

APRA

Abbey Precincts Residents Association

Protecting our Conservation Area

Newsletter April 2014

So much has happened since our first public meeting in the dark of Winter!

Newsletter Spring 2014
We now have a constitution, a committee, over 100 paid-up members, a web site and- importantly- a voice. We're here to represent you, the residents!

Audit conducted by Herts County Council concluded that the Romeland scheme was unsafe, essentially because the buses are too large for our narrow streets. Although not formally announced by the Council, it appears the Romeland scheme is no more. So, while we remain vigilant to ensure the scheme is not resurrected, we may reasonably consider one of our objectives achieved. From the

VISIT THE APRA WEB SITE!!

We now have a shiny new web site for you, our fellow residents and traders who live or work within the Cathedral Precincts. Visit for news, updates and information on who we are, what we're up to and what's going on in our area, contact:

www.aprastalbans.org

ST ALBANS SCHOOL BUSES: The School Bus issue is a key concern for APRA. The presence of numerous extremely large buses in the narrow medieval streets of the Cathedral quarter causes damage, danger and frequent traffic chaos that affects us all. It was the Council's attempt at a solution, to turn Romeland Gardens into a roundabout with a gated bus-stand for the School, that sparked APRA into life. We made considerable progress towards our objective of stopping this proposal in the last six months of 2013. A Safety

large numbers of residents who braved the chill winter winds to sit-in on the council's working party meeting in early March, it cannot have gone un-noticed to all - politicians and council officers present alike - that the residents are not prepared to be ignored. *However it would be unwise to assume anything in this long running saga*, so we ask members to continue to provide evidence of any ongoing incident involving School buses, preferably by email with photographs attached to: school.buses@aprastalbans.org.

THE APRA COMMITTEE...

Peter Trevelyan, Abbey Mill End (Chair)
Geoff Dyson, College Street (Deputy Chair)
Andrew Yaras, Fishpool Street (Treasurer)
Robert Pankhurst, College Street (Secretary)
John Hedges, Abbey Mill Lane
Gillian Field, George Street
Michael Ormiston, Abbey Mill End
Justin Douglas, Lower Dagnall Street
Martin Treasure, High Street
Beth Hall, Lower Dagnall Street

Street Representatives:

College Street – Mike Hall
Lower Dagnall Street - Beth Hall
Spicer Street – Alan & Renee Shenton
Queen Street – To be confirmed
Michael Goldthorpe
College Place – Patricia Hicks
Temperance Street – To be confirmed
Welclose Street – Andrew Yaras
Abbey Mill Lane – Brigitte Paupy
Romeland & George Street – Gillian Field
New England Street – Edgar Hill
Abbey Mill Flats – Marylyn Madden
Abbey Mill End – Michael Ormiston
Pondwicks Close - Ian Smith

PLANNING:

Spotted Bull Planning Refusal: St Albans' District Council have refused the planning application for the side extension submitted last October, after many changes and challenges on the part of the developer, who has nevertheless continued building against SADC advice. Thus the building now exceeds those shown on the refused plans!

We are working together with Aboyne and Verulam Road Residents Associations to ensure that no compromise solution to this complex situation ignores our concerns about noise, parking and the impact on local residents, nor indeed planning law.

We will continue to monitor planning applications and use our voice to protect the Conservation Area. Our arguments may have been partly responsible for withdrawal of the proposed double-stacking car park for the Nationwide House flats in January.

CAR PARKING: *It's still a 'Night'-mare!!*

Anyone returning to our area in the evenings or at night in particular will know that parking for residents is grossly insufficient, having suffered in recent years from 'safety alterations' to road layouts, as well as some large office-to-residential conversions. Promises to replace lost spaces have not been fulfilled. Proximity to the city centre and its amenities also leads to conflict with non-residents.

We have followed the Fishpool Street Residents Association's lead and

requested residents' only parking in Zone B- (most of the area between Romeland and Verulam Road, down to the Brickie & restriction daily from 8.30am to 10pm), but the Council's car parking group wants to produce a broad-ranging approach to the problem. We will work together with them and other Associations to achieve this, pressing for a radical solution. If you have any comments or ideas on this issue, please contact us: car.parking@aprastalbans.org



POT HOLE ALERT!

Seen a pot hole? Worried about the state of your roads and pavements? Herts County Council have a dedicated web site for reporting street light outage, dangerous roads and potholes which is pretty sophisticated – we've used it ourselves and can vouch for the efficiency of reporting. Whether this will translate into 'action' with the same efficiency – we'll let you know! You can log dangerous roads and paths at:<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/highways/hhoni neservices/hfr/>. Or, alternatively, contact your APRA Street rep!

Indeed, we've reported the leaky manhole in Romeland near the Cathedral Gates and we await a visit from a Herts County Council Inspector.

HELP needed please for our forthcoming social event after easter! Call or e-mail us at social@aprastalbans.org

ENVIRONMENT We are keenly aware that the recycling instructions do not make it particularly easy, although the Council has certainly improved the instructions & also the amount of material that can be recycled. In the narrow roads & pavements of the Conservation Area it can be more of a challenge. In particular we notice that there is less recycling of food & garden waste compared to other areas where the big green wheelie bins can be used. To help you improve your own recycling, there is some helpful guidance on the Council's website at: <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/environmentandwaste/rubbish-waste-and-recycling/default.aspx>

Alternatively, we are pleased to offer recycling guidance visits: APRA Committee Member, Justin Douglas is happy to visit you to help sort through the various 'rules' to try to make it easy for you & answer your questions. To request this please contact us by email or street rep: environmental@aprastalbans.org

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