Friends of Quarry Newsletter October 2020

AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on November 19th at 19:30. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic we will not be able to have a public meeting. Instead we will organize a virtual meeting and invitations to this will be sent closer to the time. The current committee and officers, all of whom have agreed to this, will remain in place. An email voting form will be sent out closer to Nov 19th to allow members to vote on the issues they would normally consider at a normal AGM. Hopefully, next year we can meet more normally. Members are reminded that subscriptions are due in November and can be paid via the web site or by delivering cash or cheques to 24 Beaumont Road, Headington Quarry.

Current Committee: Jeff McIlhinney (Co-ordinator), Richard Bradley (Treasurer), David Kiggell (Secretary), James McNally, Jonny Ives, Lawrence Kelly, Laure Biron-Scott, Julia Gasper, Paul Rogers, Ken Weavers, Janice Wheeler, Phil Siswick

Co-ordinator's Report

This has been a strange year with the arrival of Covid-19 preventing our planned activities and complicating our dealings with the County and City Councils. With the arrival of Covid-19 we had to cancel our Wine and Cheese evening in March, the Summer Picnic in the Park, the autumn Quiz Evening and have had to postpone our Bulb Planting for this year. During the pandemic we have established local WhatsApp groups and worked with other agencies to inform our members of local support via email and our website.

The stone sign for the entrance to Quarry from the ring road has been carved and is ready to be installed. The choice of the site, and its preparation, are under active planning. We hope to get it installed before the end of the year.

We have continued to press the City Planners about the breaches of planning at the 1 Quarry High Street development. We have focussed on the increase in height, revealed by our survey, as well as an apparent increase in the length of the terrace. To our frustration the Council have consistently downplayed both of these concerns. Consequently, we joined forces with the Oxford Civic Society (OCS) to increase the pressure on the Council to implement the retrospective planning permission they asked for in November of last year, and which has not yet materialized. OCS have reached the same conclusions as us, with respect to the height, and that the development does not look as shown on the original plans. They, as have we, made representations to the City Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery Councillor Hollingsworth pointing out our findings and expressing our concerns about this development and the precedent it sets for planning and development in the city. We have been told that the Council are " receiving legal advice on the appropriate next steps to take as no retrospective application has been made". We have been assured that we will be kept informed as to the outcome.

Controlled Parking Zone
You may have seen the planning announcements about the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) for Quarry on lamp posts around Quarry. We have informed our members by email about this and put some information about it on the Friends of Quarry website. The deadline for replying to this consultation is the 30th October. The details for the CPZ

are available on the Council website here: https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/HeadingtonQuarryCPZ/consultationHome, and comments can be sent by writing or emailing to Traffic Regulation Team, for the Director of Community Operations, Oxfordshire County, Council, County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND. (Email:christian.mauz @oxfordshire.gov.uk, Telephone: 0345 310 1111). We encourage you to comment on the proposal.

Traffic Filtering
Over the years Friends of Quarry have debated proposals to reduce the traffic passing through Quarry. Surveys show that up to 500 cars per hour pass through Quarry at peak times. Over the lockdown period the reduction in traffic was substantial and the benefits were evident as parents and children were more frequently seen cycling through Quarry. There has been a national attempt to build on the lockdown reduction in traffic through residential neighbourhoods. At the last AGM a traffic filtering point at the junction of Quarry Hollow and Quarry High Street was discussed, see https://filterthequarry.wordpress.com. The filter would prevent cars from exiting Quarry Hollow and Quarry High Street onto Quarry Road and Margaret Road and would prevent those roads being used as rat runs. However it would also cause some inconvenience for Quarry residents, reducing their access to Old Road and Eastern Oxford. The filter forms part of a proposal by Headington Liveable Streets to the County Council and may be the subject of a consultation in the near future. We would like to gauge the reaction of our members to this proposal and have included a survey form at the end of the newsletter. The survey will help us to prepare a formal response when the consultation takes place.

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.

Cut Here --
Return to 63A Pitts Road, Oxford OX3 8BA or email your response to friendsofquarry@gmail.com

Filtering Survey

Do you support the filtering proposal: Yes/No

If No what other traffic reducing proposals would you support?

Name: