

Newsletter No. 48 – May 2018
Cerne Abbas Residents' Association (CARA Ltd.)

1. CARA Council Members - 2018

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 five times - on the 9th September the 11th November 2017, the 13th January, 3rd of March and the 12th of May 2018. Chairmanship according to availability has been shared between Chris Lamb, Ian White and John Vivian. The next meeting is scheduled for 14th July.

2. Maintenance

Following the successful refurbishment of the visitors parking bay in front of houses 3/4 the remaining bays were repaired this spring. The visible surface gravel will slowly wash into the slabs over time returning them to the original appearance. This work has significantly extended the life of the bays at a very reasonable cost.

Faulty Phase 1 garden lighting has been repaired and the lighting upgraded to long lasting units.

Fence panels In the middle of the North boundary are falling forwards. This is to be repaired on the 14th of May.

The carved stonework capping the pillars at the corner gate has been repaired.

A survey of the internal perimeter road has been carried out by two of our resident engineers. An accurate description and specification of required work is being developed prior to going out to tender. There is no urgent work required however it is wise to carry out preventative work to avoid major works In the future.

3. Actions for You

Resident's dogs should be encouraged not to water the trees. Thank you to the many owners who take their dogs for a good long walk out of the estate.

Owners having work done by contractors should inform them of our speed limits and the requirement to

park properly, not on the road side.

Keep up the good work on parking. The response to the visitor parking letter was superb. Thank you all for being considerate. Residents are now following the rules of:

- 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 around the site is 10 mph – slower with limited visibility or the presence of cyclists and children.

Ensure your children are considerate of others when playing in the gardens.

The AGM is planned for the 4th of August. Please think of any AoBs well in advance. The agenda will be delivered three weeks before the meeting.

4. The gardens.

A number of trees and shrubs have been pruned or felled in line with the advice from Treecall Consulting. The Cedar at the corner gate has been felled and we are waiting for the stump to be ground out. Once this is complete the fence will be repaired. We are delighted to have the approval of a special specimen replacement tree, a Mexican Weeping Pine. The next tree survey will take place in 2019. Work in Phase 2 to thin the crowns of the beech trees by about 20% still needs to be completed. This and some trimming of the Rhododendron will be carried out by John Smith, our gardener, and his team.

Many of the garden improvements are clearly visible with the arrival of spring. The beds around the periphery are seeing change both in the variety of leaf shape and form as well as splashes of colour. The plants are bought with cash gifted by residents or as donations to our community from gardening contacts as well as being paid for out of the CARA budget. The latter is often for replacement trees such as the Mexican Weeping Pine. The volunteer residents of the gardening club meet the second Sunday of each month in Phase 1 gardens. Please join them if you wish to volunteer your labour and ideas; if you want to contribute cash for plants make contact with Daren Pask the club leader, No 18.

The composting bins along the Tower Road West boundary will be repositioned this year making them less visible and more accessible. Please remember that successful composting requires that we follow the rules set out below. 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.

5. Management Agent's Inspections

For some years we have had estate inspections carried out quarterly by our management agent. CARA Council has a responsibility to ensure that the covenants, rules and regulations governing the estate are observed and followed and the management agent assists in carrying this out. Findings are reported to the Council and actions agreed either for Council or individual house owners. A review of the terms of the inspection has been led by David Kendrick and agreed by Council. Subsequently the inspections will be twice a year, once in spring and once in autumn. Owners will then have the summer to rectify any findings. The first of this year's inspections will be this month. You will be pleased to read that it is now acceptable to have hanging baskets by front doors and pot plants on the front steps as well as shrubs and bushes growing up patio fencing.

6. Group Building Insurance

You will have received a summary of our group building insurance from Nettleship Sawyer. Our schedule meets standard requirements which will suit the needs of most owners. All observations and comments should be sent to Nettleship Sawyer within the stated time.

7. 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 who uses his discretion as to which of the frequent newsletters may be of interest to our residents.

8. The Final Word...

Thank you all for being an engaged member of CARA and in particular those who contribute freely to the upkeep and running of Cerne Abbas. This is another year of a 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.