

St Margaret's with St Nicholas' Ward Forum

Chairman's Report

Much has taken place since the last forum meeting on 8th February, with ongoing issues relating to off-street parking within the ward, the Riverfront Delivery Plan, St James' Medical Centre relocation and the Town Heritage Initiative.

Off-street Parking

The letter sent to the leaders of the NCC and BCKLWN requesting residents' parking has elicited a disappointing response from Cliff Jordan (NCC) and nothing at all from Brian Long (BCKLWN). We are continuing to press for this and have now written to Sir Henry Bellingham asking for his support. However, it was anticipated that extended hours for overnight parking were to be instituted by Easter and they have been. New permits and scratch cards for visitors are now available, for an overnight parking fee of £1 running from 7.00pm to 8.00am. (There is already a 'free' hours parking in place from 6pm so the period mirrors that of the borough's car parks.)

St James' Medical Practice Relocation

We received a reply from Kathy Foley, Practice Manager at the SJMP, to our letter of 21st April in which she outlined four of our concerns:-

- 1: Practice location. Due to issues concerning the land off Kilhams Road it was decided to negotiate with BCKLWN for a site on Edward Benefer Way. *NB: We have subsequently learnt that there would be greater financial advantages for SJMP should they select that site.*
- 2: Satellite Surgery. SJMP says that this "is not a viable option in today's NHS". *However, forum member Dr Robert Anderson disproves this and advocates that we continue pressing for such a service.*
- 3: Transport. SJMP, with BCKLWN, is working to ensure that bus companies offer a frequent service to and from the new practice.
- 4: Car Parking. There will be space for 99 cars. *Fine, but not for the many who do not drive, such as the elderly, the infirm and mothers with toddlers and push-chairs.*

Kathy Foley said that she was "agreeable to meet to discuss the matter further." We will do so but, as previously requested, we need one or two forum members who are SJMP patients, to accompany us. Volunteers please.

(Further information on the subject, including the moves which County Councillor Alexandra Kemp is making has been circulated.

Flood Community Plan

Further to a meeting with the Environment Agency and the district emergency planning officer, a meeting was held to begin making plans for such community action as advocated by the EA. Dennis Pearce has agreed to be the Flood Plan Co-Ordinator and is currently checking the flood risk areas within the ward to identify where a warden might be required as a point of contact. A

letter to residents, based on one supplied by the EA, is being drafted and will be distributed by the police cadets. Elizabeth Harrison, Brian Falconbridge and Sally Turff are also members of the FCP committee.

Premises numbering and street names

The response from the BCKLN officer responsible for street naming and numbering address management was particularly unhelpful. Consequently, I have written to Ray Harding, BCKLWN Chief Executive, passing the responsibility on to him and requesting him to delegate it to the street naming and numbering address management team.

Guildhall of St George HLF Bid

The reasons behind the failure of the recent BCKLWN HLF bid for the St George's Hall complex have already been circulated. It is hoped that BCKLWN will heed the comment made and re-submit the bid, tailored as recommended by HLF.

King's Lynn Riverfront Delivery Plan

The **urbandelivery** Public Consultation Report was issued by BCKLWN in March. Unfortunately, it is little more than reiteration of the comment made at the public meeting held at Thoresby College in the autumn of 2016. It ended with the words "Members of the project team continue to have close dialogue with the residents group to ensure that the comments are incorporated into further definition of the option proposals and final delivery plan as the commission progresses." We have still to see evidence of such "close dialogue".

Website

This has now been launched in its modified version. However, we need to identify a volunteer who would be able to provide the website manager (Wayne Hart) with the necessary update texts and would welcome a commitment from a member of the forum to undertake this important, but not onerous, role.

Town Heritage Initiative

Phase II of the THI has now been identified which will home-in on the Friars Area. This will take place once Phase I – High Street, Saturday Market Place, St James' Street and Rower Street – has been completed.

Planning Matters

It has been suggested that the forum, as with the Civic Society, might wish to involve itself in commenting on significant planning applications within the ward. This would involve the forum

having a small sub-group to review the planning applications on a weekly basis and to submit comment where and when applicable. We wish to have the views of forum members before we take this further and will be discussing the matter at the forthcoming meeting.

Julian Litten
02 May 201