

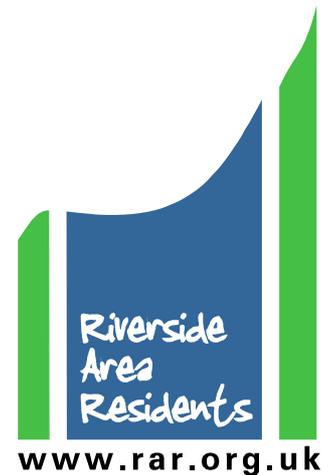
RIVERSIDE AREA RESIDENTS

March 2012

Dear residents

It has been a busy year with many things happening that affected our area. We have had some successes and also some setbacks, and there is plenty still going on.

So come along to the AGM, have a glass of wine, meet fellow residents and learn about plans and activities which may affect you.



AGM: THURSDAY MARCH 29, 7.30 pm,
Christ Church, Christchurch St, off Newmarket Road
(Walk in direction of Grafton Centre. Christ Church is opposite the Burleigh Arms).
Wine and refreshments will be provided

Yet another hotel? New traffic data may affect past decisions



County Highways has been forced to commission new traffic modelling to assess the true impact of 3 major developments on Newmarket Road- Coldham's Lane junction.

RARA, Petersfield and Brunswick residents' associations have lodged a formal complaint about false information presented to Planning Committee for the 219 bedroom Travelodge hotel and adjacent 5 storey residential block. The false claims were revealed on the eve of

the January Planning Committee meeting to consider a six-storey 121 bedroom Premier Inn on the east side of Coldham's Lane (pictured above). RARA had argued that two large budget hotels would worsen traffic problems at this junction, particularly at weekends. The developers claimed that installing 'intelligent' traffic lights would increase junction capacity and thus improve traffic flows. County Highways accepted this claim (and related claims made in November 2010 by Travelodge developers) but were left with egg on their face when they realised that the lights in place are already 'intelligent'. Highways must now reconsider their advice on all 3 developments when accurate modelling results are known. The City Council will then need to decide if the earlier consents are unsound. Perhaps the biggest need is for an 'intelligent' County Highways.

Still on traffic...Stanley Road/Garlic Row/Oyster Row consultation underway

Heavy goods traffic from the Mercer's Row industrial estate often travels these streets. A consultation is underway on ways to minimise impact on residents. RARA Committee members Jim Hair and Graham Garrett liaised with councillors and officials to define consultation options, and will stay in touch following the consultation to help ensure the suggested solution works in practice.

Security gates to deter back alley break-ins

There have been a number of burglaries carried out from back alleyways. RARA secured a Safer City grant from the City Council to fit five security gates with combination padlocks in Beche Road, River Lane and Saxon Road. We are now looking into a similar grant application for Stanley Road.

Riverside & Stourbridge Common Conservation Area

A new conservation area will extend the existing one that covers most of this area to include parts of Godesdone Road and Stanley Road, Newmarket Road, Stourbridge common and the north riverbank. Elizabeth Way roundabout is to be added as an 'area for visual improvement'. Some newer buildings (The Mallards, Riverside Place, St Bartholemew's Court, Waterview, Riverside House) will be excluded, however. RARA broadly welcomed the proposal, which aims to protect local character, but suggested the Council should more rigorously promote good design in future. The full report, which contains an area appraisal and some fascinating historical detail, is at:

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/democracy/documents/g711/Public%20reports%20pack,%2013th-Mar-2012%2016.00,%20Environment%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

New Local Plan may affect Mercer's Row industrial area

The Mercer's Row/Swann's Road area is currently protected for light industrial use in the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan. However, a new Local Plan is being developed in 2012. If the current protection is removed, this land could become available for housing. Following consultation with c400 local residents, RARA committee member Jim Hair fed their views into the first Local Plan workshop. RARA will continue to participate in the Local Plan development, along with other associations.

River bank ownership mystery solved

Mooring along Riverside has been a legal grey area due to uncertainty about who owns the river bank. Archive research showed the City Council to be the owner, and it has now lodged a claim with the Land Registry. Since the cost of providing safe moorings on this wall will be high, the City will be consulting with residents and river users before deciding whether legal licensed mooring is possible or if a ban is the only feasible option.

Every litter removal helps...

RARA Committee member David Catto pursued Tesco to clean up litter (including syringes) from their access paths, the war memorial square and their shrubbery. The City Council became involved and Tesco has now cleaned up its sites and given undertakings for the future. David and fellow committee member Tony Eva also contacted the City to remove rubbish dumped on Riverside pavements and outside the Engineer's House.

Nuisance-busting: who you gotta call?

Litter, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles: streetenforcement@cambridge.gov.uk

Noise, waste, smoke nuisance: env.services@cambridge.gov.uk

Street cleaning: enquiries@cambridge.gov.uk

By phone: 01223 457000 (office hours), 01223 457457 (out of hours)

More environmental improvement underway - more required

The railings by the recently-improved stretch of Riverside are to be repainted as part of that project. The City has also allocated £25,000 for additional painting, and is investigating how far along Riverside this sum will stretch. Residents will be consulted on colour and other details once a process is agreed. RARA is liaising with the project officer. We believe the full length of the railings should – ideally – be repainted as one single project, rather than take a piecemeal approach.

RARA Committee member Tony Eva also spoke at a recent East Area Committee about several environmental improvement issues near Stourbridge Common, including overnight parking by campervans. Yellow lines and/or a residents-only parking scheme might help. County Council are looking at the possible options. Residents will be fully consulted before any changes can be agreed.

Donations, donations, donations...

We are an active association but we depend on resident donations to cover print and other costs. We suggest a donation of £5 per household, but any contribution is welcome. Our Treasurer is Tim Ensor, 21 Saxon Road. timensor1@gmail.com Cheques should be made payable to 'RARA'.

Could you help? If you are willing to lend a hand sometimes, or have specialist skills that could benefit RARA (eg planning, legal, environment knowledge please contact your street rep (details on RARA website) or e-mail lynette@buslit.co.uk or suzi@suzishimwell.net