



Parklands People March 2014

Parklands Residents' Association Newsletter



PRA Committee

Acting Chair:

Richard Cole

Secretary:

Joan Whibley (tel:
782751)

Treasurer:

Clive Goodyer (54
Sherborne Road)

Membership:

Sarah Stevens

Newsletter:

Paula Chatfield
(paula@parklands-
chichester.org)

Thank you and farewell to Chris and Melanie Cousins (the Chair and Membership Secretary) of Parklands Residents' Association who are moving to Norfolk this month. Chris has spent a huge amount of time grappling with the consultation on the Local Development Plan on behalf of PRA during the last year, whilst Melanie has done a fantastic job in organising the distribution of this newsletter and keeping tabs on membership subscriptions. We wish them well in their new home.

We are also very grateful to Richard Cole for taking over the reins of the PRA again until this year's AGM in March. Many of you will recall that Richard chaired the PRA Committee for a number of years until Chris took over nearly three years ago. However, Richard cannot continue in this role after March so we will need to find someone to succeed him. The Committee meets six times a year and we are trying to organise more social events as well as the business side. You can **nominate someone for the Committee** at the AGM and then the new Committee will elect the Chair and other Officers. Anyone interested? Please contact our Secretary, Joan Whibley (see left) to find out more.

Whitehouse Farm - one year on

Last March, Chichester District Council issued its first Local Plan consultation including land west of Centurion Way as a "Strategic Development Location". Despite representations from over 500 people on the problems of this strategy, this site remains in the current draft to be submitted to a Government Planning Inspector for approval.

However, this "pre-submission" draft includes three notable changes from the original:

1. improved recognition of the **ecological importance of the site**, including its function as a strategic ecological corridor between Chichester Harbour and the South Downs (and importance for bats and water voles);
2. reference to/protection for "an **archaeological priority area** embracing a non-designated linear feature crossing the southern part of the site" - this is Hook Dyke, the huge "ditch" that runs by the public footpath across the field behind Bishop Luffa School which used to continue to Westgate (traces remain in Bishop Luffa Close and Neville Road). What this feature is, no-one knows, but it is suspected to be Roman in origin.
3. the words "There is **potential for providing a north-south spine road** linking from Old Broyle Road to Westgate, subject to further testing as part of an access strategy."

All of these changes are in response to a combination of representations by local people and CDC's own supporting research - our views and knowledge can make a difference - it is worth the effort.

But the draft Plan still poses problems and inconsistencies and there are further threats if we keep silent: Tangmere Parish Council has asserted to CDC that "The strategic site West of Chichester could accommodate **3000 new houses** if the density were increased. That would allow the bulk of the housing in the plan period to be in the most sustainable location, that is at Chichester City." PRA continues to believe that Whitehouse Farm is not suitable for strategic development and so we must take our case to the Independent Planning Inspector when the draft Plan is "Examined in Public" (not anticipated before July).

In anticipation of this, PRA members have co-founded a campaign group, **FLAWED** (which stands For Localism, Against Western Edge Development). FLAWED brings together representatives from PRA, East Broyle Residents' Association, Orchard Street Area and Old Somerstown Residents' Association, Chichester Residents' Associations Group, Old Broyle Road Action Group, Friends of Brandy Hole Copse, Chichester Society, Chichester City Council, and our local west ward District Councillors and County Councillor to co-ordinate and stand up for local residents' interests against the combined pressure of housing numbers and private commercial interests of those promoting development.

Please do attend our AGM and FLAWED Public Meeting, on Saturday 22nd March at 2.30p.m. at Chichester Baptist Church.

Here you will be able to find out the latest information on the Local Plan and Whitehouse Farm, our perceived impacts for Parklands and share your own thoughts on the proposals/their potential impact on Parklands. Topics available will include:

- Traffic and Transport • Drainage and Flooding • Wildlife and Ecology
- Heritage and our City • Housing numbers and need • Local Plan process

HENRY ADAMS

London | Surrey | Sussex | Hampshire

Do you struggle to read this newsletter?
Get in touch and we can provide
a large print version.

Chichester
college

Advice from your Community Warden

How to stop cold callers

There's nothing more frustrating than people knocking on your door when you don't want to be sold things. Remember, you don't have to let them in and it may be a criminal offence. Guidance from Trading Standards says ignoring a sticker may be a criminal offence under the Consumer Protection From Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. If they knock when they shouldn't, there's no argument.

