

CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 49 September 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 Report Cumulative Impact Policy

Thank you to everyone who responded to the CIP Consultation. We were very pleased with the response to our survey - 131 questionnaires were completed. The good news is that the campaign was successful and the Policy was approved by the council on 30th June.

A copy of the survey results and our submission will be on our website soon. The results were compared with the previous survey in 2008. The main findings were that more residents experienced antisocial behaviour (85%) and vandalism (56%) than in 2008, despite a fall in recorded crime nationally. 72% believed that the crimes were alcohol related. Only 24% of residents reported the offences to the police and 61% of those residents were satisfied with the police response.

We very much appreciate the work Councillors Paul Farmer and Jo Rayner did representing us during the Consultation period.

Cathy Friel

From: Paul Farmer 1 July 2014

Dear all.

Delighted to say that this was renewed by Council last night, at least "overwhelmingly" and certainly with no votes against! Both I and your other representative, Cllr Jo Rayner, spoke but our careful preparatory work with colleagues perhaps made the difference on this occasion!

Kind regards, Paul

Zone D Parking 'Possible Review'

Steve Bloor, Traffic Manager for West Suffolk, has told the CAA that he expects to get the go-ahead for a review of the Zone D residents' parking scheme. Steve anticipates putting out a questionnaire to all residents as the first stage of the review.

Last year the CAA completed its own study of traffic and parking issues in the town centre and recommended that parking bays on Bridewell Lane, College Street ,and those in Whiting Street and Guildhall Street not already residents only, should all be converted to residents-only parking. In a further initiative the CAA wrote to the County Council recently, proposing that where resident parking was supported, this should be extended from 6pm to 8pm, as many residents have problems finding somewhere to park when they return from work.

Steve Bloor states that one thing he wants to consider would be not automatically granting residents' permits in new flats or houses in the grid. However this is unlikely to provide anything like the level of benefit to residents that the changes proposed by the CAA would bring.

Vivien Gainsborough-Foot

Planning

The only relevant planning application since June 2014 - conversion of existing building to two residential flats: Flotation Health 31 - 35 Guildhall Street Bury St Edmunds IP33 1QD

Ref: no. DC/14/1119/FUL Received 19 June 2014 Validated 09 July 2014 Status: Pending

Stephen Mills

We shall be delighted to welcome you to the Annual General Meeting of the Churchgate Area Association on 17 October 2014 at Churchgate Meeting House 7.00pm

All members are invited to the Annual General Meeting. Reports will be given by committee members and there will be plenty of opportunity for members to ask questions and discuss situations. Committee members will be voted into place, but please feel free to nominate yourself or others to be members of the Committee.

The formal part of the meeting will be followed by a short talk given by David Cockram and Henry Saltmarsh on the Guildhall Feoffment Trust and the Guildhall Feoffment School.

Wine and delicious nibbles will be served after the meeting.

Comment on possible increase in traffic with the expansion of **Guildhall Feoffment School** and member's letter to Chairman

As many of our members are aware Guildhall Feoffment School was given approval in June 2014 to expand to provide schooling from ages 4-11, increasing the number of pupils from 247 to 315 starting in 2015. The CAA has been concerned about the additional traffic that will be generated from this expansion. There are approximately 10,000 traffic violations a year at the school currently when parents park to drop off and pick up children each day. Most of Bridewell Lane is double yellow lines and this means that motorists are prohibited from "waiting at any time". One of the few exceptions in to "briefly stop to drop off and pick up passengers". The police have attempted on occasions to control the illegal parking which can cause significant problems for residents in Bridewell Lane or residents of Crown Street who have rear garages opening onto Bridewell Lane. It is not uncommon for cars to be parked across garage openings. The police and residents have been subject to verbal unpleasantness from some drivers when these issues have been raised.

The school has implemented a drop off system so that parents do not have to park, but many ignore this. While this only happens twice a day, with the increased traffic generated by the 30% increase in pupil numbers this can only be detrimental to residents.

We think that it is only reasonable that some sort of traffic management scheme is researched to try and alleviate the current and any possible future problems.

