

**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 Thursday 5 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.

Our guest speaker is The Reverend Canon Nicholas Papadopoulos, Canon Treasurer of the Cathedral.

Committee members

The present Committee will all be standing for re-election for next year, as indicated on the Agenda. However, they will not be there for ever, and we urge members to offer themselves for election to the committee (there are two vacant places). Please let us know if you would like to do this (before 29 March, as dictated by the constitution). You do not have to be a long-standing member of the SPRA.

Planning matters

57-61 Military Road: Dairy Crest site.

This saga continues. You may 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. But the developers appealed and the Planning Inspector upheld the appeal.

However, before the result was known the developers submitted another application, in 2017, this time for slightly fewer students, though almost as many as before. Thanks to the initiative of a resident living in the square, who has been in contact with the developers, some significant changes have been made to the 2017 plans, including: the main entrance is now in Military Road, there have been some changes in the building's appearance, there will now be a security guard (though not yet 24/7) and the accommodation has been rearranged so that at some future time, if the demand for student accommodation decreases (it seems to have peaked already) the accommodation may be converted into flats for non-students. Although we are still very much opposed to the principle of a student accommodation block in this

residential conservation area, we decided to support this revised 2017 application in case the developers revert to the far worse 2015 plans, for which they now have permission.

The Annexe, Old Ruttington Lane

The developer had permission to build 3 houses and one flat on this site, fronting Old Ruttington Lane, but has now applied to replace this scheme with a 21-bed student accommodation block. This is not in our area but we felt we ought to support the Havelock Street Community Group in opposing this since it will inevitably introduce a lot of disturbance into a residential area: four families in the originally proposed buildings would have enhanced the sense of community. Indeed, it seems extraordinary that the same developer has already been given permission for a similar block on this site, fronting Havelock Street. You will have noticed that there are now 14 homes on the site of the Ambulance Station in Military Road, so it must be possible to build homes profitably. There have been 44 objections to the scheme.

Gardening in Solly's Orchard and beyond

As most of you will know, the flowerbed alongside St Peter's Lane was planted with roses in 2015, and it is the Council's responsibility to maintain it. However, cuts to Council funding mean that little has been done (not even weeding, let alone any informed pruning or maintenance of the other climbers which were planted later). However, we do now have a band of volunteers, led by Geraldine Fish, who have, over the last few months, restored order to the flowerbed, as illustrated in the last newsletter. The Committee has decided to go further and has taken up Geraldine's offer to add more plants to the border. Originally the Committee allocated £500 to the border, and much of this remains unspent, and we shall make use of that. However, some of you may wish to be associated with this excellent scheme but do not have much time or do not feel physically capable - perhaps you would like take part in this activity by making a donation for a particular plant or plants (we can supply a list). If so, please get in touch with Alan Turner, our Treasurer. To quote Geraldine:

The planting would be in the spirit of a herbaceous border: phlox, salvia, hardy chrysanthemums, veronicastrum, delphinium and many more hardy perennials to add blue, white and apricot to the peachy-pink roses, plus some additional climbers and wall shrubs.

As the plants will be shrubs, climbers and other perennials the running costs should be low after the initial outlay. We do feel that this will be a valuable contribution to the community.

Something similar is also planned for the Butterfly Garden (which is now being locked at night) but this is the responsibility of the Canterbury Society.

On-street parking

Three separate issues have arisen recently:

- a. In Westgate Hall Road, some double yellow lines were mistakenly painted on the road surface after it was repaired. These have now been removed.
- b. One of our members, who lives in Pound Lane, has been having increasing difficulty in finding an on-street parking space. However, Council officers have told us that they do not issue more permits than there are spaces. Unfortunately the parking permits for the City Centre area may be used all over the city, so it is quite possible that residents may not find a space near where they live. The council will be marking out the parking area on the pavement next to The Cut in Pound Lane, so that the space may be more economically used. There is no provision for those with on-street parking permits to park in the Pound Lane car park.

- c. Another of our members has had difficulty parking in Broad Street after 6.30 p.m., when parking becomes free to non-residents (who have to pay during the day). We have asked the Council that parking after 6.30 p.m. should be confined to the residents. Broad Street is in the St Gregory's parking area, not the City Centre area, however, so we shall need to take into account any consequences for those in the St Gregory's area. Any suggestion will be included in the next annual parking review, in about a year's time..

Graffiti (again)

- a. We got BT/Openreach to remove the graffiti from their cabinets in King Street, but more has appeared since then. We have asked again and the graffiti will probably have been removed by the time you read this.
- b. Vandals have attacked the block of garages in Blackfriars Street. We do urge owners to ask the Council to remove the graffiti. We can't do this for you, as each owner has to sign a waiver form to indemnify the Council against damage. So please ring Serco on 0800 031 9091 or visit their website:.

https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20044/vandalism_and_graffiti/55/request_graffiti_removal

Apart from the unsightly appearance of the graffiti, we believe that the presence of graffiti only encourages subsequent graffiti artists. You are entitled to have graffiti removed for free three times a year. You do not need to make an appointment or be present when the graffiti is removed, provided Serco have access, which they obviously do in this case. Please pass this information to any non-members (and perhaps encourage them to join us when you do).

- c. There has been graffiti on the wall of No 2 King Street for some time, but we have at last tracked down the owner (who lives abroad) and he will be getting the graffiti painted over.



Garages in Blackfriars Street



No 2 King Street (to be painted over)

Crime



We've had reports of a bike stolen from outside the Beaney, and graffiti on a house in Pound Lane. **But in the last few days there has been a series of thefts of boot scrapers from houses in Broad Street.** These are traditional features of many houses in our area (there are many in King Street, Mill Lane and Blackfriars Street, for example) and it is distressing that they should be removed to the considerable detriment of the streetscape. Presumably the metal has some value. If you see anyone acting suspiciously please take a photo if possible and report the crime (999 is legitimate in the case of a crime in progress).

There have been the usual reports of telephone scams from people purporting to be from BT, the Telephone Preference Service, banks, TalkTalk etc; it's best to assume that anyone who calls out of the blue is up to no good.

Useful contact numbers

Bin collections, rubbish on streets and paths, dog fouling, fly-tipping, graffiti	Serco	0800 031 9091
Abandoned vehicles	City Council	01227 862 203
Street lighting, potholes, anything related to roads or footpaths	Kent Highways	03000 41 81 81
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
Graffiti removal from BT/Openreach cabinets	BT	0800 023 2023

SPRA Committee 2017-18 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	Events organiser	
Tania Hoser	Events organiser	

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.co.uk