

Whitley Matters



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Bookings :- enquiries@yourwhitley.co.uk



WR&NWA Residents Update - Autumn 2020

The WR&NWA Committee hopes you have all stayed safe and well during this most challenging of times. As you are aware all residents meetings (and lettings) had to be cancelled and will continue to be until the Government advises otherwise I can confirm that your Community Centre was safely mothballed until the Tiny Teddies nursery was able to re-open. Tiny Teddies continue to be the sole user of the building except for the Thursday night food Hub (details below).

I am also pleased to advise that WCC Ltd did receive the small business grant from the City Council all of which (and more since) was spent on ensuring that when this surreal situation ends there will still be a Community Centre within Whitley.

Since lockdown the WR&NWA Focus Group have, like so many, made use of modern technology and held a number of Zoom meetings (many thanks to Claire for arranging) to ensure that your identified concerns, relative to the numerous planned developments in Whitley, are being considered by the relevant parties as detailed below:-

Members of the Focus group: Cllr Richard Brown, Cllr Roger Bailey, Lindsey Bailey, Rod King, Kay Farrer, Doug Lowe, Claire Preston, Pauline Venables, Sara Maycock.

McDonalds

By now you will be aware that the McDonalds planning application to build on the Whitley Asda car park was turned down by councillors at the planning committee on June 18th, concerned about existing congestion on the Whitley Asda roundabout. Cllr Brown, Cllr Bailey and Doug Lowe 'attended' the meeting and spoke of their concerns about the number of planned developments in the area in addition to the proposed McDonalds, all of which have the potential to increase traffic volumes on the roads around Whitley.

Plans to mitigate the impact of additional traffic negotiating the roundabout to access McDonalds (estimated by planning officers to be a 1% increase on current traffic volumes and therefore deemed negligible) were:

- a fully controlled pedestrian crossing across both carriageways on London Road immediately west of the roundabout, (at the site of the existing traffic lights on the eastbound carriageway)
- a queue detection system at the traffic lights on the roundabout to reduce build up of cars and the potential to adversely impact the flow of traffic from the north and eastern routes on to London Road west and south bound.

These measures were not deemed sufficient by the planning committee and with attendant concerns around the proximity of local schools to a fast food outlet and the safety of pupils on a busy road, the planning application failed. McDonalds have 6 months to lodge an appeal.

Please Note:- The focus group would like to clarify that the concerns raised on your behalf were as mandated by those present at the meeting held on the 11/03/2020 only and were related to the Traffic, roads and safety aspects and not the health value of the food served or the littering problems (both of which we already have daily) as suggested via social media.

Continued :-

Other developments approved and in-progress

Charterhouse Heritage Park

Work is in progress to install a car park and toucan crossing (for cyclists and pedestrians) and a 30 mph speed limit has been implemented from the Asda roundabout up to the ring road to assist traffic flow and pedestrian safety in anticipation of the visitors expected. It is hoped to open the site to visitors in 2021. The new toucan crossing will give safe access to the cemetery.

Airport Retail Park

With additional recent developments on the site (Aldi and a new car showroom) and retail units now fully occupied, traffic congestion on to and off the site has significantly increased, not helped by a woefully inadequate traffic island. This is causing serious tailbacks towards Toll Bar roundabout and problems for Stonehouse residents trying to enter and exit their estate

City Fibre installation

This is work in progress and as we all know by now, has been badly timed and executed in relation to schools' re-opening, with the blocking of road and footpath accesses on the Whitley estate and associated health and safety issues and stretched nerves in trying to get children to and from school. A meeting with the Council's project lead is being organised by the Focus group to seek an explanation of the poor timing and what the project ultimately is intended to achieve.

Developments in the pipeline

The Materials Recycling Facility

Layla Shannon, project manager for the development, attended a recent Focus group meeting by invitation. It is clear that discussions are well underway around plans to site the facility immediately adjacent to the existing Whitley Incinerator. The facility will be a state-of-the-art installation designed to maximise recycling rates for 7 partnering LAs including Coventry, and tackle head on the increasing costs of recycling with the collapse of markets in the Far East. The implications for Whitley residents are an additional 86 vehicle movements (maximum) per day in and out of the Whitley depot entrance immediately adjacent to Asda. These will be a combination of bin lorries carrying 5 tonnes and articulated lorries carrying 26 tonnes of raw or sorted recyclates into and out of the plant. They will access the depot on a bookable basis and will negotiate the Asda roundabout, either once or twice, depending on which direction they are coming from, inevitably adding to existing traffic volumes on the roundabout. Added to this will be between 50 and 100 workers own vehicles coming into and out of the site at the beginning and end of each shift. All of this additional traffic has the potential to make the roads on to and off the Whitley estate impossible to enter or exit.

Homes England/Severn Trent Pumping Station site

Groundworks are in progress in anticipation of an expected planning application for up to 325 homes on the London Road site. Exit roads will be sited 2 on the London Road and 1 on Allard Way clearly bring between 600 to 700 additional cars on to surrounding roads at peak times, significantly adding to the existing traffic problems. It will also have implications for access to Whitley schools bringing additional traffic on to the estate, as well as increasing pressure of demand for school places and local health services as, to our knowledge, no such services are being included in the development. A virtual consultation event will run from Monday 21st September to Sunday 4th October. <https://vpc.tetrachteurope.com/he/whitley/?fbclid=IwAR2oVXqNRKQ9JNbOLiAvT6W2eV-b8o01t9mEq1gTsBPkulKQmmXyoZb-zpA>

The efforts of the Focus group are concentrating on finding constructive ways to mitigate the existing or anticipated impact of the various developments (approved or in discussion) on local roads through our local Councillors Richard Brown and Roger Bailey who have been excellent in their support for residents' concerns.