Bridewell Lane is a narrow road and with the combination of illegal parking and driver frustration it does have the possibility of creating an unsafe environment for the children, which in turn can only discourage parents who would like their children to walk or cycle to school.

Stephen Mills

1st August 2014 Dear Andrew

I do think it is very important to retain this School within our Old Town so that the children are able to grow up and enjoy their schooling within these medieval streets which we all enjoy.

Traffic is always going to be a nuisance but the problem is only twice a day and if the roads were made safer more children would be confident in walking and cycling to School.

We need the children here and if they grow up to appreciate the Heritage which surrounds this School, that is a great bonus for the future of this Town.

We surely do not want to become a community of old Whingers.

The early Victorian School Buildings are outstanding and it would be great if any new build additions complemented these [and not all school additions do so under the current County Council provisions].

Best wishes Martin Lightfoot

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

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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

An Apprecation and News

Formed in 2012, **Bury Theatre Workshop** is a community theatre group based in Bury performing high quality and cuttint edge drama. Their 3rd annual 'Shakespeare in the Park', *Twelfth Night* last June performed in the wonderful setting of the Abbey Crypt, demonstrated a high standard of acting and directing.

Previous performances have included *The Graduate* and *Pygmalion* at The Theatre Royal, and the Company is delighted to announce that their new community theatre 'home' will be the Unitarian Meeting House in Churchgate Street for most of its future indoor productions.

These include *The Comedy of the Virtuous and Godly Suzanna* on 24th and 25th October and then *Blackadder Goes Forth* (in support of Comic Relief) 13 - 15th November - both at the Churchgate Meeting House. In February 2015 the Company will be performing *Dr Faustus* at the Theatrre Royal.

For more information please refer to the Bury Theatre Workshop website: www.burytheatreworkshop.org.uk

Nicholas Law

Water Meadows News

The Bury Water Meadows group has welcomed the Inspector's final report following the Public Examination, which clearly designates Leg of Mutton for informal recreation only. St Edmundsbury Council will vote on endorsement of this final Report on September 23rd. Thanks to all CAA members who wrote to the Inspector supporting "informal recreation" only.

A move towards detailed work on the plans and proposals required by major grant-giving organisations is underway, with a view to purchasing Leg of Mutton for the town for general free access by residents, together with the provision of outdoor education. A summer intern with planning qualifications has spent the last few weeks contributing to this work.

Efforts to increase awareness of the town's green spaces is being stepped up. A guided walk around No Man's Meadows and Leg of Mutton took place in July and was oversubscribed. Plans are under way to develop and publish a full circular walk guide to the River Lark, Linnet and water meadows in the town.

Vivien Gainsborough Foot and Andrew Hinchley

Dowsing ???

On a beautiful sunny evening recently, my Tuesday Film Group of Ladies, plus my rather sceptical husband David, met up with the Essential St. Edmunds Dowsing Group, to experience what proved to be an absolutely magical evening in the Abbey Gardens.

Most of us newcomers to dowsing did not know quite what to expect, but as we stood in a circle close to the entrance gate of the Abbey in the beautiful warm evening sunshine, we were introduced to the skills and methods of this ancient Art by three lovely gentlemen, Richard, Derek and Andy. We then began what proved



indeed to be a magical and moving journey through the gardens with our Rods, tracing the Michael & Mary Earth Energy Lines, which took us through the Rose Garden and then to the place near the North Transept of the old Abbey where the lines "kiss". There was a lot of concentration as we made our way to this point holding our rods, with the occasional whoop of joy (OK! from me) but also a great many comments such as "I can't believe I just did that!" and "Did that really happen?"! It was amazing to see the group becoming more and more excited by the fact that our rods actually did move — it wasn't the wind!

There were so many special moments on

this lovely evening, Richard, Derek and Andy taught us the basics of dowsing in about 15 minutes which has inspired many of us to do more. I would thoroughly recommend learning to dowse to anyone who is interested in the wonderful history of our Abbey, England and beyond.

Chrissy Harrod

Essential St. Edmunds organises monthly dowsing events – contact Derek Woodhead on 01284-811120 or 07968-327070 or derek.1@virgin.net