



f o r u m

Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter

Issue 54 September 2012

www.wp-ra.org.uk

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Chairman's piece Chester Green Belt study Draft proposals

I promised in the WPRM May/June Newsletter to keep you informed of information regarding the above, which I shall now try to do.

The background leading to the need for such a study arises from the requirement nationally for more domestic dwellings to be made available. More importantly Cheshire West & Chester Council (CW&C) need to have in place a DEVELOPMENT PLAN. Until now we have existed with the 'plans' in place prior to reorganisation. Failure to adopt a CW&C Plan leaves the County exposed to the avaricious developers.

I attended a meeting of the CW&C Local Development Framework Panel (LDF) at HQ and at that meeting was given a copy of a 240 page Draft Plan. This Plan proposes that a minimum of 21,000 new

dwellings are built throughout the Borough between 2010 and 2030.

The Plan proposes that the location of new housing developments across the Borough be distributed as follows:

Ellesmere Port 20%

Northwich 20%

Winsford 15%

Rural areas 20%

and significantly for us in Westminster Park, Chester is allocated 25%, i.e. 5250 dwellings between now and 2030.

The draft report clearly states
"A KEY ISSUE FOR THIS POLICY DIRECTION IS THAT THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEW HOUSING WOULD REQUIRE STRATEGIC GREEN BELT RELEASE AROUND CHESTER."

For the purposes of their detailed investigations, the Green Belt land around the City has been divided up into 10 parcels. These parcels of land naturally include the land bordering the

Westminster Park area (Parcel 2); which stretches from Wrexham Road down to the bottom of Lache Lane (A55).

As I have mentioned, the Draft Report is 240 pages long; the meeting of the LDF lasted approximately 3 hours and I cannot therefore give you all the details, but if you are interested additional information can be obtained from

<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.go.uk>
and/or
www.cprecheshire.org.uk

Referring back to the meeting, prior to the Panel Members deliberating, speakers were invited from the floor. These included Stephen Mosley, MP for Chester; numerous Councillors (other than Panel Members) and other interested parties.

The first person invited to speak was Stephen Mosley who stated that he was objecting to the CW&C proposals to build on Green Belt Land as this

Continued on page 2

Dates for your 2012 diary

- 1 September: Beat Meeting. 10.30 – 11.45 am. Outside WP Shops.
- 12 September: Green Belt Consultation update. 6.30 pm, Overleigh St Mary's
- 18 September: Evergreen. 2 pm, Community Centre
- 26 September: Gardening Club. 7.45 pm. Community Centre
- 6 October: Beat Meeting. 10.30 – 11.45 am. Outside WP Shops.
- 6 October: Quiz. 7.30 pm. Community Centre
- 27 October: Apple Pressing. 9 am to 2 pm. Outside WP shops.
- 3 November: Beat Meeting. 10.30 – 11.45 am. Outside WP Shops.

Westminster Park Residents' Association

Quiz Night

**Saturday 6 October
WP Community Centre**

**Tickets cost £6 and include an excellent supper
Bar opens at 7.30 pm and the Quiz starts at 8 pm**

Tickets from committee members

was contrary to the National Policy on Green Belt, as amended by the new Government, which states such building is only to be allowed in very special circumstances. He could not see that such circumstances existed in this case. He claimed that 80% of the requirements could be accommodated on Brownfield sites throughout the Borough. He concluded that there should be a Public Consultation on the Green Belt issue and not simply on which piece of Green Belt land should be developed.

Councillor Neil Sullivan queried the additional housing needs in the area and also commented that “consultation” to date on this Study could only be described as “woeful”.