It also remains our absolute aim to ensure that both the Focus group members and our supportive Councillors are engaged at the earliest phase of any and all proposed planned developments. We are also trying to ensure that the potential combined effects of all planned developments are considered by planning officers within each feasibility report.

It remains the intention of the WR&NWA to challenge Homes England on how they intend to meet the requirements of the Green New Deal in accordance with Coventry councils air quality plan.

If you have any comments or suggestions on this update please e-mail - Lindsey Bailey (lindseyb57@gmail.com) and we will consider it at the next meeting.

Residents' Matters

Thank You to all those who have raised the following issues of concern which are as follows:-

Fly Tipping

Whitley and the wider area has been plagued by regular littering and fly tipping incidents. Our thanks go to Derek Robinson for his diligence, regular reporting and his ongoing campaign for the installation of temporary CCTV cameras adjacent to the regular hotspots.

Please e-mail me your views on this proposal and if a significant number of you feel the same we will pursue this via the City Council.

Dog Fouling

Yet again the actions of irresponsible dog owners continue to be reported within our Community. Can we please have your thoughts on where we go with this problem, are more bins needed? If so where do we need them?

Do we really have to start reporting members of our own Community to the Council? Again your thoughts please.

St James Church - Abbey Road

As you have probably read the Covid restrictions have seriously impacted Church finances and they are looking to raise a £1000 in sponsorship towards maintenance costs. Some of the congregation intend running up and down the church steps and are looking for people to sponsor them.

If you are able to help please use the Just Giving page—

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/anne-richards>

Cheylesmore Community Library

Community stalwart Hazel Hill reports that the click and collect service started in September. For opening times and all you need to know to make the most of this service please ring 02476 832314.

COMMUNICATION (AND A LITTLE HELP FROM A FRIENDLY WEBSITE UPDATER REQUESTED PLEASE).

The Focus group have pondered over the last few months on how, being unable to meet, would be the best way to communicate progress on the ongoing issues and how to pick up on and progress your concerns.

This has to include of course the challenge of how we reach everyone within the community, especially those who might not have access to social media or indeed the wherewithal to understand or indeed use it.

We have decided that this newsletter will be :-

- a) - Emailed out to all contacts included in the Monthly meeting invite,
- b) - Uploaded onto the Whitley Residents Facebook site, and Nextdoor
- c) - Included within Roger and Paulines fortnightly Residents update -

<https://cheylesmoreward.wixsite.com/teamcheylesmore>

- d) - Posted through your door if you live in Whitley, Stonehouse and parts of Cheylesmore

(Printing and distribution sponsored by WCC Ltd)

Continued:-

And here is the tricky one, WCC Ltd do have a website but it is that old and outdated it serves no purpose in today's world of Social media.

As it remains our intention to upgrade it and turn it into a resident user friendly site asap we are seeking the help of local website "experts" to advise the how and what.

Could I please implore those with such skills to consider helping us and in turn have the wider Community benefit from its use in the challenging times ahead.

Local Food Hub

From Pauline Venables, Cheylesmore Ward Volunteer's Coordinator:

The food hub has now been operational for over 4 months & during that time over 500 food bags have been delivered to families in Cheylesmore Ward & Earlsdon Ward.

The Thursday donation drop-off has now been replaced by a collection only service.

Please call 07581 047546 or email enquiries@yourwhitley.co.uk to arrange a collection

If you are struggling to feed your family then please also contact us & you'll be put in touch with the food hub.

Membership costs £4 per week & you will receive approximately £20 of food. Many thanks to the residents of Whitley and the Whitley Community Centre for your support and generosity.

Sincere thanks to Pauline Venables and Gaynor Harries and the all the food hub volunteers for their marvellous efforts in keeping the whole thing going and especially through the more challenging times.

And Finally

If you are still reading this, thankyou,

The WR&NWA Committee and Focus group members thank you for your ongoing support and hope that you all keep safe and well.

We must surely all remain hopeful that at some point soon if the test and trace system works as promised, our scientists develop a vaccine and ALL people respect and heed the Government advice and behave accordingly we will meet again.

Kind regards,

Lindsey Bailey,

Chair of the WR&NWA

E-mail - lindseyb57@gmail.com



The 74th Scout Group Needs You

Come and Join the Adventure
74th HQ Scout Hut
Rear of St James Church
10 yards up the entry
Abbey Road
Whitley
Email Akela – prestoncl2@aol.com
Or Ring Akela – 07762717609

BEAVERS Age 5 ½ - 8 Friday's 6-7:30pm
cubs Age 8 – 10 Tuesday's 6:30 – 8:30pm
Scouts Age 10 – 14 Wednesday's 7-9pm



CHEYLESMORE
Food Hub
Donations in Whitley:
Collection Service
by contacting
the Whitley volunteers

☎ 07581 047546 ✉ Enquiries@yourwhitley.co.uk

If you are struggling to feed your family then contact us
& you'll be put in touch with the Food Hub
Membership costs £4 per week & you will receive approx £20 of food