

SARA Newsletter 2020

Savile Area Residents Association AGM postponed by Covid-19



To respect social distancing & avoid spreading any kind of virus, the 2020 SARA newsletter is published only online.

Street trees on West Savile Terrace

The long term decline of street trees on West Savile Terrace has been a matter of concern to local residents for many years. Requests to the city council for new trees to replace the flowering cherries lost over the years revealed that a willingness to plant replacements has been thwarted by an ongoing shortage of funds. The city council's Trees and Woodlands officer deserves our thanks for prioritising work within our area. After years of waiting patiently for new trees, ten have arrived all at once.

The new trees planted on West Savile Terrace are 'standards', not quite as large as the 'heavy standards' planted nearer the church. The city council lacks sufficient staff and equipment to frequently water all the new street trees. Throughout their first growing season all newly planted trees need extra water, so if you live near one of the new street trees please slake its thirst regularly through 2021. How much water? More than you would expect. Rain or shine, a full bucket of water every day of the week would not be too much!

Local Public Gardens:

Despite the lack of formal 'Friends Groups' for the greenspaces in Savile Area, opportunities for individual public gardening are still available at Mayfield Road Rose Garden and at Watertoun Road whenever you're in need of some gentle exercise. If this doesn't appeal, you might offer a few words of appreciation if you see one of your neighbours doing their bit for the local environment. During lock-down our local greenspaces acquired a special relevance as places for the community to enjoy getting closer to nature while keeping further apart.

Local Developments:

At the east edge of our area, a proposed new 5G phone mast on Mayfield Road has run into planning difficulties. The phone mast problems seem to be of a procedural kind, so eventually planning approval looks likely.

Less easily solved are the planning challenges for the developer of **St Crispin's School** site. When the school flits to new-build premises near Burdiehouse, the Watertoun Road site will become vacant. CALA homes have met with resistance from CEC Planning, because CALA's proposal to build family homes is not considered sufficiently intensive for this brownfield site. A revised development proposal is being devised, with more apartments and reduced car parking. While accommodating more people on the former school site, CALA are required to show how their new design addresses local community concerns. The SARA committee representing the local community has been actively involved in the early stages of the development process. Discussions between SARA and CALA will resume in 2021. Further details will be posted on the SARA website in due course.

www.eh9sara.wordpress.com

SARA news:

SARA has a new Treasurer, again. Ruth McDowell who kindly and temporarily stepped into the role previously performed by Deborah Allen, has now handed over to Colin Fenton at 12 Watertoun Road.

Your £1 per household SARA annual subscription may be delivered there, or you can pay by BACS bank transfer. Please email the SARA Chairman to be sent the relevant bank payment details.

SARA AGM 2020:

We are all worn down by the seemingly endless threat of coronavirus, so very briefly here is the SARA response. The SARA 2020 AGM has been postponed. When the postponed AGM can go ahead invitations will be issued in good time to SARA members. At that meeting retrospective approval will be sought for the SARA business which has gone ahead since last we met. SARA is grateful to the Reid Memorial church for use of their hall for our many annual meetings. We hope to gather there again during 2021.

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