

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

Issue 48 - June 2017



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Look out for new developments!



COMING SOON: the council's map of our area as shown in the draft Local Plan (left) showing a development on the Cox & Wyman site (right)

Reading Borough Council has been developing plans to help guide future developments up to 2036. The plans set out how the council will tackle the need for substantial new development over the next two decades, including up to 700 new homes each year.

The former Cox & Wyman works in Cardiff Road is included in the plan (labelled WR3a on the map), with a proposal for between 70 and 110 new homes on the site. Included for the first time is the area incorporating the Manrose Manufacturing factory in Meadow Road and the Ayres Removals site at the end of Ross Road (WR3b), which is also earmarked for housing. There is also a proposal for more housing in Richfield Avenue (WR3c).

Residents met local councillors in March for an update on the Cox & Wyman site. The proposal under discussion at the moment has terraced houses along Addison Road, set back to retain the protected trees, and further terraces in Cardiff Road. There would be taller buildings towards Meadow Road and some

public green space such as a park within the development.

It is now known that Manrose will be leaving their Meadow Road works within the next year, and that the company is planning to combine both its sites, in Reading and Slough, into a new factory to the east of Reading.

The new draft Local Plan also confirms the council's intention to close Meadow Road and Milford Road to through traffic. This could happen when the Manrose site is vacated, and in principle the Bell Tower Community Association favours this as it will stop rat-running through the area. Closure of the area to through traffic will be particularly important when Cow Lane bridges are completed, creating more traffic along Richfield Avenue.

The council is looking for comments on the proposals – the complete draft plan, supporting documents and instructions for giving feedback can be found at www.reading.gov.uk/newlocalplan.

The deadline for comments is 5.00pm on Wednesday 14 June.

David Neale



www.bell-tower.org.uk
Bell Tower
Community
Association

bringing local
people together

6th annual

NEWPORT ROAD

STREET PARTY

Saturday 17 June
1.00pm onwards

LIVE MUSIC – GAMES – QUIZ – BARBECUE
COURTESY OF THE MODERATION – BRING
YOUR OWN FOOD TO SHARE IF YOU LIKE
– CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES
– AND MUCH MORE!

All welcome - just turn up
and have fun!



JOIN US NOW

for only £1 per person per year. Don't forget members can claim some great discounts from local businesses!

Discounts available include Drews Ironmongers, Reading Drive-In, the Crowne Plaza and the Standard Tandoori.

You can join by contacting Jonathan Dart at 68 Addison Road, phone 07982 130360.

Bell Tower's progress

When we started Bell Tower 12 years ago, we wanted to develop a feeling of community where people belonged rather than being an anonymous person staying in a house. As we wrote our constitution we wanted an area where people wanted to live in a friendly, safer, cleaner environment; in other words, we cared about people and the area.

With your help we are achieving this - in fact we have won two awards, one for friendliness and another for cleanness (removing the graffiti from buildings and walls).

We organise quizzes, barbecues, walks, street parties, and the annual Big Skip clean-up.

E P Collier School had a 'wish list': help with organising their library, providing knitting needles and someone to teach children how to knit, and percussion instruments.

To protect the area we developed a flood plan, which fortunately we have not needed to implement. To keep you informed we produce the quarterly Neighbourhood News, delivered to every house and business in our area by a team of volunteers. Do you know your road delivery person? Would you like to write a piece for our newsletter?

Through our work and reputation local businesses support us and our events such as the special pensioners' lunch group at the Standard Tandoori, and some businesses give us discounts. Do you know about and use our discount scheme?

Next time - how we protest for the community.

Barbara Kendall

The end of Papa Gee's?

Plans to convert the Rainbows Lodge in Caversham Road into a super-budget easyHotel have been submitted to Reading Borough Council. The hotel would have 53 rooms, some of them windowless, and the existing Papa Gee's restaurant would be converted into rooms.

Bookings can only be made online, rooms are just big enough to accommodate a bed, housekeeping services are extra and there are no tea and coffee making facilities in rooms.

Full details and the opportunity to comment on the proposal can be found on the council's website at planning.reading.gov.uk - search for application number 170366.

Planter gets some TLC



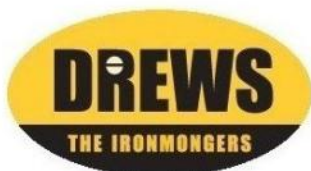
We are delighted to have had an offer to maintain the planter in Addison Road. Neighbour Sue Colliass has stepped in, and has now planted it and will be looking after it during the summer months. Many thanks to Sue for her help - we look forward to seeing the planter in full bloom!

News in brief

- Some local parents are concerned about the future of Chiltern Edge School, which offers an alternative to Highdown for local secondary school pupils. After a recent poor Ofsted inspection the school is threatened with closure. Anyone wishing to make comments on the future of the school can do so via Oxfordshire County Council's website at consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

- A planning application has been submitted to the council for change of use of 163-165 Caversham Road, the former Caversham Bridge Cycles shop, along with a ground floor extension to the shop. The proposal shows a conversion of the upper floors to three flats. The shop area will be retained and extended to the rear. Details and an opportunity to comment at planning.reading.gov.uk - the application number is 170491.

- Finally, we really need more help with our activities, as some of our most active members are moving away. Can you help at our street party on Saturday 17 June? Marshalling, music, games, activities, whatever you can help with! We also need more committee members to help keep Bell Tower going. Please contact David on 07890 118167 or email info@bell-tower.org.uk if you are interested.



0118 957 2053



Available colours include:

Dark Oak

Red Cedar

Harvest Gold

Tudor Black Oak

Ronseal Fence Life £5.99 inc VAT