

St Peter's  
Residents'  
Association

SPRA

# St Peter's Residents' Association

Newsletter for March and April 2017

2016-17 issue 6:

1 April 2017

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

## **The SPRA Annual General Meeting will take place at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. on Friday 7 April**

This will be held 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 three parking places at the end of Donsway Drive which leads to the Hall from St Peter's Lane. There is a lift which gives access to the first floor. Please see the separate sheet for the agenda.

### **Planning matters**

**Miller's Arms seating area.** This was not strictly a planning application: the Council had issued a Public Notice. But to describe it as 'public' is hardly correct. It appeared on one of the back pages of the Kentish Gazette but fortunately an eagle-eyed member spotted it and told us – and thus enabled the SPRA to pass on the information to our members. At least 30 people wrote in to object, as well as the SPRA itself, of course, and the CHDF (Canterbury Heritage and Design Forum). To be fair to the Council, they said they were testing public opinion and immediately withdrew the proposal as soon as the closing date had passed. The impetus to create the seating area came from Shepherd Neame.

Incidentally we have ensured that the Council's weekly list of forthcoming events, which is emailed to us, will now list any new Public Notices - so in future we should have better warning.

**Land next to 52 King Street.** We wrote to object to the proposal build a house on this site, as did the CHDF and several members, and this application has been refused. The planning officers felt it would damage the setting of No 52 (a listed building), and obstruct the view of the cathedral. This appears to rule out any future building on this site.



**Open space kept public**



**View preserved (space next to 52 King Street)**

**Land outside The Parrot public house.** Shepherd Neame were also behind this proposal to place tables, chairs and café-style barriers on a piece of land outside the pub. We emailed members to alert them to this and did a letter-drop to members without internet access, and to non-members who live nearby. 27 people or organisations objected, including Dr Paul Bennett, the Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, The King's School, the CHDF and ourselves. The Environmental Health department at the Council said that 'they have serious concerns that the use of this public outdoor area for seating and eating and drinking could create noise nuisance problems for neighbouring residents which could not be easily controlled'.

This was an intrusive and totally unnecessary proposal and we have just heard (29 March) that the application has been refused.

**57-61 Military Road: Dairy Crest site.** You will remember that in 2015 there was a proposal to place a 4-storey block of student accommodation on this site, which would have housed 224 students. There were strong objections from the ward councillors, the residents and ourselves and although planning officers recommended that the application should be granted, the Planning Committee voted unanimously to reject it.

The developers have now made another application, this time for a block which would house 194 students, almost as many as before. The application has only just been made, and there are 76 documents to consider so we have not had time so far to examine the proposal in detail. But whatever the design of the building, there is still the impact of a large building and nearly 200 students at the end of a quiet residential square in a conservation area and we shall be objecting. We will circulate our thoughts to you in the next week or so, and invite you to object if you agree with us.

The reference no is 17/00648 and the closing date for objections is Friday 21 April.

If you have internet access this link [https://publicaccess.canterbury.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal= CANTE DCAPR 110507](https://publicaccess.canterbury.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=CANTE_DCAPR_110507) will take you to the application, and this link [https://publicaccess.canterbury.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=makeComment&keyVal= CANTE DCAPR 110507](https://publicaccess.canterbury.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=makeComment&keyVal=CANTE_DCAPR_110507) will take you to the page where you can click on 'Make a Comment'.

**Generally:** we are very grateful to the members who have written to object to The Millers Arms and The Parrot proposals. As an organization the SPRA will object on your behalf when it feels a proposal would have an adverse impact on our neighbourhood, but the number of objections does carry weight. So if you

don't agree with a planning proposal please take pen to paper or go to your keyboard and write to the Council. It doesn't have to be a long letter, as long as you make it clear that you're objecting.

