

SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chichester, West Sussex

"Residents Working Together"

NEWSLETTER – MAY/JUNE 2007

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Dear Member

Welcome to our second Newsletter for 2007.

Message from the Chairman

Members who attended the AGM will know that I am standing for the District and City Councils at the elections on 3 May. Most of you will receive this Newsletter after the results are known but if elected I will stand down from the Chair of the Association. Should that happen may I say how much I have enjoyed working with you and I am still very happy for you to contact me at any reasonable time in my new capacity.

However, if not elected, I will remain as Chairman until the next AGM in 2008 and it will be a delight to continue to serve you in this capacity. The Constitution does say that we hold our posts "normally" for 3 years. Already I am in my fourth year so it would not be unreasonable for someone else to take over from me at the next AGM. If anyone is interested in getting involved please let one of us know as soon as possible.

Summer Party, Saturday 30 June 2007

This year's Summer party will be held at Lavant Memorial Hall commencing at 7 pm. There will be a light buffet supper including drinks - in moderation(!) - and the cost per person will be £8.50. Numbers will be limited to 75 and tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis. They are available from Derek James (531494), Sue Spooner (528467), Sophie Rudge (528632), Mike Berry (530208) and Jim Ayling (527672).

Other dates for your diary

Committee meetings 2007-08 all at St Michael's Hall at 7.30pm: 24 May with a talk on City Centre Development Strategy, 5 July, 13 Sept, 18 Oct and 6 December 2007, 10 January 2008, AGM: 14 February 2008, and 21 February 2008.

A member of any fully-paid up household is entitled to attend and speak at any meeting. Please let the Chairman know in advance if you wish to come along.

SRA membership subscription 2007

if there is a form inserted within this Newsletter, it is to remind you that we have not yet received your (£2 per household) membership subscription for this year. If you are a new occupant we invite you to join our Residents' Association. Do contact the Membership Secretary on 528632. Please pay by standing order as it saves time for everyone.

Your membership is important if we are to maintain an effective voice in the community.

Brandy Hole Lane footpath

You will know from our last newsletter that, after many years of effort, everything was in place for this very necessary footpath east of the pond to link the rest of the Lane with Centurion Way. West Sussex County Council allocated the money from community funds for this safety measure and by now the work should have been completed. Unfortunately, at the last minute a legal injunction was taken out and WSCC had no alternative but to delay the project yet again until the matter was resolved.

Sunrise Senior Living and Development

Members will be aware that the proposals for Sunrise Senior Living were dismissed at the appeal and many thanks to our planning sub-committee led by Andrew Birch, who did such sterling work in preparing our case. With two appeals now decided in our favour it may well be that developers will be more cautious in their plans for making money from the sites up for grabs.

However, we should not become complacent. We have continued to be actively involved in the consultation process relating to the Local Development Framework and recently have made a detailed submission to the Delivering Development Opportunities consultation. This has included a contribution resisting proposals to develop land close to Brandy Hole Lane Copse which will affect the natural environment of that area.

After Sunrise, what now?

In the Sunrise Appeal the Inspector drew attention to the conflict between the developer's proposals and a number of issues such as planning policies, the distinctiveness of the area and neighbouring developments. Together with the decision on 8A Lavant Road his comments were most welcome and reinforced our arguments against development on the Lavant Road and other garden sites. Nonetheless, each application must still be taken on its merits. You can view the Inspector's comments on the SRA website.

We now need to build on these successes with the creation of a document that the District Council will accept as appropriate for the area when considering planning applications. Therefore, we have formed a sub-committee to assist in the production of a suitable design document for our area. We have to define settlement character in the clearest terms and provide design guidance as to how we can protect that character.

This "Townscape and Character Appraisal" will address history, buildings, context, settlement patterns, recreational activities and comments on community. Work is already under way and an historic survey of the housing stock has been completed. However, we would like your help as we are planning to produce a neighbourhood questionnaire to be distributed during the Summer. Any help with content, document layout and production would be welcome. If you are able to assist please contact Andrew Birch (775342).

Gravel Extraction

If you attended the AGM you will be aware that the spectre of gravel extraction has raised its ugly head again, and proposed developments west of Lavant will have a serious effect upon Summersdale. There are plans to erect cleaning and filtering machinery just north of the district with some 80 lorries a day entering and leaving the site. Most of these will be routed through Summersdale and down through the city to reach the A27. In addition there are plans to build a large roundabout in the Lavant Gap to accommodate this traffic.

