

Newsletter No. 41 – November 2014

Cerne Abbas Residents' Association (CARA Ltd.)

1. CARA Council Members - 2013/2014

The current CARA Council members as elected or re-elected at the AGM in July 2014 are listed below. Should you have any issues of concern, please feel free to direct them to any of those listed:

John Barnes	Chairman	No. 45
Alan Baldwin	Treasurer	No. 3
Steve Easton	Member	No. 29
John Vivian	Member	No. 1
John Wardle	Member	No. 2
Ray Wylde	Member	No. 21
Chris Lamb	Member	No. 11

CARA Council has met three times since issue of the previous newsletter – on 5th July, 6th September and 22nd November.

2. Boundary Clearance

Our boundary fencing along Tower Road West and Forest Road is suffering damage from many years of unconstrained growth of trees and shrubs inside the boundary. Trees need to be trimmed and dead trees, branches and other debris cleared. We aim to create and maintain a one meter clear space inside the fence, where allowable by tree protection orders. Tree branches overhanging the public footpath and roadway also contravene Poole Council regulations for maintaining minimum height clearance above these areas and obstruct public lighting in some cases. The clearance is a major task, requiring use of chainsaws, heavy-duty chipper and trucks. We briefed three recommended contractors on the requirement, assessed their bids, and commissioned the work which is planned to start on 6th January 2015, with the possibility of some work being started in late December 2014. The scope of work includes removing the two dead silver birch trees in the Phase 1 gardens and a large half-fallen branch in a tree along The Avenue frontage near the side gate.

3. Boundary Fence Repairs

The work described above will prevent damage to our main boundary fence panels, but there are a number of damaged fence-top trellis panels which need to be replaced. Our usual policy is to only call out a contractor when there are at least several such panels needing replacement, to avoid unnecessary expense. But the boundary clearance work may result in further damage and so trellis panel replacement will be postponed until the clearance work has completed in January 2015.

4. Boundary Fence Repainting

The question of whether the road-facing boundary fence panels should be painted (on the external side only) was raised at the 2014 AGM. It was noted then that the panels are made of treated timber and that painting would not necessarily prolong their life, but that CARA Council would investigate further. We have received quotations from our current Cerne Abbas painting contractor (JR Murphy), via

Nettleship Sawyer, for applying a water-based product (which would have minimal preservative effect) and for applying a solvent-based wood preservative. The water-based treatment would cost £3074 and the solvent-based preservative would cost £2801 for a single coat or £5026 for a double coat which would last longer and maximize the lifespan of the existing fence panels. CARA Council has reviewed the costs and benefits in view of the age and condition of the existing fence panels and posts and concluded that it would be more cost-effective to just replace existing fence panels on an individual basis - and only when necessary - with similar treated timber panels.

5. Garden Waste

Our gardeners occasionally leave lawn clippings, for their subsequent collection, in the border area along Tower Road West near to the side gate when the amount exceeds their ability to remove it all in one load. Although most CARA residents remove their own garden waste from patio plants etc. to the Poole Council's waste disposal site or arrange for contractors to remove it, some residents have dumped their own garden waste in the side gate area and behind the south gatehouse near the main entrance. None of the garden waste (including branches, soil and stones) currently deposited in either area has been left there by our gardeners and they are under no obligation to remove it. Neither is it CARA's responsibility to bear the costs of removing such waste. Please do not dump ANY waste in the Cerne Abbas common areas.

CARA Council is investigating a suggestion from one of our residents that CARA provides organic compost bins as a means of reducing the expense of fertilizing the common area gardens. These bins could receive purely organic garden waste from residents and some of the grass clippings from our gardeners.

6. Gardening Club

One of our recent arrivals in Cerne Abbas, Darren Pask (No. 18) is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society and has taken a keen interest in our common-area gardens. Darren has offered to set up a Phase 1 gardening club in 2015 to improve the current and future plantings in both the Phase 1 garden and the frontage along The Avenue. CARA Council warmly welcomes this initiative and Alan Baldwin (No. 3) has volunteered to be the director responsible for liaising with the club. Darren has already made a number of suggestions which he would like to discuss with other residents who share his interest, via the P1 gardening club. If you would like to participate, then please contact Darren by phone on 01202 949669 or by email at darrenpask1@sky.com

If any Phase 2 residents would like to form a similar gardening club for the Phase 2 gardens and the Forest Road boundary gardens then please express your interest to your CARA Council contact John Barnes (No. 45) by phone on 01202 540245 or by email at john.barnes6494@gmail.com

7. Safety and Security

Cash and an iPad were stolen overnight from an unlocked car parked in a private driveway within Cerne Abbas in October 2014. Dorset Police have also advised, in the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter of November 2014, of a steady rise in thefts from motor vehicles stationary and unattended parked either on the public road or private driveways in the Canford Cliffs and Penn Hill areas of Poole. As previously advised, do not leave valuables of any kind in your vehicle, set the alarm (if fitted) and securely lock the vehicle.

We have also been advised in a further November Neighbourhood Watch newsletter of a burglary in the Canford Cliffs area. Dorset Police advise that house alarms should be set and the property secured if you go out, and that some lights should also be left on if you go out in the evening.

CARA is a member of the local Neighborhood Watch scheme through our membership of the Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs Residents Association. Ray Wylde (No. 21) is CARA's contact with the Neighborhood Watch scheme; Ray is also a member of CARA Council.

Further to the proposal advised in the previous newsletter, we are installing a 3 meter post-mounted light alongside the path to the side gate. This will complete illumination of the side path and also of the keypad to the side gate.

8. Car Parking and Speeding

Finally, the usual reminder that CARA covenants, rules and regulations operate through the goodwill and participation of everyone – owners and tenants – resident in Cerne Abbas. Speeding and Inconsiderate parking impacts everyone and can cause not only inconvenience, but also real danger to residents and visitors – especially children. We therefore ask for your cooperation in applying these simple rules:

- Residents' cars should be parked in garages or on driveways. The other short term parking areas around the site are for the use of visitors.
- The maximum speed limit (not a speed target) around the site is 10 mph – or slower when limited visibility or the presence of cyclists and children applies.

Owners who are renting out their properties are asked to ensure that their tenants are fully aware of these, and other, covenant issues.

John Barnes
Chairman, CARA Ltd.