



What is HPERA?

HPERA is the residents' association for the Hurst Park Estate, which includes Hurst Park, Orchard, Leys, Highworth and Highfield Avenues, as well as Leys Road and Mulberry Close. We aim to represent the best interests of our neighbourhood, acting as a pressure group when necessary, and lobbying councillors for improvements to infrastructure. We're also keen to embrace initiatives that will help to make the estate a better place to live, and to create opportunities to strengthen our community. If you have ideas, comments or concerns, please get in touch!

Email updates

The majority of our communications are via email which allows us to reach residents quickly and economically, rather than by printed newsletters like this one. If you're not receiving email newsletters from us, please do sign up via the link on the homepage of our website: www.hpera.co.uk

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR NEIGHBOURS

With best wishes from HPERA

Michael Page (Chair), Nicky Webb (Secretary), John Beasley (Treasurer), Richard Cushing, Andrew Milbourn, Mary Pountain, Barbara Thomas, Jane Wheatley.

Community Carols

Get in the mood for Christmas with a spot of seasonal singing for everyone. Wrap up warm, bring a torch or a lantern, and join us at the corner of HPA and Highfield Ave for half an hour of carols and Christmas songs.

Can you help? We're looking for volunteers to play in the band - we can send sheet music out in advance - and also to make some mulled wine and seasonal sweetmeats. Please contact Nicky on 07976 433649.

We'll be collecting for the Arbury Court Food Bank, so please do bring plenty of change!

Monday 23
December, 4.30pm
All welcome!





Planning

Many of us have applied for planning permission to improve our houses and all of us benefit from robust planning legislation that allows building projects to go ahead without adversely affecting our neighbours or the wider area.

Occasionally permission is sought for very large developments or those that might change the kind of neighbourhood we live in. Recently a developer has proposed building three new houses across back gardens of houses in Highworth Avenue; last year permission was sought to turn a semi-detached house into 5 terraced houses at the bottom of the same road.

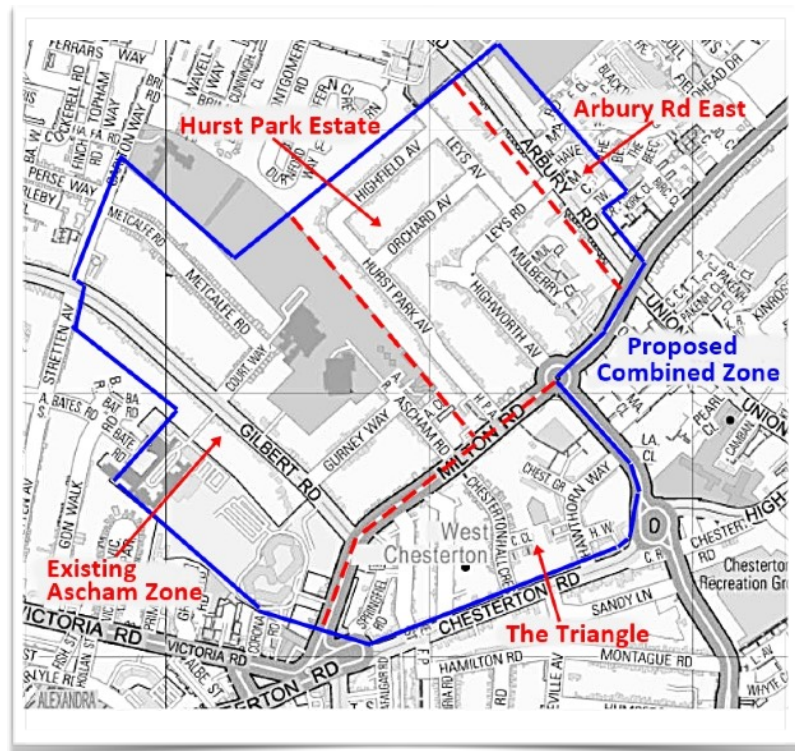
Although immediate neighbours are routinely informed of such plans, residents living just a short distance away may be unaware and therefore unable to object on time.

In cases like those mentioned above, rather than routine home-improvement projects, we would like to publicise plans more widely through the HPERA mailing list. Please **contact us** if you have concerns about a proposal.

Parking Update

There has been relatively slow progress on resolving the parking issues that face us in the estate. Our county councillor, Ian Manning, has proposed that the Ascham residents' parking scheme be expanded to include our estate as well as some of Arbury Road and the adjoining roads, as well as the roads between Milton and Chesterton Roads in what is locally known as 'the triangle' - ie Chesterton Hall Crescent, George Street, Herbert Street etc. Ian conducted a survey of residents in September which showed that a majority of respondents in our neighbourhood supported this plan, although with some variation in attitude from road to road and little participation from some areas.