Stuart Martin, one of our members, has prepared detailed proposals with regard to our stance on this development and broadly we are supporting his plans. It is unlikely that we

will be able to stop the extraction. However, we can act to limit its impact on the area and we will keep you posted on progress.

Goodwood Aerodrome

At the Aerodrome Consultative Committee meeting it was reported that there has been a marked downturn in traffic over the last six months, mainly due to wet weather; in fact the aerodrome was closed for 40 days during the past year. This resulted in fewer complaints. Most complaints were caused by the “notorious” Harvard and aerobatics. The Harvard is expensive to operate and as a consequence flights are infrequent.

Future events:

- 16-17 June: vintage aircraft fly-in and air display. This will be open to the public and should appeal to families.
- 22-24 June: Festival of Speed. The Red Arrows and the Eurofighter will be performing on two of the days.
- 31 Aug-2 Sept: Revival meeting. Air displays will follow the same pattern as last year. There will also be a static display of some 40 international aircraft.

Complaints are best made to the Control Tower on 01243 755061. There is an answerphone when unmanned.

Planning

Chichester City Centre - Development Strategy

On Thursday 24 May Ms Kim Long, the City Centre Manager, will be giving us a talk on her plans for The City Centre Management Development Strategy at the beginning of our committee meeting, commencing at 7.30 pm. Whilst members are welcome to stay for the whole meeting, a chance will be given for people to leave after Kim’s presentation. All members are invited. Should any non-member wish to attend please contact the Chairman beforehand.

Specific planning applications

29 Lavant Road – Appeal – 06/05914/OUT (Demolition of 1 dwelling and replacement with 4 townhouses of 3 or 4 bedrooms)

This is adjacent to the recently completed development of 5 townhouses on the plot comprising Meadowlands. The density is higher than that at Meadowlands and site has only one access and once again represents the change in character of the area and the approach to Chichester. This application was not determined by Chichester District Council due to the applicant refusing to supply an elevation drawing for the outline application. The applicant has therefore appealed the decision on the basis of non determination. This application received over 50 written objections. Objectors will now be contacted by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol to submit further comments. If you did not object previously and would like to add your comments please contact the Planning Secretary who will advise you on the current situation.

This appeal together with the decisions on 8A Lavant Road and Sunrise will set the precedent for future development along Lavant Road.

2 The Drive and Lavant Road junction (opposite Summersdale Court) – 07/00219/OUT (Demolition of 1 dwelling and replacement with 4 townhouses each with 4 bedrooms and 6 flats each with 2 bedrooms)

This application introduced a terrace of 2½/3 storey properties in place of a 2 storey dwelling. The application drew over 60 letters of objection and was recommended for refusal at committee, however prior to the meeting it was withdrawn. A revised application is expected.

35 Highland Road and Tregarth Road – 06/05647/OUT
(Demolition of 1 bungalow and replacement with 3 bungalows and 2 houses)
Application withdrawn after being recognised as being over development.

Re 6 Lavant Road – 06/05189
(Demolition of 1 house and replacement with 10 flats)
This application was refused. A further application is expected.

Phone Masts

There have been two applications by T-Mobile and Vodafone for phone masts adjacent to the Barracks near One Stop. Both have been withdrawn due to problems regarding ownership of the land. A further application by Orange for a mast disguised as a tree in Centurion Way has been withdrawn. Many thanks to those who raised objections.

Object: your voice counts

Planning applications can be viewed on Chichester District Council's website at http://www.chichester.gov.uk/what_do_you_want_to_do/view_planning_applns.cfm. Any objections to a Planning Applications should be marked "Objection" and include the reference and be addressed to Mr S R Carvell, Head of Development and Building Control, Chichester District Council, East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TY.

Your Committee 2007/08

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Ian Wilson has retired from the committee. We are grateful to him for his work over many years. We are always on the lookout for new blood to augment the committee, and if you would like to join, and especially if you would like to take on the Graylingwell portfolio, then do call Derek James, the Chairman, on 531494

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Dear Member

Welcome to our Autumn 2007 Newsletter.

Change of Chairman

Following his success in the local Council elections, Derek James stood down as Chairman of SRA. Derek had held the very busy post for three and a half years, and has been a most active Chairman. He has tremendous energy, lots of sound common sense, and his ebullient personality served Summersdale extremely well. Luckily we are not entirely losing his talents, for now he is a City and District Councillor he will be able to look after Summersdale's interests from a position of influence.

