

**BruNK**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**28<sup>th</sup> March 2006**  
**Burleigh Arms**

Roger thanks Lucy and David for hosting the meeting, introduces the new committee.

**Minutes** of the last AGM approved.

**Financial Report** is approved and John stresses that we are grateful for donations.

**Rogers Report:** He welcomes Colin and Joye. He thanks the committee. He sums up that the association is concerned over the quality of life in the neighbourhood as it conflicts with commercial issues, housing developments, increases in traffic, and intrusion into green spaces. He stresses the importance of putting pressure on the council in the consultation process and our concern about the degree to which the council really listens and takes account of resident's views.

Core Scheme 5 and the relocation of the National Express buses have been burning issues over the last year.

Members of the committee, in particular, Roger and Wendy campaigned long and hard against the use of a bus layover for National Express Coaches on Victoria Avenue. Although we were assured that the coach layover couldn't go anywhere else but Victoria Avenue it did end up on Parkside. Whilst very pleased that Victoria Avenue was spared the committee do not consider Parkside a suitable option, have strong sympathy for the Parkside residents and have continued to attend their meetings.

In connection with this and other central Cambridge issues we are interested in the Ashwell Development and urge people to attend a meeting at the Guildhall on April 5<sup>th</sup>

**Core Scheme 5 report by Wendy.**

Wendy outlines the history of this scheme. It is 7 years since Emmanuel Street was closed. The committee supported this but asserted the need for Maids Causeway / Victoria Avenue to be included in this Core Scheme. Since then there has been: 33% increase in traffic. 300% increase in HGV's  
50% of HGV's and cars use this route as a rat run.

Council is now due to consult on Core Scheme 5. We have commented on the three options.

**Part-time off peak traffic:** this would remove through traffic. The committee agrees with the advantages listed. In particular it would shift more traffic onto the ring road, which at the moment carries significantly less traffic than the Maids Causeway / Victoria Avenue run, e.g. Chesterton Road westbound 3,882 Maids Causeway westbound 8,455.

**Traffic calming:** unlikely to reduce volume

**Do nothing:** not an option!

With the huge building developments in Cambridge the increase in traffic will be considerable. It is, therefore, very important to respond to the consultation process. This starts 3<sup>rd</sup> April for 7 weeks.  
Exhibition 20<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 4.30-6.30.  
A report with recommendations will be made at the AJC on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. The more people who attend the better.

Wendy stressed that it has taken 7 years to get this far in which time the AJC has changed. We as an association have kept up the pressure and it is now up to all local residents to make their voices heard.

Colin Rosenstiel responded by stating the importance of maintaining access to Park Street Car Park in the scheme but to make sure this doesn't impact badly on Maids Causeway. Colin is in agreement that doing nothing is not an option!

Wendy is fairly certain that the advantages of a decrease in traffic outweigh the need for access to Park Street. Also, the two don't necessarily cancel each other out. As yet there has only been limited discussion about where any bollards should go.

### **Discussion open to the floor**

Has Jesus College been consulted?

Yes the council had pre-consultation with selected groups in the autumn.  
The results of this questionnaire have been taken into account in the options outlined.

Is bollards Jesus College's preferred option?

Someone conveyed that JC were concerned about becoming a rat run themselves – however this is unlikely since it is already gated.

Closure – could lorries be banned for longer periods than cars, e.g. 12.00 midnight to 7.a.m.?

We presented a petition in 2001 asking for a restriction on HGVs which was postponed until the Core Scheme 5 was under consideration. The council also postponed the possible creation of a pedestrian crossing at James Street/Parsonage Street.

There was a general expression of disappointment @ the options. Some residents favoured traffic calming measures and speed limits. Colin said that a 20-mile per hour speed limit could only be introduced if cars are already going at that speed! There will be an enforcement of 20 mph limits in side streets.

However it is the view of the association that the only way to stop people going through is to ban the traffic or regulate the flow. There was a suggestion that independent research is needed. Some residents were very concerned that our homes particularly those on Maids Causeway will not withstand the volume of traffic over time. There is also a health issue.

There was concern from Jeremy Waller, however, whose staff is dependent on vehicular access to the city centre about the adverse affects to business of restricted access. He stressed the importance for business of keeping this access as straightforward as possible.

It was brought to the meeting's attention to be cautious in response to the council's questions in the consultation process as the questions asked are often phrased in order to get the answer they want. This was reinforced by a general concern about the questions asked for the current survey.

There was a show of hands at this point, which was unanimous in favour of action.

Roger calls for a public meeting. Colin suggests it would be valuable to invite other AJC members as well as himself.

