

Many things are happening

Under the Greenwood tree

There has been much discussion lately about trees. For some time now we have had complaints from residents about the trees between Floral Wood and Cottonwood. Originally planted in the 80's as part of the planning for the Garden Festival and to screen one row of houses from the other, they have not been given any attention and so have grown very tall being too close together. One or two had fallen, causing damage to neighbours property, and the residents of Cottonwood got together and asked Councillor John Coyne if anything could be done. Councillor Coyne made some enquiries and called a meeting of residents of the two roads at the café in Sefton Park.

The initial air of the meeting was slightly tense, but once John Coyne explained the problem and the chance of him being able to find an answer, everyone felt more positive. He said he would investigate and then call another meeting to discuss his findings.

Councillor Coyne called another meeting at the same venue a couple of weeks later to report that he had contacted an Arborialist who was willing, for a fee, to look at the problem. He also announced that he would apply for a grant to pay for the work to be done, which made everyone at the meeting more than pleased.

John Coyne then sent me instructions on how to apply for a grant, which I sent off and I have since received a note that an amount to enable commencement of the survey has been deposited in RRA's account, and after the Committee Meeting on 29th Jan it was agreed that the work should go ahead and I have instructed the Arborealist to start work.

It may be necessary to arrange for access for the survey to be done.

The other problem trees are in the land between RRA and Shorefields RA. I was invited to attend a meeting in January last year with Northwest Housing Services, Shorefields Co-operative, Liverpool City Council, local residents and Councillor Steve Munby, to discuss the problems of the woodland between our properties. There has been no maintenance on the woodland for several years, and in consequence, the area has become overgrown. There are a lot of self seeded sapling among the trees, and the brambles etc have grown up to prevent access, or sight lines for the Police.

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Proposal to redevelop Archbishop Blanch Church of England High School along Jericho Lane

As part of Liverpool's School Investment Programme, Liverpool City Council is proposing to rebuild Archbishop Blanch on a site located between the Jericho Lane Recycling Centre and the Railway.

The school is in very poor condition and a new build will be the most cost effective way to provide the school with fit for purpose accommodation. The Council has undertaken an exhaustive option appraisal and in close dialogue with the Diocese and school, has selected Jericho Lane as the preferred site to rebuild the school.

We are aware part of the site has nature conservation value and as such, the exact size and location of the building will be discussed with Nature Conservation Officers over the forthcoming months.



There was a high level of response to the proposals from RRA Residents and others, and in return the Liverpool Schools Investment Team emailed: "Thank you for your email in response to the consultation to develop Archbishop Blanch CofE High School on Jericho Lane.

As stated at the consultation event, we are expecting the Transport Assessment (TA) to be completed by the end of January 2013. This will then need to be reviewed by Highways Management and validated. We intend to submit the Executive Summary of TA on the Council's website as most residents asked for this to be made available. We will undertake a further leaflet drop to a wider catchment and will refer to the link on the website to view the TA Summary and the date/venue for the next event.

As a result of the overwhelming response we have had to the consultation, we will not hold the next consultation event until the TA is complete and also capture all other aspects (including non-traffic issues) of the feasibility stage and therefore this may be early-March 2013.

All emails and comments received will be compiled into a single document to form a consultation report. The consultation report, TA and all other surveys being carried out will form a Feasibility Report that will be reviewed by the Council's Management Team to decide whether to proceed to the submission of a formal Outline Planning application in mid-March 2013.

RRA are well aware of the problems associated with such a project. We have written to the City Council and made objection at the meeting, we are also keeping our eye on the situation and will let all residents know if there are any further developments.

Under the Greenwood tree

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Some of the Shorefields residents reported that the trees made their homes so dark, that they had to have lights on during the day.

At the last meeting at NWHS offices, 19 Devonshire Road, attended by Paul Williams and Reg Cox, it was decided to have a survey of the area and to restore it to its planned condition. This will involve removing some of the established trees, self seeded sapling and the other undergrowth from the area so that it will be clear to view.

The Co-operative were advised by the horticulturist that a land covenant was in place stating that the area had to be maintained satisfactorily and that this provision had not been complied with for a number of years. The Co-op responded that as they own the land this was the reason for the tree works taking place.

Approximately between 1/3 and 1/2 of trees are to be felled to approximately one foot from the ground. These trees are saplings which are restricting the growth of the remainder. The remaining trees are to be reduced in height in proportion to their height and thinned to encourage further growth.

Selected trees are to be removed from 5 metres of the Shorefields boundary to allow more light into their houses.

A programme of replacement planting of trees is to be undertaken together with the planting of Laburnum, Hawthorn etc. bushes and bulbs along the boundary of Promenade Gardens houses.

Access to the land, when work is being done, is via the double chain-link fence on Promenade Gardens opposite Cottonwood. Once work is ended the fence will be sealed, preventing unauthorised access.

