

CHESTERTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No. 1139163

ANNUAL MEETING

7th July at St Andrew's Hall, St Andrew's Road, Chesterton at 7.30 p.m.

Doors open at 7.15, light refreshments available on arrival

Our guest speakers this year are Debbie Kaye, Head of Arts and Recreation, and Ian Ross, Sport and Recreation Manager at Cambridge City Council. They will give a short update on local projects and then invite questions.

NEWSLETTER

What is happening to the former Pye factory Playing Fields?

This is one of the things we will be getting an update on at the Annual Meeting but there is an approved scheme to create what is in effect an extension of Logan's Meadow Local Nature Reserve along the river to the new bridge. Those using the new bridge will have seen the Swift Tower that has just been installed. A bit late for them this year but it will be interesting to see if they take to it next. As long as they don't desert their existing sites I will be happy. One of my delights is to watch them wheeling around the sky from my kitchen window. There are proposals for junior football and a cricket strip with changing facilities but so far these have not yet been formally submitted for planning approval.

What else do we need in Chesterton?

With a growing population and limited space what scope is there for new activities in Chesterton? Your ideas will be welcomed now, on the 7th and later. One activity that is about to be promoted by the English Cricket Board is a form of cricket that can be played on a hard tennis court. We no longer have such a thing in Chesterton but is there somewhere one could be sited we do not know about? Should we have an all-weather play area for this and other things? Perhaps even tennis?

Village Sign Competition

This closes on 30th June and there have been some interesting entries from people of all ages. Each school serving Chesterton has participated and forms have been available from our libraries and community halls. The Awards will be handed out on 7th July.

Libraries

Although there have been some encouraging noises at public meetings we have yet to have a formal response from the County Council to our proposal to run Milton Road Library as a community hub for Chesterton retaining the library service as its core offer. The sad death of Rod Craig who was the officer heading the Library Service Review has undoubtedly had an impact on the process. The library service is consulting on the opening hours of our local libraries and we have commented that the opening hours of Arbury Court and Milton Road should complement each other. The proposed closure of both on the same three half days each week is a nonsense and we hope common sense will prevail.

Newsletters

Some of you will have seen the report in the Cambridge News that the last edition of "Chesterton Challenge" may have been published. The situation is that Rev. Stephen Bowring who used to set and publish it has moved on and its very long-serving editor Don Florey has decided the time has come to retire. This situation has given impetus to an idea that has been around for some time: a newsletter for the whole of Chesterton that would combine the talents of those involved in current publications and by catering for a larger number become self-sustaining. There have been two meetings to explore this idea hosted by the Community Association with the active participation of both St George's and St Andrew's Churches. I should make it clear that "Chesterton Chimes" is continuing publication although its editor, David Drury, may also contemplate retirement at some stage in the future. We are now putting together a proposal for costing and possible funding. If you would like to help please let us know.

Localism

The City Council held an event on 18th June at which people were encouraged to say what they liked and did not like about living in the North area of the City. Many of the most aggravating issues were things we encounter everyday, litter, dog mess, unreliable bus services, not all of which are within the city Council's power to do anything about. If you want to add your two penn'orth you can get response cards from libraries and community centres. I also have a small supply of them. The aim of the exercise is to involve people more in decisions that affect their locality. If you want to know more the next North Area Committee is on 14th July at Buchan Street Community Centre starting at 7.30 unless you are interested in the planning application meeting which starts at 6.30. The agenda is published a week before and can be seen on the City Council website.

Chesterton Festival

The third Chesterton Festival was the best yet with more local groups participating and a wealth of local talent on display at Brown's Field on Friday 24th June and on Pye Rec. on Saturday 25th. With counting still continuing local groups raised over £3,000 for good causes on Saturday alone. On Sunday 26th puzzled but happy people were finding out about parts of Chesterton they hardly knew existed to answer the Festival Quiz and seeing the inside of places that are not usually open to the public. The Festival Committee is meeting on 4th July for a first review of this year's event so if you have any comments on it please send them in now, they will be welcomed as we know we did not get everything right and want to do even better next year.

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