

SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chichester, West Sussex

“Residents Working Together”

NEWSLETTER – JULY / AUGUST 2009

> > > > Visit our website: www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk < < < < <

> > > and the R.A.G.E. website: www.chi-rage.co.uk < < <

Dear Member

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2009.

From our ex-Chairman, Margaret Whitehead

This will be my last piece as Chairman for the newsletter as I was elected as County Councillor for Chichester South in the recent County Council Elections. When I accepted the position of your Chairman nearly two years ago I had every intention of remaining in the position for three years, which is the normal tenure. However things don't always go to plan and when I was offered the opportunity to stand for the County I took it. I have enjoyed my time as your Chairman, learnt a lot, met some interesting people and I hope helped retain the rural aspect of our community. I would like to express my thanks to the Committee, without whose help and support I wouldn't have been able to do my job and I wish them and you all the best. I shall still retain an interest in the Summersdale Residents' Association through my membership.

Farewell to our past Chairman

We should like to thank Margaret Whitehead for her excellent Chairmanship. She proved herself to be very practical and efficient, qualities which will stand her in good stead in her new role. We wish her the best of luck and consider Chichester South very fortunate to have her to represent them.

The future: SRA NEEDS YOU!

The efforts of those involved on the Tarmac gravel application (100 plus), Hunters Rest (50 or so objectors), not to mention the one or two residents in Highland Road and Summersdale Court on the Vodafone mast application, show that SRA needs the direct and indirect support of the community – ie YOU! – successfully to challenge and change.

We are currently without a chairman. We also need more people for our committee. Our two most recent chairmen have gone into local government, and several members of our committee have retired. If we do not have enough members on the committee, then we cannot carry out effectively the functions that we need to. Being chairman or even just being a member of our committee is an excellent way of finding out what's going on locally and meeting people both in the community and inside local government. If we do not have enough people on the committee, we would be very limited as to what we could do. Please contact any committee member for further information if you are interested.

Membership subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2009 of £5.00 per household were due on 1 January. If you have not yet paid, or do not already pay by standing order, or have not yet altered your standing order to £5.00, then even if you are an existing member please complete the whole of the attached form and give or send it to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Vanessa Stern, 15 Selham Close, Marchwood, Chichester PO19 5BZ. If you are unsure please ring Vanessa on 778374 or email rodessa@waitrose.com

Dates for your diary – Committee meetings

In 2009: 3 September, 8 October and 26 November, all at 7.30pm and at St Michael's Hall. All members are welcome to attend.

Chestnut Trees in Summersdale

In April a group of about eleven people comprising Tree Wardens, representatives from SRA and others interested in trees met the Tree Officer for Chichester District Council and the Highway Arboriculturalist for West Sussex County Council to discuss an overall plan for roadside trees in Summersdale. Work is to be carried out, much of which is needed for safety reasons because of disease. Some are to be felled and others will be treated to improve their appearance.

Where trees are to be removed, mainly in The Lane, Chestnut Avenue and Fordwater Lane, the gaps will be filled with appropriate replacements that will become large in order to maintain the leaf canopy that is so special to Summersdale. Notices of the proposed work will be put up before the trees are removed.

Every tree planted costs about £75-100, so it is a great shame to see them vandalised, damaged by grass cutters, die of neglect, or even, as has happened recently, dug up and stolen.

Parking in Summersdale Road

Following representations, a scheme to introduce additional parking restrictions in Summersdale Road has been formally approved. If no objections are received, then it may be possible to introduce them in September before the start of the new University year.

The groovy route 60 bus

Is route 60 just too groovy to comprehend? Studying the timetables at <http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables/CH60timetable051008.pdf>, there are effectively two route 60s, Elmer (Monday-Friday evenings and Sundays daytime only)-Bognor-Pagham-Chichester-Summersdale (Lavant Road)-Lavant-Midhurst (and vice versa) and Bognor-Chichester-Summersdale (Ferndale Road)-Chichester-Bognor. For the buses that go along Ferndale Road you need to look at both sets of timetables. Start with the Elmer-Bognor Regis-etc one and finish on the Midhurst-Summersdale-etc timetable, as the columns of timings on Elmer-Bognor Regis-etc timetable for buses that appear to go nowhere after Ferndale Rd continue on the Midhurst-Summersdale-etc timetable.

In simple terms, route 60 now alternates in its northern routes from Chichester between going to/from Ferndale Road and to/from Midhurst via Lavant Road, leaving Mondays to Saturdays in the daytime from Chichester Cathedral for Summersdale at 4, 19, 34 and 49 minutes past the hour (to Ferndale/ Lavant Rd/ Ferndale/ Lavant Rd respectively) and leaving Ferndale Road for Chichester at 12 and 42 minutes past the hour and Lavant Road at the Drive at 27 and 57 minutes past the hour.