Ex Members

Three members of the RRA Committee have moved out of the area and we wish to thank them for all their hard work. Peter Gerhard on Floral Wood, was our Chairman for some time. Jill Galvin of Bempton Road was one of the organisers of the successful Meet the Neighbours event, held a couple of years ago, and Robert Hughes of Keris Close was a Rep for many years.

We wish them good fortune in their new homes.

A Short History

It's been a long year and the Association has attempted many things on your behalf, not all of them successful.

This issue relates some of the things that RRA has been involved with.

A long time ago, some twenty years, Riverside Residents Association (Riverside Action Group) as it was then, started lobbying to get something done about the Liverpool International Garden Festival grounds, which had

deteriorated into a real problem for the local residents. When my wife and I told our solicitor that we were thinking of buying near the "Gardens", we were advised to go and have a look at the area in the evening, and it was an eye opener, as the "Pleasure Gardens" were then open and the place was full of (frequently) drunken teenagers. Each morning there was a truck replacing the glass that had been smashed in the bus shelters. Despite that we bought into the area and have not regretted it at all.

We joined RAG, started and lead by Andrea Spyropoulos, and helped with the prodding of anyone who had any influence.

The first response came from a group called Wiggins, who first of all stated that they were going to build an enormous block at the end of Promenade Gardens, part Hotel, part accommodation and part department store, to rival Harrods. That didn't last too long, before they came up with another scheme, which was quite acceptable, rather similar to the Langtree scheme, except that they proposed to create a new road, from the roundabout at the river end of Jericho Lane, down to the river and alongside the Promenade. For some reason that we never discovered, Liverpool City Council would not discuss the scheme with Wiggins, and Wiggins eventually withdrew, to the great disappointment of the members of RAG, who thought we had cracked it.

The next thing was that I heard about a meeting from Councillor Steve Munby via Andrea when I opened my emails on the morning of the meeting. As the mtg had been brought forward, we arrived a few minutes late. There were quite a few members of the public present.

At a break in the meeting John Coyne came over and spoke with us, saying that there would be a chance to ask questions.

The three heads of Langtree, McLean and Planitedc, the consultants, were all present and they put on a slide show, demonstrating how marvellous it will all be. At the end of the demo the Chairman asked for questions and the committee members got their names in the minutes. He then asked if any members of the public would like to ask a question I stood up and said how frustrating it has been, not to be able to contact the developers, or find out anything about what they plan. I also mentioned the concern of local residents on the traffic density on Riverside Drive and the increase that would result from the planned development and the current use of the Gardens as a motorcycle trial track. Chairman Clein instructed the "Heads" to exchange cards with me and to involve the local residents in their future discussions. They, of course, said that was their intention.

There was then a short period when nothing happened, until Langtree

popped up and wanted to discuss their proposals with the locals. We had several discussions with Langtree who were in a partnership with the house builder David Maclean. Langtree listened to our suggestions, but would never say yes or no. Mr Dean, of David McLean, which makes up half of the joint venture with Langtree Group, was at pains to stress both companies were still committed to the "overall vision" for the former landfill dump. They talked to many other groups including the (so called) "Friends of the Garden Festival", who wanted to retain the place as a wilderness for the wild life; as we pointed out, a dangerous wilderness, often full of screaming off road bikers. Once they had talked to everyone, Langtree went into a huddle and made their plans and applied for Planning Permission. When that had been granted they put their plans on the table and again asked for comments. They came to two of RRA's AGM's to explain to the residents just what their plans were, and on both occasions their plans were approved by an almost complete majority.

Those that objected to the plans put up such resistance that a Public Inquiry was called to hear the objections, and to decide if the plans were acceptable. The Inquiry was held in the Adelphi Hotel, supervised by an extremely patient man, who listened to the comments of all concerned.

Langtree gave a comprehensive presentation, several members of the Association gave their testimony in favour, and the "Friends", The Green Party and a few others made their objections. The second Inquiry was early in 2009 and after a short time the Secretary of State gave the go ahead for Langtree's scheme.

As they say, the rest is history. Now called the Festival Gardens, it is up and running. (Ed)

Meet the Neighbours

Twice during 2012 the Association has tried to hold a Meet the Neighbours (MTN) event, and twice we were defeated by the abysmal weather.

At the RRA Committee Meeting on 29th Jan it was proposed to hold the next MTN on Sunday 28th April at 2pm. So make a note in your diary.

As with the first very successful MTN it will be held at the southern end of the grass land between Riverside Drive and Bempton Road, only this time **all** members of the RRA area will be invited.

Festival Gardens

The Gardens continue to flourish and bring pleasure to residents. A fire at the "Bus/Café caused the gardens to close for a few days.

During Half term there will be activities for children, including building Bird Boxes and other events.

Check the notices on the gate for more information.

Recommended / Reliable

The tradespeople listed below have been recommended by RRA members who have had work done for them by these tradespeople. RRA supports the exchange of information between members but does not in any way endorse or recommend the business or individuals included in this article. Members who take up these services do so at their own risk. RRA accepts no liability and merely acts as a facilitator for information between the members.

