

St Margaret's with St Nicholas Ward Forum

Report of Activity February to April 2016

Auditor. Mrs Nairn, who performs this role for other societies and All Saints Church has been approached and has agreed to carry out the audit. She requires no fee but a suitable 'thank you' present will be given

St James Medical Practice proposed move. Correspondence between the Ward Forum (WF) and the practice (already forwarded to members) has failed to establish the manner in which the quoted 60% of patients who are happy with the move, was arrived at. We await further information. Neither have we received an answer as to whether our suggestions of two alternative sites: the tax office (adjacent to SJMP) and an office building, Greyfriars House, in Beech Tree Close, had been considered and, if so, why they were not deemed suitable/possible. NB Greyfriars House is due for demolition and planning consent for 24 x 2 bedroom flats and 12 x 1 bedroom flats, is being sought. This has not been determined as the borough planners consider the scheme too intensive. The application is still live so the possibility of SJMP moving there is not dead in the water.

Our letters have been copied to the borough council chief executive who has replied: "I will ensure that the concerns expressed by the Forum are made known to the relevant Cabinet Members. It is important to be clear, however, that the Borough Council is not involved in determining the location for the proposed new primary care centre."

Both NCC Cllrs Alexandra Kemp and David Collis have taken this up on behalf of their constituents.

Our press release on the subject gained considerable publicity, front page lead EDP, plus Lynn News, Your Local Paper and a broadcast on KLFM.

Parking if anything is getting worse as more residential properties come on stream. WF had been heartened by a response from NCC Highways that, among other items, the three hour maximum restrictions on South Quay would be addressed at a review meeting in May. Cllr Lesley Bambridge plans to attend this meeting as does Cllr Collis, but despite their enquiries no date has been set. Both are pressing for a date.

The South Quay restriction has resulted in numerous empty places at night while vehicles, which would previously have been there are now parked nose to bumper in, for example, Nelson Street. There, large trade vans are making it difficult for passing vehicles and thus posing danger to pedestrians and buildings alike. Other areas of the ward are also having problems. A list of these is being prepared for Phil Reilly, NCC Highways, in advance of the proposed review. WF welcomes more examples.

There appears to be little sympathy from the borough – which runs the car parks – and seems resistant to dedicated residents' parking. Steering group member Dick Docking reports that a suggestion for visitors permits, 'scratch card style', had been turned down while a request for residents' spaces in the multi-storey car park has suffered a similar fate.

Cllr Bambridge also reports that a request for a resident's parking permit on Baker Lane from a new resident in High Street was turned down by the borough by an officer - who was far from complimentary over the role of councillors as well. This officer also told the resident that he shouldn't have bought a property in the town centre in the first place if he wanted to park a car – a strange comment when the borough is at pains to get people to live in the town centre. An appeal to Chris Bamfield, Executive Director, Leisure and Public Space, met with the following response: "I don't think we can set a precedent like this, we have other residents who have long term permits to park on long term car parks and if we make an exception for one person I don't see how we could then say to other residents they can't use short term car parks. They are

provided for shoppers and the town centre and at peak times are often full. I don't think we could put residents parking on short term car parks like Baker Lane for daytime use, we could perhaps consider an evening permit from 5.00 pm until 9.00 a.m.; there is the option to obtain a private bay on Baker Lane at £740 for the year."

Riverfront planning policy. Members have been alerted to amendments to the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies, which relate to the quantity of housing units; details have been distributed. Anyone who has not received this or needs more information should email Sally: sally@smthandturff.demon.co.uk WF has objected.

Empty and derelict buildings – see separate report of meeting (attached).
Since that meeting our suggestion of 5 King Street has now been added to the list.

Noise nuisance – complaints have been made by residents of two venues: the Workers Club in Church Street and Hanse House. The noise is only on certain nights of the week but is extremely disturbing (especially if this is not your music of choice). In the main it involves the persistent irritation of heavy bass sufficient to move pictures on adjacent walls. WF has contacted the relevant department at the borough to complain but was told that, initially at least, this was a matter for the individual complainant. JL is investigating the Workers Club and a letter has been sent to the complainant of Hanse House – who is already putting together a formidable document - with a view to taking possible supporting action in future. The problem is that many residents moved in to what was then a mainly residential area but as the waterfront/old town becomes the site of events, leisure and entertainment, the area is changing. If the borough wishes to see this happen the needs of those who live (as well as play) there have to be taken into account so that felicitous harmony is achieved.

Steering group membership. The workload has increased significantly and at least one other member is desperately needed to help with items such as the drafting of planning comments. **EG with Sally in hospital we had no-one to do a report of the forum meeting.** Anyone who might be able to help with one-off specific tasks need not become a formal member of the steering group if they do not wish to make that commitment – though only four meetings a year are held. Ideally we need someone from the business/professional community. All forum members are asked to think of candidates who might be approached, especially from north and east of the ward.

April 30, 2016