

LITTLE CHESTER RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Waterside Inn apartments and offices

Despite objections from local residents, Darley Ward Councillors, Emergency Planning officers and Council Drainage officers, the City Council's Planning case officer recommended for approval the application by Honeypot Investments to convert the historic former Bridge Inn into four apartments plus ground floor offices.

Councillors on the Planning Control Committee have voted in favour of the application without raising any questions at the meeting.

The council's Emergency Planning officer objected to the application on the grounds that the proposed evacuation route for occupants and residents in the event of an extreme flood breaching or overtopping the nearby flood defences, is onto St Alkmund's Way on the ring road and is unsafe.

Additional objections were submitted about the amenity loss of

one of the very few riverside pubs in Derby City; that pubs like the nearby Silk Mill under good management are now viable and thriving after periods of closure; and also that there are large numbers of existing and proposed apartments and unlet offices and proposed offices in the vicinity.

The City Council have plans to build 1000 homes along the river Derwent on the Flood Plain.



CHESTER GREEN ENTERTAINMENTS TEAM

We are already putting together the programme for our annual community 'Picnic on the Green' on Sunday the 5th of July, with our popular fund raising Fashion Show taking place on Friday the 1st of May - save those dates everyone!!

EMAIL: chestergreenents@gmail.com
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/chestergreenents



The Bliss's Housing Development

The Victorian frontage of the Bliss's building on City Road is a symbol of Chester Green. The former Prestige site is what most of us picture when we think of when we think of our community.

When Aida Bliss ceased working from the site and it was eventually purchased by Derby City Council, I think that many of us feared that it would be demolished or allowed to decay to oblivion.

The planning committee of the Darley Neighbourhood Board shared this fear, and has been working very hard with the Council to ensure that this does not happen.

There were plans some years ago for a high density development with over 100 flats and apartments being put behind the Victorian facade. This would have created a separate community, hardly linked to us at all.

The Council is now planning for a lower density development, in which they want to include some family housing as well as apartments, although there are some issues to overcome to achieve that.

The concept is now to create a development that everyone can be proud of, that will become part of our community, retaining the heritage that is so important to our community.

The bad news is that to get this right will take longer.

The planning sub-committee has worked hard with the council to develop the design brief for the site, and the council are now selecting a firm to take the development forward. This will include the architectural designs, structural engineering, flood risk management, and other disciplines. It will take time to firm up the design. Then planning permission will have to be sought. Then, finally the building can start, probably in 2021!

However, if we can end up with a development that we can all be proud of, that belongs to Chester Green, then the time spent will have been worthwhile.

It is important that we all are part of this process, and so there will be meetings and open days throughout the entire process, and I will be advertising these as soon as details are known.

The council have helpfully created a web page where they will be publishing information as well: <http://www.derby.gov.uk/aidabliss>

Mark Davis, Chair, Planning Sub-Committee, Darley Neighbourhood Board.



1) Cricket Pavilion – The cricket facilities at Parkers Piece are due to be reinstated this year and brought back into use.

The pavilion is to be refurbished and a reinforced grass access track installed for maintenance.

The cricket pitch is to be renovated with a new cricket square, artificial wicket and surface sand banding to aid drainage.

There has been interest from local cricket clubs in managing the site and the options are being investigated

2) Darley Park Path - Complete except for final layer on the path which will be laid in the spring.

3) Landscaping – The final phase of new tree and shrub planting over the Package 1 area is underway including replacement of any vandalised or failed trees.

All planting will continue to be maintained by the contractor for the next 3 years.

All remaining grass and wildflower areas, including around the new sports facilities at Darley Playing Fields, will be seeded this spring.

4) Sports provision at Darley Fields – The new sports courts at Darley Playing Fields are now complete and open for use.

The signage on the new tennis courts is now in place, and the new booking system should be up and running over the next few weeks.

There will be a free introductory period to help familiarise people with the new system.

The grass reinstatement will be carried out in the spring.

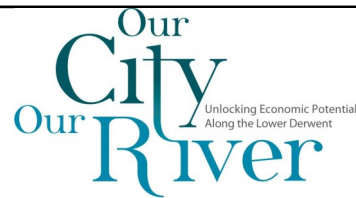
5) Aida Bliss - the flood defence is complete at the Aida site. Further cosmetic cladding of the defence will be undertaken when the site is developed.

6) City Road - the defences along the rest of City Road are in place and functional with the exception of the flood gate behind the new Environment Agency gauging station, this will be fitted in mid-February. In the meantime our contractor will maintain/have ready temporary defences for this location.

There are some finishing details still to complete. We anticipate all works on the defences to be completed mid-February.

The remaining building on the site will be demolished as soon as we have a Natural England bat licence in place, we expect this to be early March.

There will be railing infill where the temporary barriers have been on the footpath adjacent to Parker's Piece and new railings and hand rails across Handyside bridge, adjacent to Parkland View. The wayfinding, interpretation and public art work package was placed on hold and will now happen once all other work has been completed. The aim is to do something cohesive and comprehensive and include the new path and boardwalk on the west bank of the river through Darley Park.



Coach and Horses Easter Prize Draw

We've only just sorted the Christmas prize Draw and here we are planning the Easter Prize Draw! This year our beneficiary is the **Derby Mountain Rescue Team** – yes, initially, it may sound like a joke but DMRT is a voluntary emergency service which attends callouts in response to requests from Derbyshire Police, East Midlands Ambulance Service, and West Midlands Ambulance Service. DMRT is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and consists entirely of highly skilled unpaid volunteers. Their main function is the search for and rescue of injured or missing people, principally in upland or mountainous areas, but they can be called on whenever their specialist skills may be of use, such as searching for vulnerable persons in rural areas. Their principal area of operations extends from the southern Peak District to as far south as Milton Keynes, covering parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Staffordshire. They can also be called to assist teams in other areas when needed. In the past, the team has attended incidents in areas as far afield as Wales and Scotland, most notably the 2015 floods in Carlisle and Penrith, the Lockerbie Air Disaster and, closer to home, the Kegworth Air Disaster.

It costs around £30k per year to run the team - they receive no government funding and rely entirely on donations from the public. If you would like to help us support this very worthy cause, you can do so in the usual ways – by donating prizes for the Prize Draw and/or by buying Prize Draw squares at £1 a go. Prizes can be handed in at any time during pub opening hours and squares will be on sale from mid-March, with the draw taking place just before Easter – date to be announced in the next newsletter.

COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

The Community Centre is there for everyone and we hope our events will appeal to as many of you as possible. Your support is really appreciated and helps to make our efforts worthwhile!

Any suggestions for entertainment you would like to see at the Centre would be welcomed. Don't forget, residents receive a discount when hiring the Centre for their own event - see our website/facebook for further details and future events.

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/groups/ChesterGreenCommunityCentre/

WEB: <http://www.chestergreencommunitygroup.yolasite.com/>

St Paul's Rainbow Tots Chester Green Baby/Toddler Group.

For 0-5s and their parents or carers.

Crafts, snacks, toys and song time in a friendly and welcoming environment.

Mondays in term time
10.00 - 12.00



£2 per family

St Paul's Church Hall .Seale Street,
Chester Green.

Little Chester Local History Group

This month's talk: March 19th Maxwell Craven's Derby

All meetings are held at Chester Green Community Centre, off Old Chester Road, Derby DE1 3SA.

Meetings start at 7.30 pm

Ward Councillors

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