

If you wish to reply or comment on this newsletter, please email

committee@riversidecommunityvoice.org.uk

Parking Garage Security

Most of us are aware that one of the doors at the eastern entrance to the carpark suffered a mechanical failure on 5th May and as I write (12th May) it is still tied up in the open position to allow access through that door to the parking area. At some time 2 Catalytic Convertors were stolen from cars in the underground parking area by people driving in via the open door in broad daylight. Pinnacle have passed a description of the people and registration of their car, collected from CCTV, to the police. Francesca also increased the security foot patrols over the bank holiday period. Repair to the parking door is being held up for lack of spares. This is clearly unacceptable. Pinnacle is looking at keeping a holding of spare parts on site, which would prevent this from happening again.

It would have been easy to secure the site by closing the eastern entrance fully, but because not all carpark users have zappers that operate both access doors, this was not possible. Pinnacle has now promised that that all parking space holders will be equipped with zappers that work on both doors.

Eon – Final Comments

Following committee member Gareth Lloyd's excellent work on confronting Eon with their initial failure to apply the Government's EPG cap to domestic hot water use in Riverside, Eon moved quickly to make good their error and promised an 11% reduction in their already published prices. As it happens the reduction is not quite 11% (thanks to those of you who pointed this out) but neither Gavin nor the Committee feel that it would be appropriate to go back to Eon and complain. The bill announcing the amended changes says that the 'charges replace the charges...sent to you in February 2023'. These charges were 'for the next 12 months'. We understand that this time period also applies to the amended charges.

Traffic and Parking

Since the meeting with Council officers and Councillor June Player last February, some progress has been made: it has been agreed between The Council and Crest Nicholson that the Council should carry out the yellow lining as soon as possible thus eradicating the dangerous parking situation in the Alexandra/Sovereign Point area and that the bus gate should be reinstated without delay. We have still to see movement on either of these matters. Meanwhile there has been a collision between two vehicles: one exiting the western entrance to the underground car park and one driving south on Midland Rd. There are no reports of injuries, but unless the parking situation in this area improves it is very likely that there will be more incidents of this type – perhaps with more severe results.

At the February meeting RCV agreed to carry out an opinion survey on the type of parking regime we as residents would prefer for the north side of Stothert Avenue once it has been taken over by the Council. As you know, it is a choice between Residents' Parking and Limited Waiting Parking (see website for more). Pinnacle manager Francesca volunteered her resources to canvass all residents in Riverside and has drafted a letter inviting views on this subject which you should have already received.

NB It is important that if you have a preference for parking regimes you express this clearly in your email to Pinnacle. See also www.riversidecommunityvoice.org.uk.

Gull Group Progress

Since my last newsletter which suggested that a group should be formed, I am pleased to announce that this has happened with an inaugural meeting on 29th April. The founder members of the Riverside Gull Group (the name might be changed) are: Gavin Hambrey, (Leopold, organiser); Lindsay Whitmore, (Alexandra) and Douglas Hutchison (Longmead). The group has already developed good relations with the Council's gulls officer. If you are interested in joining the group contact gavinhambrey@hotmail.com . If you are bothered by gulls and are suffering from sleep deprivation, the initial advice is to keep a diary. The law is sympathetic to those whose health is affected by gull activity. You can also contact the group at gulls@riversidecommunityvoice.org.uk .

2002 AGM - East Twerton Revisited

David Knight's presentation of vintage photos from East Twerton (which is where we live) made quite an impression on those attending the AGM in November - so much of an impression that he sold many copies of his richly illustrated book 'East Twerton Revisited' on the night. He has now embarked on a new venture to ensure that the book is updated from time to time and he writes as follows:

As a result of readers of the book 'East Twerton Revisited' providing new information and photographs on our district, a series of bulletins is being produced on specific topics. The first of these is about Walters Engineers, a business which occupied the Twerton Gaol and an area off Brook Road from 1950. The bulletins will be freely available via e-mail to anyone, including those who have not purchased the book. If residents of Riverside would like to receive these bulletins, please contact David Knight at dwwmknight@yahoo.com

If you would like to order a book from David, he will normally deliver it to your door.

Garden Group

I am sure that everyone enjoying the Park is very happy with the way the new trees are thriving. Meanwhile there are plans for further planting (eg extending the dogwood along the northern edge).

Group organiser Hilary asks that anyone who has spare bulbs which could be planted in Elizabeth Park for next Spring to contact her: mhilarylee@gmail.com

Summer Party afternoon 2nd July

Have you got this date in your diary? We have already engaged the same band as before – Magpie & The Shiny Things – which went down so well last year. Please bring your own picnic. Further details will be announced later by our events committee, but include Tombola, a quiz and cake stall.

If you would like to help in any way please let Events Supremo Andrew Vickers know.

Email AKHvickers@btinternet.com

The events committee has also asked for ideas about who might be asked to ceremonially open the Queen's Canopy in the Park (the 5 Liquid Amber trees at the west end) at some time during the afternoon. Email Andrew with your views on that - and on anything else to do with the Party.

Paddy Doyle

Chair RCV – 12 May 2023

14 May 2023