



St Peter's Residents' Association

Newsletter for January and February 2017

2016-17 issue 5:

1 February 2017

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

The SPRA Annual General Meeting on Friday 7 April

This will be held at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. in The Beerling Hall (ex-Dominican Priory) by kind permission of The King's School, the Hall's lessees. Refreshments will be provided. There are 2 or 3 parking places at the end of the drive (Donsway) which leads to the Hall from St Peter's Lane. There is a lift which gives access to the first floor. The agenda will be published with the next newsletter, due on 1 April. We shall have a guest speaker.

Members of the committee are obliged to retire at the end of each year, but may stand for re-election. Their re-election is proposed and seconded at the AGM. They and any new members need to be proposed and seconded seven days before the AGM, i.e. by 31 March. We need more members on the committee, so please consider offering yourselves for this – you need not be a long-standing SPRA member. Many of our members have already been members of the committee so the pool from which we can draw new committee members is not large. Please get in touch with the Secretary if you are interested.

Our new Treasurer

At the end of December Gary Edelman resigned as Treasurer and as a member of the committee. We are very grateful to him for three years' service on the committee and especially as Treasurer. The Secretary will miss his (and Karin's) proof reading skills. Fortunately we have been able to find a replacement: Alan Turner has been co-opted as Treasurer and therefore also as a committee member. As with existing committee members seeking re-election, his election will be voted on at the AGM.

Our new Alderman

You may have read recently that the Council has elected 26 new aldermen. One of these was our Chairman, Richard Parkinson, former councillor for 11 years, and Sheriff in 2004. We congratulate him. No new aldermen have been elected for some years, so there was some catching up to do. In future there will be just a few elected each year. There is no pay nor are there any arcane privileges.

Solly's Orchard and the unlocked gates

This saga goes on and on. In our last episode we told you that after the Canterbury Area Members Panel (CAMP) meeting on 21 November we would be given the name of a councillor who was involved in making the decision. We were given a name, and we wrote to him, but in fact he was not involved: however, he helpfully raised the matter with the Deputy Chief Executive, and as a result the Secretary has had a reply from the Chief Executive - which was not very helpful: he claimed that it was fairly easy to climb into the orchard even if the gates were locked, and quoted a figure of £30,000 as the saving to be made by leaving the gates unlocked. (A figure of £25,000 was mentioned at the CAMP meeting: this

was met with some incredulity by the councillors present.) We have replied to these two points, and have also complained about the lack of consultation and transparency throughout this process. You will know that no one (ward councillors, police, ourselves) was consulted before the trial began. It now appears that the decision to leave the gates unlocked was made by council officers (and not even the head of the department). We were told that there would be a consultation in December or January but there has been no further mention of this: we have said that we need warning if this is to happen and if we are to have an input. Finally we pointed out the danger of walking through the orchard at night, and referred to the sad case of a rough sleeper who died a few weeks ago not far away: he died not from drowning but from the shock of hitting the cold water.

This will be an item on the agenda for the next CAMP meeting on 6 March.

Facebook

The SPRA is taking a small step into the 21st century by opening a Facebook group.

We hope that the Facebook page will be an open and inclusive forum for people to discuss matters relating to our neighbourhood; that it will be another way for members to bring ideas and issues to the Association and its Committee, and that it will be another platform for us to publicise our events. If you already use Facebook, please visit the page and join the group, and please invite others to join.

You can find the group on Facebook at 'St Peter's Residents' Association, Canterbury'. The direct URL to the page is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/spracanterbury/>.

If you are new to Facebook you will need to join Facebook. The login request is to log in to Facebook rather than to our page. Existing Facebook users won't need to create an account, and will be taken automatically to our page.

The SPRA Christmas Party on 14 December 2016



Some of the members



David Clarke accompanying the singing

This was well attended by about 60 members who enjoyed mince pies, stollen, Christmas cake and wine and each other's company.

David Clarke provided expert musical accompaniment and leadership and as a result the carol singing was very much more enjoyable than in some previous years.

We are grateful to The King's School for allowing us to use The Beerling Hall.

Planning

16 St Radigund’s Street. The premises were bought by The King’s School, who are redeveloping the site as a day house. They submitted a revised plan for the frontage of the building, which would have featured quite a lot of aluminium surface, which we felt was out of keeping with the rest of the street, as did the Canterbury Society and the Canterbury Heritage and Design Forum. We all objected. This was formerly a garage, and possibly the place where Count Louis Zborowski built a series of aero-engined racing cars (named Chitty Chitty Bang Bang) in the early 1920s, though they may have been built at Higham Park, near Bridge, where Count Louis lived. The original Chitty Chitty Bang Bang's motor was from a Zeppelin dirigible and it was so named because of the sound made when the car was started.

