

RIVERSIDE AREA RESIDENTS

November 2012

Dear residents

Another busy year, with some new issues affecting our area and old issues continuing to rumble along. We were saddened to learn of the death in June of Councillor Margaret Wright, who worked extremely hard behind-the-scenes for residents across Abbey ward. Her efforts helped to secure £25,000 for refurbishing the Riverside railings, which is on hold pending consultation on moorings (see over). We hope this money will eventually be used for its intended purpose.



An end to problem parking?



The County Council has agreed to take action on unsafe parking between the Tesco path and the Riverside cycle bridge, and to consult residents on persistent parking problems near Stourbridge Common. This follows repeated representations by RARA committee members Tony Eva and David Catto to the East Area Committee. The Tesco path/cycle bridge parking problems can be solved by adding double yellow lines along this stretch. The Stourbridge Common parking issues are more complex, and residents will be consulted on a combination of options including resident-only parking, pay & display and double yellow lines.

Action on east end traffic blight

Following consultation on traffic problems around Mercer's Row, the County will be making 3 changes:

- Parking restrictions on the south side of the Oyster Row/Garlic Row junction
- No Entry signs to prevent traffic leaving Mercer's Row from entering Oyster Row and Stanley Road.
- Further parking restrictions at the southern end of Stanley Road, by Newmarket Road.

As some measures may have adverse effects on other residents, RARA will monitor the situation. In addition, committee member Jim Hair has highlighted possible traffic impact for residents if the next City Council Local Plan (being developed for 2014) allows the Mercer's Row industrial estate to be released for housing development. Traffic levels in the area could significantly increase .

Party party party!

Congratulations to Priory Road residents for hosting a very successful Jubilee street party, and kindly inviting residents from nearby streets to join the fun. See www.joanthony.co.uk for more photos. RARA also hopes to organise a social event in 2013 (though not in the street!). If you could help us create a memorable event, please do get in touch.



RARA committee meeting: Thurs 6th December, 7.30 pm, River Lane Centre
Residents not on the Committee are very welcome to attend. As seating is limited we ask that you contact us beforehand, if possible.
Contact Harry Goode, 18 Godesdone Road, Tel: 560950, email harry.huguet@ntlworld.com

Nuisance-busting: who you gotta call?

Litter, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles: streetenforcement@cambridge.gov.uk
Noise, waste or smoke nuisance: env.services@cambridge.gov.uk
Street cleaning: enquiries@cambridge.gov.uk
By phone: 01223 457000 (office hours), 01223 457457 (out of hours)



Making the Riverside 'vision' a reality

In 2009 the City Council stated a vision "to create a pedestrian and cycle priority route linking the two green spaces of Stourbridge Common and Midsummer Common". This scheme, which would create an uninterrupted route along the river from the city centre to Fen Ditton, was noted as having "city-wide benefit".

The first stretch from Midsummer Common to Saxon Road is in place, and makes a stark contrast with the scruffy, poorly-maintained and inadequately paved conditions further east. RARA is pressing the Council to turn its wish into reality. We have suggested completion of Riverside improvements as a possible priority for S106 (developer payment) funds. This is now on the list of projects up for decision at **East Area Committee on 29th November**. This will be held at **7pm at Cherry Trees Day Centre, St Matthews Street**. Any resident can attend.

Conservation Area? You'd never know it

Take a look up Godesdone Road at the 5 storey Travelodge hotel under construction. Already it dominates the Victorian terraces in this street, and is even visible from houses on Riverside. When completed it will be the height of the lift tower. The City Council's design guidance for the area has a policy of not allowing buildings with long horizontal rooflines, so it is astonishing that they permitted this monstrosity. Had it not been for RARA protests, the hotel would have been another storey higher.



Now take a walk westwards along Riverside to see the blocks of the Brunswick development protruding above the Victorian roofline. Regrettably, while it is happy to spend money on consultation, the City Council repeatedly shows itself unable or unwilling to implement its own adopted policies, such as requiring new development to 'protect or enhance the character or appearance' of a Conservation Area – like ours.

When is a name not a name?

Should Riverside residents ring for an ambulance or taxi and say, "I'm on Riverside, just off Newmarket Road", they may wait in vain. The Brunswick site development, across Elizabeth Way, is being heavily marketed as 'Cambridge Riverside' on signage etc. Despite the obvious potential for confusion, the City Council says it is powerless to prevent developers hijacking local names. They will however 'encourage' use of the official postal address: Kingsley Walk.

Donations, donations, donations...

We are an active association but we depend on resident donations to cover printing 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'.

Do you live in River Lane or Stanley Rd?

We need new helpers for these two streets to distribute newsletter, pick up on residents' issues and attend 3-4 Committee meetings a year. Could you help? Please contact Harry Goode (contact details overleaf)

Preventing further flooding

Residents of Riverside who were flooded in this summer are waiting to hear from Anglian Water and the County Council how they propose to prevent a recurrence. The first flood in July was caused by the failure of an Anglian Water pump; a contributory factor was that 60 tonnes of 'unflushables' had been allowed to build up at the pumping station. In August the sewer backed up again and street drains failed to cope, despite the five new drainage gullies installed under new paving. The Council is investigating whether the gullies were blocked, which seems likely given that street gutters are not regularly swept; an issue which RARA's David Catto continues to pursue. Richard Johnson, our local City councillor, has been helpful in arranging a meeting with Anglian Water and Julian Huppert has written to Eric Pickles.

Mooring consultation coming soon

After years of denial, the City Council finally acknowledged that it owns Riverside bank and registered freehold title earlier this year. It will soon be consulting on what to do about unregulated mooring.

There will be six options in the consultation:

- Permit regulated mooring along all of Riverside
- Permit mooring at certain points on Riverside
- Ban mooring on Riverside, but give boats licences so they can use City Council moorings elsewhere
- Ban mooring at Riverside, and give notice to boats to vacate their moorings and move on
- Permit visitor mooring but not residential
- Do nothing and leave the situation as it is, other than removing derelict and un-riverworthy craft

The consultation will include residents, boaters and a long list of other stakeholders. RARA has asked for clarification of the criteria that will be used to make a decision (e.g. costs vs. benefits; impact on residents and others; other mooring options in Cambridge).