

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

October 2016: Issue 60

After a Summer enjoying the Waterside public spaces, we now need a bit of help to improve and enhance. As a resident, you have responsibility for bushes and branches that overhang the public footpath from your property – please cut them back now so we can all use the pavement. We have a badger problem - food waste bins are very appealing and must be kept out of reach! Also bags of rubbish and glass that have been left scattered on the paths and road. It may not be your litter, but if no one picks it up it will not go away. Please be a Good Neighbour and help keep Waterside beautiful.

Waterside Diary Dates

Bulb Planting around Waterside



Join us on Friday 28th October at 10 am in Merrivale Square to plant some more spring and summer bulbs/corms around Waterside



Hallowe'en Party Monday 31st October

Hallowe'en falls on a schoolday, but we still plan lots of spooky fun. First a chocolate frog hunt in Merrivale Square at **5.30pm - please bring torches as it will be dark by then!** We will have prizes for the best costume for age 4 & under, age 6 & under, age 8 & under and 9+....and then we will all disappear to go and Trick or Treat. Pumpkin prizes will be judged outside houses between **6 and 7pm** and the winner will be posted on Facebook! Tell owra.owmc@gmail.com if you're coming so we have enough frogs! Thanks again to Penny and Sinclair for sponsoring our festivities.



Christmas Carols

No date has been fixed yet, but look out for flyers nearer the time.

Bike Thefts

As students return to Oxford, their insatiable appetite for bikes has to be fed. The gangs and individuals who need 'stock' have previously found some very nice merchandise in Waterside. Keep your bikes locked up, out of sight if possible, but with a good stout D lock if in the open. You can register your bike for free with <http://www.immobilise.com> which helps the Police find you if it is recovered...

Network Rail – action needed by 2nd Nov

For section I/1, which runs north from Aristotle Bridge, past the back of Phil & Jim, they have resubmitted application **16/02509/CND** for removal of mitigation relating to rail damping, monitoring and restricting the passage of trains. If you and your children may be affected go to www.oxford.gov.uk planning section and search for the application number to comment.

Graffiti

We have previously reported Management Company plans to buy and operate our own graffiti removal equipment. However, because of concerted and informed action by all parties (including liaison with Waterside) the problem has substantially subsided:

- Some of the serial offenders are now behind bars
- There are now provisions for graffiti indulgence on walls that the council have provided across the city. This has really worked surprisingly well.
- The hot spot going down to the Aristotle Lane Rec appears to have been sorted by our planting with native hedging, and this will continue on accessible fences within Waterside this Autumn.

Finally, after some difficulties getting action over utility boxes, the Thames Water box has had its first coat of paint !

If you do notice new graffiti, the number to call is 01865 249811, or www.oxford.gov.uk/graffiti The budget is still there and money available if the problem re-surfaces.

TRAIN UPDATE

The latest on the trains

The Waterside train group is seeking new members so, if anyone would like to join, you would be most welcome; contact us via owra.owmc@gmail.com. The group, which only meets occasionally, is probably a couple of people short.

Given where we are with all the latest track developments, and the experiences of residents further north, our priorities are as follows:

- “Silent Track”: All residents’ groups want Network Rail to install this state-of-the-art system which reduces considerably train noise at track level. The issue is with the appropriate planning committee at present and we have asked our Councillors to support the idea (which they do).
- Speed limits: Network Rail wants to increase the speed of all trains – both passenger and freight – but as higher speeds increase noise and vibration, we are lobbying to retain extant limits. The key issue for us is night speeds.
- Tree-planting: We are lobbying Network Rail to provide funding to enable us to plant good sized trees along the land adjacent to Waterside west. While not as effective as acoustic barriers, they would be more attractive and would be substantially higher, assuming we plant the right trees.
- We are also seeking a meeting with the new Transport Minister.

New Resident?

Contact Kay for a Welcome Pack full of useful Waterside information

If you email us on owra.owmc@gmail.com we will add you to the mailing list for circulation of relevant useful information. People on the list get this Newsletter by email – get on it now!

If new neighbours have arrived in the past few months let us know - so we can help get them engaged with the Waterside life.

GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

It is almost two decades since the Waterside Estate was first planted with shrubs and trees to create the beautiful space we live in today. Beauty needs maintenance, and the Oxford Waterside Management Company have decided to thoroughly review and update management of the estate common areas with a view to the future.

They will be inviting contractors to tender plans to both carry out improvements and routine maintenance, to ensure we can enjoy an even better environment in the future.

We also have residents who are voluntarily helping to improve the appearance of the estate throughout the year; planting native hedging along wooden fences; planting bulbs and corms where they can give maximum enjoyment, and working in areas where the contract gardeners cannot put in the time, these activities are greatly valued, and will continue.

Our Waterside defibrillator

Look out for the equipment that has been installed on the garage next to 43 The Crescent, thanks to a grant from SSSE and the support of resident Mike Ward. Several really interesting familiarisation sessions have been run, there is still space available for the free 90 minute session on Monday 24th October at 09:30 am in St Margaret’s Institute.

Contact owra.owmc@gmail.com to bag a place, or show interest in some more evening sessions.

Your OWRA committee

New members always welcome!

Kay Gordon (Chair), 10 Merrivale Sq. 420532
Patrick Kershaw (Treasurer), 11 Merrivale Sq. 311146

Emma Dadson, 47 Plater Drive. 460136
John Krebs, 24 Balliol Court. 435255

Sarah Munro, 9 The Villas. 580650

Helen Saunders-Gill, 50 Balliol Court. 515547