

The WEST PARK CHRONICLE

The Community Newspaper for West Park

June / July 2008

www.westparkresidents.org.uk

Planning Application for 2 Arncliffe Road

As residents on the email circulation list already know, a proposal was recently submitted for a two bedroom self-contained, two-storey flat attached to 2 Arncliffe Road. In terms of scale, design and use of the limited garden space, this development was not in keeping with the adjoining Victorian / Edwardian property and the Planning Application was turned down.



Thanks to those members who alerted the Association to this matter and many thanks to those members who submitted objections.

It is extremely important that we all respond to potential changes which are likely to spoil the West Park area. Fortunately the WPRA email circulation list and your community spirit make this possible.

Although it would be nice to have alerted non-email members by delivering circulars, sometimes this is not feasible because of the time and effort required to print and distribute.

Beckett Park – Leeds Metropolitan University Planning Application

LMU have applied for planning permission for the 'erection of a temporary marquee event space within the grounds of the acre for three months each year'. The plans are available for viewing at Headingley library.

While this may seem not much different from the University's use of the Acre in recent years as the venue for the graduation ceremony in early July, with the marquee being left up for the September Fresher Fair, perhaps it should be seen against the following perspective.

- Last year the University applied through an agent for permission to hold a range of commercial events potentially operating day and evening during three months in the summer. They also applied for a seven-day drinks license, operating to midnight on some days.
- During the past year the area has been seriously affected by the University's new 'traffic management' scheme which inflicted serious parking problems on local residents. Events during the summer months have the potential to push even more cars into residential areas.
- Recently the University has started construction of their new residential hall on the Beckett Park campus. As a result previously vacant parking spaces are being used for storage and management of this building work. This increases the necessity and likelihood of cars being parked in surrounding residential areas during any event, and these events could take place during both weekdays and weekends.



The WPRA view is that if permission is granted it should be for one year only and subject to undertakings to manage traffic and parking so that cars are not parked in residential streets. This would give local residents the chance to see how they are affected without being faced with a permanent problem every summer.

If you decide to submit an objection the Application Number is P/08/03184/FU and it needs to be in before 10th July. You can do it by email by following this link: www.leeds.gov.uk/publicaccess, or by letter to Planning Services, Leonardo Building, 2 Rossington Street, LEEDS LS2 8HD.

West Park Wine Walk

It seems impossible to select a warm and sunny day to hold the Wine Walk! The Walk on 1st June suffered from rain, but nevertheless was well attended with many acquaintances being renewed and new friendships formed.

Ever optimistic, we've fixed the date for next year's event as the second Sunday in June (14.6.09) - further details in due course.

STEP Summer Fair

This will be held at St Andrew's church hall on Butcher Hill on Saturday 26th July starting at 11 am and is in support of the Neighbourhood Network scheme for local residents who are over sixty.



North Parade Railings

These have now been installed, but with further modifications to come. The hope is that the railings will keep Lawnswood pupils on the main roads, and hence reduce the number of incidents of criminal damage to houses in the smaller streets nearby. The project was supported by Safer Leeds and by local councillors.

Ironically during the first day of installation, two windows were broken at the home of the WPRC Chair. The resulting visit to Bramley Glass the local glazier revealed that they have had quite a bit of trade over the years in the West Park area, courtesy of local school children.

Lawnswood School

WPRC met representatives of the school for one of a series of regular meetings on June 10th. The meeting was attended by the Head, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governors, the School Police Liaison officer and two local PCSOs.

- A new extended dining area should be in operation by September this year.
- The School has had staff on the Spenn Road gate at lunchtimes and patrolling the area near the Butcher Hill shops.
- There seem to have been fewer incidents during the past year than previously, but truancy is still an issue.

WPRC will continue having regular meetings

with the School and the next meeting is scheduled for 30.9.08. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact WPRC.

Parking

The Highways Department should be ready soon to draft proposals to 'resolve the parking problem' are released.



There will then be an opportunity for local residents to make comments and suggestions. No scheme will be introduced without prior public consultation.

Butcher Hill Fields

Things seem to have gone quiet on this at present. Before any planning application can be made, approval has to be sought from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, currently Ed Balls MP, who controls the sale or lease of School Playing Fields under section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Those interested in these proposals are advised to click on the link 'Butcher Hill PF' at <http://www.kirkstallward.net/>. This provides very comprehensive information about the proposals and the public consultation process that will have to take place before they can go ahead.

Kirkstall / Burley Forum

West Park covers both the Weetwood and Kirkstall electoral wards, and WPRC attends the Kirkstall / Burley Forum. The last meeting flagged up potential development plans for St Ann's mills, an historic industrial site just off Kirkstall Road, close to the Morrisons shopping complex.

Burglaries



Several houses in the area suffered break-ins over the last few months so please be alert to what may be happening to your neighbour's property. It is worthwhile alerting WPRC about such incidents as we can then warn members by email.

Joining WPRC is easy. Just send £3.00 plus name, address, phone number, email address if any, to WPRC Treasurer, 26 Ring Road, West Park, Leeds, LS16 6EJ.