This means that there is a route 60 bus serving Summersdale from Chichester every 15 minutes. But if you wish to travel to the hospital and Tangmere then you have to go to the bus station and pick up the 55.

Would it not be clearer to renumber the Ferndale Road circuit route 60A?

Travelling in France by car

Contributed by 'Francophile'

In October 2008 new laws came into force for drivers and passengers travelling in cars and lorries in France. It is now necessary to have a yellow *gilet*, ie a lightweight high-visibility waistcoat for every adult in a vehicle. Failure to provide evidence of having these garments and a red triangle with other articles previously required could result in an on-the-spot fine of between 90 and 135 euros. There is discretion if you are prepared to pay within 3 days.

As you may be aware, fines for speeding are payable on the spot and it is advisable always to carry 200 euros in cash because travellers' cheques are not acceptable. Failure can result in a laborious visit to the local police station and/or a long walk to somewhere you can obtain some cash and depending on the scale of your transgression the impounding of your vehicle. It could spoil your journey plans for the day or holiday.

France is still there to be enjoyed but at a potentially inflated price this year.

Bon voyage!

Neighbourhood policing news

We were delighted to welcome to our recent committee meeting our neighbourhood Community Support Officer, Lesley Bell. Lesley, who covers both Summersdale and Parklands, can be contacted on 0845 60 70 999, extension 22108.

Neighbourhood enforcement priorities include:

- vandalism and anti-social behaviour, notably in Brandy Hole Copse or Brandy Hole Lane, and
- cycling on pavements.

To report vandalism and other non urgent crime phone 0845 60 70 999 or use contactcentre@sussex.police.uk.

Another priority – Operation Crackdown – targets:

- anti-social driving, eg drivers using mobile phones, speeding, under age or drink- or drug-driving, tailgating, and
- cars and motorbikes in unsafe condition, abandoned or untaxed.

You can report such transgressions to Sussex Police on 01243 642222 or use www.operationcrackdown.org.

Dog fouling problems: call Chichester District Council 01243 785166, Dog Warden John Rosser.

Graffiti: call Grafitti Solutions 0845 126 5555.

Mobile phone directory inquiries

A new commercial directory enquiries service has been launched for mobiles called 118800. It has managed to buy the mobile numbers for a goodly proportion of us. Everyone's mobile is

listed by default so if you want to go ex-directory you have to apply to them. The easiest way is via their website www.118800.co.uk/, then click on 'ex-directory' and follow the instructions.

Hydrotherapy at Fordwater School

As reported in Chichester Observer in March, Fordwater School is fundraising for a new hydrotherapy pool for its children. It has a target of £450,000. If you would like to get involved in fundraising for this then please contact Jane Bunyan on 01243 782475.

Residents Against Gravel Extraction (R.A.G.E.) – community activism succeeds!

The application (Lavant Gravel - West Sussex County Council Ref LV313/07) was refused after the sustained campaign by R.A.G.E. The application was considered at a public meeting attended by over 100 residents and the SRA Chairman spoke. The official Reason for Refusal states that 'the scale and extent of the proposed development, which extends beyond the area allocated in the West Sussex Minerals Local Plan 2003, would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity, character, and environment of the area by virtue of its overall scale and design and the nature of associated operations, including the movement of extracted material ... contrary to the following policies...'

However, we cannot relax yet, as Tarmac has until 17 September to lodge an appeal.

Thank you everyone who helped by supporting meetings, displaying posters, distributing flyers, giving us funds, and, most importantly, turning up on the day of the planning meeting, both outside and inside the Council Chamber, which proved the widespread opposition to Tarmac's plans. The actions of the community have prevented a major controversial application being approved even though planning officers had recommended acceptance.

Other planning applications

Graylingwell

This major application was approved with a host of conditions. The application as approved has reduced the risk of impact on local highways by eliminating the major through road, with only 10-15% of traffic coming out onto Summersdale Road. We have good communication links with both CDC and the developer Linden Homes, and will continue to be involved in the detailed stages of the application. The developers wish to start work on the site as soon as possible.

With approval now received from the Government Office for the South East and Natural England, only the section 106 planning agreement needs to be completed. If you wish to find out more about the application then visit the developer's website www.graylingwellchichester.com or for full details the CDC planning website using reference 08/03533/OUT.

Hunters Rest (08/01977/OUT)

Originally submitted in May 2008, this application proposes the demolition of the single agricultural dwelling (the last property before Summersdale Garage) and replacement with ten one and two bedroom flats and 24 two, three and four bedroom houses. The application received over 46 third party objections, including from SRA. Whilst on the boundary of Chichester the application is actually within Lavant Parish. The application site abuts Centurion Way and although possible access onto Centurion Way was indicated on the site plans, limited detail was included on the feasibility and any public use of this access.

