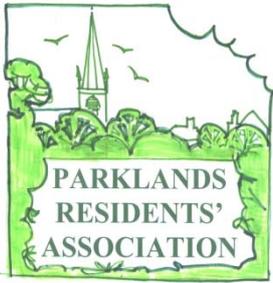


Parklands People – Winter 2012

Parklands Residents' Association Newsletter



PRA Committee

Chair: Chris Cousins (07801 313078)

Secretary: Joan Whibley (tel: 782751)

Treasurer: Clive Goodyer (54 Sherborne Road)

Membership: Melanie Cousins

Newsletter: Paula Chatfield (paula@parklands-chichester.org)

Stand up for Parklands!

A couple of years ago nearly 100 people met at our AGM and set down what we valued about Parklands. Now this is going to be happening in communities all over Chichester; following our example, the City Council has started an exercise to define what we all value about our community. PRA committee member, Richard Cole, has been asked by the City Council to lead what they are calling the "Community Assets Project". This will be very much like our previous event but will be city-wide and Richard will be leading sessions with each of the residents' associations in Chichester. We know that when it comes to immediate threats to what we value, Parklands people rally round - in 2008 our Post Office was one of only two saved from closure in the whole of Sussex, Surrey and Berkshire. What we face now is strategic planning that will shape where we live in 15 years' time and, if we don't say now what we value about Parklands, we risk losing it before we even realise it's under threat.

Developers for Whitehouse Farm have been working hard to persuade Chichester District Council that land at Whitehouse Farm to the west of Centurion Way is suitable for housing. Despite having been written out of the last draft, the latest consultation version of what is now called the Local Plan proposes a "strategic allocation" of 500-2000 homes with the first to be built by 2029. We don't know if a new primary school would be built there, but we can say if having our own Parklands School is important to us, so we don't want anything to damage its success. Previous rumours were that the developers were suggesting Bishop Luffa School could use land to the west of Centurion Way - does it matter to us, e.g. if place availability for Parklands children is affected? There are also potential implications for shops, transport, traffic (including pedestrians and cyclists), employment and of course for wildlife/open space/recreation - do we value living on the edge of town, rather than the countryside being further away? What do you think matters? Maybe countryside is less important to you than homes, but what type of homes and for whom? Aside from what may happen on the west, do we value our current trees/green spaces, churches, easy access into town, bus service, cycle paths, services, clubs, community spirit? What makes Parklands?

Come along to Parklands' **Community Assets Survey** the chance to tell your Parish Council, via your Residents Association, what you value about where you live, so they can stick up for us when it comes to decision-making at Chichester District Council!



**Saturday 1st December
2-4p.m.
in St Wilfrid's Community Hall**

If you don't speak out, they won't know!
(And if other communities speak out but Parklands people don't, it will be their voices that are heard and not ours.)



We will also be making a record of any existing problems that you think need to be fixed, including **flooding**.

Please contact Richard direct on labrcole@waitrose.com for more details or to confirm you'll attend. If you don't have access to email, please drop in a note with your contact details to Clive (54 Sherborne Road) so that Richard can contact you.

HENRY ADAMS

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Chichester
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Fishbourne Road East/Westgate Level Crossing



Network Rail has made a planning application to build a bridge over the railway, with access from the bottom end of Centurion Way (just beyond the cyclist on the left of the photograph). If

the bridge is built, it is their intention to close the level crossing, so that the bridge will be the only way to cross the railway at this point. This would significantly alter how we are able to get to/from the Tesco side of the railway.

Although the initial consultation periods expired at the end of October, it is not clear if there is still the opportunity to comment: Network Rail is expected to submit additional plans including changes to the foot/cycle path linking the bridge to Westgate and it is looking like this application will now be determined by Planning Committee rather than the decision delegated to planning officers. Please check the latest position/take the time to comment on CDC's website <http://pawam.chichester.gov.uk/online-applications/>, or by calling your local District Councillor (contact details below). The application reference no. is 12/03640/FUL. It is really important that decision-makers know what the people who use the crossing/would use the bridge think!

New shops opening here at The Ridgeway!

Both currently-vacant shops are under offer to lease and we hear that the food outlet proposed for No. 1 (what was the Chinese and before that the Fish and Chip shop) even hopes to be open before Christmas, operating as a café during the day and serving fish and chips from early evening. Watch this space, as we can't say anything for sure until the leases are signed.

Chichester Food Bank

If you find yourself having to choose between paying the bills and eating, there is emergency help available. Chichester Food Bank is open Mondays and Wednesdays 2-4pm and Fridays 4-6pm at Chichester Family Church, 21 Orchard Street. Contact them on 01243 786607 or info@chichester.foodbank.org.uk.

Flooding - what happens next?

Most people will remember 11th June this year - it rained and rained, not that remarkable in the summer we'd had to date, but this time the roads filled up with water and, for some of us, water also came into our homes. It seemed more areas were affected than the last time I remember (9th November 2010). Long-term residents remember flooding in Parklands way back: possibly 1950s, certainly 1970s, however, the frequency and distribution of flooding seems to be increasing.

