



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# newsletter

Your voice in the local community

APRIL 2015

<http://www.irara.org.uk>

IF YOU ARE NOT  
ALREADY A MEMBER,  
JOIN IRARA NOW!

THE IRARA CAMPAIGN TO PRESERVE THE ANCIENT IRVINE ROAD ORCHARD AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND LOCAL WILDLIFE RESERVE

# Massive local support for IRARA community orchard plan

The IRARA campaign to save the Irvine Road Orchard has received almost 100% backing from the local community, local councillors and supporters from a much wider area. The petition was a great success, with virtually everyone we approached (only one abstention!) being keen to add their support to our efforts to preserve the Local Wildlife Site for the community.

Hamilton School have been particularly supportive as the orchard is within safe walking distance of the school and would represent a superb natural and scientific resource for the pupils, who currently have no green space at all.

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IRARA MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE ORCHARD PETITION THE NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Save the Irvine Road Orchard

FIRST NAME \*

LAST NAME \*

EMAIL \*

studio@beds.co.uk

To the Planning Department

We call on CBC to reject any application to change the status of the Irvine Road Orchard in the new Local Development Framework. It is completely against the council's own policy on protecting urban open space, which underpinned the decision to place the status of Private Open Space on the orchard in the previous LDF. The situation is unchanged, the orchard still deserves the same level of protection from the council. Only one person gains from this change and it is the local property developer involved, everyone else loses.

[Signature]

Sign Now

232 signatures

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Latest Signatures

232	Chris Drayson	Mar 21, 2015
231	Catherine Drayson	Mar 21, 2015
230	Jack Peasley	Mar 15, 2015
229	Ted Benton	Mar 15, 2015
228	Jo Edwards	Mar 02, 2015
227	Ruby Runnalls Palmer	Mar 02, 2015
226	Jo Wheatley	Mar 02, 2015

Welcome to the Irvine Road Area Residents' Association

www.irara.org.uk

IRARA MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE ORCHARD PETITION THE NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PROPERTY DEVELOPERS INTEND TO BUILD 7 HOUSES IN THE IRVINE ROAD ORCHARD

DEVELOPERS ATTEMPT TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR PLANNING PERMISSION IN THE IRVINE ROAD ORCHARD

The ancient orchard between Irvine Road and the Irvine Road Field is one of the very few ancient orchards left in this country, and as such forms a very rare habitat for a large number of birds, mammals, amphibians, insects and plants. These are the reasons that IRARA fought to get the orchard re-classified in the Local Development Plan as a local wildlife site from its former status as residential land. Several surveys were done by the Essex Wildlife Trust to confirm the orchard's claim to be a special habitat and the planning authorities agreed, awarding it a new status.

Now that the orchard has been sold following the death of its owner, the executors are seeking to overturn or at least compromise its status in order to build up to seven new houses on it.

Another environmental survey was commissioned in 2012 by Ellisons Solicitors (the executors) to determine the ecological value of the orchard, and it concluded that 'the presumption should be against development'.

The developers (Essex Restorations) have now applied to have the orchard's current designation as a private open space changed to

The IRARA online petition: The sites selection process will take a minimum of a year and we are hoping that the petition will collect a substantial number of signatures in that time.

## A big thank you and well done!

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped spread the word and offered support. The petition gained over 300 signatures (which was excellent in just over a week, with the online petition on the new IRARA website collecting another 230).

The sites allocation process, which is the first part of the consultation for the New Local Development Framework, is scheduled to last until 2016, so we need to maintain the pressure on Colchester Borough Council throughout this year to try and ensure that the orchard is not included in the next round of development vandalism that Colchester is due to suffer yet again.

One of the best ways of keeping this issue alive is for all concerned members and residents to sign the online petition and encourage friends, neighbours and residents from farther afield to get involved.

It doesn't matter if you have already signed the 'paper' petition, we expect the online version to become much larger and more important, so it's essential that all objections are recorded.

## Visit our Facebook page

IRARA has a Facebook page, the address is:

[www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation)

The IRARA Facebook page is becoming increasingly popular, particularly with our younger residents, and we see it as a valuable way of enabling people to stay in touch. Please visit it when you have a spare few minutes, like it and recommend it to friends, family and neighbours.

## Other Residents' Associations

As always, when we knock on front doors with a petition we are asked why adjacent areas like Prettygate and the streets around Hamilton School don't have their own residents' associations. The short answer is, we don't know. The Irvine Road Area Residents' Association constitution limits us to the existing area, so we are constantly having to turn away people from surrounding areas who want to join us.

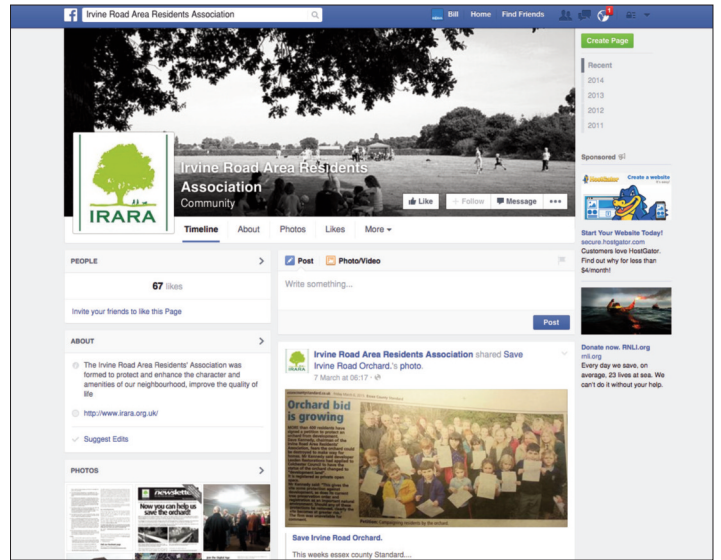
The obvious solution is for people living in the Prettygate and Hamilton Road areas to form their own associations. Most of the issues affecting us are equally important to residents of these areas, so it would be very useful indeed to be able to work with other like minded people preserve and improve the amenities in our end of the town.

If you know anyone living in roads adjacent to the IRARA area, why not suggest they form an association. We are quite happy to share our experience and help and advise where we can.

We know these areas need proper representation and would benefit immensely from their own associations. Working together the wider local community could be so much more effective.

Contact us on the details below:

[davidagkennedy@uwclub.net](mailto:davidagkennedy@uwclub.net) or: [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk)



The IRARA Facebook page: You can keep up to date with the latest issues and post your ideas and opinions. It's an easy way to stay in touch.

## IRARA Social Evening

We have organised a get together for members and local residents on **Friday 24th April at 7.00pm** at the West End Bowls Club at the end of Eudo Road and Fitzgilbert Road (by the tennis courts on Shrub End Road). Everyone is welcome (and the bar is very reasonable!), so why not come along and say hello.



Member of Federation of Colchester Residents' Associations

Member of Open Spaces Society

## Irvine Road Area Residents' Association Membership application/renewal form 2014/15

Annual membership of IRARA is £3.00 per household and is open to anyone living in Athelstan Road, Audley Road, Capel Road, Irvine Road and adjacent parts of Maldon Road and Shrub End Road.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to receive newsletters via: email  hard copy

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to apply for membership  I/We wish to renew our membership

Do you think the association should continue to fight for the preservation of our public open space for the benefit of local children? Yes  No

Would you be interested in helping with some of the association's activities (for example, leaflet drops, litter clearing etc.) Yes  No

Please fill in this form and hand it to your representative or send it to: Daniel Fox, IRARA Treasurer, 33 Irvine Road, Colchester CO3 3TR.