Other comments made by Councillors on the report were:

- too much estimation
- plans represent a pillage of Green Belt
- the only group to favour high development in Chester was the developers
- 18 years back who would have anticipated today’s volume of home working/Internet shopping? What will have happened by 2030?
- MP challenged validity of Document: felt the document was flawed
- statistics used were not from the 2011 Census
- Ellesmere Port/ Northwich WANT development
- LDF have been working on the Draft Report for 2 years; not feasible to expect Public Consultation in 4/6 weeks
- a Plan is needed urgently to protect areas from piecemeal developments which are approved on Appeal on the grounds of no plan being in existence
- Government’s own plans are encouraging Boroughs to allow building because in future years Government Grants to Local Authorities will be dependent upon LAs being on target with house building.
- suggestion for Plan to be implemented in Ellesmere Port/Northwich/Winsford where
- new development is welcome allowing further detailed consultation

re Chester & Rural Areas.

WHAT CAN WE DO????

There will, undoubtedly, be different opinions as to whether development on Green Belt Land should be permitted. I understand The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Chester Civic Trust and English Heritage are concerned about the proposals and would welcome local support against this Proposal.

Should you wish to make observations about the proposals, FOR or AGAINST, residents should write to:

Jeremy Owens
Spatial Planning
Cheshire West & Chester Council
The Forum
CHESTER CH1 2HS

Please copy any correspondence to your local Councillors (Neil Sullivan & Razia Daniels). A copy to myself would be helpful in measuring need for future action.

Public Consultation is planned in the Autumn, ending mid-October.

If the WPRA Committee believe that there is an appropriate demand we will organise a Public Meeting.

REACTIONS TO DATE TO PROPOSALS OF DEVELOPING LAND ADJACENT TO WESTMINSTER PARK

- a) Yes, let them build.
- b) Yes, but development should be of high quality and spaced so as to be commensurate with the existing houses.
- c) How could the area manage the additional traffic volumes a large development would produce?
- d) Cannot imagine that our piece of Green Belt will survive such an onslaught as proposed in the Draft Plan.
- e) Say No to the development; if agreement were given to one small piece of land (say 50 houses) then that would be the start of a steady

encroachment on to that ribbon of land until slowly but surely the whole lot will be developed.

f) Who supposedly needs all these houses? Properties on the Estate are not selling or new tenants being found.

If you have followed me this far, well done!

I would welcome your views regarding the issues that I have covered and hope that you have found it of interest.

*David Pilling
Chairman
Westminster Park Residents
Association.*

*Contact 01244 680880
chair@wp-ra.org.uk*

Community Forum

Green Belt Consultation update

**12 September
6.30 pm, Overleigh St Mary’s**

At the next meeting of the Handbridge Park Ward Community Forum on 12 September at Overleigh St.Mary’s C of E Primary School, an update will be given, by our Councillors, on the planned Greenbelt Consultation.

Any subsequent Public Meetings will be advised on the WPRA website and advertised on our notice boards.

Apple pressing Saturday, 27 October, 9am-2pm

Bring your apples to our local shops on Saturday, 27 October, between 9 am and 2 pm for pressing into delicious juice!

Chopping tables will be available, but please chop at home first to avoid the queue, and don't forget to bring your containers for the juice!

Last year, as part of a programme of public apple pressings at local shopping centres, Transition Chester organised a session in Westminster Park where residents were invited to bring along their apples and make juice out of them using the apple press and crusher.



The event was very popular and many residents brought along their apples to the event and happily produced delicious juice, which they took away. The event prompted interest from passers by, who were curious about what was happening and this provided an opportunity to talk about healthy juice, cider making and the fact that good food was available locally for not very much money or for free!

This year, with the apple press and crusher on loan to the Westminster Park Residents Association, we will run the event once again and hope to repeat the success of last year.

The juice will keep in the fridge for three days or it can be frozen.

See you on October 27th with your chopped apples!

Mark Sams

Westminster Park Community Centre

Westminster Park Community Centre has been self-funded since 1973 and is run by a Committee of Volunteers to provide a service for the residents of Westminster Park. The Centre has a bar, pool table, dartboard and jukebox and the main hall is available for private hire.

The Members Bar is open at the following times:-

7.30 pm till 11 pm, Mon to Thurs
7.30 pm till 11.30 pm, Fri
12 pm – 2 pm & 7.30 till 11.30pm, Sat
12 pm – 3 pm & 7.30 pm till 11 pm, Sun

Please come along and enquire about Membership.

