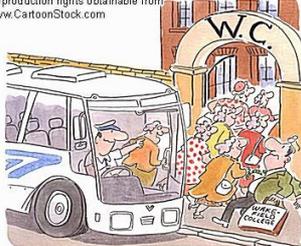


## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Curzon Park Residents' Association; as you will read, we are already moving forward. The Community and Social Working Group have arranged two events, which I urge you to support, whilst the Highways & Open Spaces and the Racecourse Issues working groups have had some success in ensuring a better environment for us all. We are still looking for more residents to become active members of the association. The more active we become, the easier it will be for us to present a strong case to both our councillors and others. *Chris Pilsbury*

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**STOP PRESS  
COACH TRIP  
TO LIVERPOOL  
SUN 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
FOR DETAILS  
SEE BELOW**

## COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL WORKING GROUP

The Working Group is now well and truly up and running and has two events planned to bring people together for some good, inexpensive fun.

**Sunday 29 June – Some Liverpool Delights!** - A coach will leave Curzon Park at 10.30 am and travel first to Sudley House Museum in Mossley Hill - the former home of 19<sup>th</sup> century Liverpool Shipping magnates, George Holt (aka Onedin), and contains fine displays of mementos from his travels to the Orient as well as his art collection, including Gainsborough, Reynolds, Landseer and Turner. At the time of our visit, there'll also be a large photographic exhibition of the palaces some of the local 19<sup>th</sup> century merchants built for themselves. The less intrigued among us (guaranteed to be few) can take advantage of an excellent tea and coffee shop.

We'll travel on to Sefton Park where there'll be a number of options: The magnificently restored Palm House will be the backdrop for a succession of musical performances during the day. As it will also be National Garden Scheme Day, several private gardens around the park will be open to public view (£4 ticket available from the Palm House). Some may wish to take a picnic – the park offers many suitable locations. For those who prefer the numerous bars, cafes and restaurants of Lark Lane, we'll provide a guide.

From Sefton Park we'll progress to Crosby with our buckets and spades. Those not wishing to make sandcastles can inspect Anthony

Gormley's "Another Place" statues, making sure to retreat before an incoming tide, in time to return to Chester by around 5.30 p.m.

Tickets are now available at £8 each (£5 for children of 12 and under) from Jim Shapton (678209) or Jane Mercer (682128). Being limited to 49 seats on the coach, it's first come, first served (cash or cheque). Regrettably, we will not be able to take non-residents of Curzon Park unless there are seats otherwise unsold. Ticket prices will not be refundable but if there's a waiting list, we'll arrange resale.

### **Monday 25 August [Bank Holiday]:**

**Barbecue in the Park** - A private area within Westminster Park will be set aside for a residents' get-together in the afternoon. Various activities are planned for the amusement of all ages. Entry will be by previously obtained ticket, costing £5 per head, to include a barbecued meal.

More details will be available nearer the time. Meanwhile, make a note in your diary, keep an eye on our website, or call Jane Mercer (682128) for further

information. Incidentally, it would be helpful to be able to borrow a number of portable gazebos. If anyone has one they could make available, please contact Jane.

**Other Plans** - We would like to organise a coach outing to a theatre, concert or other entertainment in late September/Early October - suggestions please to Elizabeth Downey (676921).



## HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP

**Advertising Hoardings: 8 Curzon Park South** - The CPRA advised CPS residents that a retrospective planning application had been submitted by Morris Developments for hoarding/advertising signage at No 8 CPS. 24 residents responded independently and the application was refused. Morris Developments have now been issued with a Section 16 notice and the matter will pass to solicitors and legal proceedings will be processed (eventually!). They can revisit the Planning Department and consult with them regarding an alternative arrangement, which they may well do at some future date.



We remain concerned that advertising of this nature within the Conservation Area is totally inappropriate and could be in-situ for a number of years as a result of the sluggish housing market and saturation of flat developments in the city. However, everything is being done that can be and your support through writing individual letters has been instrumental in achieving the desired initial outcome of rejection.

**Grass Verges** - The grass verges, the kerbstones and pavements throughout Curzon Park are in poor condition and there are many issues to address in the foreseeable future. The situation is not helped when vehicles are parked illegally on the verges. The Community Police Officer has issued numerous parking tickets in the area and assures us he is monitoring the situation, which to be fair has improved.

