



Welcome to the ABOYNE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION newsletter for NOVEMBER 2016

PARKING REVIEW

As most of you will know, after some correspondence and meetings, we're currently working with SADAC Parking Officers on new and revised proposals which we hope to put forward as a crucial part of the parking review of the ARA area. You'll hear more about this from us in the next month, but meanwhile we very much welcome your input and ideas. Do please get in touch with your thought about parking in our area, and any solutions that might improve the flow of traffic, particularly at busy times (Xmas and weekends in particular). Email us at aboynera@gmail.com

ST ALBANS DRAFT DETAILED LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION 2016

The Council is inviting representations on its Detailed Local Plan (DLP), which adds detail to the Strategic Local Plan (SLP), offering more information and more maps. The DLP covers topics such as specifying Green Belt boundaries, the design and layout of proposed new developments and protecting the environment and residential amenities.

The consultation period runs for six weeks between Wednesday 9 November 2016 and Wednesday 21 December 2016. Full information on the Detailed Local Plan process and the current consultation can be found at <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/planning/Planningpolicy/>

OUR AGM

Our AGM is not that far away, so please make a note in your new shiny 2017 diaries. It will take place on Tuesday February 21, at the usual location, the Lodge Room at Aboyne Lodge school. All residents are most welcome. A glass of wine always follows the business part of the meeting.

THE (ex?) BRICKYARD

The latest is that there is now an application in place to turn the currently defunct bar into a three bedroom residential home. Details are at www.stalbans.gov.uk/planningapplications; search for 5/2016/3342 if you want to find out more and indeed object or even applaud this latest development.

NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

Some interesting work is being done into the vital night time economy and how it can work best for a small city such as St Albans, which has many evening and late night attractions, but also a significant number of residents living close to the city centre. See the attached link for more insight into some of the thinking and the initiatives being discussed - <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/press-room/items/2016/November/2016-11-15-later-opening-for-shops-and-cafes.aspx>

This is of particular interest to some members of the ARA. Some years back Market Place was pedestrianised for a trial period and this was raised again during the Night Time Economy survey as a possible benefit to the redevelopment of the new Town Hall and exhibition space. We know that for many residents of Spencer Street, this might help with the problem of disturbance from trucks going up Spencer Street in the early morning, now often starting soon after 5am.

THE WHITE SWAN

Not totally unconnected - The White Swan has applied for an extension of its hours. If you live nearby, you might want to make your views represented. You can do this yourself, you can talk to our Spencer Street street rep Rita Waldon for more information, or you can contact the ARA - email aboynera@gmail.com

ALBANY LODGE

The recent NHS ruling, which bans smoking on NHS premises for both patients and staff, continues to cause issues for residents of Church Crescent. Unsurprisingly, patients and staff are still smoking, but outside the grounds - at the entrances of Albany Lodge - rather than inside. On occasion this is causing noise problems, and there is a significant litter issue. The ARA has another meeting this week with Albany Lodge management. Our argument is that the interpretation of this ruling allows for some flexibility, particularly for the type of care Albany Lodge provides - for instance, a smoking shelter within the grounds, but away from the main buildings.

SUSTAINABLE ST ALBANS

We're in the middle of Sustainable St Albans fortnight. Lots of interesting things afoot - do check their extensive website www.sustainablestalbans.org

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

We've heard increasing reports about casual vandalism to cars and property, and also about an increase in theft and break-ins in our area. So be aware - also you might want to think more about linking up with the police via their Online Watch Link, or OWL. Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) uses OWL to communicate with their members. For more info, speak to your local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) - 01707 354192

IMMORTALITY AT THE TOWN HALL

It's an unusual Xmas present, but for £250 you can have your name, or the names of your loved ones, engraved on limited edition oak panels at the new Museum and Art Gallery. The panels are part of the Town Hall conversion project. With £800k still to be raised, it's an interesting way of making a donation. For more about the project - www.stalbansmgtrust.org.uk