Current activities:-

Mon – Fri: 9.00 am – 12.00 pm, Belgrave Pre-School (during term time)
Tues: 4.30 pm – 7.30pm, Ballet
Wed: 6.15 pm – 7.15 pm, Shotokan Karate Club
Thurs: 7.00 pm – 11.00 pm, Bridge Club
Fri: 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm, Zumba
Sat: 9.00 am – 11.30 am, Weight Watchers
Sun: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm, Christian Family Club

The Centre also has a Bingo Night* every 3rd Friday of the month and Quiz Night* the last Saturday of the month. The Community Centre can offer free hire for Charity Fundraising nights, please call or email to discuss.

Tel: 01244 671243 (from 7.30 pm)
Email: wpc2008@yahoo.co.uk

*Please note Bingo & Quiz night dates may vary & visitors are welcome.

*Phil Williamson, Chairman
Westminster Park Community
Centre*

Friends of Westminster Park

The Fun Sports Day took place on Saturday, 11 August. Events included various 'fun' races, a bouncy castle, a penny arcade and a small croquet lawn set up especially for the day.

Approximately 50 people attended and seemed to really enjoy themselves. The cafe was busy selling ice cream, cakes, sandwiches, etc. The day was organised by Brio, the newly formed leisure organisation, and our own Park Ranger, Andy James.

The Council is providing three additional seats for the cricket teams to use, they are being moved to W P from Grosvenor Park. The Cricket Club are to be congratulated on being top of their Midweek League division for part of the season - I am not sure where they finished at the end of the season.

Hedge cutting has had to stop due to the bird-nesting season; it is supposed to restart in September. The existing hedges have grown too high and they will be reduced in height.

Allan Stobie

Box tops/vouchers

Just a reminder to continue to collect Nestlé cereal box tops and supermarket school vouchers. You can either pass these on to me or, when you visit the shops you can leave them with Al Dente.



These collections are a great success and we would like to continue them to help our local school. Thank you to all the residents who have collected so far and thank you Al Dente for acting as post box.

David Pilling

Best Front Garden and Container Display 2012 competition

This is the 8th year that the Westminster Park Residents' Association has awarded prizes for the best front garden and container displays.

Judging this year's Best Front Garden and Container Display competition was, as ever, extremely difficult ... but great fun. The overall standard of gardens in Westminster Park is excellent and pounding the pavements to view the front gardens was enjoyable and, in many cases, quite inspirational. There are some very talented and green-fingered residents living amongst us.

How are the gardens judged? Well, viewing is strictly from the pavement and points are given for the following categories: The wow factor, variety of planting, design elements and overall effort. Twenty-five gardens are selected for the short-list and then revisited by the judges so that the final decision can be made.



From left to right: John & Christine Guest, Reta Assand, Brenda & Geoff Donaldson

Results

Gardens

1st prize: Brenda and Geoff Donaldson, 19 Bartholomew Way.

2nd prize: John and Christine Guest, 71 Five Ashes Road.

3rd prize: Reta and Kamul Assand, 1 Winkwell Drive. This was awarded for Reta and Kamul's community spirit as the well-planted border has been created from a piece of waste ground opposite their house.

Containers

Dave and Jenny Sale, Five Ashes Road.

Congratulations to all our prizewinners and also to those who were short-listed. Your efforts are really appreciated and enjoyed by us all.

Gardening Club Annual outing 2012

On 1 July the Westminster Park Gardening Club visited David Austin Roses in Albrighton.

Our coach picked us up at midday and we arrived in time (having negotiated some very narrow country lanes) for our guided tour of the show gardens. David Austin still goes to work every day and our guide told us about him and his company.

David Austin OBE was born in 1926 and he is a rose breeder and writer. His emphasis is on breeding roses with the character and fragrance of Old Garden Roses (Gallicas, Damasks, Alba roses, etc.) but with the repeat-flowering ability and wide colour range of modern roses such as Hybrid Teas and Floribundas.

