



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

newsletter

Your voice in the local community

MARCH 2018

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

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

HEADLINES FROM THE IRARA AGM 2017:

The IRARA Annual General Meeting was held at the Arclight Bowls Club on 29th November and was well attended. The main points were:

The public footpath between the schools – Are we finally there?

Councillor Sue Lissimore attended the meeting and provided an update on the footpath, over which we have been seeking formal designation.

The footpath runs between the two ends of Norman Way, bisecting Philip Morant/St Benedict's and the County High School. Cllr Lissimore relayed her understanding that the designation of the footpath would be confirmed subject to agreement that it would be designated for use as footpath, cycle and equestrian use and limited to 3m in width. She reported that the schools concerned had not objected to the proposal. The AGM agreed to support the proposal and thanked those who have worked hard to make the case for the footpath's designation.



The footpath between Philip Morant School and Colchester High School is an issue which has dogged the local community for almost two decades and it appears to be almost over. This is a good result for all of us, as it will confirm the new bridleway as the principal route between the two parts of Norman Way and ensure the ability to walk or cycle from Prettygate to Lexden.

Parking Problems

Parking in Athelstan Road and parts of Irvine Road have become an issue again on match days at the Grammar School grounds and it was agreed that the Committee would contact the Grammar School to discuss parking and safety issues associated with students and coaches using the Grammar School fields and car park.

Resignations from the committee

Gavin Sandercock, Clare Brennan and Michael Coster were thanked for their contribution to the IRARA Committee as they had announced they wished to step down. The new Committee was appointed – Helen Skipp, Simon Grinham, Claire Murphy, Shaun Thomas (chair), and Isabel Merry.

The Irvine Road Orchard

The AGM agreed to support the compromise agreement that would see 6 houses built on 40% of the Irvine Road Orchard with the remainder leased to the community to create a community orchard. There was enthusiasm for also pursuing the option of purchasing the land within the next five years if we can raise £45000.

More detail on the history of IRARA's involvement in the Orchard and the current proposals is provided on the website (www.irara.org.uk) and an update is provided below.



This newsletter is delivered to all residents within the Irvine Road Area. If you do not wish to receive it, please contact IRARA at info@irara.org.uk.

Irvine Road Area Residents' Association is a non-political organisation. It acts independently of any political party and is not affiliated to any other body which has as its objectives the advancement of any political interest

IRARA Quiz night – Saturday 28 April 28, Arclight Bowls club 7pm start

Our next social event is a quiz night at the Arclight Bowls Club on 28th April, starting at 7pm. There will be the familiar cheap licensed bar but please bring your own snacks.

Tickets are £5 per person with tables of 6/7 people. Tickets must be bought in advance and this is a first come, first served event so please contact Claire Murphy to buy your tickets on 07764 939169 or Murphy.claire@hotmail.co.uk.

The funds raised will go towards setting up the Irvine Road Community Orchard.



The IRARA Community Orchard and Wildlife Site – about to become a reality.

Programme for 2018 – put the dates in your diary

IRARA's current programme of events for 2018 is set out below. We are looking to add to this and welcome ideas so please send any suggestions to info@irara.org.uk – we will keep you updated on the website and facebook page, and subsequent newsletters.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
April 28th	7pm	Quiz Night	Arc Light
Sunday 10 June	11–2pm	Street Sale	In your front garden !
Sunday 8 July	2–5pm	BBQ on the Field	Field
Thursday 4th October	7.30 pm	AGM	Arc Light
Sunday 21 October	10–12 am	Litter Pick	Meet outside the allotment Gates
Friday 7 Dec	7.30 pm	Winter Social	Arc Light

Orchard, with an opportunity to purchase the land within the next 5 years. This would be triggered by the granting of planning permission and will allow us to restore the wildlife interest and to engage the community in the Orchard's management. We expect a planning application to be submitted later this year with some initial works being undertaken in autumn.

We will ensure residents are alerted to the planning application and we encourage you to respond to the local authority when it is available. Taking on the running of a community orchard is no small undertaking and we are looking for people to help.

Do let us know if you are interested and what you would be keen to help with. Our most urgent needs are for people with legal or fundraising experience but over time we will need people to help manage the orchard, to maintain the website, act as treasurer and run events to name a few. So get in touch...

email: info@irara.org.uk

or contact us via the website www.irara.org.uk

You can also get in touch via our Facebook page.

Orchard latest

Following the overwhelming support for the compromise agreement (as described in the AGM report) by the residents' survey in November and at the AGM, discussions with the developer have moved on at pace.

We have received a written commitment from the developer, Lexden Restorations, to give the community a 50 year lease over 60% of the

www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation

Orchard background

IRARA has long campaigned against development of the Orchard. However, given the Council's probable support for development, as expressed in the draft Local Plan and that the owner, a local developer, is legally obliged to apply to develop the land and to appeal if the local Council opposes development, the IRARA Committee, supported by the views we have sought from residents, believes that this opportunity to secure the majority of the Orchard for its wildlife and the community is now the right course to pursue.



Member of Federation of Colchester Residents' Associations

Member of Open Spaces Society

Irvine Road Area Residents' Association Membership application/renewal form 2018/19

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: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

I wish to receive newsletters via: email hard copy

I/We wish to apply for membership

I/We wish to renew our membership

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: Simon Grinham, IRARA Membership Secretary, The Old Sweet Shop, Athelstan Road, Colchester CO3 3TR.