

WEST PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER Summer 2005

The Association first met in January 1991, with a membership of less than 30 including Hilary Adolfson as one of the founding members. Amongst the issues discussed was concern over traffic in the area, litter from the (then) two schools and concerns over plans to sell off the West Park school. 14 years on many of the issues still seem to be much the same, and you will be pleased to know Hilary is still a member of the Association. However, today membership stands at over 150.

The objectives of the West Park Residents Association (WPRA) still remain the same **“to maintain and improve the environment and amenities of the West Park area of Leeds, to represent the view of residents, and to take action to prevent any deterioration in living conditions in the area”** with the proviso that “the Association shall be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion”.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting held in the Spen Lane United Reform church at the beginning of April was very well attended supported by the local councillors, the (then) prospective parliamentary candidates and members of the local police team.

It is heartening that the Association has the support of so many households in the West Park area. Support, which helps to ensure that news of any proposed changes or planning developments can be acted upon. **The importance of the WPRA lies in the eyes and ears of the local residents.** This is likely to become more important in the future, given the growing trend to convert houses into flats for rent !

Local residents, have in the past year, been involved in:

Maintaining a watching brief through Spawforth Planning Consultants on any possible developments associated with the Bodington Playing Fields.

The STEP programme (“Supporting The Elderly People”) which recently received the support of Leeds City Council.

The High Multiple Occupancy (HMO) lobby associated with the licensing of houses with 3 or more residents who are not a single family.

ASHORE (Area of Student Housing Restraint) part of the new Leeds UDP for trying to avoid the student accommodation issue faced in Headingley.

Lawnswood School liaison meetings involving residents and police to review issues associated with the behaviour of school children. There is now a local resident on the School's Board of Governors.

The Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park "Neighbour Design Statement" – an important document which sets out to define the characteristics of the West Park areas. This has been accepted by the Council, and is considered as providing definitive design and planning guidance for residents and, most importantly, developers.

There has also been coordinated lobbying in respect of objections to local planning developments, involving amongst others, properties on Arncliffe Road, Spen Road, Spen Lane, Otley Road, Ashleigh Road and Butcher Hill.

REMEMBER THE MORE RESIDENTS THAT WRITE IN CONCERNING PLANNING DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, THE MORE LIKELY IT IS THAT OUR AREA WILL REMAIN A BETTER ENVIRONMENT TO LIVE IN – BE IT NEXT DOOR OR SEVERAL STREETS AWAY.

CONTACT DETAILS:

WEST PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Secretary

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EMAIL has provided an effective and fast mechanism for members of the Association to pass on information and encourage members to send in objections to developments which are detrimental to the area. If you've recently ventured into the "virtual world" and want to join the Association's e-mailing list, please email **westpra@btinternet.com**

POLICE

The West Park area is now policed through Belle Vue Road, our neighbourhood police team is:

LOCAL COUNCILLORS: