

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

September 2020: Issue 72

School's back, time to start participating in Waterside Life again!

*You all did a fabulous job responding to the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Bus Gates consultation, and 59 of you rapidly completing our questionnaire on Waterside views/issues. Our current concern is about the proposed permanent closure of Walton Street to through traffic, as well as for the Bus gates. We all share a common vision to reduce pollution and increase cycle/pedestrian safety in Jericho while ensuring that those who need to travel are able to do so but it is a complex situation, so a small but active group have been investigating on your behalf. As we could not hold our Annual General Meeting in the traditional manner, we present the 2019 - 2020 State of the Nation/Accounts for your perusal overleaf and propose a Zoom meeting on **Tuesday October 13th at 7pm** to enact our formal business. Email us to join the zoom..... You can find the minutes of last year's AGM on our website under the Newsletter section.*

Bus Gates and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, what is going on?

- Through residents and business efforts a consultation was instigated on proposed bus gates in central Oxford, in the Worcester St & Long Wall St areas. This leaves North Oxford with just North exits for vehicles. Over 7000 responses were made and a group of Watersiders also zoomed with the transport planners to explain our issues. The Bus Gates were initially part of the major OCC initiative called 'Connecting Oxfordshire', aimed at reducing car use and encouraging 'active travel' and better public transport usage. These will be implemented under an experimental traffic order, much like the Walton Street closure. The OCC Cabinet will meet on October 13th to review and make a decision on the temporary bus gates. This has powerful political support, money allocated and is likely to go ahead.
- If we are to have bus gates an exemption for local residents based on number plate recognition is possible (known for parking permit holders). You will need to agitate for urgent identification of our cars. At this point it is not yet clear if (a) Waterside residents will be included in those who qualify for an exemption (b) that the exemption will be 24/7 or only for a limited timed period (c) the bus gates and the LTN are being considered in conjunction although they are separate initiatives.
- The Jericho Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) proposal is chasing govt Covid money, which should be decided in mid September. There should be consultation before anything happens, but any money obtained will have to be spent by March 2021, so time may be limited for proper consideration.
- The LTN pedestrianisation of Walton Street is not supported by most independent traders in Jericho. They have suffered severe drops in trade following the road closure, with Covid signing the death knell for several. Councillor Constance has rejected advice to reopen Walton Street in August, so the closure continues until a Low Traffic Neighbourhood Plan for Jericho is designed and funded or abandoned.
- Most of our essential motor traffic used to go South down commercial Walton Street. We now have to drive through residential Walton Manor, inflicting our traffic/pollution on many more families.
- Through investigating the processes for consultation and complaints we have discovered that repeated complaints carry more weight than single complaints or comments and that surveys or petitions from groups are disregarded because of potential double accounting. So, whatever your standpoint, you as an individual must make your voice known. Many Watersiders have approached their Councillors and MP directly but been unable to get any assurance that their concerns are being heard/considered. We shall continue to seek to share your concerns with the Council, and let you know deadlines/decisions.

For more information go to: www.reconnectingoxford.weebly.com

www.jerichoconnections.weebly.com www.jericholtn.org www.Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association AGM 2020

AGENDA 2020

7pm Tuesday 13th October 2020

To participate in the web event please email
owra.owmc@gmail.com

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approve minutes of the 2018 AGM see www.OxfordWaterside.co.uk/newsletter
4. Report of the Committee on its actions in the past year (see right)
5. Chairman's Statement
6. Annual accounts (see below)
7. Subscription for 2021
8. Election of the Committee
9. Issues raised from the floor
10. Close

OWRA Income and Expenditure Statement 2019/2020

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership fees/donations	480.00	Admin & AGM costs	261.68
		Social & amenities	392.83
BBQ Surplus	366.80	SeeSaw charity	300.00
Total	846.80		954.51

Balance Brought Forward 01/04/19	1184.30
Payments In	846.80
Payments Out	954.51
Carried Forward Reconciled balance as at 06/04/20	1076.59
Total Subscriptions:	85

We weren't able to hold the BBQ or sports day in 2020, but that event is generally self-sustaining (with any profits going to charity) so we haven't been impacted financially as a residents' association by COVID.

Thanks also to everyone who has continued to renew their memberships!

Jen Watkiss, OWRA Treasurer for 2019/2020

Report of the OWRA Committee

June 2019 - May 2020

Overall Strategy

Maintenance of the wonderful Waterside community spirit continues to be our aim. During lockdown, the ability to contact and support each other was demonstrated in many acts of neighbourliness, as we all connected much more and found new friends and helpers.

Your Committee: We welcomed Sam Mahoney onto the team, full of ideas for engaging with young Watersiders.

Waterside Events: The impact of lockdown and the subsequent changes in our socialisation has had little impact during this reporting year, as most were in the summer of 2019.

The **Sports Day and BBQ 2019** was well attended by residents and friends and made £300 for our local child bereavement charity **Seesaw**. We should also thank **Penny & Sinclair** for their generous **Sponsorship** of the Bouncy Castle at the Sports Day.

The **International Picnic** hosted by Richard and Ying Groves in September was greatly appreciated by all attendees.

The Hallowe'en Party was transformed into a **Christmas get together**, superbly managed by Sam Mahony and her team of helpers.

Waterside Communications:

The closed **Oxford Waterside Facebook group** has over 150 resident members and is highly recommended.

The website continues to act as our archive and source of information.

Welcome packs are constantly revised and sent to new residents, but you need to advise us of newcomers so we can make sure they are made welcome in a timely manner.

Our **Email** list reaches over 120 households, but is used sparingly for important issues.

Noticeboards continue to support local organisations, ably managed by Sarah Munro and Sheila Forbes.

A special thank you to all the **LOCKDOWN WATERERS** who saved the new plants by watering thoroughly throughout!