



Friends of Quarry Newsletter March 2020

Friends of Quarry Projects



We would like to thank everyone who came in October to plant the daffodil bulbs at the entrance to Beaumont Road. A thousand bulbs got planted in a morning and these are now coming through as shown in the picture. With a little warmth and less wind we should have a good display soon. We are planning on planting another 1000 bulbs in the autumn and possibly some bushes as well. So keep an out for the notices when we intend to plant these. A big

thank you to everyone who took part in the litter pick in Quarry on the 29th February. We had a good turn out and area looked really good until within a day the litter louts deposited cans along Pitts Road.



Friends of Quarry are pleased to say that we have found a stone for the new Quarry sign and that it should be carved and placed *in situ* soon. It is 1.2m high by 0.65 wide and is rough cut on three sides with a smooth front as pictured. It has been

funded by Friends of Quarry with a grant, supported by Councillor Roz Smith, from the city council and a donation from Alan Kimber-Nickelson

Events

There will be a wine and cheese evening in the village hall on Friday March 20th at 8pm, which will include some music from Chris Mills and Alan and Julie Kimber-Nickelson. Tickets should be booked in advance and obtained from the following phone numbers **01865 765290** or **07884 137282**. In the summer we will be holding our picnic in the park again in Quarry Hollow Park on June 6th to coincide with Holy Trinity's patronal festival and with Headington's Connected Communities Week events. As part of the Oxford Folk Festival the Oxford Fiddle Group will be hosting an event on April 17th in the village hall which will be free and at which there will be a cash bar to support the village hall's funds. On April 22nd at 7:30pm Holy Trinity will hold its AGM in the church. Anyone who is on the electoral roll of the church can attend and anyone who lives in the parish can be on the roll and can register for it by going to this site <https://www.hthq.uk/electoral-roll-update/>.

Traffic

The formal consultation on the nature of the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) in Quarry should take place soon. To encourage your responses it will be possible to ask for white lines to safeguard your drop kerb from parking infringements at the same time. The incentive is that these will be put in place for free during the installation of the CPZ. In addition to asking for these in the consultation document you should also let your County Councillor know by email that you are interested in having these installed at roz.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Planning

Friends of Quarry have been working since October to try and get some explanation as to why the development at 1 Quarry High Street does not look as it should when compared to the drawings available when planning permission was sought. The

overbearing height of the building and its projection further forward into the wall at the boundary of the site were among our concerns.

In November we were told that the City Council Enforcement team had requested that the developer submit a retrospective planning application, due to the building being "slightly too high". At a recent meeting with the head of planning we have had this confirmed. As yet no such application has been received. When asked how long the developer had to submit a retrospective application we were informed that the council had to provide a reasonable length of time. When asked what happens if no application is sent in, it appears that the enforcement team would have to take a view as to whether it should be insisted on. This has been the state of affairs since the middle of November and one has to ask why such flexibility is being extended to the developer. Our other concerns have either been ignored or brushed aside.

It seems that the Council are focussed on the height of the building as the major breach of planning. Consequently we commissioned our own survey of the building. The results of this showed that the building was 9.75m tall, significantly taller than shown on the original plans. Despite this the council insist that the buildings is only 28cm taller than these plans, and that their measurements are correct. They seem unconcerned by this increase in height, which was the reason for the request for a retrospective planning application, and give the impression that it could be regarded as "within tolerances". At our recent meeting with them we could not reconcile our differences over the height and that is how things stand.

To the fundamental question of why the building as built does not look like that on the plans we received no explanation. The Development Management Service Manager has not been to the site, and it seems he will not visit it, relying on "his

experienced officers' reports". Neither was he minded to come to a public meeting to discuss the development. In view of the above I would encourage all members of Friends of Quarry to write to their councillors and officials of the City Council to make them aware of their feelings about this development. Friends of Quarry will continue to pressure the planners and council to take our and your concerns seriously and to answer the question posed above. We plan on getting the press involved, starting an online petition to get the views of all the local residents, and holding a public meeting to explain what we have been doing..

Communications

We will continue to produce Newsletters periodically, but would like to be able to communicate with you more regularly than that. There are a number of ways that you can engage with us to get our news and other updates including:

- Our website (www.friendsofquarry.org)
- Our Facebook page (The Friends of Quarry)
- NextDoor
- Subscribing to our email list

Our updates will continue to be available on the website and Facebook as well.

If you want to contact us or subscribe to the email list, the best way is to email friendsofquarry@gmail.com or send us a note via the 'Contact Us' page of our website or phone 01865 760026, or 01865 762418.