In 2011, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 passed responsibility to County Councils for leading the co-ordination of flood risk management and, in this role, WSCC has sought to gather as much information as possible on what happened on 11th June from all agencies/authorities involved. This information will form the basis of a report due out at the end of November (a link will be placed on WSCC's website: www.westsussex.gov.uk). The findings of this report will inform what happens next - what actions need to be taken and by whom - and the design of any schemes to prevent flooding/minimise disruption and damage in future.

If your home has been affected by flooding, there may still be some grant money available from WSCC for small-scale flood alleviation works to help protect you in future. Please contact our County Councillor, Louise Goldsmith (see below), for further information. There is also practical advice on www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk, the website of the National Flood Forum, a national charity dedicated to supporting and representing communities and individuals at risk of flooding, and information will be available on WSCC's home page, in the event of widespread severe weather.

If you have an interest in how flooding is managed in Parklands, or skills/knowledge/experience that you'd like to share, please let us know.

Please do take care, should flooding happen again. WSCC has asked us to re-state that you **please avoid driving through flooded roads** (apart from any consequences for you, you may push flood water into someone's home); and **in no circumstances enter ditches or manholes**, as these put you at risk of drowning.

A reminder that **your locally elected Councillors are:**

	tel.	email
West Sussex County Council:	Louise Goldsmith	513253 louise.goldsmith@westsussex.gov.uk
Chichester District Council :	Clare Apel	783738 capel@chichester.gov.uk
	Martyn Bell	839704 mbell@chichester.gov.uk
Chichester City Council	Clare and Martin (as above)	
	Rob Campling	532910 r.campling@chichestercity.gov.uk
	Richard Plowman	787663 r.plowman@chichestercity.gov.uk
	Mick Shone	775879 m.shone@chichestercity.gov.uk

Do contact them about local matters that concern you - they're there to represent you! And if you'd like to share your concerns, please also contact us (contact details at the top of this newsletter).

Keeping you in touch with your community



It's Your Neighbourhood

... and we're Outstanding!

In September we were delighted to learn that Parklands Residents' Association had achieved an "Outstanding" rating in the "It's Your Neighbourhood" category of this year's Royal Horticultural Society's South and South East in Bloom competition. The competition aims to recognise and support local community groups in cleaning up and greening their local environment as well as gardening achievement. The judges were very impressed with the "lovely perennial meadow in Parklands" and the "inspirational" small gardens they viewed locally (well done, **Durnford Close**, in particular), and congratulated everyone involved in transforming the derelict space in Durnford Close into thriving allotments.

We achieved a maximum score in the Community Participation section and the judges noted that there was a "genuine sense of community within the area", commending the volunteers organising various activities such as regular litter picks. Suggested future developments included a publicity campaign to reduce the litter dropped and keeping the area in front of the shops clean, tidy and weed free.

Parklands also contributed to Chichester's entry in the Britain in Bloom competition. The judges enjoyed the community orchards and wildflower meadows in both Parklands and Oaklands Park and suggested a mini project for Parklands, possibly involving the school, to identify the wild flowers and provide information to help residents appreciate them.

FREE COMPETITION!

Guess the Weight of the Cake

We have asked local resident, Lesley Pratt, to make us a Christmas Cake.



Lesley is choosing to use a hexagonal tin to make a rich fruit cake, approximately 10" across once marzipanned and iced. Make your guess at the new café at the Ridgeway (if open in time) or at our Quiz.

Friends of Sherborne Road Recreation Ground

is a new group for anyone who'd like to have a say in how this park is used and managed and who'd like to lend a hand. Whether you live by the park; play football there; your children play there; or you simply use/love the wide green spaces, trees and plants, the idea is that the park should offer something for everyone and to try to make that happen. The Group will have occasional meetings and there will be opportunities to help as little or as much as you like - from fund-raising to events, to planting and pruning, weeding and watering. To be involved from the beginning, please contact PRA Committee Member Paula (paula@parklands-chichester.org, tel. 783962) or Justin Jones, Assistant Parks and Green Spaces Officer at Chichester District Council (tel. 534630; jujones@chichester.gov.uk). All those who express an interest will be invited to a meeting in January, at a time to suit as many of you as possible, to agree how the group will be set up and start planning for the new year. The park is owned and managed by Chichester District Council, which already supports Friends' groups for other parks in the area.

Street Action!

The next litter-picking party is on **Saturday 24th November**. Meet at 9.30a.m. at Bishop Luffa Close (outside the School). Please volunteer to help and let Dawn know if you can attend (tel./text 07779561069), so we can arrange to borrow additional litter pickers/bag hoops, if needed, and so we don't run out of drinks/biscuits for the after-pick party! Please join in to tackle the areas you think most need doing, or get stuck into clearing up the debris that collects around Centurion Way.