His first rose, 'Constance Spry', was introduced in 1963. In 1967 and 1968 he introduced 'Chianti' and 'Shropshire Lass' respectively. Although these first roses bloomed only once in spring or early summer, they led, in 1969, to a series of remontant (repeat-flowering) varieties, including 'Wife of Bath' and 'Canterbury' (both named in honour of Geoffrey Chaucer). Austin's roses soon became the most successful group of new roses in the twentieth century.

Although Austin's roses are not officially recognised as a separate class of roses by, for instance, the Royal National Rose Society, they are nonetheless commonly referred to by rosarians, at nurseries, and in horticultural literature as 'English Roses' (the term he uses) or 'Austin Roses'. Since its founding in 1969, he and his firm, have introduced over 190 rose cultivars. In 2010, he was named "Great Rosarian of the World".

We rounded off the outing with a very nice afternoon tea and a trip to the plant centre.

See page 7 for details of our September meeting.

Chester Croquet Club

Despite the disappointingly wet summer, Chester Croquet Club has been enjoying another busy season.

For several years the club has taken part in four North West Federation leagues: Mid-Week Handicap, Weekend Handicap, Short Lawn and Golf. This year for the first time the club has fielded teams in the Advanced League and has also been taking part in two national competitions. Regular weekly club events have also been well attended.



The club continues to play an active part in the local community and has hosted several games in support of local charities as well as arranging garden croquet games at the Jubilee celebrations in June and the recent family fun day in Westminster Park.

The club continues to welcome new members of all standards from absolute beginners to more experienced players and further beginners' courses will be held next spring at the beginning of the new season.

Contact the club secretary, Janet Davies, on 01244 350370 for more information.

Paula Stobie

Dear Friends

I would take this opportunity to thank all of Paula's friends who sent me letters, cards and donations for Marie Curie following her unfortunate death on 19 February. In total the family received over 150 cards and £960.00 was raised for Marie Curie.

Many thanks, Allan Stobie

Evergreen - our over 60s Club

At the end of last year, Sandra Magilton, supported by Allan Stobie of the WPRC Committee, thought an 'Over 60s Club' might take off in Westminster Park and arranged for an inaugural meeting which was held in the Community Centre in January.

Astonishingly, approximately 80 people turned up and the club was off to a flying start. A committee was quickly formed and meetings were arranged on subjects such as family history, crime prevention, I.T., legal issues and explaining the new Recycling Scheme. We also enjoyed an 'afternoon tea' and a fun quiz. Some outings were arranged to see the Pirates of Penzance performance and a Canal Boat trip with supper, and there is always time to get together over a cup of tea and make friends.

We are now going from strength to strength with over 100 members and a full programme until the end of the year, which will finish with Christmas lunch at Chester Golf Club in Curzon Park. Not only do we have more speakers and entertainment this year, but also in September a Treasure Hunt around Chester, ending up in a pub and Christmas carols and mince pies in December. So far we have organised three Theatre Trips for which we are still taking bookings: Ken Dodd at William Aston Hall, the Panto at Theatre Clwyd and 'One Man Two Guv'nors' at the Lowry.

We hope the social aspect of the club is something members look forward to and if we hear of any member not well or in hospital we will send a card. We have a table where books and magazines can be 'swapped' by members, so feel free to donate any books (or magazines) you have finished with. One member suggested a notice board, which we have

instigated for Evergreens to make use of.

Membership of the club costs £10 each year, which ends on 31 January 2013. We are part of WPRC so members have to be within the boundaries and be paid up members ... as well as over 60. The last date for joining this year is September, as guests may attend a meeting at a cost of £2 so there is no point in joining after September.

We advertise meetings on the notice boards outside the Butcher's shop in Westminster Park, the board outside the Community Centre and on the Westminster Park Residents' Association website. The next meeting is on 18 September at 2 pm at the Community Centre.

Dial 101

Can everyone remember that the Police non emergency number is 101. This can be used to report suspicious activity, anti-social behaviour such as off road bikes being ridden on the road or simply to leave a message for me.

