



Calthorpe Residents Society Newsletter November 2022

CRS Monthly News by email

Welcome to the first CRS Newsletter in a new series of monthly publications delivered directly to members. These will include details of current CRS activities and local events and activities happening across the Estate.

The Committee would love to hear what you would like us to include. Please submit comments and news by [email](#).

Loki Wine Bar Social Event 14th September, 2022



This event was well attended by members and an enjoyable time was had by all. It proved to be a good opportunity to bring together residents from across the Calthorpe Estate to socialise and share any issues they are experiencing with each other and CRS. Following its success, we plan to organise similar future events. Many thanks to Loki for hosting the event and supplying some excellent wines and nibbles.

Five Ways Tower



The deplorable state of the Five Ways Tower on Frederick Road, was one of the main discussion points at the last quarterly meeting with the Chief Executive of Calthorpe Estates, Haydn Cooper. The many concerns of our members living close to the Tower were highlighted, with the hope that the building would be made secure and safe by the lessee and tidied up, as it currently represents a significant eyesore towering over the Estate.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens



Some of you may have seen in the local press that the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG) were successful in their application for funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. BBG were granted an initial £590,000 with the potential to receive a further £4.4m of funding.

In October, CRS representatives met with some of the senior team at BBG, including Sue Beardsmore, Chair of Trustees at the Gardens and received an update on how these funds will be spent. It was clear from this meeting that whilst detailed plans are yet to be drawn up, BBG are very much focused on restoring its four historic listed glasshouses with the Heritage Fund grant. Any longer-term development plans will require further substantial fund raising and will focus on (a) removing some of the more modern building at the Gardens, which detracts from the historic buildings and (b) providing additional visitor and community resources to create a place of horticultural excellence and outstanding green space.

BBG were also clear about the need to discuss and share their plans as they develop with nearby residents. In this respect they appeared more than happy to work with CRS and other local resident groups to make this possible. For further information about the fund award please go [here](#).

Edgbaston Cricket ground development



CRS is a member of the Edgbaston Foundation Community Liaison Group, which is a platform that allows dialogue with representatives of the local community around the Cricket Ground. The Group meetings cover all aspects of club activity including cricket, venue, transportation, community initiatives and recreational cricket. At the recent quarterly meeting the following issues which may be of interest to our members were discussed:

- **Ongoing flat and Plaza developments:** Progress on the 375 build to rent flats that are being built at the Ground is on track to complete as planned in the middle of 2023, the 14,800 sqm Plaza outside the stadiums front having been completed earlier this year prior to the Commonwealth Games.

- **Levelling up funding:** Last month, Edgbaston, with the support of the city council and local politicians, submitted a £20m bid to the Government's Levelling Up Fund. If successful the funding will be used to develop the ground further (Raglan and Priory Stands) and provide multi use Community Hubs at both the Edgbaston Ground and at the former police station site in Quinton. It is also proposed to ensure that the new Edgbaston Plaza can be used for community events and that the local community will benefit from investment in learning development, apprenticeship centres and better walking and cycle routes around the stadium
- More details about the planned developments can be found [here](#).

The issues affecting local residents are taken seriously by the Ground, hence CRS would be interested to know of any issues arising from use of the ground during match days that have impacted our members over the last six months which we can feed back to the Group. If anyone has any such issues, please [email](#) us.

CRS Litter Picking



Following a successful litter picking morning on 24th September, the next litter picking event by CRS is planned for Saturday 26th November. Any members interested in joining one of the CRS litter picking teams on that morning should please [email](#) us.

Edgbaston Community Garden

Progress on the Community Gardens at the back of Greenfield Crescent, has been slow, because of the presence of Japanese knotweed on the site. Hopefully this issue will be dealt with quickly, at which point volunteers from CRS can become involved in this exciting project. The development of the garden is being managed by Calthorpe Estates with input from the Botanical Gardens, King Edward School and ourselves.

Trees site development plans resubmitted

Revised plans have been submitted to build student accommodation at the site of the former Trees pub on the Bristol Road, after the previous plans were rejected earlier this year. Whilst smaller in size than the original plan, the revised plan still involves 620 bedrooms across four blocks of eight, ten, eleven and seventeen storeys respectively.

CRS will be reviewing the new planning application in detail and working with other local resident groups to determine the potential impact of these new plans on neighbouring heritage assets in the surrounding conservation area.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign



Members of the CRS Safety & Security and Traffic & Parking Groups have been working with the local police in the submission of a bid under the Active Citizens Fund for a further Vehicle Activated Speed sign on the Estate. If the bid is successful the sign, following feedback from our members and local residents, will be placed on Augustus Road.

Artisan Market Christmas Lights switch on



The next Artisan Market in Greenfield Crescent will take place on Saturday 12th November, 2022. It will open at 10am and include the usual range of artisan food and drink, handmade arts and crafts and Farmers market stalls. It will also incorporate the turning on of the Christmas Lights, featuring stage acts from 3.30 and the lights being switched on at 5.30. For more details of this event, please go [here](#).

West Midlands Police PACT meeting



The most recent PACT (Police and Community Together) meeting was held on October 27th. These meetings are also attended by local councillors and a MP representative.

Dates of future meetings and notes of the most recent meeting are available on the CRS website, however, your attention is drawn to the recent huge increase in thefts of significant vehicle body parts across the West Midlands. The local police have targeted this as a priority, but you are advised to store your vehicle securely if you can.

Date for your diary

The CRS AGM for 2023 will be held on Wednesday March 29th, 2023. Further details regarding the venue and speaker will be published on our website in due course.

And finally ...

We hope you have enjoyed this issue and look forward to your feedback and news! Please respond by [email](#).