

1. Latest on planning

Application to register Warneford Meadow as a town green

The Inquiry relating to the Town Green application began in October, but overran the allotted time and will resume on 18 January. This will unfortunately mean substantial extra legal costs. Thanks to all who have so far contributed to meeting these legal costs – contact David Sutton (tel. 248847) if you would like to make a donation. If the application is successful, this will prevent any future development on the Meadow.

NHS planning applications for Warneford Meadow, Playing Field, Park Hospital

To our great relief, Julie Waldron, Chief Executive of Oxon & Bucks Mental Health Trust (OBMHT), confirmed to a meeting of local Residents' Associations and Friends of Warneford Meadow on 5 December that the NHS had withdrawn their appeals against the City Council's non-determination of their five planning applications for the Warneford Meadow, Warneford Playing Field and Park Hospital sites. She said that no further development proposals for the Meadow would be submitted at least until the Town Green application had been decided. Revised applications for the Playing Field and Park Hospital will be submitted to the City Council, probably in spring 2008. Julie could not say what would be in these, except that they would be in line with the current Local Plan.

She said that OBMHT now had no financial interest in the Meadow, which would remain in the ownership of the Secretary of State for Health. OBMHT would take forward their plans to renovate the two remaining unmodernised wards at the Warneford Hospital, and the Highfield Adolescent Unit, using receipts from sale of the other two sites plus borrowing which the Trust could undertake once they secured Foundation Trust status, which she hoped would happen in March. She offered to set up regular consultation meetings with residents, focusing on the plans for the Hospital and the other sites. We welcomed this in principle. Julie urged residents to take an active interest in the Trust's work, for example by becoming 'members' of the Trust. Anyone can do this, and so participate in the Trust's decision-making. Details can be found at www.obmh.nhs.uk, or contact Laura Elliott (tel. 251251) for further information.

Golf course

We are awaiting the City Council's next draft of the Local Development Framework to see how it treats the golf course following objections to their original proposals.

2. Latest on Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)

The County Council have received feedback from residents' associations affected by the proposed new CPZ which may extend from Hill Top Road right down the hill and across to the Iffley Road. HTRRA provided the results of the parking survey performed earlier this year which showed the high level of daytime parking by non-residents. The Council say they will make public their finalised plans for this CPZ, including its boundaries in February 2008. HTRRA is working closely with DRARA on this issue.

3. AGM and questionnaire results

The AGM was held on 15 October. Over 30 people attended and there was a lively discussion of the questionnaire results and an update on Warneford developments. Becky Miles concluded her year as Chair, and thanked Floris van den Broecke who stood down from the committee. The new committee was elected, and is listed overleaf.

Over 40 people completed questionnaires before the AGM with these results:

- **Warneford planning applications** – strong support for the work of the joint body of residents' associations opposing the development of Warneford Meadow
- **controlled parking zone** – majority in favour but asking for further detail (see below)
- **concerns (listed according to number of mentions)** – heavy day time parking, pavement parking, traffic congestion in Divinity/Southfield, possible development on golf course, speeding in Hill Top Road, rubbish collection problems, student noise, uneven pavements, overgrown hedges, badgers, theft of milk from doorsteps, vandalism to cars, street lighting, protection of street trees.

We will be working on these with your help in the course of the coming year. Specifically on the subject of **pavement parking**, DRARA are producing well-worded leaflets to be left on windscreens encouraging people to park on the *kerb*, which is currently probably the best option to allow space both for pavement users and for lorries to get through without damaging wing mirrors. We will distribute these leaflets as soon as we have them.

We will push for the recent **recycling survey** to result in more extensive door-to-door plastics recycling and tidier rubbish collection.

4. Membership renewal

Thanks again to all of you who renewed your subscription at the AGM. For those who have still to renew, please drop your subs (£2 waged / £1 concessions, plus any donations) together with your name, address and email (if you have one) through the door of number 64 by Sunday 16 December. Remember the membership is per person (not per household) and residents are defined as anyone who lives in or owns a property in Hill Top Road.

5. Events and activities

- **annual Divinity Singers/East Oxford Community Choir Christmas concert** will take place at Mary & John church on Monday 17 December at 7.30pm.
- **carols round the top of the DRARA area** on Wednesday 19 December – all singers welcome. Gather at 184 Divinity Road at 6pm; mulled wine after the carols. Or else listen out for singers outside your door (they tend to venture down HTR only to about 42)
- **regular silent meditation** Saturdays 10am at the summerhouse, 7 HTR. "There is no structure – a bell rings to start and finish. There is no social aspect – silence arriving, leaving and during. People from any background are welcome. It is a chance to 'stop the week' – to allow the 'dust' to settle and start afresh. The space is heated – though a warm pair of socks in the winter is advised. Access is down the side passage to the end of the garden. Please ring Richard & Cecilia Twinch (tel. 202108) if you'd like to attend.
- **music** – there are a number of singers and instrumentalists in Hill Top Road who might like to get together to play music. If interested, please contact Stephen Jones at number 62 (treasurer@hilltoproad.org.uk).

Committee members

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2008