We are fortunate in having Margaret Whitehead to take over as Chairman. Margaret has lived in Summersdale for 17 years. She trained in catering but then changed career direction and became a stockbroker. On moving to Chichester she taught part time for eight years, and has been appointed a Governor at Parklands Primary School. Her dog, Jasper, is a member of Pets as Therapy, and she is treasurer of the Chichester Embroiderers' Guild, so she brings an eclectic range of interests which will stand her in good stead in her new post.

Summer Party

Derek's swansong was the 2007 Summer Party, held this year at Lavant Memorial Hall. 60 members enjoyed meeting other residents, and it was pleasing to meet some newcomers. We are planning next year's party and would welcome your suggestions as to venue and format – and help in organising it. Please contact the Chairman.

Subscriptions

If there is a reminder slip with this newsletter, it is to remind you that we have not yet received your subscription (due in January). Your membership is important if we are to maintain an effective voice in the community.

Dates for your diary

Committee Meetings for 2007-08: 25th October at Chairman's house (see list at end); all others in St Michael's Hall at 7.30pm: 6th December 2007; 10th January 2008; AGM: 21st February 2008; 28th February 2008. Note that October and February dates have been changed. Full details and the agenda for the AGM will be in the January/February 2008 Newsletter.

Anyone from a paid-up member household is welcome to attend any SRA committee meeting.

Members may also like to attend West Sussex County Council's South Chichester County Local Committee. South Chichester in this case refers to the whole county location, not just urban south Chichester. Meetings are held 4 times a year. There is an agenda of items specific to the area, and members of the public are invited to ask questions and bring up concerns. Several members of the

SRA committee went to the meeting on 25 July when the proposed Tarmac gravel extraction was discussed (see later item). If you are interested, the next meetings are Wednesday, 28 November 2007 and Wednesday, 6 February 2008, both at the Sports Hall, Chichester High School for Girls. Details of items on the agendas can be obtained by phoning Robin Davison at WSCC on 777905.

Local Development Framework

Chichester District Council had prepared a detailed forward plan for development up to 2018, and we submitted a detailed response to this. The government inspector has rejected the CDC plan, so it will have to be reworked and resubmitted. CDC has initiated a North East Forum, and we have been invited to join this. Our Planning Secretary, Andrew Birch, will be our representative, and if he is not able to attend a particular meeting Barry Aldridge will go in his place. This is a welcome move as it should mean we are both well informed and able to have our say.

South Downs National Park

Many of you will be aware that the Inspector has recommended severe changes to the proposed park. The most drastic of these is from Petersfield to Pulborough, known as the Western Weald. However, 'Deletion 19' refers to the land between Marchwood and East Lavant. As a committee we have written objecting to this deletion, as have several residents.

St Richard's Hospital

Please continue to check the press for events to support the campaign to save the full options at St Richard's. In particular the campaign office is looking for volunteers to deliver their latest leaflets, which actually explain what the actual options & changes would mean. Phone 788122 extension 2728 if you can help.

Précis of a letter written by Mike Hall, County Councillor for Chichester North to John Wilderspin, Chief Executive West Sussex Primary Care Trust.

- Need both St Richard's and Worthing as they are strategically placed at each end of West Sussex.
- West Sussex County Council and all the District and Boroughs are unanimous in their support to retain full services of both hospitals.
- Supported by a recent report by the President of the Royal College of Physicians stating that all local hospitals should retain their full A & E services.
- St Richard's is one of the top performing hospitals in the country.
- It has adequate space to expand at low cost.
- Easily accessible by public transport and adequate parking.
- It is strategically placed to cope with planned new developments and serve communities south of the A27
- It is adjacent to the main tourist attractions and the major motor and horse racing events at Goodwood, which attract over 300,000 spectators.
- The South Downs already attract more visitors than any National Park, then add in all the thousand of visitors who visit our coastal regions during the summer months.

Address letters to Mr J Wilderspin, Chief Executive West Sussex Primary Care Trust, 1 The Causeway, Goring by Sea, Worthing, BN12 6BY by 30 October 2007.

Gravel Extraction at Hunters Race

Tarmac Ltd are proposing re-opening the quarry at Hunters Race, PLUS having a processing plant there to wash, crush, and grade the gravel. They will then load it on 20-ton (38 when loaded) lorries and drive these down Lavant Road, Broyle Road, Spitalfield Road or Orchard Street and on to the A27, west or east. Their own figures give 84 movements a day for 14 years, and there will be other firms' lorries also. They would build a new bridge over Centurion Way, and a new roundabout on the A286.