Gardening Services: Tulsi Gardening. James Conlan. tel: 07944417092, email: enquiries@tulsi-gardens.co.uk website: www.tulsi-gardens.co.uk/ Excellent work.

Carpet Cleaning: C.U.C.S. 0151 722 1991, Quick, efficient and good price.

Window cleaning: (External & Internal windows). Michael Ness. Pure Rinse Systems, tel:07528 555426. web: www.purerinse.com

Plumber/Gas fitter: Eliteheat. 0772 524 9796 All aspects of central heating installation, repair and maintenance & Plumbing. Excellent work and good price.

Joinery: Jeff Williams. 07927 181 958, or after 7pm 0151 427 3552. Highly recommended.

Painter/plasterer: Paul Crawford 07702 218534. "Paul is honest and very hard working. He is a tidy decorator who does a good job".

Builder/Bricklayer: Chris Monaghan, 9 Jasmine Close. mobile: 0797 027 2943. Local man!

Representatives needed

As you will see in the list below, there are quite a number of roads that do not have a Representative of RRA. We are short of people to help distribute this newsletter, and, if you are interested, become a member of our committee.

The Bempton Drive area is particularly badly hit and we are asking for

volunteers deliverers, or new Committee Members for: Barchester, Bempton, Burgundy, Calvados, Hythedale, Kerris, Rosewarne, Savoylands.

If you live in one of these roads and are willing to deliver RRA Newsletters etc through your neighbours letter plates 2 or 3 time a year, then please contact the Hon Sec Reg Cox, address below.

Kitten found

A black and white kitten, approximately five months old, has been found in Penhale Close.

She is house trained and friendly. If anyone is missing such a pet, please contact Debbie Canning on tel: 07711 286 921

Councillors: St Michaels Ward.

Councillor John Coyne, Green Party. 86 Belgrave Road, Liverpool, L17 7AH tel: 0151 727 7779 john.coyne@liverpool.gov.uk

Councillor Sharon Green, Lib. Dem. Liberal Democrat Group Office, Municipal Buildings, Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2DH. tel: 0151 225 2354.

Councillor Sarah Jennings, Green Party. 27 Blytheswood St., L17 7DD sarah.jennings@liverpool.gov.uk mobile: 07969 257420

Liverpool City Council website: liverpool.gov.uk

The **Police** contacts for St Michaels Ward are:

Inspector; Stuart Quirk.
Sergeants; Scott Crighton and Jen Ward.
Constable; Paula Murphy.
PCSO's: Laura Byrne, Marc Beardsworth, Bob Moreton and Geanor Kennedy

Phone 0151 709 6010. **Emergency ONLY 999.** Non-emergency Use 101 call this number if you need the Police for an incident that is not an emergency. email<Ward.F.StMichaels@merseyside.police.uk>

Address: Admiral Street Police Station, Admiral Street, Liverpool L8 8JN.

Visit: <www.merseyside.police.uk> to find out about your neighbourhood. By entering your Postcode you can download the current Police Newsletter for St Michael's.

List of Representatives:-

Beech Avenue
3, David Jones.

The Bulrushes,
8, Andrea Spyropoulos.
7, Paul Williams.

Camellia Court,
26, John Thompson.

Claret Close
5, Alison Appleton.

Floral Wood
45, Eric & Wendy Cohen

Moel Famau View
7, Peter Scott.
9, Les & Diane Cox

Orchid Grove
4, Rosemary Kay.

Penhale Close
14, Reg & Ina Cox.

Promenade Gardens
60, Kevin Crone.

Thistledown Close
7, Sandra MacMillan.
15, Roy H Fletcher.

Thorntree Close
9, Anna Key

Westbury Close
16, S Thorp,
38, Joy Raw.

The contact details of your **Political Representatives** are as follows:

Member of Parliament:
Louise Ellman M.P., Labour Party (Riverside), Freepost , WW2909A, Liverpool L3 4ZZ. Telephone: 0151 236 2969 Louise Ellman MP, House of Commons, London NW1A



A message from Kevin Crone, Hon Treasurer

Dear Resident,

Re: RRA Subscriptions

As you are all aware, we had not asked for subscriptions for three years prior to the last issue of this newsletter.

Your subscriptions help to pay for all RRA costs including such items as printing, room hire and most recently our commitment to keep the six newly sited bins filled with grit for use by yourselves, during times of inclement weather.

This year we are requesting a one off per household donation of £4.00 enabling us to re-establish our funds to the level of three years ago.

For those who have not contributed in the last year we would be grateful if you would please complete the slip below making cheques payable to "Riverside Residents Association" and forward to myself at 60 Promenade Gardens, Liverpool L17 7EU or pass your subscription to your local representative.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Kevin Crone Hon. Treasurer



RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

I the undersigned, enclose my subscription of £4.00 for year 2012.

Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode: Tel No. (Optional):

Signed: Date:.....

Email:

If paying by cheque, please make them payable to **Riverside Residents Association** and forward to Kevin Crone, Hon. Treasurer at 60 Promenade Gardens, L17 7EU or pass your subscription to your local representative.