With regard to the verges churned up regularly as a direct result of No 8 CPS flats development, Cheshire County Council's Highways Engineer says the contractor will rectify the damage caused around this area and the remaining verges will be reinstated by the Council when conditions improve. The delay in completing this is due to changes being made to the kerb line in

order to widen the entrance to the new properties at No 8 CPS.

Additionally, there has been damage to the roots of the large tree adjacent to the entrance to number 8. From a safety viewpoint the preferred option is to fell and replace the tree. The Tree Officer has insisted on a minimum 45 cm girth replacement tree of the same type and although the felling will take place imminently, the replacement may have to wait until the autumn, availability being a major consideration.

**Ongoing Monitoring of Highways/Open Spaces' Issues** - In order to monitor issues on an ongoing basis with the objective of maintaining and improving standards within the area, it would be beneficial to have one nominated member from each road within Curzon Park who is willing to be contacted from time to time and to act as a liaison point. If you are willing to be the contact person for your **immediate** area, please use the *Contact Us* page on the website or ring the Secretary, Liz Neeves on 679888.

**Trees** - The trees in the Curzon Park Conservation Area are protected, both in private gardens and open spaces. Currently Cheshire County Council Highways have responsibility for managing **all** the trees within the curtilage of the highway within Curzon Park.



After concerns were expressed about the condition and maintenance of the trees, members of the Working Party met with the County Council Tree Officer on 22 May who generously gave us two hours of his time and knowledge whilst inspecting the condition of the trees. We established that a number of young (reasonably newly planted) trees were in dire need of attention. Some had outgrown their protective cages, some cages had caused irreversible damage to the trunk and many had considerable growth on the lower trunks impeding growth. Significantly, some trees are being so seriously damaged by negligent contractors mowing and strimming the verges that a number will have to be removed in CPN, Earlsway and Park Road West. The County

Council is currently in consultation with the private contractors.

We also conveyed that in some cases the selection of species used for planting, has been inappropriate - e.g. there is a number of the cherry (*prunus*) variety in an area of predominantly Horse Chestnut trees and we were keen to keep to some uniformity of the street scene. The tree officer agreed that some inappropriate planting had taken place and replacements are necessary.

A number of lime trees were identified which had very extensive growth around the bases. Although this is considered 'normal' and not detrimental to the health of the trees, they would eventually impede the footway and will require pruning. Likewise some trees on the entrance to CPN were identified as about to cause an obstruction, however some of these are in private gardens.

The 'new/young' trees in CP require immediate remedial attention, i.e. simple housekeeping which is very achievable, as currently **public money is being wasted** by not maintaining them. Both the City Council and County Council will be advised of our concerns.

### **Giant Hogweed**

A number of Curzon Park North residents recently found Giant Hogweed encroaching into their gardens from the river bank. A representative of the Association contacted the council, which readily sent a team to eradicate this dangerous weed. However, the association has been informed by a council official that the problem will continue to arise, due to a very large infestation in a field near to the river and the Grosvenor Bridge. The Council have written to the owner pointing out the infestation and its possible consequences to health, but they have no rights of enforcement and therefore can do no more. At the time of writing, the owner appears to have taken no action.

## **RACECOURSE ISSUES WORKING GROUP**

### **The Chester Race Company's Premises**

**Licence** – Development of new facilities at the racecourse, required the Race Company to apply for a new premises licence at the beginning of 2008. The application as submitted sought considerable freedom to mount activities at unsociable hours, threatening frequent and significant disturbance to Curzon Park residents, primarily from noise. CPRA, working with a group

of Nuns Road residents, worked to negotiate modifications to the application, and arranged legal representation at the licence application hearing held on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

The previous main cause of complaint had been late night noise from events in marquees involving live and recorded music. The use of the Temporary Event Notice (TEN) procedure had allowed the Race Company to circumvent restrictions on licensed hours to hold events until 1.00 a.m. or later. Unfortunately, the legislation did not allow the licensing authority to prevent the use of TENS, but it included in its decision a recommendation that the procedure should not in future be used as a way round the licence restrictions. While refusing to agree not to use marquees, they have stated in writing that they plan, in future, to use the owners' and trainers' pavilion for the sort of event for which they have previously used them.

