

Whiteleaf and Cadsden Residents Association (WCRA) Chairman's Review of Activities 2020/21

We extend a warm welcome to new residents as well as those who have lived in these hamlets longer-term. We do hope that you will be able to attend this year's AGM since it provides a good greeting platform for all.

Activities/events and matters worthy of reporting for the year 2020/2021 are as follows: -

- We are sad to learn of the deaths of residents David Nichols, Clive Glenister and Ivan Stewart in the past year.
- WCRA took the decision to cancel the 2020 AGM, scheduled as it was just a few days before the first national lockdown in March 2020. Decisions which would have been made at the AGM were put to members through an email in September 2020. The 2019/20 AGM minutes and accounts were approved, and the re-election of Simon Clark was confirmed. We intend to hold the 2021 AGM at the Golf Club in the Autumn of 2021. It may be necessary to limit places so that we can observe social distancing, but we are also looking into the possibility of broadcasting the event, for those who are unable to attend in person.
- On 31st March 2020, WCRA set up and incorporated its operating vehicle as a Community Interest Company (CIC). The effect of this is that protection is afforded to WCRA officers from personal liability for legal claims made against them. Our CIC is a Company limited by Guarantee with no share capital, mirroring the basis of Charitable Companies and any net funds generated are applied for the benefit of the hamlets. There are no shareholders and individual member liability is limited to £1.00 each. Our accounting year now runs from April to March; the 2020/21 accounts are being prepared and will be available for circulation, once they have been filed at Companies House.
- Ownership and responsibility for WCRA's residential information database continues to be maintained in-house since its confidentiality is the responsibility of WCRA. In compliance with the GDPR of 25th May 2018 we re-registered WCRA (CIC) with the Information Commissioners Office, to accord with FOI regulations.
- A member of WCRA Committee has attended each meeting of the Princes Risborough Town Council (PRTC) either physically or "zoom" participation. No major issues have arisen from these meetings during 2020/21 and our reportage is both useful and informative for the community. We continue to have a good working relationship with PRTC. In February 2021 we lost a good WCRA friend and ally with the death of our Buckinghamshire Councillor Bill Bendyshe-Brown.
- WCRA will continue to keep residents informed of the progress of Buckinghamshire Planning matters as they affect the locality and the wider environs.
- After 5 years, progress is evolving for the reinstatement of the fire-stricken cottages at the Peters Lane end of the Upper Icknield Way. Ownership of the site is now transferred to a developer. WCRA has continued liaison with all near neighbours and interested parties and are looking to promote resident consultation for a scheme proposal when the developer advises. The new owner has said that it is his hope that this project will progress quickly and without interruption. He has further stated that he will keep us advised as to progress on an ongoing basis and that he intends to proceed with a planning application once a full financial appraisal and assessment has been undertaken. Further feedback will be made known at the AGM.
- During this difficult year, we successfully launched and operated a community lockdown help scheme. The initiative included setting up teams and helper volunteers, who kindly gave their time (and more) to less fortunate and vulnerable community residents. Help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, transport, companion visits and cake baking were unstintingly provided by all of the teams, some of which continue to be provided today. We would like to thank Fionnuala and Dom and all the team members for their invaluable contribution to helping our community.
- Dom Larose set up a newsletter in the initial lockdown and continued to circularise the community with ideas and information to keep us all going in these unprecedented times. We thank him for his personal

commitment to being the “glue” for our community and for keeping us well informed of local providers and shops who unstintingly helped us all to get through the worst of everything to do with lockdowns, at outset.

- Following the formal scheme request brief submitted to Transport for Bucks (TfB) on the 5th of December 2018. TfB finally agreed to support a scheme to paint white edge lines at the dangerous junction of the Upper Icknield Way with Peters Lane. In 2020, Bill Bendyshe-Brown helped to secure funding (£5,000 from Buckinghamshire Council match funded by £5,000 from PRTC) for this work to be undertaken. We have been fortunate to be able to borrow and make use of a local authority Vehicle Activated Sign. This has recently been used in Peters Lane to warn drivers exceeding the 30mph limit.
- WCRA continues to communicate with Monks Risborough Parochial Charities (MRPC) to follow up on concerns raised by residents at the 2018 and 2019 AGM and forward. We still seek clarification of MRPC policies concerning various fields, paddocks and orchards within these hamlets that are controlled by their trustees. We shall also continue to lobby to promote the request raised by a person outside PRTC to seek to amalgamate these small local charities who control these land assets, with a view to achieving a greater co-ordinated approach to granting equality and uniformity of lease terms and probity of operation within these hamlets.
- In 2015, both The Red Lion and The Plough were listed by Wycombe District Council as ‘Assets of Community Value’ (ACV). This means that should either be offered for sale, then the local community has a preferential right to bid, to purchase the asset. However, ACV registrations automatically expire after five years and fresh applications for registration need to be made to Buckinghamshire Council. WCRA, working with PRTC, is seeking to support the new applications, and intends to make a survey of residents to provide evidence to demonstrate the value of these pubs to our community.
- Our Facebook group membership continues to grow, we now have 108 group members. Postings are prevalent and exchange banter requests are met with enthusiasm from all members. Our thanks to Dom for setting up and ensuring the success of this media link, which provides us with an excellent community exchange forum.
- The annual events calendar has been decimated owing to the prevailing pandemic environment. As restrictions are now being relaxed, we are planning to hold two events at the cricket ground, a cream tea on 3rd July and a Sausage Sizzle on 21st August. We also hope to hold a Halloween event for the younger members of our community in October with the help of the Red Lion Pub and nearby residents. We would like to thank Dom, Fionnuala and Robbie for keeping these events on the agenda for us all.
- Sue Robinson’s term of office as a Director/member and Andy Vere’s term of office as Director/secretary, are expiring. Both are seeking re-election. Another resident has expressed an interest in joining us, who it is proposed will be co-opted for the current year, further details will be provided at the AGM. If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors of WCRA CIC, please contact Andy Vere at: andy.ver@btinternet.com
- If you are aware of any new residents who have not yet joined WCRA, please can you ask them to send an email requesting membership to info@whiteleafcadsden.org (or to any WCRA Director) so that we can add them to our mailing list.