

The WEST PARK CHRONICLE

The Community Newspaper for West Park

Spring 2019

www.westparkresidents.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

Monday 25th March — 7:00 pm — Lawnswood School

In the main hall of Lawnswood School

WPRA is pleased to accept the kind offer from the staff and pupils to hold the AGM at the school. Plenty of car parking—please use the access from Otley Road (just before the roundabout).

If you can't be there but want to make a comment, please email

westpark.residents@ntlworld.com.

Agenda items include: election of WPRA committee; local traffic and parking; feedback from the Leeds Beckett University survey; report from Friends of West Park fields; and an opportunity to raise any issues with your local councilors.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.



What's been happening during the past year?

Lawnswood Roundabout

The Connecting Leeds consultation has put forward proposals for traffic improvements across the Leeds area, considering how best to spend the £173.5 million originally earmarked for the NGT Trolley Bus scheme. This package of measures features new and enhanced Park & Ride services, and authorises further work on the integrated bus measures along five key bus corridors across the city with the aim of doubling bus patronage within 10 years.

For North West Leeds the consultation concerns Otley Road, Lawnswood roundabout, Otley Old Road and the A660 from Lawnswood roundabout to Adel. It involves setting up bus lanes on Otley Old Road and the A660 out to Adel, and replacing Lawnswood roundabout by a traffic light controlled junction.

Given the significant changes to the Lawnswood junction, which is currently an attractively-planted roundabout, and the possible loss of grass verge a group of concerned residents have been active in challenging these proposals. A deputation has been to Leeds City Council, discussions held with the project's highway consultants, and alternative proposals have been put forward.

It is claimed that the Lawnswood junction improvement will deliver:

- Improved road safety, particularly for cyclists and pedestrian
- More reliable bus services through the junction
- Quicker bus journeys, particularly in future years when traffic levels will have increased. Reduced congestion and improved general traffic flow. Over 60,000 vehicles use the junction each day.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

- A contribution to a more resilient highway network which can be managed intelligently and efficiently. The scheme will complement the recent introduction of signal controls at several other Outer Ring Road junctions.

Road safety is not an issue, but the loss of trees adjacent to the proposed junction and the general appearance of the junction are genuine concerns. It is also not obvious that the proposals will improve bus times significantly on Otley Road. The emphasis seems to be more on traffic flow on the Ring Road.

Representatives of the Roundabout Group will be in attendance at the AGM to outline their views about the current proposals and to suggest alternative plans which deserve consideration.

Local Traffic

There is general concern by residents about a range of traffic-related issues in West Park, including speeding, increased traffic and on-street parking, and the general state of many streets.

The introduction of 20 mph speed restrictions and speed humps on Spen Road and West Park Drive have put pressure on other streets, such as Arncliffe Road and West Parade.

Parking connected with Leeds Beckett University remains problematic, and so does traffic caused by people taking children to and from St. Chad's school by car.

A representative from LCC Highways will be attending the AGM to discuss these issues.

Leeds Beckett University Parking Survey

A regular series of lunchtime meetings with the Vice-Chancellor and his staff includes representatives from local resident associations and local councillors. The meetings are to allow an exchange of views about issues affecting the relationship between the local community and the University. One of the issues discussed has been on-street parking, and this resulted in a parking survey carried out by the University. There seems to be a genuine desire by the Vice-chancellor, Professor Peter Slee, to ameliorate the impact of on-street parking within the constraints of planning regulations, Council policy, financial costs, and approval by residents. The AGM will bring residents up to date with this issue.

Play Area

A meeting was held by LCC Parks Department with Councillors from the Weetwood and Kirkstall Wards on 22nd January 2019 and it was agreed in principle that a play area on West Park Fields near Spen Lane would be jointly funded. The timing depends on when all the necessary funds will be available to the Council. There will then be a full consultation with local residents and young people, in both wards about the precise location of the play area and the type of play facilities to be provided.

Benches

Two of the wooden 'ranger' benches on the fields are being replaced by the Conservation Volunteers (TCV) based at Hollybush, Kirkstall. The Friends of West Park Fields are part of the Residents Association and are members of their Community Network.