In conjunction and with the support of other objectors SRA addressed the Planning Committee. This application was refused by Chichester District North Committee as being within a Rural Area, outside the Settlement Policy Area boundaries of both Lavant and Chichester, within the Chichester/Lavant strategic gap and because the Council was able to demonstrate a five-year

housing supply. However, a planning appeal application by Public Inquiry has now been made by the applicant. A provisional date of 6 October 2009 has been set, to be held at Chichester City Council House, North Street, Chichester. The Planning Inspectorate appeal reference is APP/3815/2103459/NWF

Unfortunately the closing date of the 29 June for objections to the Planning Inspectorate was before the planned circulation date for the newsletter. If you wish to be involved in the SRA response for the Inquiry then please contact the planning secretary.

Applecot, 12 Brandy Hole Lane (08/05003/OUT)

We objected to the application to demolish the Tudor-style house built in 1930 to make way for four 5-bedroomed houses. The application was refused on the grounds of being out of character for this semi-rural area and the impact on wildlife species.

Despite the site requiring access onto Brandy Hole Lane very close to the narrow and visually-restricted railway bridge over Centurian Way, West Sussex County Council Highways raised no objections on the bases of access or visibility.

35 Highland Road (08/03066/OUT)

This appeal against an application to build two bungalows in the rear garden has been taken to appeal and refused. We objected and submitted comments to the appeal inspector. A less contentious and simultaneous application for a single bungalow in the rear garden was approved by CDC. Thank you to residents who attended the hearing.

Phone mast on Lavant Road adjacent to Summersdale Court

In 2005 Vodafone applied and were given consent for a controversial phone mast in close proximity to Summersdale Court. The permission was subsequently withdrawn by the District Council owing to issues of land ownership. After a four-year period Vodafone has subsequently challenged the basis of the original reversal of the planning decision. The council has now reinstated the original approval. Work has commenced on site. This is a major disappointment for those living close to the application site, who have campaigned to prevent the application and continue to challenge the stance of Vodafone.

Object: your voice counts

Planning applications can be viewed on Chichester District Council's website at <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5427>. Any objections to planning applications can be sent via the CDC web or by letter, marked "Objection" and including the reference, to Mr S R Carvell, Head of Development and Building Control Services, Chichester District Council, East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1TY.

Planning Applications in Chichester Observer

We are delighted that following lobbying from SRA and others, Chichester Observer has reinstated its publication of the weekly summary of all planning applications. We understand that this summary, which is in the property pages of the paper and is subsidised by the estate agents' adverts, was withdrawn as a knock-on effect of the cutting of estate agents' advertising budgets, which led to Chi.Ob seeking to charge the District Council (CDC) for the service. CDC refused to pay such a fee estimated to be in the many tens of thousands of pounds per annum.

Planning applications on CDC website

Details of ALL current planning applications can be downloaded for Chichester North District from the CDC website. A short guide to using this service is on our website.

Your Committee 2009/10

Chairman
Vacant
(Please apply!)

Vice Chairman
R.A.G.E., CRACG Liaison
Mrs Sue Spooner, 1 Maplehurst Road,
PO19 6QL
Tel: 528467; email: sue-spooner@tiscali.co.uk

Planning Secretary
Andrew Birch, 8 Selham Close, PO19 5BZ
Tel: 775342;
e-mail: and.and@btinternet.com

Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Minutes Secretary (2)
Peter Bickley, 4 Maplehurst Road, PO19 6QL
Tel: 780628; e-mail: peter.bickley@icaew.com

Goodwood Liaison
Dennis Martin, 9 Hunters Way, PO19 5RB
Tel: 536496;
e-mail: dennis@dennismartin.co.uk

Minutes Secretary (1), Newsletter Distribution
Michael Berry, 34 Plainwood Close, PO19 5YB
Tel/Fax: 530208; e-mail:
michael.berry@zen.co.uk

Webmaster
Peter Guilfoyle, 4 Brandy Hole Lane,
PO19 5RJ
Tel: 776063; e-mail: ptguilfoyle@talktalk.net

Membership Secretary
Mrs Vanessa Stern, 15 Selham Close, PO19 5BZ
Tel 01243 778374; email
rodessa@waitrose.com

Committee Members without portfolio
David Heaver
Meriton, Rew Lane, PO19 5QH;
Tel: 01243 778568 email:
davidheaver@onetel.com

As mentioned above, we need new blood to augment the committee and share the workload. We also need a new Chairman. Please give very serious thought to joining the committee, or even putting yourself forward to be Chairman. Being on the committee is not an onerous task, so if you would like to join the committee – or be our Chairman – or even just find out what we do, then please contact any member of the committee.