



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

newsletter

Your voice in the local community

FEBRUARY 2019

<http://www.irara.org.uk>

**IF YOU ARE NOT
ALREADY A MEMBER,
JOIN IRARA NOW!**

Irvine Road Community Orchard goes live in 2019

We are on track to take on the lease for the Irvine Road Community Orchard in the summer of 2019. This follows IRARA's agreement with the developers Lexden Restorations and the granting of planning permission for 6 houses on 40% of the existing Orchard.

As described in the September newsletter, the lease provides for daytime access to restore and manage the remaining Orchard, for open days and fruit-picking along with school access and evening bat walks on a limited number of days per year. There is also the opportunity to secure a 999 year lease if we can raise £45k in the first five years.

Since Christmas many of you will see that further clearance work has been undertaken and when this is completed, fences will be erected and the new access road will be laid. As soon as we have a firm programme for these works we will put them on the web-site. Perhaps the



An artist's impression of the proposed new homes and the new orchard layout.



most obvious immediate change is the clearance alongside Shady Lane to be followed by the erection of a site security fence. In due course, this will be replaced by a new hedge backed by garden fences for the new houses.

A message from Lexden Restorations

Lexden Restorations owner, Jonathan Frank has asked us to remind parents to explain the dangers of building sites to their children and ask them not to try and enter the site.

The developers also ask all residents to please bear with them in terms of traffic, lorries etc. They say they are committed to doing everything they can to be considerate neighbours during the construction period, but there will undoubtedly be times when you may be inconvenienced and they apologise in advance for that.

We would love you to get involved

We are always looking for new people to get involved and join the IRARA Committee. We would love to have some new people join us, and to bring any ideas they may have to make this a better place to live. With the Orchard coming on apace, we need more help than ever. It does not require a lot of time so drop us a line or put a note through the door to Shaun at 17 Irvine Road.

Further detail on the history of IRARA's involvement in the Orchard is provided on the website (www.irara.org.uk).



IRARA Annual General Meeting

The 2018 IRARA AGM was again well attended and although the new Community Orchard was the main talking point, several other issues were discussed, among them an amendment to the constitution to formally allow associate members from outside the principal IRARA catchment area. It has long been obvious to us that a lot of people living outside the immediate area share our aims of improving local amenities, preserving our open spaces and helping to keep the neighbourhood a nice place to live, but until now they have not been able to join us.

Now anyone can be an associate IRARA member. You won't be able to vote at the AGM, but other than that you can enjoy all the other benefits of membership.

For full details of the issues discussed at the AGM, some of which are covered elsewhere in this newsletter, the minutes are available on the website (www.irara.org.uk)

20 is plenty – progress report

It was agreed at the AGM that we should pursue the Area being designated as a 20mph zone. This follows concerns being raised by residents regarding traffic around our streets, and in particular, the risks presented to the high numbers of school children who walk through the area to school.

As a result, Councillor Lissimore arranged for traffic monitoring equipment to be installed for a couple of weeks in November to provide evidence in support of the application. We wait to hear the results.

Footpath between the schools

The public footpath between Philip Morant School and the County High School has been an issue for some years now, and this year we thought we were finally there?

As reported from the previous year's AGM, we understood that the formal designation of the footpath would be confirmed subject to agreement that it would be designated for use as footpath, cycle and equestrian use and limited to 3m in width. However, since that time, St Benedict's School and The County High School have continued to object.



The existing permissive footpath between Philip Morant School and the County High School is in urgent need of improvement and should be formally adopted as a proper footpath to ensure future access.

IRARA Social Calendar 2019

Most dates are yet to be confirmed, but scheduled events are:

April: Saturday 27th Quiz Night at ArLight Bowls Club, Eudo Road starting 7pm sharp.

June: Street Sale Sunday 9th June

September/October: (Date to be announced) Orchard Open Day at the Irvine Road Community Orchard.

October: Friday 4th IRARA AGM at the ArLight Bowls Club, starting 7.30pm.

October: Sunday 20th Litter Pick Outside the Allotment Gates, 10-12 am.

December: Saturday 7th Winter Social at the ArLight Bowls Club, starting 7.30pm

The footpath runs between the two ends of Norman Way, bisecting Philip Morant/St Benedict's and the County High School.

The matter is currently being considered by a Planning Inspector, so we have no way of knowing what the outcome may be.

Photos of our neighbourhood

IRARA has been around for almost 25 years now and we're interested to see how things have changed over the years. If you have any old photos of this part of Colchester we would love to see them and perhaps even publish some in this newsletter or on the website. Contact Shaun Thomas at No. 17 Irvine Road or email them to info@irara.org.uk.

IRARA Membership

The Irvine Road Area officially covers Irvine Road, Athelstan Road, Capel Road, Audley Road and the parts of Maldon Road and Shrub End Road running between Irvine Road and Athelstan Road, but we are very aware that many of the issues that concern us are also of interest to residents of adjacent areas.

We are always happy to hear from people who support our efforts to save the local open spaces and even if you don't live in the area you can always become an associate member. If you are interested in joining IRARA, please fill in the form below and return it to Simon at the the Old Sweet Shop on Athelstan Road.

For further information about IRARA, its aims and social activities, visit the website or the Facebook page.

email: info@irara.org.uk | website: www.irara.org.uk

www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation



Member of Federation
of Colchester Residents'
Associations

Member of Open
Spaces Society

Irvine Road Area Residents' Association Membership application/renewal form 2019/20

Annual membership of IRARA is £3.00 per household and is open to anyone living in Athelstan Road, Audley Road, Capel Road, Irvine Road and adjacent parts of Maldon Road and Shrub End Road. Associate membership is available to individuals resident outside the area who wish to join us.

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____

I wish to receive newsletters via: email hard copy

I/We wish to apply for membership

I/We wish to renew our membership

Would you be interested in helping with some of the association's activities (for example, leaflet drops, litter clearing etc.) Yes No

Please fill in this form and hand it to your representative or send it to: Simon Grinham, IRARA Membership Secretary, The Old Sweet Shop, Athelstan Road, Colchester CO3 3TR.