

Newsletter No. 47 – Dec 2017
Cerne Abbas Residents' Association (CARA Ltd.)

1. CARA Council Members - 2017

The current CARA Council members as elected at the AGM in July 2017 are listed below. Should you have any issues of concern, please feel free to contact any of the following:

Chris Lamb	Chairman	No 11
Alan Baldwin	Treasurer	No. 3
John Barnes	Member	No. 45
Steve Easton	Member	No. 29
Jacqui Higgins	Member	No 7
Chris Kelu	Member	No 18
David Kendrick	Member	No 17
Amanda Leeding	Member	No 54
Elizabeth (Betty) Porter	Member	No. 41
John Vivian	Member	No. 1
John Wardle	Member	No. 2
Ian White	Member	No 59

Since the AGM, CARA Council has met twice - on 9th September and the 11th November 2017. The latter was chaired by Ian White in the absence of Chris Lamb. The next meeting, scheduled for 13th January, will be chaired by Chris Lamb.

2. Development of the gardens.

Treecall Consulting carry out a safety survey of our trees on a two yearly basis. Tree condition is assessed and recommendations made. The last review in June 2017 listed a number of tree work requirements. Our CARA member Jacqui Higgins, with support and advice from Darren Pask, will implement the advice to prune or fell trees accordingly. This is approved where necessary by the Tree Protection Officer in Poole Council, and is carried out by our estate gardeners. Work will be seen over the next twelve months.

Work on the entrance circle garden has been completed by our enthusiastic gardening volunteers under the guidance of Darren. Our gardening club members are to be acknowledged for their dedication to hard work under somewhat inclement weather conditions!

Work is to be considered in Phase 2 to thin the crowns of the beech trees by about 20%. This and some trimming of the Rhododendron will be agreed with John Smith our gardener and affected residents.

Perennials and shrubs continue to be added to the estate. The beds around the periphery are seeing change comparable to what one would expect in a Botanical Garden. All thanks to Darren who applies a succession planning mind-set. We are seeing not only a high degree of garden beauty but a more sustainable and diversified landscape based on the consideration of soil type, water availability and ambient temperature. We are all benefiting from the RHS expertise and the outside contacts that provide some of the plants and shrubs at no cost to Cerne Abbas residents.

The composting bins along the Tower Road West boundary adjacent to the side gate path continue to provide a useful and economical source of fertilizer for our gardens. Please remember that successful

composting requires that the rules set out below are observed by all who use this facility. Our composting bins are **not** a refuse facility for residents! Anything added to the bins must be broken apart into small pieces. We add the contents of the bins as a top dressing to the gardens, so no root balls or whole tea bags please!

Items to compost are:

- Fruit and Vegetables peelings
- Rotten Fruit and Vegetables - please chop up before adding
- Coffee grounds
- Tea bags/tea leaves - tea bags must be split open
- Egg shells - broken up
- Dead flowers - cut up
- Old bedding plants - cut up
- Old compost from pots and containers – but please break up and spread out when adding to the heap
- Shrub prunings - must be cut up small or, if too big, may be placed in a neat pile next to the compost bins so they can be shredded and then added to the compost.

Items **not** to be added:

- Any cooked food such as fruit, vegetables, meat, bones etc.
- Any bread/baked items or dairy products
- Cardboard or shredded paper
- Perennial weeds e.g. dandelion
- Root balls from plants or shrubs etc.

3. Maintenance

Following the successful refurbishment of the visitors parking bay in front of houses 3/4 a quotation has been accepted to repair the remaining bays. Work will be seen in the following months, weather permitting.

The paint for the fencing between houses is under review. The colour will remain the same. Two paints are being tested by residents in Phase 1. Also the code numbers on the side gate lock are faded. Repainting is being considered.

Signage: Simple stick signs "Visitor Only" will be placed at the back of all parking bays except the entrance circle. The damaged hump sign in front of No 7 is replaced.

Faulty Phase 1 garden lighting has been isolated and will be repaired to the same style and output.

More than 35 boundary fence panels have been repaired or replaced over the last month.

4. Redecoration Contract

Now that redecoration is complete, we are considering a number of ways to reduce costs and facilitate the process in preparation for the next contract in four years time. This will consider the use of Phase 1 scaffolding and alternatives to replace the soffits and fascias for detached houses. We will keep you updated accordingly.

5. Survey

Nettleship Sawyer conducts periodic inspections/surveys of Cerne Abbas. The terms used in the findings varies from report to report and therefore make it difficult to action. One of our CARA Council members is reviewing the reports to develop a terms of reference to ensure consistency as we move forwards.

It is about five years since the safety survey of Phase one. A suitable surveyor will be contacted to review Phase one; carried out in the next 12 months.

6. Safety and Security

CARA is a member of the local Neighborhood Watch scheme, Ray Wylde (No. 21) is CARA's contact with the scheme. The Dorset Police Newsletter is received and distributed by Ray, using his discretion as to which of the frequent newsletters may be of interest to our residents.

7. Covenants

Again, the usual reminder that CARA covenants, rules and regulations operate through the goodwill and participation of everyone resident in Cerne Abbas. Speeding, inconsiderate parking and nuisance can impact everyone. We therefore ask for your cooperation in applying the following:

- Residents' cars should be parked in garages, on driveways or at the entrance turning circle. The other short term parking areas around the site are for the use of visitors. Residents may use visitor parking if a visitor uses your driveway.
- The maximum speed limit (not a speed target) around the site is 10 mph – slower when limited visibility or the presence of cyclists and children applies.
- Ensure your children are considerate of others when playing in the gardens.

Owners who are renting out their properties are asked to ensure that their tenants are fully aware of these, and other, covenant issues. Similarly, owners having work done by contractors should inform them of our speed limits and the requirement to park properly, not on the road side.

8. The Final Word...

Thank you all for being an engaged member of CARA and in particular those who contribute to the upkeep and running of Cerne Abbas. Enjoy a "Merry Christmas" and a happy and prosperous "New Year". May 2018 be another year of congenial and inclusive residence, with the emphasis on a positive and considerate environment for all.

Chris Lamb on behalf of CARA Council

Chairman, CARA Ltd.