



A Voice for Our Community

December 2020

Welcome to the latest Newsletter from Westwood Heath Residents Association (WHRA). This year has been very different from those we have had recently, and much has had to change to keep the community going in as normal a way as possible. The Committee has been meeting via the internet to follow up on the activities that we have started.

AGM

In line with many organisations we postponed the AGM earlier in the year, but have now decided that we will hold the meeting via an internet meeting session (by Zoom), on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7.30pm. We have some committee members who are standing down from their formal roles and will need to be replaced, and a call has gone out for people who are interested in playing a more active role within the community to put themselves forward for roles within the Residents Association, including special projects.

It should be recognised that membership of the WHRA is a requirement for voting at the AGM, though all residents are welcomed to listen to the presentations.

Planning

There are several movements in the developments that are happening in the area. Crest Nicholson are altering the mix of houses on the Westwood Heath Road site, which will mean they need a change to their planning approval. The Link Road from the A46 towards Westwood Heath will go out for presentations and comments in the next month, and the new houses along Cromwell Lane are progressing through the planning process.

A White Paper issued by the Government is proposing to alter the planning approval system, and it will be in our community interest to have a Community Plan, so the Committee is looking into the practicalities of this. If you would like to get involved to help with the preparation of the plan, please get in touch via chair@westwoodheath.org.uk

Membership

There is a membership fee of £5 per household per year, to cover administration costs such as printing, website fees, meeting rooms including Zoom facilities and any costs associated when acting on behalf of the Residents Association. However, if you do not feel that you want to join you would still be very welcome at any of the WHRA meetings to listen to the discussions.

As with many organisations, WHRA decided that the current members will have their memberships extended due to the Covid restrictions, and the new subscriptions will now be due at the beginning of December 2020.

Payment is available by various means, see <https://www.westwoodheath.org.uk/members> for details.

Some HS2 funding may be available to WHRA, watch for more info via our Facebook page.

Online Presentations

As the current Covid restrictions look set to continue for some time, the Committee has been looking at ways of keeping the community updated with developments in the local area, and are actively organising internet presentations from some of the key stakeholders which should give residents the opportunity of asking questions directly. These will be advertised on the WHRA Facebook page as and when they are arranged.

Westwood Heath History Group

The History Group has carried on with research on the area and have published some of the work on the Facebook page and on the History Group website. A major piece on the 80th Anniversary of the Coventry Blitz was uploaded and also Remembrance Day memorials and a piece about Cicely Lucas, a noted local suffragette, have all been completed. Future history is also being taken care of as we document the building of the haul road for HS2.

If you would like to join us and undertake some research, you will be made most welcome. In time we hope to hold larger meetings but for now we are a small, informal group.

We are always keen to hear from anyone with a story to tell, or memories of life here in years gone by. If you have any old photographs you would be willing to share, we would be delighted to hear from you. The contact email is: westwoodheathhistory@gmail.com

Streetwatch

Streetwatch is a local initiative backed by the police, for residents to walk the streets in a suitably highly visible way, to advertise the fact that we are keeping an on the community. Since the lockdown restrictions back in March it has not been possible to carry out the normal Streetwatch walks, but these will be reintroduced as soon as normality returns.

Anyone can join, with a minimum of police-led training, and there is a minimal commitment of walks per month at a time to suit yourself. If you are interested in being part of this initiative, please contact us via: streetwatch@westwoodheath.org.uk

Covid Support

If you need any support during this current period of uncertainty as winter approaches, please get in touch with any of the committee and we will arrange whatever is needed. There are also some resources highlighted on our website that may be useful. Email us on westwoodheathra@gmail.com if you need help.



All the very best for the Festive Season and the New Year!