The Champagne Garden – The original application would have allowed late night music and drinking in this area, which is close to the Golf Club end of Curzon Park North. In any event, the authority placed a 9.00 p.m. deadline on any entertainment in this area.

New Year's Eve – The application would have allowed revelries both inside and outside racecourse buildings throughout the night from New Year's Eve until New Year's Day. The Race Company has given a written assurance that there will be no external activity apart from the setting off of fireworks at midnight.

3-day Pop Concert – Unfortunately for those who object to it, this was allowed without specific restrictions, although the Race Company has stated in writing that it would not hold the event other than at a weekend and would close it by 2230 on any relevant evening. No event is planned for 2008.

**Noise generally** – The licence granted imposes specific technically-expressed restrictions on the noise levels that are permissible during "regulated" (licensed) activity. The Company is required to monitor them at all "regulated" events, except on race days, and to keep records.

**"Non-regulated activities"** – Some residents have expressed concern about disturbance from amplified announcements and commentaries during events such as the kite festival and polo matches. Unfortunately, these are not "regulated" activities and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the licensing authority Residents should know,

however, that the Roodee remains the property of the City Council and that the Council has legal obligations to prevent nuisance to neighbouring occupiers. CPRA will take up with the Council any unreasonable use of the Roodee, whether from a "regulated activity or not.

### **Control over the Race Company's activities and complaints**

The authority imposed conditions in the licence, requiring the Race Company to have a written complaints procedure. They have now published this, as follows:

- During working hours, Monday – Friday: ring the Racecourse Office on 01244 304610
- Outside normal working hours: ring the Duty Manager's phone: 07977 551 441
- Otherwise, write to: Mr Richard Thomas, Chief Executive, Chester Race Company Ltd, Chester, CH1 2LY or email: [ajarvis@chester-races.com](mailto:ajarvis@chester-races.com)

Additionally, the Race Company will, by email, provide a quarterly list of upcoming events to anyone registering an interest. The email address to use to request this information is as above.

Committee members Simon Parrington (680062) and Jim Shapton (678209) will be pleased to answer any queries or offer any assistance they can in regard to future problems.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY WORKING GROUP**

Members of the Community Safety Working Group, along with other interested residents, attended the recent Police 'Community Action Meeting' [CAM] at Chester Golf Club. The local Police Community Support Officers [Kevin Griffiths and Ian Hardy] advised residents to report all incidents to the Police including minor damage to cars. When reporting incidents, the Police find it helpful to have the following information:

- Nature of problem
- Location
- Description of culprits [eg number of persons, approx age, colour of clothing]
- Direction in which they have run off

Youngsters are now hiding away from the Police to drink alcohol. If you see alcohol being passed on to young people [eg outside off-licences], you should notify the Police. If they get a report of under-age drinking, the Police will follow it up.

**The next meeting of the Police Community Action Team is scheduled for Monday 4 August.**

**CPRA would like to help promote 'Homewatch' but the Police do not appear to have an up-to-date list of co-ordinators. If you are a Homewatch Co-ordinator [or have a small informal arrangement with immediate neighbours], please contact Liz Neeves on 679888 or email via the CPRA website.**



#### **Useful Contact Details**

Police Community Action Team  
0845 458 6375 [Voicemail]  
or email  
[wb.chester.outer.npu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:wb.chester.outer.npu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Crime/Incident Reporting  
[Non-Emergency] 0845 458 0000

Emergency  
[or culprits still at the scene] 999

For litter, dog fouling or graffiti - contact the Community Safety Wardens at Chester City Council on 402477 or email [callcentre@chester.gov.uk](mailto:callcentre@chester.gov.uk)

#### **Have you registered as a member of CPRA?**

*Registration forms can be downloaded from our website [www.cpraonline.org](http://www.cpraonline.org) or by contacting Liz Neeves on 679888. Membership is FREE but we hope residents can make a small donation of between £1 and £5 for printing, website, etc.*

*Visit the CPRA website [www.cpraonline.org](http://www.cpraonline.org) for information about the aims of the Association, events, agendas and minutes of meetings, information about Curzon Park and links to related sites, etc.*