

Neighbourhood News

from the Bell Tower Community Association

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Street party's a scorcher!

News in brief

- As we thought, Papa Gee's will be moving out of their current premises in Caversham Road. They expect to be moving to Prosect Street, Caversham, in the next few weeks.

- To fit in with availability of rooms at New Hope our committee meetings will be moving to the last Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

- We have been campaigning to save our area's cast iron lamp posts - there are quite a few scattered around the area and they are an important part of our heritage, most of them having been cast locally. The council's highways team would prefer to see them replaced since the swan neck brackets are getting old and may be damaged, but we hope that a good technical solution can be found that incorporates a new LED lantern.

- Finally, we have had reports of drug dealing and other antisocial behaviour. If you see anything suspicious please report this to the police by calling 101. The more reports the police receive, the more attention the reports get, so every call is worthwhile.

The Big Skip's back - save the date!

The Big Skip will be back on **Saturday 16 September** from 9.00 am to 12.00 midday. Like last year we'll be on the industrial estate, in the car park at 35 Milford Road.



FEELING THE HEAT (clockwise from top left): the party in full swing, getting some shade, Sunday Replay with guests, and the famous Splat the Rat game.

There was a break with recent tradition this year at our Newport Road street party on Saturday 17 June in that the sun shone and the temperature reached 29°C.

As well as the heat there was plenty for party goers to enjoy. The Moderation very generously provided a barbecue and Thai curry yet again despite it being landlady Yodphathai Becalick's birthday; there was 'Splat the Rat' and 'Hook a Duck' as well as colouring competitions, with prizes provided by Tesco, and face painting.

To keep the adults entertained Bell Tower secretary David Neale devised a quiz, presented by chairman Jonathan Dart and ably heckled by the crowd, with first prize provided by the Standard Tandoori.

Building on last year's first live music at a Bell Tower street party, we ramped up the offering with an acoustic band from New Hope Church, a capella singing from the Voices of Reading community choir and the headline act, covers band Sunday Replay, who prompted an impromptu version of 'Bell Tower's Got Talent' from some of our younger residents. Live music is definitely going to be a feature of the event in the future.

Many thanks to all those who helped with flyering, marshalling, setting up and taking down - your efforts are greatly appreciated. As in previous years this street party has given us some ideas for the next one, so get ready to party next June!

Jonathan Dart

Our continuing progress

Previously we looked at events we have organised for the community. This time is about checking planning applications and developments in our area and the effect they could have.

We protested about a 24-hour casino proposal in Caversham Road and a drinks licence application into the early hours: these would have had an impact on residents in Northfield and Swansea Roads. We also objected to an extended drinks licence for the Deaf Centre because of its effect on residents of Cardiff Road.

There was a proposal to close the children's play area in Denbeigh Place, which with local residents we were able to overturn. An application for a car cleaning and valeting service in York Road was also overturned. Currently we are supporting residents in Cardiff Road in their battle with Network Rail against train noise and pollution.

The latest proposal is for a housing development on the former Cox & Wyman site in Addison Road. If you are unhappy about this or have any comments, look out for the planning application due around September.

We also meet with the council and Festival Republic about the August music festival. This year there will be an additional 5000 festival goers! We also have ongoing discussions with the council about speed restrictions and road closures once Cow Lane bridges are fully operational.

We are active on your behalf - can you help us? Would you like to get involved in your community? Do stop me and voice your concerns, and we will do our best to help.

Barbara Kendall

Housing development for Cox & Wyman site revealed



NEW HOUSING: a computer-generated aerial view of the proposed Printworks development. Addison Road is to the lower right of the picture.

The owners of the former Cox & Wyman printing works have expressed an interest in developing the site for housing, and the plans have been displayed to the community for the first time.

The 'Printworks' development proposal shows 96 dwellings, with 38 terraced houses facing towards Addison and Cardiff Roads, along with 10 taller town houses and a four-storey block of 48 flats towards the corner of Milford and Meadow Roads. The main entrance is shown in Addison Road, where the old gates are currently situated.

Bell Tower broadly welcomes the development, with some suggestions for improvement including having the entrance in Meadow Road if possible, which would be more sensible if the Manrose site is also eventually to be redeveloped as housing. A residential development

would make it easier to put permanent road closures in place to separate the area from the industrial estate, preventing rat running, which would probably increase when Cow Lane is widened.

A planning application is expected later in 2017.

David Neale

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