If you have any issues please make sure you report them to us on 101.
Thank you.

Chris Fox
Police Community Support Officer



We have a butcher again

At the end of May, Stuart Bebbington opened in the premises formerly occupied by Threshers to provide a butcher's shop in WP for the first time in 30 years. He has moved from the market in Chester where he had a stall for 19 years.

Stuart comes from a family of farmers but decided to go into the butchery trade when he left school, learning the trade at Nicholson's before going it alone.

He says he has taken a risk in moving out of town to WP but the larger premises enable him to do much more and he believes there are sufficient potential customers in WP and surrounding area.

The shop is attractively laid out and I defy anyone entering to come out empty handed! Stuart says that many of his market customers have followed him to WP, including the couple buying a joint of lamb whilst I waited to speak to him.

The shop offers a range of prepared dishes such as Stir Fry and Beef Truffles as well as traditional cuts of meat. Everything is prepared on the premises and, for the first time, he is making his own pork and steak pies. He cures his bacon and makes his own sausages.

He has also received an order for a three-tier meat wedding cake – go and see the photo in the shop!

Stuart starts work at 6.30 am and often works a twelve hour day together with his assistant, Joe. He lives in Tarvin with his wife, Joanne, and three young daughters aged 7 and younger.

It is good to have no vacant shops again. Please support your local butcher.

Brian Westcott

Bargain store Another new shop in WP

If you haven't already done so, pop into Way 'B' Low and meet Tommy who runs our local WP discount store.

Tommy is committed to providing residents with the biggest brands at the smallest prices. There are hundreds of £1 items, as well as milk and bread. As Tommy says, "There is now no reason for you to pay expensive prices!"

Please support all our local shops – these are a tremendous asset to Westminster Park.

Chester Lions Jubilee Fireworks 3 November at the Racecourse

For the past forty plus years Chester Lions have provided a fireworks display, originally held at Chester Zoo and more recently at Chester Race Course.

Their aim this year is to be bigger and better than ever before and the theme will be red, white and blue to celebrate our Queen's Diamond Jubilee. All the fireworks will be red, white and blue and they will be synchronized to music spanning the last 60 years. The organisers are asking everybody to come along wearing red, white and blue to get into the party spirit.

There will be a funfair, fire-eaters, stilt walkers, face painters and live musical entertainment. Even the Queen is coming (courtesy of Chester Giants).

There will be two firework displays, one for the children early evening with the major display about an hour later.

To complete the family day atmosphere there will be a hog roast, toffee apples, candyfloss, jacket potatoes, roasted chestnuts and lots lots more.

The event will open at 4.30 pm and finish about 9.00 pm (to be confirmed) hopefully giving everybody a wonderful day.



This event is being organised by Chester Lions in conjunction with their main sponsor 'M & S Bank'.

Diary dates at St Mary's



Harvest Supper Saturday 22 September

Rebecca Hirst, a member of St Mary's Youth Group is organizing a Harvest Supper, based on Mrs. Beeton's cookery book, in aid of the Kisiizi Mental Health Ward in Uganda. Tickets available from the Hirst family.

Harvest Festival Sunday 7 October

St Mary's will be focusing on the Chester and Ellesmere Port Foodbank, which will be launched in October. Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Foodbanks provide a minimum of three days emergency food (non perishable) and support to people experiencing crisis in the UK.

Baptism Tea Party Sunday 14 October

Our annual service and tea party for those children who have been baptised in the past two or three years.

The information section Westminster Park RA Committee

Chairman: David Pilling

Tel: 680880

Vice Chairman: Brian Westcott

Tel: 675431

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Olwen Bellis	678719
Leah Dollimore	683100
Sue Eva	676697
Sandra Magilton	677373
Lesley Morris	679793
Mark Sams	680378
Richard Short	678559
Allan Stobie	683461

Clubs & organisations based in Westminster Park

Please let the Editor know if any of the details are incorrect or if you have a club or organisation that you would like listed.

