

# The WEST PARK CHRONICLE

The Community Newspaper for West Park

May 2009

## **Wine Walk—21.6.09**

We plan to hold another Park Wine Walk on Sunday 21st June, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm.

As in previous years this will be an opportunity to

- Gossip over a glass of wine.
- Meet old friends and make new ones.
- Enjoy a leisurely walk between the participating homes.
- Celebrate our luck at living in such a pleasant part of Leeds.



We'll be circulating more details at the beginning of June—meanwhile please try to keep the date free and let's make the event a big success.

## **The Annual General Meeting**

This was held on 1st April 2009 at the West Park Centre and more than a hundred local residents attended, with apologies from thirty others. We were lucky to welcome representatives from Lawnswood School, the police, STEP, Spen Hill Residents Association and Moor grange Action Group.

### **Lawnswood School**

The Head, Milan Davidovic and Deputy Head, Sam Barrett, talked about the work of the school. Recent academic results have been very good, and the school has enjoyed several sporting successes, especially in rugby and badminton.



The Head appreciated the problems which the school children on occasion caused for local residents, and undertook to continue doing what was possible to remedy matters. He did feel that the number of "incidents" had declined thanks to changes they had made in the length of the school lunch period and to various other measures.

There were many questions from the floor, and a local resident and ex-teacher volunteered to attend future meeting between the school and WPRA.

Overall, the comments made by residents and the school were of a positive nature. The next meeting with the school will be on June 15<sup>th</sup>. If there are any specific issues residents wish to be raised, please contact WPRA.

### **Support The Elderly People (STEP)**

Wendy Moore, the co-coordinator of this local charity for the elderly, outlined the activities and work of STEP. Based at St Andrew's church on Butcher Hill, this non-religious charity, is becoming a social life-line to increasing numbers of local residents. Wendy encouraged all residents, young and old, to become involved either as a member or as a befriender of the many socially isolated elderly people in the area. (Her contact number is 2757988).



## Police

Members of the local policing team spoke about their work in the area, and encouraged residents to participate in the regular police consultancy meetings. These are held at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the West Park Centre and are aimed at helping the police to identify and respond to issues that concern local residents. The police also attend the STEP coffee mornings at St Andrew's church hall. (These are on the 2nd Thursday in the month, 10-12 am, but best to ring STEP on 2757988 to check what time the police will arrive).

## Greg Mulholland MP

Greg spoke briefly to the meeting and thanked the Association for their work in the area. He encouraged residents, and WPRAs, to continue to bring issues and concerns to his attention. He concluded by expressing his support for West Park Centre, the venue for the AGM, and for West Park Fields (see below).

## West Park Centre



Following concerns expressed by local residents' associations, the Executive Board of the Council had commissioned a survey of the Centre. This will look at existing and future usage, maintenance, refurbishment and running costs. Consultation is promised between users and the local councilors for Weetwood and Kirkstall and is expected to report back within six months.

Assurances have been given by council leaders that the Fields would not be included in any development. The Fields were "protected" by various designations (N8 Urban Green corridor & N1 Greenspace).

Although the Centre is "safe" for the present, there are still question marks over its future. The view of WPRAs is that the Centre has the potential to play a much greater role than at present in serving the needs of the local community, both for the young and the old. The accessibility of the Centre and its unique facilities give it the potential for a city-wide role. Facilities could be further developed and enhanced for the benefit of Leeds as a whole. The meeting agreed that the Centre should continue to serve community needs and that the Association should continue to work to ensure that this happened.

## West Park Fields

Residents were reminded about the annual litter pick, which has since taken place and was well supported by local residents.

## Parking

Brief details were presented of the Resident's Parking scheme being proposed for the area adjacent to the Leeds Metropolitan campus on Beckett Park. Formal details have since been circulated to the area affected and WPRAs has circulated that area encouraging residents to respond to the scheme being suggested.



The meeting recognized the damage being done to the area by the University's overspill parking, and unanimously asked WPRAs to make vigorous representation to the University.



WPRAs wishes to thank members for their continued support and willingness to respond to issues affecting West Park as a whole. The ability of the Association to get others to listen depends on everyone continuing to be vigilant and being prepared to respond to issues collectively.

*Thanks for re-subscribing for 2009. For anyone who's not yet done so there's a subscription form with this Chronicle.*