

Whiteleaf and Cadsden Residents Association (WCRA) Chairman's Review of Activities 2022/23

We extend a warm and friendly welcome to residents old and new. We hope that you will be able to come to this year's AGM at the Whiteleaf Golf Club as a good opportunity to meet and catch up with each other. We note with sadness the death of resident Editha Russell (age 96).

Our activities/events and key matters for the year 2022/2023 are listed below: -

- The 2022 AGM went ahead, as planned. Accounts for the WCRA Community Interest Company (CIC) to March 2022 were filed at Companies House (CH) with the CIC34 (statutory report). The 2022/23 Accounts and documents (attached) are part of these AGM papers.
- Our Community Interest Company (CIC) is WCRA's operating vehicle which also provides protection for all WCRA directors. Our CIC status demonstrates good Governance and validates our standing to the wider community.
- WCRA CIC finalised the drafting of all job descriptions, to show Directors' duties (as defined in the Companies Act 2006). For transparency and probity these documents will be permanently available to view on our website, along with our other corporate documents.
- WCRA CIC wishes to revise its Articles of Association and will seek formal approval at the 2024 AGM. A draft of the revised Articles will be available on our website at <https://www.whiteleafcadsden.org>.
- In compliance with the GDPR of 25th May 2018 WCRA CIC is registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO). The WCRA CIC residential database is maintained in-house since confidentiality of this data is a corporate responsibility.
- WCRA CIC negotiated increases in insurance cover with Zurich Insurance in February 2023 to accommodate a wider range of community events. We may now undertake up to twelve events each year with Public Liability cover of £5 million and Employers Liability cover of £10 million.
- WCRA CIC directors have attended most scheduled meetings of Princes Risborough Town Council (PRTC). No insurmountable issues have arisen from these meetings during 2022/23. We continue to have a good working relationship with PRTC.
- WCRA CIC informed residents of Buckinghamshire Council proposals about changes to planning matters as they affect us. We circulated details about the New Local Plan surveys. Neutral representations were also made to Buckinghamshire Council during the year, asking for adherence of due process with specific planning applications in the hamlets.
- Following successful grant of Planning Consent (PC) in 2022/23 for reinstatement of the fire-stricken cottages and the enabling development of two additional cottages on the site, progress has slowed. This is because the conditions appended to the planning approval(s) require various reports to be submitted to Local Authority (LA) Planners, so that all of the conditions can be discharged before planning and commencing a start on site. The developer and his architect tell us that the first "package" of reports will be submitted in the next few weeks. A start on site is hoped for soon, but reliance is dependent upon LA sign off. WCRA will continue liaison with the developer (et al) and advise of progress updates as they become available.

- Our community help scheme remains available to residents. During the year we have continued to support some elderly residents. As a community centred organisation our help scheme is important to us since it sits at the heart of our ethos. If you are aware of any residents who may need to use this help scheme, please contact any WCRA CIC director.
- The Vehicle Activated Sign has been used to slow downhill traffic in Peters Lane and in the Cadsden Road. The scheme to paint white edge lines at this dangerous junction of Peters Lane and Upper Icknield appears to be delayed by Buckinghamshire Council because of heritage concerns. Ironically, it was Buckinghamshire Council who suggested and designed the scheme, which is jointly funded by them and PRTC.
- In 2022/23 WCRA CIC continued with efforts to communicate with the Monks Risborough Parochial Charities (MRPC). We raised concerns, connected with the fields, paddocks, and orchards under MRPC control, located in these hamlets, and which are all important to our hamlet environment. WCRA has made representation to the Charities Commission (CC) and have been advised that this will be held on file. We now seek to promote formal Registration of the various parcels of MRPC land at the Land Registry.
- In 2015 both The Red Lion and The Plough pubs were listed by Buckinghamshire County Council as 'Assets of Community Value' (ACV). As these listings had expired, fresh applications for registrations comprising substantive data were made for both pubs by WCRA to Buckinghamshire Council in February 2023. WCRA was unsuccessful in achieving ACV status for The Red Lion but was successful in achieving ACV status for The Plough.
- Our Facebook group membership continues to thrive, we have 128 group members. Postings continue to be varied and exchanges are enthusiastic. During the year we have supported PRTC with postings on an ad hoc basis at their request. We all thank Dom Larose for the success of this media platform, which gives us all an easy-to-access community forum.
- Our website development continues to evolve, with more local photographs added; residents are still very welcome to submit their own photographs to the Andy Vere for inclusion.
- Our GDPR compliant database is undergoing technological changes that will enable residents to agree to pay a membership donation or subscription of £5 per year via our payment portal. This is as agreed at the AGM in March 2019, when residents agreed to the formation of the CIC. Our thanks to Robbie and Andy for implementing these changes. We shall advise when it will be possible to make payments online.
- The 2022/23 WCRA Sausage Sizzle was held on 3rd July 2022 which residents rated as "best ever". In October 2022 Fionnuala McKibbin held the young children's Halloween event at the Red Lion pub and near neighbours were "tricked and treated"; we thank them for being part of the fun. On 11th November 2022, a successful hamlet supper was held at the Plough pub. On 26th March 2023 Hannah Purcell organised the WCRA annual litter pick (26 sacks of rubbish collected)! We thank Fionn, Dom and Robbie (our events team) and Hannah for keeping these occasions on the annual calendar.
- Current WCRA CIC directors who were appointed at the formation of the Company on 31st March 2020 are now standing for re-election. Mark Weiner has formally taken over as Hon. Treasurer from Simon Clark, who has resigned. Sue Robinson and Jon Sareen are also resigning as Directors at the AGM. Directors are appointed for a three-year term.
- 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 CIC, please can you contact them and ask them to send an email requesting new membership to info@whiteleafcadsden.org (or any WCRA Director) so that we can add them to our mail list.