What are the problems with doorstep callers?

Unscrupulous traders often target elderly, isolated householders, generally living alone, and engage them in conversation with the following pattern:

- They will normally cold-call offering to carry out work for the householder at low prices and will often start work without permission, on the basis that they had asked for a quote.
- Once work has begun, the price goes up rapidly and extra work is claimed to be required in order to complete.
- Traders may be verbally aggressive to pressure householder into paying or agreeing to work, but tend not to step over the line as they do not want the Police to be involved.
- They may use confusion tactics over quotes and pricing in order to make householders doubt what they thought they had agreed. Mostly nothing committed to writing. They never give out a notice of cancellation rights. (Any such contract is totally unenforceable if a notice of cancellation rights has not been given, and the trader has actually committed a criminal offence.)
- They will often escort householders to the bank to make cash withdrawals.

Types of work often offered in this way:

- driveways;
- roofing and guttering work;
- gardening;
- pressure washing; and
- house maintenance.

Always say "no" to doorstep callers.

- Keep your front and back doors locked at all times.
- If someone comes to your door, observe this code:
Stop: Are you expecting anybody? Do they have an appointment?
Chain: Secure the door bar or chain before opening the door.
Check: Ask for and double check the caller's ID.
- If they offer to do work on your property say "no thanks" and shut the door.
- Do not keep large sums of money at home.

I want you to say "no" to doorstep callers because:

- they may pressurise/intimidate you to let them do work;
- you may not really need the work done;
- they may lie about the real cost of the work;
- you may not get what you pay for;
- you could end up paying more than you expected;
- they may lie about their name, address and phone number.

Please display a **No Cold Callers notice** like the one below.

REPORT IT!

- "They only took a plant pot from the front of the garden, so I didn't bother to report it"....
- "My fence was so old, when they damaged it, I didn't think the police would be interested"....
- "I thought someone else would call the police about youths damaging a car, and anyway it wasn't like it was a 999 emergency"....

If people don't report crimes or incidents to the police, however minor, it won't help the police with the overall picture of where problems are in the area or where to direct their staff. If they are informed of what's happening, they can direct patrols, consult with local people at meetings (e.g. Neighbourhood Management Panel) and have Street Briefings where you can talk to an officer and discuss your concerns. If you report an incident that doesn't seem that serious, such as eggs being thrown or cars racing, your report will be a 'pin in the map' and a wider picture could emerge for the police.

Many people are unsure as to which number to call and hesitant in case they are blocking the line when there may be more serious incidents happening elsewhere. For a crime in progress, or if there is danger to an individual or the wider public, **if you are frightened or intimidated, then call 999.**

If it is an incident that has already happened or you just want it logged so that the police are aware, then **call 101.** This is the non-emergency number and you will be put through to a control centre that will take the details and give

you a reference number. A call to 101 costs 15p no matter how long you are on the phone. Sometimes, at peak periods, you may have to hold on until an operator is free, but it still won't cost more than 15p. The operator will grade your call, whether it's to 101 or 999 and decide how urgent it is for the police to attend, so please don't worry that you may be diverting their resources from other, more urgent, incidents.

I hope this has been helpful and that it is a little clearer about what number to call, but please remember to always – **report it!** If you need to contact me at any time, ring: **07715 053912** or email: slong@chichester.gov.uk

Here is a cut out and keep No Cold Callers notice to display on your front door. Use clear tape or a clear plastic folder to prevent the ink running, if using outside.



Chichester Harbour - 50 years as an AONB

As local residents, many of us have no doubt enjoyed a walk through Fishbourne Meadows, dangled our feet over the quay at Dell Quay or picnicked at Bosham whilst watching all the action on the water. Some will be keen sailors and enjoy nothing more than a weekend messing about on a boat. But there is much more to Chichester Harbour than a few footpaths and a large expanse of water. The harbour and land surrounding it was designated as an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB) in 1964 because of its unique mix of land and sea.



The Harbour is a haven for wildlife. The mudflats, saltmarsh, reedbeds and woodlands are home to a variety of plants and animals many of which are rare and protected. It is particularly important for wetland birds including Brent Geese, Shelduck and Redshank.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy is in the unique position of being both the Harbour Authority and management body for the AONB. It works closely with partners, landowners and local interest groups to conserve and enhance the AONB. The Conservancy runs guided walks and activities throughout the year, helping visitors of all interests and ages to learn more about and enjoy the Harbour. Some of these are included in our Diary overleaf.

