

## St Margaret's with St Nichols Ward Forum

### Update and report of activity since August 2017

#### **Minutes August meeting.**

Community speedwatch. In the absence of any volunteers to participate, no action has been possible.

#### **Forum Committee.**

a) Cllr Mike Taylor. As previously advised, Cllr Taylor (the new Conservative ward councillor) has declined to participate as a committee member because of pressure of work. He has checked with the leader of the council, Brian Long, who has said that it is not necessary for him to join the committee. At it's meeting, therefore, the committee agreed that it would not add to his workload by sending him reports or details of other forum matters. This is regrettable, because we had hoped that following the lack of involvement of his two predecessors, there would now be another borough councillor to share Lesley Bambridge's workload.

b) regrettably Jeanette Goodrich has also found that her workload prevents participation on the forum and she does not wish to stand for the committee.

#### **Website.**

Payment has been made for the coming year, but Wayne Hart, the webmaster, has been asked to look for alternative providers who will a) make the ward forum their direct client and thus be able to invoice the ward forum directly and b) will be more modestly priced.

#### **Waste and hazardous waste.**

As previously advised the green bag garden waste system for those who do not have the space for brown wheelie bins, has now ceased. The alternative is red tags, costing £1.80 each – the same price as the green bags - which are affixed to the usual black bags and used instead. This has been trialled and the bags were duly collected. Tags are available from the council offices. (NB In a passage of emails, Cllr Long has opined that residents who have garden waste to dispose of must have gardens large enough for wheelie bins.)

Learning from forum member Helen Russell-Johnston, that residents in the Rudhams had been circulated with useful leaflets from Norfolk County Council with information on hazardous waste disposal, NCC was approached. It seems leaflets are available but distribution is down to the local authority and ours does not choose to do so. However it is now agreed that the forum will be added to NCC's data list for hazardous waste disposal and will be informed of amnesty days. Details will then be placed on the website.

#### **Finance report.**

This will be presented at the meeting.

#### **Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) provision.**

Forum member Jeremy Rodwell has brought public defibrillators to the forum's attention and researched their availability and accessibility in the ward. Committee member Prof Brian Falconbridge has investigated and their joint report on the situation is attached. Brian has also been in contact with the Clinical Commissioning Group for a view. We now have to decide what - if anything - the forum should do. We'd like your opinions please - and if you cannot attend the meeting would you let Sally know before the meeting. [twosaintskl@gmail.com](mailto:twosaintskl@gmail.com)

### **Excessive Noise.**

Forum member Michael Brindle is greatly concerned over the level of noise of outdoor events especially as it is the borough council's intention to extend the number of activities in the area from Tuesday Market to Saturday Market. He is sure that frequently the accepted levels are exceeded. This has led to correspondence between him and Elizabeth Nockolds, the member with this responsibility. He was told that the Environmental Health Community Safety Department (the local authority department that deals with noise levels) was to be contacted to establish whether levels were being exceeded and, if so, what action should be taken. The committee agreed that the forum should write to the department seeking further information. As noise is not restricted to Festival Too and the range and number of events likely to produce high noise levels is set to increase, the forum is writing to the borough expressing concern and asking for a maximum noise level to be set – if it has not been already.

### **Harding's Way (HW) the bus/cycle/pedestrian route between Boal Quay to South Lynn.**

There has been some confusion that this is about to be opened to all traffic. Although this is certainly the borough council's devoutly to-be-wished desire, and contained within the preferred scheme for the Riverside Development, the recent planning application, reported widely, is not for this. It is for the existing bus-gates at the southern end to be moved further towards the town centre and thus to enable plant to access the development sites there.

When the plans were published, the Harding's Pits Community Association, immediately sought a meeting with Norfolk Highways – the authority which has jurisdiction over roads. This was to explain that the present location of the gates denied general vehicular entry to HW and thus safeguarded the Pits from trespass, fly-tipping, dumping, parking and other unsavoury activities. Once this was pointed out NCCH agreed to provide protective fencing both for the time of the development and forever thereafter.

HPCA has received numerous assurances that NCCH has no plans to open up HW to all traffic – no matter the blandishments of the borough. If/when such a scheme is put forward there will have to be public consultation.

There is no doubt that eventually there will have to be battle/campaign and those who oppose opening up HW to all traffic – a large proportion of local residents – will have to take action.

HPCA has now met the new Conservative councillor for the ward, Mike Taylor (MT), to discuss opening up HW to all traffic. I attended on behalf of the forum. MT rides to work in the town centre on his bike from Winfarthing Avenue along HW; he is therefore in favour of the routes present restrictions.

However, he told us that when he was canvassing he made a particular point of asking people for their views and, he says, a HIGH PROPORTION were in favour of opening HW to all traffic, thus he feels their views should not be ignored.

Sally Turff