

Neighbourhood News



from the Bell Tower Community Association

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www.bell-tower.org.uk



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Cow Lane bridge widening to begin in 2017

It has been announced that widening of Cow Lane railway bridge will start this year.

Network Rail has confirmed the project will go ahead after the Reading Festival, although it first has to go through a procurement process to find a contractor.



BOTTLENECK: Cow Lane railway bridge

The long-planned new road was delayed after one business objected to the compulsory purchase order for land alongside the existing road. The business eventually dropped its objection but the delay meant the original contractor for the job – the firm that built the new rail viaduct into Reading Station – had moved away from the area.

The new road will be wide enough for two-way traffic, high enough for double-decker buses and lorries and there will be a shared pedestrian and cycle path.

The Bell Tower Community Association is particularly concerned that turning Cow Lane and Richfield Avenue into a main road will cause traffic problems in our area, with increased rat-running through the industrial estate as traffic is more likely to back up along Richfield Avenue in peak hours. The association believes that a way should ideally be found to close the industrial estate to through traffic. This has not been realistic

up to now because of the need for lorries to access the former Cox & Wyman site in Cardiff Road.

However, it is likely that the site will be redeveloped in the next few years and the current tenants, a film set storage company, are only using the Meadow Road entrance at present. This could offer the possibility of closing Meadow Road and Milford Road to through traffic.

Bell Tower representatives will be meeting with Cllr Tony Page on the evening of Wednesday 22 March to discuss traffic plans for the area and get an update on likely developments for the former Cox & Wyman site - at this stage we believe that a housing development on the site is possible and of course will hope to work closely with the council to ensure that any development is appropriate for the area.

If you are interested in attending the meeting with Cllr Page please contact us in advance at info@bell-tower.org.uk or phone Jonathan Dart on 07982 130160.

David Neale

Bell Tower
Community Association

Bringing local people together

Save the date!

PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 29 March 7.30pm
New Hope Centre

Come and find out about our activities and plans for next year. All welcome - guest speaker TBA. This event will include the Bell Tower Community Association's AGM.

The street party's back!

Saturday 17 June



We are pleased to announce the date for our street party this year - Saturday 17 June - and we hope to hold it in Newport Road again if residents agree. As in previous years we are choosing the Big Lunch weekend because this is our opportunity to apply for a street closure without having to pay the usual fee.

We had live music for the first time at last year's street party, along with a drumming workshop that many people enjoyed. We hope to have more live music this year, along with another music workshop, and are still looking for more musicians that would like to join us and perhaps play on the day - please get in touch if you are interested.

Would you like to help us? We always need extra helpers, whether it's for putting up bunting, setting up the tables, organising activities - whatever you can help with we'd be delighted to hear from you. If you'd like to set up a small stall that would be great too - we just ask for a small donation if you are a commercial organisation.

If you would like to help or have any suggestions please contact David on 07890 118167 or by email at david@bell-tower.org.uk.

Foundry Quarter development announced

Plans for a £120m redevelopment of the Wickes and Iceland sites in Reading town centre have recently been unveiled.

The site is at the centre of the proposed development of 429 homes and shops, public space and walkways by Crossmark Developments on behalf of Ropemaker Properties.



BRAND NEW: An artist's impression of the Foundry Quarter development

An exhibition at Greyfriars Church on Thursday 9 February showed artist's impressions of the planned transformation of run-down units on Weldale Street into the Foundry Quarter. Plenty of landscaping is featured, which we hope will give the development a reasonable amount of green space.

Although the new development is close to our area it will probably not be visible, and we understand that it will certainly not appear as high as the blocks at Chatham Place.

It's time to get growing!



We are pleased to announce that our gardening competition is back. This year the focus will be on hanging baskets or window boxes, with cash prizes for the winners. Now is the time to get started on your front garden - entry forms will be available soon, and the competition will be judged in early July. Please contact Barbara on 0118 950 7685 for more details and to register your interest.

Got something that needs fixing?

We can help you!



Repair Café

Saturday 22 April 12.00-4.30pm

New Hope Centre

ALL WELCOME

News in brief

- Reading Borough Council is making good progress in its investigation of the statutory nuisance it is satisfied is being caused to Cardiff Road residents and we are expecting significant developments soon.

Bell Tower has also been in touch with rail minister Paul Maynard via Reading East MP Rob Wilson to see if central government might be willing to put pressure on Network Rail and Great Western to achieve a solution, but his response to date has been far from encouraging. We are hoping that it will soon be possible for action to be taken to reduce the noise from the depot.

- Our next Pensioners' Lunch will be on Thursday 30 March at 12.30pm at the Standard Tandoori. For details and to book please contact Barbara at 77 Addison Road, telephone 0118 950 7685.

- We are hoping to organise a Saturday lunchtime 'cook-in' session at the Standard Tandoori soon - participants can order a meal and watch it being cooked in the restaurant's kitchen. Places will be limited - please phone Richard on 0118 950 8761 for details.

- Finally, we have been busy redesigning our website, which has been completely rebuilt. The new site is designed to make it much easier to add news stories and to help us all keep up with the latest developments in our area as they happen. We can also now have multiple contributors - please email david@bell-tower.org.uk for details.

The site is still at the same address: www.bell-tower.org.uk.



We can now mix any



colour for you

**0118
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