SRA has joined with The Chichester Society, Lavant Parish Council, Spitalfield Lane residents and other interested individuals to fight this, under the banner of R.A.G.E. – Residents Against Gravel Extraction. Our first objective is to get the whole idea of an industry in the Lavant Gap refused. We feel that the noise, dust, vibration, light pollution, and extra traffic will be a serious degradation of local life. If this fails, we shall fight very hard to get the County Council to insist on another means of transport: the option Tarmac has put forward is the cheapest solution for them.

The earliest this will now come before the County Planning Committee is 4 December. Objections will still probably be accepted up to the middle of November. The reference number is **LV/07/00313/CMA**. Mark your letter 'Objection' and send to Planning Services, WSCC, The Grange, Tower Street, Chichester, PO19 1RH. We would also encourage you to write to each member of the planning committee, nearly all of whom do not live or represent anywhere near here. Names and addresses are on the SRA website.

87 residents of the most affected areas (not just Summersdale) attended a meeting on 28 September following a leaflet campaign to make residents aware of the Tarmac planning application and its implications. You will also find petition forms at the Esso garage in Lavant Road. We would still be grateful for help from any member who has experience in planning law, engineering, transport, quarrying, or web design. Please email chi-rage@hotmail.com or phone Sue Spooner if you can help or want to know more.

Planning

Help needed now

We are in need of further assistance both on the main committee and the neighbourhood appraisal sub committee. It is not just help in planning matters or dealing with Public bodies, but assistance in the graphical design of documents, taking photographs and delivering literature as well. If you would like to contribute, please call the Chairman.

Current applications - PENDING

6 Lavant Road - 07/03043/FUL - 10 flats

A further application was submitted in June, the third on this site within 12 months. The new application is less contemporary than the original vision and more in keeping with the design of buildings in Lavant Road; however the size, bulk and mass remains out of keeping with the streetscene. The property would also have a serious amenity impact on properties in Lavant Road and Highland Road. Chichester City Council and over 25 others have objected.

The application involves the removal of the little remaining on street car parking for the surgery, with a small area of car parking for 6 cars being created at the entrance to the new apartment block together with the now standard one space for each new dwelling. The developer has not confirmed how the parking would be physically or legally controlled. With tight access and turning onto Lavant Road the developer has been required to provide a further highways report which has now been accepted by the Highways authority. Following several accidents on this stretch, concerns on safety remain.

The application will not be considered at committee until the end of October so you still have time to object on grounds of both scale (bulk and mass) and parking issues.

Object – your voice counts!

Planning applications and decisions can be viewed on Chichester District Council's website at http://www.chichester.gov.uk/what_do_you_want_to_do/view_planning_appls.cfm.

Any objections to a Planning Application should be marked "Objection" and include the reference and be addressed to Mr S R Carvell, Head of Development and Building Control, Chichester District Council, East Pallant House, 1 East Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TY.

NEW Decisions

8A Lavant Road - 07/01757/FUL - 7 Flats - REFUSED 07/03528/FUL - design amendments - PENDING

Having started demolition work on 8A Lavant Road, the new developer submitted an application to increase the density by a further flat within the same and the already much negotiated and compacted footprint. Officers recommended approval, but strong local opposition and representations from SRA managed to persuade the committee that the previously-approved scheme should not be compromised in this way, with an even greater density and impact on traffic and parking. With work well under way the developer has submitted a minor application for design alterations for the approved 6 flats. That makes 5 applications and a planning appeal on one site!

29 Lavant Road: 06/05914/Out - 4 Town Houses - APPEAL REFUSED

This application for a block of 4 new terrace dwellings in place of one detached house, adjacent to the recently constructed properties on the corner of Hunters Way and Lavant Road, has been recently dismissed at appeal. The inspector recognised the area as a spacious and well treed landscape and felt in that the proposal would seriously harm the area's character and appearance. The original application, second application and subsequent written appeal has taken a tremendous amount of time of many members in writing repeated letters of objection. Thank you those who have raised comments about over-development along Lavant Road.

Your Committee 2007/08

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Brian Speed, 16A Lavant Road, PO19 5RG
Tel: 527542; e-mail: bspeed51@hotmail.com

Jim Ayling has retired from the committee as he has moved from Summersdale. We are grateful to him for his energetic campaigning work over many years, and not least for organising the printing and distribution of our newsletter, including this one. We are always on the lookout for new blood to augment the committee, and if you would like to join, then do call the Chairman, Margaret Whitehead, on 773074.