

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

February 2017: Issue 61

A fairly serious newsletter to start the year: Crime prevention, Network Rail intransigence, and planning for 2017 events. Watch out for our new gardening team on a Monday!

Waterside Diary Dates

OxClean on Saturday March 4th

Join us in Merrivale Square at 10am to clear up the Winter's debris and litter and make Waterside beautiful for your enjoyment.



Easter Egg Hunt is at 10am on EASTER SUNDAY 16th April

Parents are invited to hide 10 eggs in Merrivale Square for each of their participating children by 9.30am (foil covered eggs, or mini eggs/stickers/sweets in a plastic kinder egg style plastic shell) so that there will be enough eggs for all children.

Feel free to bring potluck/brunch/cake goodies.

Summer Sports Day and BBQ Saturday 10th June

This year might see the centenary of the Russian Revolution and the 25th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty, but the big date is 10th June, which is the 6th annual Waterside Sports Day and BBQ. That's a real milestone to be marked. So please note the date in your diary and look out for future news about the event. We need lots of helpers to spread the burden. Put your name down now by emailing owra.owmc@gmail.com.

More defibrillator training?

We hope you have noticed the illuminated defibrillator on the end of The Crescent garages.

If you can access this when someone has a cardiac arrest it can save their life.

As not everyone was able to attend the excellent free familiarisation sessions held last year, Mike Ward can arrange some more.

Contact him on michael.ward@ndcn.ox.ac.uk

TRAIN UPDATE

The Waterside Rail Group has been very active in the past few months, working to understand the implications of rail developments, especially the East West Rail Phase 1, for Waterside residents.

There have been several individual meetings between Rail Group members and Oxford City Council senior officers; the Leader of the Council and senior staff; and MP Nicola Blackwood, with Chris Grayling's Rail Minister, Paul Maynard,

The nub of our concern is that Network Rail has no plans to implement sound and vibration mitigation measures in section I2, which is the part of the track adjacent to Waterside, running south of Aristotle Lane to the train station. Network Rail's argument is that no new track has been laid in this section and that therefore no additional measures are required because it is 'permitted development'. Furthermore, the noise levels in section I2 are already high and therefore the incremental noise from additional trains is not significant enough to warrant mitigation.

Applications **16/02507/CND** and **16/02509/CND** from Network Rail/Chiltern Rail relate to section I1 and planning restrictions imposed by the City Council at an earlier stage, limiting the number of train movements per hour and requiring the installation of 'silent track'. The applications seek to remove these requirements on the grounds that they are either unlawful or not cost effective.

The Council will consider the applications on February 21, so there is still time for residents to submit an objection, 4 Waterside residents have done so to date (**search for the application numbers**). On behalf of OWMC, planning consultant Trevor Brown (formerly of SODC), has produced reviews of past planning history, and the two current applications, with **proposals on comments**. These large files and associated documents are available on request from owra.owmc@gmail.com

Discussions with our Local Police Community Support Officer

Waterside Facebook page has been buzzing with concerns about crime recently – cars, bikes and trailers have been targeted. To try to understand if we were being targeted or just caught up in a local crime wave, and what we could do to prevent problems a group of residents posed some questions to PCSO Claire Bonneville, who may be seen passing through on her bike as she patrols the area.

Q. Is Waterside suffering from more crime than other local areas?

No, there has recently been an increase in crime locally, but Waterside has not been unusual. Burglaries are very rare in Waterside but casual theft of unlocked or accessible cars and stealing of unlocked or valuable locked bikes is an issue.

Q. Could we put up CCTV to help reduce and detect crime?

CCTV cannot legally be used by private individuals looking onto public roads or other persons' property, Although CCTV can be used in well-lit areas to identify offenders it requires very good lighting, so coverage of Waterside private car parks could not be recommended.

The use of dummy CCTV is highly effective in deterring crime, combined with visible notices and appropriate motion sensitive lights.

Q. How does Neighbourhood Watch work?

On individual acts as the contact person with the local force to share useful information, and all neighbours keep an eye out for any suspicious activity. If you register to join the Neighbourhood Watch scheme you should prominently display a notice on your property and also look 'nosey' when strangers are around. The biggest deterrent to crime is being noticed.

Q. Having looked around Waterside are there any specific measures we could all adopt?

- Put 2 locks on bikes and anchor to a fixed point.
- Don't store bins where they can provide a support to climb over fences.
- Lock back gates and sheds.
- Cut back shrubs so doors and gates are visible.
- Put a bright motion sensor light over car parks and gates.

Q. What do I do if I see someone behaving suspiciously in the area?

If you think a person is likely to be doing something criminal, call 999. The information the Police need is direction of travel, appearance and description of your concern.

Non-urgent issues can be communicated to the local Police by using 101.

The Management Committee will be considering the proposals for dummy CCTV and signage, OWRA will be looking into a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Waterside. If you are not on our email list enrol now so you get information fast.

owra.owmc@gmail.com

GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

The Waterside grounds have been maintained by the University Parks Dept for the last 10 years, during which time the original plantings have matured and developed enormously.

It was felt that a fresh eye was needed to ensure this wonderful asset continued to thrive and delight, so in the Autumn the Management Board asked for tenders by contractors to maintain and improve the grounds.

Following that process, and supported by our positive experience over the replanting of Rutherway trees, Nicholsons have been chosen to be our new contractor. They start at the beginning of February and will be working with 3 people on site on a Monday (except Bank Holidays). Any comments you may have on the gardening can continue to be passed to Mary Ann Dale on madaleoxford@gmail.com

Commemorative trees will be planted in the Spinney on 14th Feb at 11am and, during February, hedging along new fences in Waterside to deter graffiti and enhance wildlife habitats (email us to if you would like to help plant the hedges).

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

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