To keep up to date with news and events, please visit www.conservancy.co.uk and sign up for CHC's eNewsletter or like Chichester Harbour Conservancy on Facebook. For bookings and information, please tel. 513275, or you can contact the Harbour Office at Itchenor (tel. 512301).

News Round-Up

Parklands School was interested in getting in touch with local residents to learn more about how they **foraged for food** either during the Second World War or more recently. Following a phone call, we put Martin Cooke in touch with the Head Teacher so that he could share his experiences with pupils.

Some of you may also recognise his name as the driving force behind the **collection of milk bottle tops** reported in the Chichester Observer last year. Martin has co-ordinated the collection and sale of milk bottle tops at St Paul's Church for over 7 years, on behalf of the church's "eco-group". Nearly £1,400 has been raised for the children's hospice, Chestnut Tree House. An estimated £1,600 has also been saved in landfill tax, which Chichester District Council would have had to pay for the c25 tonnes of what would otherwise be waste. The bottle tops are shredded for re-use to make fleeces, garden furniture and more tops. Milk bottle tops can also be recycled via the Scout Hut, Sherborne Road.

Our sympathy goes out to any of our residents that **have been flooded** at some point during the last few months. We know that some of you are tackling the causes directly with the authorities and that Fishbourne and Parklands Flood Prevention Action Group (Michael Stephenson) is also looking into some of the issues. Please do report any problems that you experience (and any successes with getting them fixed) to Richard Cole (tel. 839225). We would also like suggestions as to what would help to protect people

and property and minimise damage and disruption from flooding, as we have received a small grant for community use.

(Left: paddling in Parklands on Christmas Eve!)

A number of residents have taken to clearing road gutters/drain covers from leaves/debris - **thank you!**



At PRA's request, several yellow **grit bins** have recently been supplied by Chichester City Council, with grit being supplied by West Sussex County Council. Although it feels as if it hasn't stopped raining since our last newsletter, winter has a nasty trick of catching us unawares, so please join our small band of volunteers to help keep key pavements clear by spreading salt/grit when there is snow/ice – contact Richard (as before).

If you have any concerns about how footpaths, etc have been reinstated by Durkins after completing water main works in Cedar Drive, Parklands Road, etc, please also contact Richard, so a list of defects can be drawn to Durkins/Portsmouth Water's attention.

Thank you to everyone at Chichester Baptist Church for hosting our **Carols and Quiz** evening in December and to all those who supported the event on a cold and windy evening. We are also grateful to Hyde Martlet for a generous donation towards our expenses for the evening, including quiz prizes. A special mention goes to Trevor Roman (who responded to our plea for musicians in the last newsletter) and also to Bubsie Yates, who played keyboard, and the **Chichester Community Choir**. The Choir meets in the Orchard Street Family Church on Monday evenings from 7.45 to 9.15pm and always welcomes new members. It's friendly and informal – with no auditions!

Several people contacted Paula (tel. 07788 140698) to express an interest in **Graffiti Knitting**. Reduced opening hours at Coast to Coast (chip-shop times only) meant we could not meet up before Christmas, but a project is still planned. Please contact Paula or Maureen Sinclair (dollymoo@hotmail.co.uk).

There seems a common concern that **speed limits are not being observed** in Parklands. This is being raised as a local policing priority via our local Neighbourhood Management Panel. Please contact Dawn White (tel./text 07779 561069) if you would like to know more about NMP, or volunteer for speed monitoring training via Sarah Sharp (email sarah.ccc@virgin.net).

New Faces in Parklands



PCSO Sam Treagust took over in Parklands and Chichester West on 6th January, having worked as the Police Community Support Officer for Selsey and the Manhood Peninsula area for the past three and a half years. Sam writes "I am looking forward to working with a new community and hopefully having a positive impact on the area. If you are having problems that you feel require intervention from the Police then please do not hesitate to contact me. This could be anti-social behaviour or driving, concerns about drugs or problems with neighbours. I am contactable on my mobile which is 07776 490041 or via email sam.treagust@sussex.pnn.police.uk If it is an emergency then please dial 999." PCSO Treagust also holds regular drop-in sessions "Meet Me in Person" - next 3rd April (see right).

