



St Peter's Residents' Association

Newsletter for July to August 2015

10 August 2015

**This newsletter is now being published six times a year.
The next issue will be published on or about 1 October.**

The new City Council

You will be aware that the City Council's governance has changed from an Executive system to a Committee system. This change has now come into effect with the election of the new Council in May 2015. The Council's decisions will no longer be made by a small group of councillors chosen by the Council leader, but by committees on which members of all parties are represented. A welcome initiative by the new Council has been to make information about forthcoming Council meetings available to groups such as the SPRA. We now receive a weekly e-mail giving a list of forthcoming committee meetings, an example of which follows:

Your council – week commencing 6 July 2015

Coming up at Canterbury City Council between Monday 6 and Sunday 12 July:

Committee meetings

[Wednesday 8 July at 10 am – Licensing Committee](#)

[Thursday 9 July at 7 pm – Regeneration and Property Committee](#)

Planning applications

A total of [51 new planning applications](#) are now available to view and comment on.

Lord Mayor's diary

Find out [what the civic team is up to](#) next week.

Latest news

Catch up on the news you may have missed by reading our [press releases](#), following us on [Twitter](#) and liking us on [Facebook](#).

Coming up later this month

The Local Plan examination starts on Tuesday 14 July. Details of the timetable and arrangements are [on our website](#).

An agenda and background information is provided for each meeting. If any member would like to have this bulletin forwarded, please ask. You can always unsubscribe later if you wish.

The Riverside

The City Council has recently produced a draft version of its Riverside Strategy, previous versions of which were published in 1953, 1973, 1987 and 2003. The draft version is available to view on the Council's website (search for 'riverside strategy'). To quote from its introduction:

Canterbury's river is more accessible than ever before and has become a cherished feature of our city. The riverside footpath system, passing through parks, walled gardens and occasionally being forced to branch away through city streets, is well used, attractive and fully integrated into the fabric of the city. Our challenge now is to create a recognisable identity for the riverside. We'd like to establish a connected network of riverside routes extending eastwards to link Chartham with Sturry, creating an attractive off-road walking and cycling route. We've set out what we'd like to achieve over the next five years in **Canterbury's Riverside: Achieving a connected network**.

The Riverside Strategy covers the Great Stour from Chartham to Sturry. This is separate from, but parallel to, the work being done by the Friends of the Riverside, which covers the Great Stour from Westgate to Kingsmead Road. The Friends of the Riverside began as a sub-group of the SPRA: more about this in the next newsletter.

Some of our concerns . . .

- ❖ We wrote to KCC about speeding traffic in St Peter's Lane but their rules are that they do not even enter into any discussions about traffic calming unless there has been an accident involving personal injury in the previous three years (which, fortunately, there has not been).
- ❖ We're still waiting for a reply about whether they can improve the misleading signage which does not clearly indicate that Mill Lane and St Peter's Lane are cul-de-sacs.
- ❖ The hoarding around the building site at the corner of Knotts Lane and King Street is an eyesore, and as it encloses the footpath that should be there, pedestrians are forced into the busy road: see the photos. There have been flurries of activity on the site since 2007 but nothing is happening at the moment. There is a long planning history for this site, but in January 2011 developers gave an undertaking that the hoardings would be removed In January 2012, which is 3½ years ago. We have written to Development Control to find out what is happening.



No activity



Children at risk

- ❖ The obstructive fence which prevents access to Kingsmead Field from the bridge at Stonebridge Road (the road which leads to the Kingsbrook Estate) will be removed. We are still working on trying to remove the ugly spiked steel fencing which prevents people from walking along the riverbank under the bridge.



This fence will be removed



We hope to get rid of this one

- ❖ The A-boards and other obstructions in Sun Street and Orange Street: it is the County Council who are responsible for dealing with such problems. In their published recommendations, they say that

where there are A-boards, pedestrians should have a two metre wide pathway. Since the footpaths in Sun Street and Orange Street are mostly less than two metres wide, it is impossible for businesses to place anything on the pavement and still follow KCC's recommendations. We have had a reply from KCC, who say they will consult with the City Council.

The Dean conducted a service to celebrate the life of Barbara Slimming on 7 July in the Chapel of Our Lady Undercroft in Canterbury Cathedral. She was Headmaster's Secretary at The King's School for 18 years serving Canon Newall and Canon (later Lord) Pilkington. As another former headmaster said at the service, 'It is not an exaggeration to say that the Headmaster's Secretary is the heart of the school' - and Barbara was that to perfection. Barbara had just celebrated her 100th birthday: she took her longevity in her stride – for example renewing her passport when she was 95, fully intending to go abroad again. She lived in The Bowers in Broad Street, and was Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for Broad Street for many years.

A date for your diary: the SPRA Quiz Night is on Saturday evening **17** October at the Westgate Hall

	We get daily reports of crimes in East Kent: those relevant to our area are listed below. We are glad to say that there were only four reported crimes in our area during this period. There are, however, many warnings about fraud of different types: cold callers on your doorstep or on your phone, internet scams etc. We have a copy of a very comprehensive document just produced by Neighbourhood Watch entitled ' Scams, Cold Callers and E-mail Fraud '. If you email the Secretary he can email it to you as an attachment, or if you do not have an internet connection you could collect a copy from the Secretary at 6 King Street (but please phone him first).	
15 July	Pound Lane car park	An iPad was stolen from a car between 14.30 and 15.30
21 July	Northgate car park	The disabled badge was stolen, although the car had been securely locked, between 14.30 and 15.00
24 July	House in King Street	Thieves stole a quantity of lead from a roofed area.
3-4 August	House in Knotts Lane	Burglar entered through a ground floor window and stole an iPad, a mobile phone and a diamond cluster ring.

Useful contact numbers

Bin collections, rubbish on streets and paths, dog fouling, fly-tipping and graffiti	Serco	08000 319 091
Abandoned vehicles	City Council	01227 862 203
Street lighting, potholes, anything related to roads or footpaths	Kent Highways	03000 418 181
To report a crime taking place	Police	999
For reporting crime, including anti-social behaviour	Police	101
For anonymous calls with information about crime	Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Environmental river problems, e.g. pollution, fish in distress, illegal fishing etc	Environment Agency	0800 80 70 60

SPRA contact information

SPRA Committee 2015-16

Richard Parkinson	Chairman	07764 775 672
Andrew Kerin	Vice-Chairman	01227 456 618
Chris Millar	Secretary	01227 766 790
Gary Edelman	Treasurer	01227 788 267
Clive Bowley	Committee member	
Gillian Rushton	Committee member	

You can contact the Secretary on all matters including those relating to this newsletter by phone or by e-mail:

spra.newsletter@gmail.com

Our website address is: www.stpetersassociation.co.uk and there is an email address for related issues

spa@stpetersassociation.com