### **Trees on Salmon Lane and Maids Causeway:**

Trees on Salmon Lane were an issue at the time of the last AGM. Since then they have been removed and there is a scheme in process to replace them with mature trees in pots.

On Maids Causeway one of the London Plane Trees has been chopped because it was rotten. However the council only gave 6 working days notice and the communication was ineffective. Someone else noted that only 48 hours notice had been given for the felling of a tree at the corner of Fitzroy Lane.

There is some confusion about the need to prune these trees on a regular basis. It was suggested that the pruning had caused the tree to rot. In fact is essential to prune city trees in order to prolong their life and to avoid subsidence. One resident referred to the underpinning necessary to his property as a result of the County Council's neglect of pruning. The residents association will follow this up.

**Midsummer Common: The access and parking of vehicles** and the access for taxis is cause for concern. The association have had cooperation from Chris Robertson on this. However the gate is still not being locked.

Joye Rosentstiel responds to this. Chris Robertson is retiring and she agrees that the new person should re-evaluate the mode of opening and closing the gate.

The fact of **Midsummer House** concreting over 1 metre of council land without permission (for disabled access) has been taken up by the association. Joye said that the council would write to MSH and ask for a donation to charity. She cannot recommend the legal procedure that the returning of the metre of concrete would involve because of the enormous cost to the council. (£5 – 10,000). However many residents felt that it was an important precedent to protect all common land and that the council would be negligent if it did not fight against the erosion of land, which is more and more under threat from commercial interest.

It was agreed that the committee should meet with Chris Robertson and Anthony French.

**Cows:** There is a strong lobby amongst residents to have cows on the common. The council still wishes to promote this, however, dairy farming has been reduced by Foot and Mouth and the common does not offer continuous grazing as Stourbridge does. Also the paper work involved and the associated costs are prohibitive.

It was suggested that we could investigate a resident's herd. In response Geoffrey King

put up £20 to start this off and Jeremy Waller agreed to talk to colleges.

It was agreed that last **Midsummer Fair** caused a lot less grief than in previous years. This was helped by actively involving local residents and members of the committee attended daily meetings during the Fair. Nigel Cutting set this up. Several residents asked whether there was any way of avoiding the use of local roads as latrines especially the wall bordering Brunswick Cottages. Joye said she would look into the use of peepods alongside walls during the Fairs.

**Boats:** As a result of the recent survey, as from the 1st April there will be a mooring and licence fee charged of between £750-800. There will also be an enhanced rubbish collection from the 3<sup>rd</sup> April and a second pump out of the water supply. Part of the money raised by the licence fee will be use to employ someone to liaise with boaters. There are 70 spaces on Stourbridge, Midsummer and Jesus Green. The County Council owns Riverside. The decision to ban boats has been deferred in order to monitor the developments as a result of offering boaters an improved service.

**Allotments:** Is there any possibility of developing the scrubland adjacent to existing allotments for new allotments?

This strip of land is common land and usually where the cows are put to be grazed.

**Licensing Hours:** Licensing laws can now be reviewed at any time.

**Website:** Many thanks to John Lawton for setting up our website. It is looking good and democratises the resident's association. Roger urges people to view the website. John would welcome photos. (john.lawton@ntlworld.com)

**Committee:** the present committer was re-elected and Mike Ashby, Geoffrey King and John Lawton were voted on as new members.

**Christ Church:** The vicar, Steve Midgely, talked to us about the proposals for a major refurbishment of the church. These are at the stage of formal consultation. They are mostly internal with some improvement to the exterior. This will make for better provision for the community, e.g. parents and toddlers, the retired club, holiday clubs.

There was some concern about the preservation of the graveyard and the ferns and flowers growing in the wall. However the graveyard is to stay and the council are responsible for the maintenance of the walls.

The plans can be made available to any resident should they wish to see them.

**Parking:** Colin informed us that extra spaces are to be made available in the Kite area. Half the pay and display spaces in King Street and two extra bays on Maids Causeway. This should make 8-10 additional spaces. In the long run it may be a good idea to unite Kite and Brunswick.

Controversy continues over the single yellow line in Napier Street and why it cannot be utilised for parking space. Graham Lowe has stated that a petition from residents on Napier Street would have an impact.

Someone called for the double yellow lines in Christchurch Street to be extended.

**AOB:** Tim Phillips, who is leaving the area, thanked the resident's association for their work. He and Rosie will be missed.

We raised £100.00 for Centre 33 at the winter party.

Mary Chadwick  
17<sup>th</sup> April 2006