchgate Street. The CAA was successful and the application was refused.

Each member of the Committee lives in the area and is totally involved in attempting to keep the Grid as a safe, happy and delightful place in which to live. Every member of the committee has his/her own area of expertise i.e accounts, law and order and parking, licensing, membership, newsletter and communications, planning applications and strategy. Members' concerns are listened to and acted upon swiftly.

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 2013
- 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