52 King Street. There is a proposal to build a house on the vacant site next to 52 King Street. It is unusual in that it does not face the street, thereby not contributing to the streetscape as it might have done: it presents a blank wall to the street. The planning reference number is 16/02500 and this link will take you to the documents page: <https://publicaccess.canterbury.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal= CANTE DCAPR 107759> Any objections must be received by Friday 17 February.

A new draft Licensing Policy

The Council writes: ‘The Licensing Act 2003 requires that we publish a 'Statement of Licensing' policy document. On 7 January 2016, we adopted the previous policy without amendment on an interim basis, so that full consultation could take place on an updated policy to reflect current law and the needs of the Canterbury district.’ Those with internet access can view the policy document at

<https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/media/1385832/Draft-Licensing-Act-Policy-Statement-Part-1.pdf>

Generally we welcome the draft policy document: a lot of thought and effort has gone into the production of this 68-page document.

Last year there was an application by Club Chemistry to extend its licence until 6 a.m. This was refused, the applicants went to appeal, but the appeal was rejected. The licensing authority decided that ‘enough is enough’ and recognised that since 2005, when most premises closed at 10.30 p.m., there has been a steady increase in the number of premises licences and there has been a continual creeping extension to the night-time economy, premises regularly extending the opening hours with a piece-meal strategy of applying for an extra 30-60 minutes every 12-18 months. They are now proposing that there should from next year be ‘core hours’ for premises which supply alcohol for consumption on the premises. These would be

Monday to Thursday	10.00 – 23.30	Sunday	12.00 – 23.30
Friday and Saturday	10.00 – 00.00	Sundays before bank holidays	12.00 - 00.00

These seem reasonable: however, this would apply only to new applicants, and they could argue for an extension to these hours. It would not apply retrospectively to existing premises (probably there are legal reasons why this cannot be). It seems to us that the licensing authority will have to be very careful that ‘extension creep’ does not occur again, perhaps after a year or two, as those with restricted hours seek to compete with those who already have licences until, say, 2 a.m. There are at least two other matters of interest:

The council wishes to see a less alcohol-led and a more diverse range and variety of entertainment available later at night and will allow for greater flexibility of those premises that add to a more varied

offer of entertainment, cultural activity, healthy activities, etc.’ The big question is what ‘later at night’ means: we would be opposed to anything which encouraged more activity after midnight.

‘In 2017 the licensing authority will complete a detailed analysis . . . as to whether the existing cumulative impact areas . . . should remain, be extended or removed and whether there are any other areas in the district that should be considered for cumulative impact status’.

Orange Street is one such area: we would of course be opposed to any removal of its status.

There is a form for making comments on the council website at


<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=148241309302>

but this easily be completed only online. As an alternative you can write to

Anton Walden, Licensing Officer, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW.

Comments need to be received by 28 February 2017.

Neighbourhood Watch

	<p>We get daily reports of other crimes in East Kent. We are glad to say that there was only one reported crime (the forcing open of a front door in St Peter’s Grove – nothing taken) in our area in December and January. Elsewhere most thefts seem to be opportunistic, with thieves picking up something they see lying around, or making use of unlocked doors, unlocked garages and unsecured windows.</p> <p>There are also distraction crimes: i.e., two people approach you and one asks directions, or to change some money, while the other commits the crime.</p> <p>There continue to be many warnings about fraud of different types: cold callers on your doorstep or on your phone, internet scams etc.</p>
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A message from NW: Please could I ask you to remind your members that when/if they call the Police using 101 or 999 to advise the Control Room that they are part of Neighbourhood Watch. This information is recorded on the system and helps us to demonstrate the good work and intelligence that you provide us with.

Useful contact numbers

Bin collections, rubbish on streets and paths, dog fouling, fly-tipping, 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
Reporting a crime taking place	Police	999
Reporting other 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	Environment Agency	0800 80 70 60

SPRA Committee 2016-17 and contact information

Richard Parkinson	Chairman	07764 775 672
Andrew Kerin	Vice-Chairman	01227 456 618
Chris Millar	Secretary	01227 766 790
Alan Turner	Treasurer	01227 451 217
Clive Bowley	Planning consultant	
Gillian Rushton	Events organiser	
Kevin Porée		
Amy Barron		

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
 & there is an email address for related issues: spa@stpetersassociation.co.uk