

Oxford Waterside Residents' Association

March 2021: Issue 74

Your Committee has been pondering what sort of activities we can promote this year, with the great uncertainty over unlockdown. Although we are limited in our activities, from March 29th you should have more flexibility about outdoor meetings and we hope you will use Merrivale Square and your gardens to the full, while observing social distancing. We are fortunate to be living in a relatively low Covid area, but we have to keep it that way by continuing our respectful adherence to the rules. As soon as we are allowed we intend to hold an informal get-together in Merrivale Square, based on the popular International Picnic model, and later on we can resume normal life, watch this space.

Waterside Unlockdown Dates (subject to Govt Review)

From March 29th 2021

Outdoor socialising

An unlimited number of people from two households or groups of up to six people from three or more households will be able to meet outdoors in parks, gardens and other outside spaces.

Stay local

At this point the stay at home order will end, and people will instead be told to stay local.

People will continue to be asked to work from home wherever possible.

From May 17th 2021

Social Contact

Outdoor social contact rules will be lifted so gatherings of up to 30 people will be allowed.

Inside people will be able to meet subject to the rule of six or a larger group from two individual households.

June 21st – All legal limits removed!

No one stays on our Committee for ever, so we are always looking for people with new ideas to freshen the mix. We currently have a need for someone to help cover our email and website activity, not time consuming, but an important role. If you are new to Waterside being on the Committee is a good way of finding your feet. Contact us on owra.owmc@gmail.com

Planning News

Bus gates have gone quiet but we now have the outcomes from two Oxfordshire County Council consultations: The decision was made on 16th March to implement the **Zero Emission Zone Pilot Scheme** in a limited part of Central Oxford from August 2021, this will not affect Blue Badge holders, but will put a £10/20 charge onto access by normal vehicles including 2 wheelers. If successful, in Spring 2022 this could be extended to all the roads we take to reach South of Worcester Street, and Long Wall Street, impacting all of those residents who have normal petrol or diesel cars, and our visitors/ deliveries/ tradespeople etc.

If you are not yet considering a Zero Emission car, this may be the spur you need, check out our full Waterside advice on electric vehicle chargers in our Website News section.

The **Low Traffic Neighbourhood plan** for Walton Street is just finishing public consultation (19th March) and a decision on the choice going forward is between different traffic (car) control measures, there is no mention of improving the environment for cyclists and walkers, or traffic calming, so the full £52,000 could be spent on traffic control. We shall have to wait for a decision on 29th April, if approved the new pilot measures would be implemented on 18th May 2021, final decisions by Nov 2022. Keep track by registering for consultations on Oxford County Council website.

Electric Vehicle Charging on Waterside

Prompted by Oxford's plans to extend restrictions on fossil fuel driven vehicles over time in pursuit of their Low Emission Zone policy many of you will be thinking about how to install charge points for electric vehicles. The Oxford Waterside Management Company set up a Group to look at how we might support our residents and owners to install this important infrastructure whilst guarding the streetscape and of course ensuring safety on OWMC land.

As it stands currently some EV owners are having to trail leads (in suitable trip guards) across paths and that can't be a long-term solution. Neither is it acceptable for each property to put in a charge point without consideration or collaboration with their neighbours. But we don't want to put up barriers to getting this done – we want to help every house in Waterside to get access to what we think will soon be seen as key for any property, just like good internet service has become vital!

Each area of Waterside has its own layout and its own challenges. Broadly, the estate divides into:

1. Those who have a garage or parking space next to a house/flat wall
2. Those who have a nearby parking space separated from their residence by pathways or land owned by the Management Company. E.g. Merton Court, Rutherway
3. Those who have a nearby parking space separated from residence by council adopted pathways e.g. Plater Drive (in part)
4. Those who do not have their car parking space proximate to their residence. E.g. Churchill Court

Further details are available on our website:

www.Oxfordwaterside.co.uk/waterside-news

We will be organising some virtual meetings for everyone interested but if you are imminently ordering an EV please do get in touch – the 'free' installation offered with most vehicles does not include these structures and you need to think about where the point will go – firms like BP ChargeMaster will want to put it on the wall of your property, which is fine if you are in Group 1, but for any of the other groups leaves other issues to be addressed. Contact dinewell.dn@gmail.com

Waterside Grounds

The borders on Rutherway, on the left as you drive into Waterside, are finally being replanted. A row of multistemmed Amelanchier is already in place. These delightful shrubs have white flowers in the spring, followed by dark berries that attract wild birds and lovely autumn leaf colour. A number of Rosa rugosa plants have been moved from in front of the Villas to the Rutherway borders. Still to be added to the borders at the time of writing are some Cercis (Judas Tree) shrubs and underplanting with colourful perennials. In addition, plants that have passed their peak are being replaced throughout Waterside.

Black plastic weed suppressant sheeting on Rutherway will be removed and the areas between the shrubs will be either seeded with grass or turfed, or planted with herbaceous perennials. If you have any issues or comments regarding grounds please contact John Krebs directly john.krebs@zoo.ox.ac.uk

OWMC News

Rats The OWMC will continue to fund a maintenance programme for rat control for the external areas across Waterside. Any issues arising in particular houses or relating to individual properties are the responsibility of the owner or resident. If problems arise, where possible, the OWMC will facilitate via Breckon and Breckon a shared solution but will pass on any costs.

Fees The OWMC decided to reduce the management fee back to pre 2020 levels as the work on the retaining wall along Rutherway proved unnecessary at the moment. Please change your standing order to reflect the demands sent out by Breckon and Breckon. If you have overpaid you will be notified and it will be credited to your next bill.

Trees Nicholsons have approached the city council for permission under the Tree Preservation Orders(TPOs) to reduce the lower branches of the alders along Rutherway.

Your OWRA committee

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