Many of you will have known Tiekie Van Tonder both as the senior vet at **Pet Doctors** clinic and as a member of the Parklands community for the last eleven years. In October last year the lure of the sunshine and her family finally proved too much to resist and Tiekie moved back home to South Africa. Clients and staff alike were sorry to see her leave, so will be pleased to learn she is to start an exciting new job that will involve working with cheetahs!

Susie Smith has been the second vet at Chichester since March 2011 and certainly has no plans to go and tackle big cats anywhere soon! In fact she has become even more firmly attached to the area by recently moving into Parklands with two cats and Jack Russell Terrier, Ted, in tow.

After three months of the clinic being without a second permanent vet, Daniele Saita has now joined the Pet Doctors family. Daniele is originally from Bologna, Italy and came to the UK to work six years ago. Daniele previously worked in a couple of clinics around Birmingham including an RSPCA clinic.

Veterinary nurses, Emma and Becky have also been joined by Sarah Pryer, who started in December 2013, working alongside receptionists, Nikki and Chris. Daniele and Sarah are looking forward to meeting all the clinic's clients and the Pet Doctors team would like to thank everyone for their continued support and custom.

New Members - Always Welcome

If you like receiving these newsletters and what PRA tries to do, please do consider supporting us by becoming a member. You can join (or re-new) using the form below (54 Sherborne Road is a few doors south of Parklands School).

Thank you to all our existing members!

Finally **thank you** too to Amy, a pupil from Parklands School, and her mum Amanda for all their voluntary efforts litter-picking around Parklands!

To advertise your business or community events, please contact Paula on paula@parklands-chichester.org. As well as this newsletter, information can be shared via our e-mailing list or Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PRAFriends>.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 22nd March - PRA AGM 2.30pm at Chichester Baptist Church and FLAWED Public Meeting - see front page for further details.

Also:

Chichester College Open Morning 10am-1pm, including an exciting **science, engineering and technology event** with lots of hands on activities and information about jobs in these areas. All course areas of the college open with staff on hand to talk about a full range of courses as well as talks and tours.

12th Chichester Scouts' Jumble Sale - 2pm at the Scout Hut, Sherborne Road.

Thursday 3rd April - Meet Your PCSO, 3-3.30pm at Tesco (Fishbourne Road East)

Friday 4th April - Harbour Creekies Walk to Chichester Marina - meet 2pm at Dell Quay for a 2½-hour gentle stroll - Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) - £1 charge on the day

Monday 7th/Wednesday 9th April - Egg and Shell Hunt for Families - 10am at Dell Quay - CHC, pre-booking essential (tel. 513275) - 2 hours, £4/head

Tuesday 15th April - Model Boat building and sailing - 10am at Dell Quay - CHC, pre-booking essential - 2½ hours, £12/model (max 3 people/model)

Saturday 19th April - PRA Easter Trail for families

Details to follow. Please check our Notice Board (outside the Post Office) nearer the time or register your interest with Paula (paula@parklands-chichester.org / 07788 140698). Thanks to our Co-Op for sponsorship.

Saturday 26th April - Wild Food in Spring - 2pm at Dell Quay - CHC, pre-booking essential - 2 hours, £6/head (20 max, aimed at adults but younger ones may attend)

Sunday 27th April - Painting with Collage - 10am at Dell Quay - CHC, pre-booking essential - 5 hours, £20/head

Friday 2nd May - Harbour Creekies Walk - Cathedral to Bosham Church - meet 10am at Cathedral Bell Tower for a 2½-hour gentle stroll - Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) - £1 charge on the day (+ bus fare home)

Fri/Mon 3rd-5th and Fri/Sat 10th/11th May - Chichester Open Studios Art Trail 2014 Preview Exhibition in the Oxmarket Centre of Arts April 15th-27th. Includes local artists.

Tuesday 6th May - Flower Arrangement with a Shoreline Theme - 10am at Dell Quay - CHC, pre-booking essential - 2 hours, £18/head (incl. materials)

Saturday 17th May - Bird Song 4 - Waterways - meet 7.30am at Chichester Marina - 1½-hour learning to recognise birds by their song - CHC, £2 charge on the day

NEXT COPY DATE:

Monday 2nd June for delivery early-mid July

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 runs for 12 months. Please **enrol/renew** my/our membership:

Name: **Address:**

Contact details (phone/email): **Date:**