## Solly's Orchard and the unlocked gates

The Secretary was about to speak at the Canterbury Area Members Panel (CAMP) meeting on 6 March when he heard that the gates were being locked again. Subsequently we have been told that the Council is, for the time being, reverting to the original schedule, i.e. the gates will be unlocked early in the morning and locked again at dusk (though this does not extend to the Butterfly Garden at present). We have explained to Ms Tricia Marshall, Director of Resources, that there has been no consultation so far with local residents and she has now invited us to make our views known before a final decision is taken. We shall be writing separately to those most affected (mostly residents whose properties border the river and are therefore very close to the orchard) to suggest a course of action for them but **we would strongly urge all members** to write to Tricia Marshall, Director of Resources, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or email her at [tricia.marshall.canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:tricia.marshall.canterbury.gov.uk). Even if we are not directly affected we should all be concerned about the effects of leaving an unlit space, surrounded by residential properties, open at night. It invites disorderliness, vandalism and crime – and police resources are too stretched to be able to provide any immediate help.

## The new draft Licensing Policy

In the last newsletter we referred to the Council's draft Licensing Policy, which the Council has to review every 5 years. At 68 pages it is too long to print or even to attach but 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>

We are attaching our response (or enclosing it if you do not have internet access). The new policy is expected to be ratified at a council meeting on 20 April: we hope we will have had some effect on it.

## Crime

In recent newsletters we've drawn attention to scams of various kinds (cold callers, phone calls, internet phishing etc.). Here's a reminder, from the police via Neighbourhood Watch, that the old-fashioned crime of burglary still happens. This piece is about Shepway, but it could easily apply to Canterbury too.

### High-value burglaries reported in Shepway district

Kent Police is reminding families of the steps they can take to protect their homes from burglars who target expensive jewellery and gold. A number of properties have reportedly been broken into in the Shepway district in recent weeks, and officers are not ruling out the possibility that the incidents may be linked.

Detective Inspector Mark Weller of Kent Police said: 'You can never underestimate just how much of an impact burglary can have on the lives of those affected. Victims feel violated and uneasy in their own homes, and the matter is made worse when the items stolen are not only valuable but also highly sentimental or a family heirloom. While our officers will do everything they can to prevent such burglaries occurring, there are steps residents can take to make sure their homes are secure and deter would-be offenders.

For example, I would strongly encourage families to keep large amounts of cash or gold out of the house if they can, such as in a safety deposit box at a bank where available. If you do need to keep high-value items at home then keep them in a good quality safe, bolted to a solid wall or floor and hidden out of sight.

Remember also to keep doors and windows closed if you are leaving a room for any length of time, which is especially important with the warmer weather approaching.

**Additional advice:**

Most burglaries happen on weekdays in daylight when you are more likely to be out. As well as locking up each time you leave, you can also

Keep keys, cash and expensive items out of view; use timer switches on lights and radios to make your home look occupied; keep gates locked and boundaries secure; lock away bikes, tools and garden items that could be stolen or used to break into your home.

You can also: security-mark items including bicycles, mobile telephones and laptops; keep receipts, mobile phone IMEI numbers and serial numbers safe; photograph and insure expensive or unique items; install a safe, bolted to the ground or a wall, or use a safety deposit box at the bank; register important items for free at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) to help us return stolen items if they are recovered.

Anyone who wishes to report a burglary or any suspicious activity is urged to call 101, or 999 if a crime is in progress.



We get daily reports of crimes in East Kent: those relevant to our area are listed below. We are glad to say that there was only one reported crime in our area in February and March. 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. There is a message for all of us here.

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.

There continue to be many warnings about fraud of different types: cold callers on your doorstep or on your phone, internet scams etc.

Date	Time	Premises	Crime
12 March	1830	House in King Street	Front door forced open, but no one entered.

**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 (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
Andrew 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](mailto:spra.newsletter@gmail.com)

Our website address is: [www.stpetersassociation.co.uk](http://www.stpetersassociation.co.uk) and there is an email address for related issues: [spa@stpetersassociation.co.uk](mailto:spa@stpetersassociation.co.uk)