

The WEST PARK CHRONICLE

The Community Newspaper for West Park

JUNE 2007

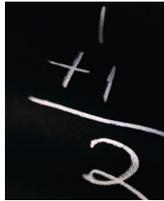
THE WEST PARK WINE WALK

The walk took place on Sunday 27th May with four residents opening their homes and gardens for visitors. It was perhaps tempting the elements to hold the Walk on a Bank Holiday weekend, with the Test match held at Headingley and even worse the prospect of a win by England – yes it rained! Many thanks to the 50 to 60 people who helped make the Walk a success, plus of course the hosts. It was great to see old friends being “re-discovered” and new friendships being made; as one visitor commented “the hospitality shone through, even if the sun didn’t”. Perhaps next year, we might try holding the Walk in June?



LAWNSWOOD SCHOOL

Further to the Annual General Meeting in April, there has been another meeting with the School (2nd May) and letters have been sent to the Head and the Chair of the Governing Body. Amongst others actions taken, the school now has staff on the Spen Road



gate and has another member of staff patrolling the streets leading to the Butcher Hill shops of lunchtime.

There has also been a massive effort organised by the PC responsible for school liaison in establishing a greater police presence, with truancy sweeps over the lunchtime period. These have still picked up pupils who should not have been off the school premises, but overall the area has been much quieter than of late, with a reduction in litter and other incidents.

The Association recognises that the majority of Lawnswood pupils are well behaved and that anti-social behaviour, and in many cases criminal acts, come from a minority, albeit a significant minority of pupils. However, this

last year has seen increased truancy and incidents within the area, and this level of ill-discipline cannot but affect and disrupt the learning of others.

The signs are encouraging that the school is starting to address issues which are affecting the community. It is too early to be complacent about the long term situation; for one thing it is not reasonable to expect that the police effort can continue at the current level long term.



If you are unaffected by school incidents you may wonder what all the fuss is about. However these problems do affect a wide area of West Park covering almost the whole of the old Edwardian area, the Moor Grange / Spen Lane area and even to a lesser degree the Wynfords across the other side of the Ring Road.

Next month’s Chronicle will give a full account of what has been going on together with, hopefully, a report from Lawnswood School.

STEP (Supporting The Elderly People)

The first Summer Fair will be held on **Saturday 21st July 2007** at Queenswood Drive Day Centre. It promises to offer great fun for all the family with various stalls, games, bouncy castle and much more. In the meantime don’t forget:



- **Tuesdays, 10.00 – 11.30am.** Gentle Exercise Class at St Andrew’s Church for only £1.50 per session including refreshments.
- **Thursdays, 10.00 – 12.00.** Drop in at St Andrew’s Church Hall, Butcher Hill for a cuppa and a chat.

PLANNING UPDATE - 291 Spen Lane, Al Fresco’s

Retrospective planning permission has been granted to allow its use as a restaurant and take-away hot food shop but with 10 conditions. Significantly many of these have time limits set for compliance, so non-compliance action could be taken without too much legal argument, essentially following the position as explained at the public meeting last year. These conditions include:

- Restricting opening hours to 0900 to 2300 hours daily
- Scheme to deal with litter outside the premises
- Requirement for the forecourt to the front of the premises adjoining the access road to be kept clear at all times from all obstructions or structures, permanent or temporary, including planters, barriers, tables, chairs and any type of shelter except for a litter bin.

So it looks like the decking will go and we will get the pavement back at last.

IMPORTANT PLANNING WARNING FOR WEST PARK

LMU have applied for planning permission to erect a temporary ‘marquee event space’ for three months every year (1st July to the 30th September) on ‘the Acre’, the large central lawned area on the Beckett Park campus. The reference number is 07/02574/FU/NW.



To go with this, LMU have applied for a ‘Temporary Premises Licence’ to cover the same period each year. This would permit *the sale of alcohol each day between 11:00 and 23:30 and would allow for the following activities in the temporary marquee each day between 07:00 and 00:00:*

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • Plays | • Dancing | • Recorded Music |
| • Indoor Sporting Events | • Late Night Refreshment | • Anything similar |
| • Live Music | • Films | |
| • Dance | • Boxing/Wrestling | |

There’s an obvious risk of additional traffic movement (especially late at night), parking on residential streets, possible public nuisance, and *noise* in the residential areas which surround Beckett Park.

Noise from these events could also affect the whole of West Park due to the high position of the campus - after all, these are not likely to be quiet events! The Association has already objected to this proposal, and has circulated specimen objection letters to the email list.

OTHER RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS

West Park Residents Association (now includes representatives from the Drummond and Churchwood Residents Association on the email circulation list. This will help us to share information on matters which might affect both areas. <http://www.westparkresidents.org.uk/>

Request for Contributions

The next edition of *West Park Chronicle* is planned for July and contributions from local residents would be most welcome.

Please contact the editor Doug Kemp on