We're also happy to loan out the equipment to PRA members on other days, organise additional litter picks to suit or lend a hand.

Volunteers needed! **Help grit** some of Parklands' **footpaths** in the event of severe weather (the central area around the shops and other areas to be agreed).

Working Together ... Making a Difference

This issue of Parklands People sees us reach another milestone: Chichester College has agreed to purchase all the paper we need to produce the newsletter for a whole year. They have also produced a supplement, Residents' Matters, at our request to help introduce us to the facilities and opportunities that they offer to local residents, including a new "Resident's Passport" discount scheme. Alongside this, we are exploring practical ways in which the College can work with us to benefit the Parklands area generally, and have opened lines of communication on subjects where we may disagree (e.g. planning applications). The generosity of the College, together with long term sponsor Henry Adams (which currently prints Parklands People for free) saves us a minimum of £240 per issue, meaning we can concentrate on making each issue as useful and interesting as possible without worrying about finding the money to produce it. If you like receiving this newsletter and want us to help make more things happen in Parklands, please support us too: our membership form is on the back page and there are lots of opportunities to join in and shape what we do. Let us know what you want to see/share/happen by getting in touch (contact details at the top of this newsletter).



Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 24th November:

- ⇒ **litter pick**, from 9.30a.m. (see page 3)
- ⇒ **St Wilfrid's Christmas Fair**, 2-4p.m.

Friday 30th November:

Parklands School **Christmas Fair**, 6-8p.m.

Saturday 1st December:

⇒ **Community Assets Survey**, St Wilfrid's Community Hall, 2-4p.m.

⇒ 12th Chichester Scouts' **Christmas Fair**, from 2p.m. at the Scout Hut

Wednesday 5th December:

Residents' Christmas Coffee Morning, 11a.m. at Chichester College; **Christmas Fayre** (see enclosed College supplement)

Saturday 15th December:

Carols and Quiz: see right

Sunday 16th December:

Sports Plus, 10a.m.-12noon at Chichester College - free sports activities for all courtesy of Chichester Baptist Church - please contact CBC on 782582 if you'd like to go along

Sunday 20th January 2013:

Sports Plus at Chichester College - details as above

Friday 15th February 2013:

Copy date for the next edition of this newsletter. Please contact Paula or Joan to submit items or **to advertise**.

Saturday 23rd March:

PRA's **AGM** - details to follow.

Why not **join our emailing list** to receive future issues of this newsletter electronically and the occasional update in between?

No email? If you'd like to be e-connected, but something is holding you back, please let us know what that is. We may be able to organise computer training or identify Government grants to help you get online.

Christmas Carols and Quiz:

Saturday 15th December

Join the PRA, Chichester Baptist Church and St Wilfrid's for Christmas carols **from 6.30p.m. on the Green outside St Wilfrid's Community Hall**, followed by quiz, more carols and seasonal refreshments **from 7.15p.m. at Chichester Baptist Church**.

Come along to the quiz on your own or with a team. Children welcome. Free entry. We will try to arrange door to door company/lifts, if you would like to come, but need support - please let us know.

Parklands has Talent ... and Enterprise!

Seeing as how no-one was coming forward to trumpet their business, we decided to inspire with some of the people that we know either live in or have connections to Parklands and who have helped us. All are happy to provide references on request.

- Sarah Bennetts - quality **curtains, home furnishings** and other sewing projects made to order - tel. 07789 184381
- Jane Blaber - **one-to-one maths tutoring** up to GCSE level - tel. 07879 811382
- Chichester Accounting (Heather Cheesman) - for all your **accounting** needs, from individuals and small business to audits and examinations - www.chichesteraccounting.co.uk
- Darren Clark (A Touch of Grass) - general **garden work/landscaping** including trees, hedges, patios and fencing - tel. 261093 / 07530 652134
- Amanda Lush - professional **florist** - contemporary and traditional flowers for all occasions - tel. 07861 077044
- Andy White - experienced **handyman** - for all those jobs you don't get round to! - tel. 07949 465418
- Paula White (no relation!) - home from home **childcare** - loving, reliable and flexible with excellent references - rainbowsendcc@gmail.com

We tapped all of the above for £10 each to give them a mention in this newsletter – please do contact them for a quote if you are looking for someone to supply these services, and help Parklands prosper. And if you have, or know someone with, a local connection and run a business/have a skill you'd like to be paid for, please let us know, so we can feature you too.



We now have a Facebook Group: please join us at Parklands Residents' Association - Facebook Friends at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PRAFriends/>

Join the PRA ... Join the PRA ... Join the PRA ... Thank you

If you'd like to join us, please return this form with your subscription (£4 per household or £2 for single-adult households) to Clive Goodyer, 54 Sherborne Road. Membership now runs for 12 months from the month in which subscriptions are paid.

Please **enrol/renew** my/our membership:name/s

Address:

Contact details (phone/email):