

# West Park Residents Association Chronicle Spring 2024

## Invitation to the WPRA AGM at St Chads Church of England Primary School at 7pm on Thursday 21 March 2024

In today's digital age, most of our communication with West Park residents happens online through emails, our website at [www.westparkresidents.org.uk](http://www.westparkresidents.org.uk), and our active Facebook page. Once a year we also publish the WPRA Chronicle. This annual edition serves as a reminder of our upcoming AGM, and also reaches out to WPRA members for whom we have no email contact or might not be contactable any other way.

Established in the early 1990s, the Association has consistently aimed to raise awareness about local issues and foster community engagement. These include concerns about proposed changes at Leeds Bradford Airport, ongoing discussions about Otley Road alterations, reviewing planning applications and participating in Police and Communities Together (PACT) and North West Leeds Transport Committee (NWLTF). The WPRA remains dedicated to representing the community's interests.

We maintain regular contact with local councillors Jools Heselwood, Emma Flint, and Izaak Wilson, as well as with MP Alex Sobel, ensuring that our community's voice is heard at all levels of governance.

### **The AGM**

We want to stress that our AGM is open not only to WPRA members but also to all residents and interested parties. Local representatives and our MP, Alex Sobel, are invited as are representatives from GALBA.

While the agenda for the AGM is still in the works, it will undoubtedly touch upon the key topics outlined in this Chronicle.

- **West Park Fields**

After many years of campaigning for a Children's Play Area on West Park Fields it finally arrived last autumn

Being located close to Spen Lane it was supported by the councillors for both the Weetwood and Kirkstall Wards and partially funded by the new housing scheme on the site of West Park Secondary School. The play equipment is particularly suitable for younger children and there is a paved access from Spen Lane for prams and push chairs. There are seats on the site but two further seats with picnic tables are to be provided outside. More details will be available at the AGM.



There have been more trees planted at the orchard, some of which are in memory of past local residents.

- **Leeds Bradford Airport**

Currently 4 million passengers a year use the airport and there are plans to increase it to 7 million. This would of course lead to many more flights resulting in increased air and noise pollution created. The number of night flights, those between 11pm and 7am are of particular concern. We look forward to receiving further updates on these issues at the AGM.

- **Highway Issues.**

We look forward to being updated about plans to Lawnswood Roundabout and the Otley Road through Headingley at the AGM.

- **Successful Neighbourhood Interaction with Beckett University**

During the spring of last year (2023) the peace and quiet of the neighbourhood was often interrupted by extremely loud music emanating from the Beckett Headingley site. This would go on until midnight and alongside the aeroplane noise was becoming unacceptable. It was obviously often affected by the direction of the wind. Meetings were held with staff from the University who were involved in event planning on the campus, as it was clear that they wished to work together to alleviate problems in the neighbourhood.

The meetings were very constructive and it is certainly beneficial to have a good, combined working relationship for both sides not only for such as music noise, but also for the parking which had spilt over to neighbouring streets.

There is also an issue with litter which will hopefully be nullified as our councillors have agreed to install a litter bin somewhere around the corner of Harrowby Road and Ancaster Road at the end of January 2024. Update – now installed.

It pays to discuss problems before they get out-of-hand and this is testament to that.

### **WEST PARK – YOUR HELP REQUESTED**

Two members of West Park Residents Association are busy compiling a book covering the history of West Park, both in terms of its architecture and its setting, and the people who lived in the area or had connections with it. West Park offers a fascinating insight into the historical and social changes that have affected Leeds as a whole from the 1900's onwards.

There is quite a bit of research to do, involving sources such as the census for 1901, 1911 and 1921, plus a range of newspapers from yesteryear. We all live in "old" houses which have been improved over the years but often still maintain original features, such as servants bell-boxes, fireplaces, stained glass windows etc. and often residents may have original documents.

Many residents have already responded to a previous request, coming forward with invaluable details including original documents associated with the deeds of previous owners, together with memories from their youth, sometimes even photographs showing past and current locations.

So, if you can contribute ...

Please contact us at the following emails, giving your name, and telephone number so that we can call you to arrange to talk further.

[djkleeds16@gmail.com](mailto:djkleeds16@gmail.com)

Doug Kemp

[asray007@btinternet.com](mailto:asray007@btinternet.com)

Tony Ray

# Membership

I hope this brief summary of what WPRA offers will encourage you to become a member. The cost per household is £5 per year.

Please, either complete the form below and post to:

Ian Richardson, Treasurer WPRA,  
20 Thornfield Road,  
Leeds LS16 5AR

Or email your details to [membership@westparkresidents.org.uk](mailto:membership@westparkresidents.org.uk) and you will be sent our banking details and your membership number to use as a reference for payment online.

I/We enclose £5, as my/our subscription to WPRA for the period February 2024 to January 2025.

Please make the cheque out to **West Park Residents Association**

**Name:**

**Phone (see note):**

**Address and postcode:**

**Email address (see note):**

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**Note:** Enter your email address only if you want us to send you occasional circulars about important local issues. Enter your phone number only if you want us to alert you if emails bounce. None of your data will be shared with third parties. To amend your details, or have them deleted, please use

[membership@westparkresidents.org.uk](mailto:membership@westparkresidents.org.uk).

More details on our website

We look forward to seeing you at our AGM

With Regards  
Graham Sugden (Chairperson)