Belgrave Badminton Club: Keith, 671077

Belgrave Pre-School: Carol Welch, 671243

Bowls: Martin Fraser, 07966 334293

Bridge Club: Nick Ryan, 675923

Cricketer: Craig Edwards, 07765 475095

Croquet: Janet Davies, 350370

Friends of Westminster Park: Allan Stobie,
683461

Evergreen (Over 60's Club): Sandra Magilton,
677373

Gardening Club: Mary Pole, 674439

Healthy Walking Group: Mike Lloyd, 680328

Junior Football: Tracy Sheedy, 680544

Lache and Westminster Local History Group:

Linda Shuttleworth, 679791

Mini Soccer (5-10 years): Tracy Sheedy,
680544

National Women's Register:

Betty McLoughlin, 677680

Shotokan Karate Club: Dave Craggs,

07711 009041

St Mary's Church Parish Office 671202

Revd Paul Dawson 675199

Tennis-Glan Aber Tennis Club:

Sue Britton, 677936

Westminster Park Community Assoc:

Gill Williams, 671243

Youth Club: Linda Eite, Chester 679559

SCOUTING:

Group Scout Leader: Sue Jones, 675538

Beavers (Wednesday): Jane Shorthall, 682136

Cubs (Monday): George Coward, 679259

Cubs (Thursday): Christine Owens, 676691

Scouts (Friday): Terry Coe, 676734

Explorer Scouts (Tuesday): Simon Ashton,
0151 339 4759

Network: Kath Kitchen, 379031

GUIDING:

Rainbows (Monday): Pat McGettigan, 677134

Brownies (Tuesday): Jan Hooper, 674701

Guides: Contact the District Commissioner:
Sue Fryer, 679945

Borders, Buddha and Baring All! Gardening Club Wednesday, 26 September 7.45 pm, Community Centre

At our September meeting we are looking forward to a talk by garden designer Heather Vaughan of Daisy Chain Garden Design.

She will be covering the main themes for creating a good garden, with some examples of recently designed gardens to give an idea of what we can achieve in our own plots.

Heather will also talk about selecting the more unusual plants for spring, summer, autumn and winter.

The cost of the evening is £3 and light refreshments will be available. The bar will also be open.

Please also bring your surplus plants and produce for the Plant Swap table.

Gardening Club is open to all WP residents – we are part of the Westminster Park Residents Association so there is no need for an additional subscription. We meet in March, June and September and the meetings are publicised via this Newsletter and on the WP website. Most of WP residents are lucky enough to have gardens so please come along – you don't have to be an expert, just keen to make the most of your plot.

If you would like more information please contact Mary Pole, 674439, marypole@zcl-uk.net

Intrigued by the title of this talk? Then come along and we look forward to welcoming you to Gardening Club on 26 September.



Jubilee celebrations 4 June 2012

The WP Residents' Association, WP Community Centre and Belgrave School worked together to organise a Diamond Jubilee Picnic on the school playing field on the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend.

When the Organising Committee met in February the first item on the agenda was to choose a date – fortunately we selected Monday, 4 June! In contrast to Sunday, when it never stopped raining, the sun shone for most of the day and the event attracted several hundred Westminster Park residents, many of whom brought picnics and sat eating them on the grass.

For those who hadn't there was a brisk trade in tea, coffee and home made cakes, and the Community Centre bar staff were kept busy.

The School's band and choir provided excellent musical entertainment. Their performance was followed by Karate and Zumba demonstrations, egg and spoon races and judging of fancy dress. Our local PCSO, PC Fox, brought a Police van for children to inspect, there was opportunity to learn circus skills with Alex, make craft items with Wendy and children were still queuing up to have their faces painted by Mazzi when most people had gone home!

The Croquet Club gave residents an opportunity to try their hand at the game and several local clubs had stalls to advertise themselves whilst providing fund raising games. The History Club's display attracted much interest.

Overall it was great to provide an event to bring the Westminster Park community together and to feel part of the national celebrations that took place over that weekend.

Brian Westcott

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