



MAY 2010

IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

newsletter

Your voice in the local community

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

Picnic on the Field Sunday 22nd August 2010

Last year's picnic on the Field was very popular, with over 100 people there at times during the day, so this year we have decided to have another get together, but instead of the bank holiday weekend we've brought it forward to enable more people to attend.

As before, it will be a very informal gathering and everyone is welcome, so come along, enjoy yourself and meet the neighbours.



Local children enjoying their last open space

Garage Sale – wet weather dampens enthusiasm

The garage sale on May 9th fell slightly short of expectations and was not as well attended as last year's, mainly due to the wet weather.

There was plenty of interest, as the sale had been advertised in one of the local papers, but persistent rain in the morning seemed to deter both buyers and sellers.

Another successful litterpick

The latest IRARA litterpick on February 15th was well attended and yielded 14/15 bags of rubbish from the Shady Lane/Irvine Road Field area alone. A sad comment on the habits of our youth perhaps, but full marks to members, and some non members, who turned out to do their bit.

The use of recycling bags will be repeated in future litter picks.

FOLLOWING ONE OF THE MOST EVENTFUL YEARS IN ITS HISTORY, IRARA FACES NEW CHALLENGES

2010 - interesting times for IRARA as AGM looms

This year's AGM to be held at the Drury Arms as Marylands is no longer available

The 2010 IRARA Annual General Meeting, scheduled to be held on June 8th at the Drury Arms (at the junction of Drury Road and Layer Road) comes at a challenging time for our residents' association. As many of you will be aware, since last November IRARA has been heavily engaged in resisting the Philip Morant access road plans, as well as the school's attempts to divert the footpath across the fields.

As a result, the IRARA piggy bank is severely depleted and, coming at a time when several members of the committee will be standing down at the AGM, means we have an urgent need to raise some funds, recruit new members and re-vitalise the committee.



The Irvine Road Field, still fighting to keep it intact

Keeping up the pressure

Looking back over the last year it seems obvious that one of the major factors in stiffening the resolve of Colchester Borough Council's Cabinet to resist the massive pressure from Essex County Council, Philip Morant School (as well as a large section of CBC itself) was the survey we carried out of local residents' views and the petition of over 1000 signatures we raised.

We need to keep up this kind of pressure if we are to succeed in influencing what happens next to our public open space, and for that we need to urgently recruit some new talent, both to the committee and to the association in general.

Consensus

As well as draining our resources, the campaign against the road has revealed an amazing consensus among the local community, right across the age spectrum and IRARA needs to be looking at ways to exploit this and bring more people on board. That's why we are asking you

to make a special effort this year to attend the AGM, to put the word out to friends and neighbours and to think hard about getting more involved.

If we fail to keep up the pressure on local beaurocrats, we will fail, and the hard work of the last few years will all have been for nothing.

What we need

Specifically, what the association urgently needs is:

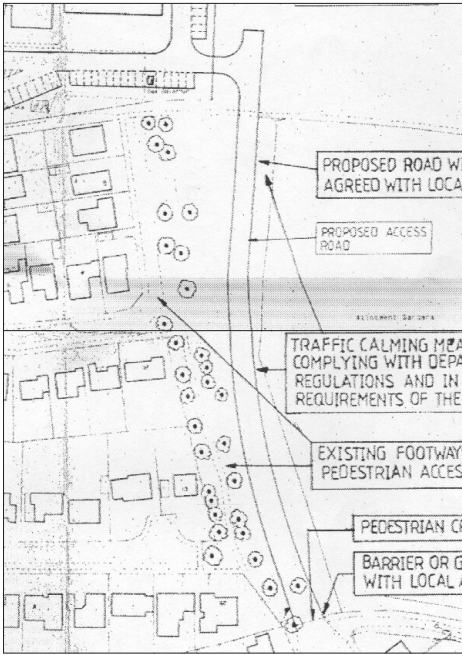
- New committee members and volunteers who are able to help with tasks such as leaflet distribution, organising events etc.
- Help with the printing of newsletters. This is the main expense to the association and we need to find ways of reducing the costs.
- As many local residents as possible to actually **join** the Residents' Association or renew their membership.

Subscriptions for the year 2010 – 2011 are due on the 31st of May and can be paid at the AGM.



The road to nowhere – what next?

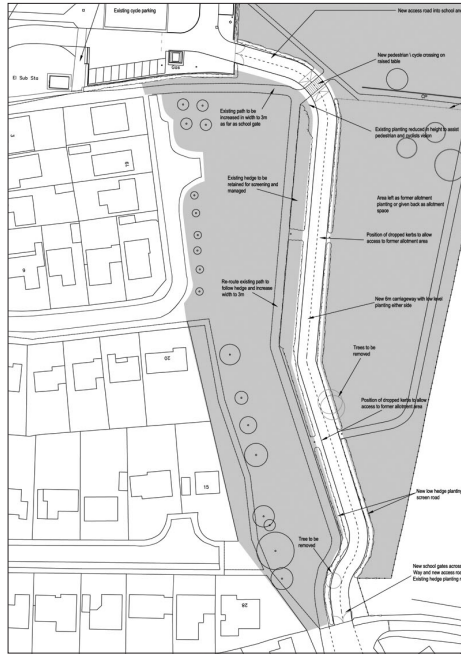
Planning permission has been granted, but the road may still never be built



The original plan: The turning area is to be dropped

As most of you will know by now, the existing planning application by Philip Morant School for a new access road has been successfully renewed and their additional application for permission to build a road across the area of the former allotments has also been approved by the CBC Planning Committee.

This has all been documented at length in previous newsletters and the local press, but a small but interesting point is that the school have agreed that if their original plan is implemented they will drop the turning area close to the school boundary. The road would now look much more like the new plan, but



The new plan: going through the 'Nature Reserve'

obviously cross The Green instead of the area of former allotments known locally as the Nature Reserve.

Not over yet

As always, the wheels of local government grind extremely slowly, with final funding for the much loathed 'Lord Hanningfield' Colchester schools re-organisation by no means certain and the entire issue on hold until January 2011 at the earliest.

We won't know until the beginning of next year whether the much-vaunted £130m will be forthcoming and whether CBC will have the courage to enforce their conditions

if it isn't. ECC appear confident that they will meet the conditions, but with the entire economic and political ground shifting almost daily and their former leader facing criminal charges for corruption, who knows.

From IRARA's point of view, however, our role must be to continue to point out the facts concerning this issue. We've done well so far this year and despite the planning decisions, it is true to say that the merit of our argument is beginning to be appreciated by a wider audience.

Add to this the fact that CBC are meeting severe resistance from the Secretary of State over their plan to allow the road to be built on much-needed allotment land and the enormous pressure for public expenditure cuts we can expect in the next few months, there is still plenty to fight for.

Our aim between now and next January should be to point out as effectively as we can, to as many people as possible, what a serious waste of much-needed public money this road would be.

Hands up all those who can think of a better way to spend £5million!

The AGM – a final reminder

Sorry to go on, but please make a special effort to get to the AGM this year, together with your £3.00! This year's subs are due on May 31st.

We need your support, but we also urgently need more of you to get involved, so please come along to the Drury Arms on June 8th and see what you can do to help keep up the pressure to save our public open spaces.

IRARA AGM
The Drury Arms, Layer Road
Tuesday June 8th 2010
7.15 for 7.30

See you there!

Irvine Road Area Residents' Association

Membership application/renewal form 2010/11

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: _____

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: David Kennedy, IRARA Treasurer, 28 Irvine Road, Colchester CO3 3TR.



Member of Federation of Colchester Residents' Associations

Member of Open Spaces Society