



IRVINE ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# newsletter

Your voice in the local community

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

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

AFTER TWO YEARS OF TALKS AND CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS, IRARA WILL SOON SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO LEASE 60% OF THE IRVINE ROAD ORCHARD FROM LOCAL DEVELOPER LEXDEN RESTORATIONS FOR A MINIMUM OF 50 YEARS TO PRESERVE IT AS A COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE.

## Agreement reached on Irvine Road Orchard

IRARA has long campaigned against development of the Irvine Road Orchard. However, given the Council's probable support for development, as expressed in the draft Local Plan and that the owner, a local developer, is legally obliged to apply to develop the land and to appeal if the local Council opposes development, the IRARA Committee, supported by the views of residents, has been negotiating a compromise agreement with the owner, Lexden Restorations.



*The orchard has been virtually undisturbed for over half a century and has become a valuable environmental wildlife site in our view, but given the current obsession with house building, we have had to accept that this would not be enough to prevent development of the site.*

In recent weeks, IRARA has approved a legal agreement that binds Lexden Restorations to grant it a 50 year lease, for a minimal rent, over the 60% of the Orchard. The lease will be triggered by the granting of planning permission for 6 houses on the remaining area. We expect the planning application to be submitted in the next few weeks. The agreement provides daytime access to restore and manage the 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.

The management of the Orchard will be guided by a plan developed by Essex Wildlife Trust and our immediate priorities would be removing the growth that threatens to overwhelm the fruit trees. We will be looking for volunteers to help us with the management as

well as fundraising and helping run the charity that we are establishing to take on the lease. If you think you might be interested please get in touch - email: [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk) or our Facebook page.

You may notice that some works begin on the Orchard in September. This is initial scrub clearance which can be undertaken by the developer without any further permissions and ensures that such works avoid the bird breeding season.

### Response to the planning application

We understand that some may object to any development but we believe the proposed compromise is the best course of action, preventing the loss of all of the Orchard through a larger development, either now or in the near future, and enabling us



This newsletter is delivered to all residents within the Irvine Road Area. If you do not wish to receive it, please contact IRARA at [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk).

*Irvine Road Area Residents' Association is a non-political organisation. It acts independently of any political party and is not affiliated to any other body which has as its objectives the advancement of any political interest*

to restore the remaining area to health. In pursuing this agreement, we have been encouraged by the views of residents as expressed at public meetings, the last AGM and the results of our residents' survey. We will be making IRARA's position on the development clear to the Council in response to the planning application. We will put that response on the website and describe how you can provide your own views to the Council. Or come along to the AGM on 4th October to hear more about what is planned.

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



IRARA are campaigning for reduced speed limits in our area as we believe that 30mph is still too fast for our narrow streets.

## IRARA Quiz night – October 13th, Arclight Bowls club 7pm start

April's quiz night was sold out and if you were among those who couldn't get a table, now is the time to book for the autumn event which will be held again at the Arclight Bowls Club on 13th of October, starting at 7pm sharp. There will be the familiar cheap licensed bar but please bring your own snacks.

Tickets are £5 per person with tables of 6/7 people. Tickets must be bought in advance and this is a first come, first served event so please contact Claire Law to buy your tickets on 07764 939169 or [Murphy.claire@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Murphy.claire@hotmail.co.uk).

The funds raised will go towards setting up the Irvine Road Community Orchard.

## Programme for the remainder of 2018 – put the dates in your diary

IRARA's current programme of events for 2018 is set out below. We are looking to add to this and welcome ideas so please send any suggestions to [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk) – we will keep you updated on the website and facebook page, and subsequent newsletters.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Thursday 4th October	7.30 pm	AGM	Arc Light
Sunday 21 October	10–12 am	Litter Pick	Meet outside the allotment Gates
Friday 7 Dec	7.30 pm	Winter Social	Arclight

## 20 is plenty – progress report

Although the process for establishing a 20 mph zone appears to be lengthy and complex, IRARA are considering mounting a campaign for reduced speed limits in our area as we believe that 30mph is still too fast for our narrow streets.

We would be interested in your views – contact us at [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk) or via our Facebook page (below).

## IRARA AGM

The 2018 IRARA Annual General Meeting will be held at the Arclight Bowls Club in Eudo Road on Thursday October 4th. It will start at 7.30 and everyone is welcome. You don't have to be a member to attend, but you will need to join if you want a vote. You can join on the day, it's only £3 per household and the drinks are cheap too!

If you have recently moved into the area, why not come along and meet some of your neighbours and find out what's going on. If you want to help us make the area an even better place to live then come along and join the IRARA Committee – let us know if you are interested ([info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk)).

email: [info@irara.org.uk](mailto:info@irara.org.uk)

or contact us via the website [www.irara.org.uk](http://www.irara.org.uk)

You can also get in touch via our Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/IrvineRoadAreaResidentsAssociation](https://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 2018/19

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.

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.