Other Matters

The Parks Department has undertaken work to improve the path in front of the seat at the Orchard. Further bulbs were planted in the autumn near the entrance to St. Chad's School

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

on Northholme Ave and on the orchard site. The fields are host to the annual Bands-in-the-Park Summer event, cross-country running, and football matches with Kirkstall Crusaders and Old Centralians.

The North West Leeds Transport Forum

NWLTF is a consortium of Residents Associations which cover the areas of West Park, Weetwood, Drummond and Churchwood, Beckett Park, Far Headingley and North Hyde Park. It was formed to review the New Generation Transport proposals for a trolley bus system on the A660, Otley Road, in 2014 - 2015. Indeed it played a major role in the Public Enquiry leading to the subsequent rejection of the scheme.

Possibly less well known is the extent to which NWLTF lobbied for the £173.5 million earmarked for the trolley bus system to remain with Leeds to improve its transport system. These funds form the basis for the Connecting Leeds work currently being consulted and worked on. NWLTF has continued to meet and submitted comments and ideas for improving traffic flow on the A660.

Leeds Bradford Airport

In 2017 consultations were carried out by Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA) for changes to their flight paths. These would affect the area which falls under the flight paths to the south and east of the airport. NWLTF has been in contact with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) with regard to the consultation process and the effect of the proposals on north west Leeds.

Although all NWLTF member resident associations are affected by aircraft noise and, according to noise contour maps produced by LBA, are likely to be even more seriously affected if the planned changes come into effect, none were involved formally in the consultations in 2017. As a result most residents were completely unaware of the proposed changes to flight paths. Those few who were aware and tried to read the airport's documentation found it largely incomprehensible.

On behalf of local residents' associations, NWLTF has asked for the LBA proposals which are currently being considered by the CAA, to be rejected. Speakers at the AGM will give a fuller account of the situation.

West Park Fields Litter Pick—Volunteers Needed

As in previous years, Tony Ray is organising a litter pick on West Park Fields to clear rubbish that's accumulated since the last event in March 2018. The main aim is to collect unsightly rubbish that will otherwise be blown into the hedgerows.

The more people that turn up to help, the easier it becomes, so please come and join in if you can. Litter picking tools and bags borrowed from the Council will be provided, but please remember to bring your own protective gloves and wear suitable footwear.

This year volunteers are asked to meet at 2.30 pm on Sunday 17th March at the entrance to the orchard on Kepstorn Road. (*Note: These details have changed from previous years*).

All volunteers welcome. The picture show part of the litter collected last year.



The Old Centralians AFC

Many residents will have seen the Centralians, playing in their distinctive red and white striped shirts on Saturday afternoons (unless the West Park field pitches are flooded!). They have contacted WPRA to join in the Annual Litter Pick and have held discussions about how they can have greater involvement with the West Park community.



Old Centralians AFC are one of the oldest amateur football clubs in Leeds and proud to call West Park their home. Formed in 1925 as a founding member of the Yorkshire Amateur League, the 'Cents' run adult teams of varying levels. Old Centralians welcomes any involvement from the community in the club. If you are looking for some free entertainment on a Saturday please go down and watch from the sidelines, the players would appreciate any support they can get.

Don't Forget

- **Monday 25th March 2019, 7pm AGM at Lawnswood School**
- **Subscriptions are now due for 2019 / 2020 (form below)**
- **The annual subscription is still only £5 per household.**

Thank you for your support during the past year and your help in providing a voice for the issues that affect our community.



How to Join or Renew WPRA

Membership costs £5 *per household* and covers from one AGM to the next (April to April). Please pay at the AGM, or by mailing your cheque with this form to WPRA, 26 Ring Road, West Park, Leeds, LS16 6EJ, or by dropping off your envelope at 10 Caythorpe Road or 24 North Parade.

*Please make cheques payable to: **Spenn Lane and West Park Residents Association**. If you need a receipt, please enclose a stamped and addressed envelope.*

I/We enclose £5, as my/our subscription to WPRA for the period April 2019 to April 2020.

Name:

Phone (see note):

Address and postcode

Email Address (see note):

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 emailinglist@westparkresidents.org.uk. More details at <https://www.westparkresidents.org.uk/docs/misc/dataprotection.pdf>.