Cllr. Manning has therefore asked that the County Council write to residents of the Ascham area in January to determine if they might be willing to expand their scheme. If they agree, a full proposal will be drawn up by council officers which will then go out to consultation and a vote. If, on the other hand, they don't agree, alternatives could be proposed which might include a smaller residents' scheme, or the introduction of other forms of parking control to improve safety and visibility.



Recycle your tree

Last year over £26,000 was raised for Arthur Rank Hospice through their Christmas Tree Recycling scheme, and they are hoping to exceed that this year. To arrange for your Christmas Tree to be collected and composted between 9 and 11 January, just sign up at www.arhc.org.uk

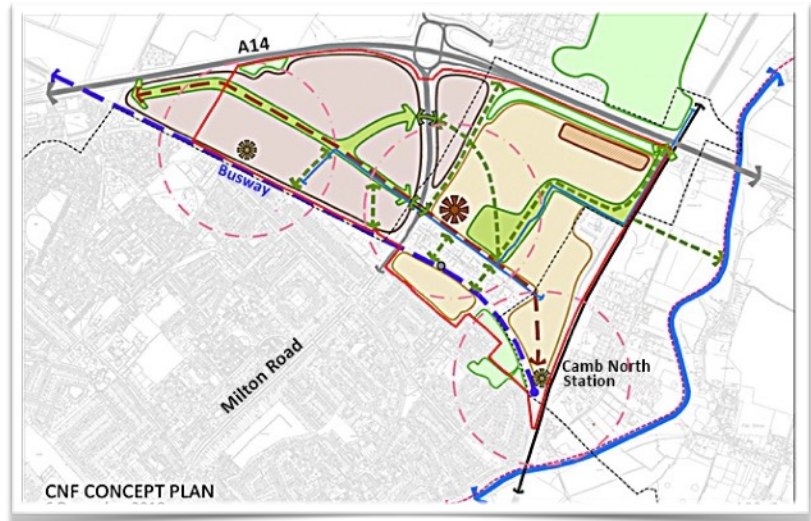
Arbury Court Car Club!

Car clubs are becoming increasingly popular and offer a convenient and cheap way to



have access to a car when you need it without the costs of owning a car that isn't driven much of the time.

Enterprise Car Club offers a range of vehicles available to rent by the hour or the day, situated at convenient locations all over the UK, and we're pleased to discover that a club car lives in the car park behind Arbury Court, which could be ideal for those of us who need a second car occasionally especially over the holiday period. Find out more at www.enterprisecarclub.co.uk



North East Cambridge plan

NEC AAP (North East Cambridge Area Action Plan) is a project to develop the area east of the Science Park with dwellings for up to 18,000 people. It also involves further development of the Science Park to which it will be connected across Milton Road.

Residents' associations and community groups have been involved in a consultation forum for the last year. We have now produced a feedback document detailing our views which has been sent to the Director of Planning for Cambridge and South Cambs. Some of our key concerns are:

- 1. Height of buildings** - It is being proposed that the vast majority of buildings will be about 10 storeys with a few being 13. We don't have confidence that this can be done without impacting the quality of life on the development and the surrounding neighbourhood.
- 2. Style of building** - Some planning officers are proposing the idea of a fine-grained mix of dwellings, work places and facilities within a walkable development. However, what we are actually witnessing is a monolithic hotel already being built adjacent to the North Station by CBI developer Brookgate.
- 3. Transport** - The assumption is that a two thirds reduction in the proportion of car use can be achieved. There is little evidence of how this can be done.

Full details in the News section on the HPERA website:
www.hpera.co.uk

Speed awareness



Our City councillor, Mike Sargent, has arranged to have a vehicle activated sign designed to reduce speeding installed temporarily in Orchard Avenue. Mike tells us that these signs suffer ongoing issues with battery life which they are trying to address, but hopefully it will be better than nothing!

Electric Chargepoints

Are you aware that there are two charge points for electric cars situated in the car park behind Arbury Court? More and more people are making the switch to electric cars, and we imagine we'll be seeing plenty more of these points springing up around Cambridge!

Hedge restored

Thanks to the hard work of a group of volunteers, the hedge that was removed from the Arbury play area a year ago has now been reinstated and in time will provide a useful habitat for wildlife and a barrier between the park and the cycle path. A wire fence has also been erected to protect the hedge as it grows. Many thanks to everyone who came along to help!

Poem for the Library

By Michael Brown, Author-in-residence and Chesterton Poet.

As we enter through huge recovered stonework that has known every visitor
here where old meets new
greeted by light that dances and falls through windows
spills out from the vibrant painting by Nicholas Juett
like the bright colours of children's pictures
A Library is more than just books
each book is a person
a conversation
ideas and knowledge
A library is not just SHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!
A library is loud
Happy hands clapping and feet stomping as stories are shared
We thank the tree
for books are made out of you
like the children we grow
from tiny seed to mighty Oak
here now you stand and listen to the children read in whispers
singing at story time
Six birds may they each bring you new words
Let the leaves that fall from the tree
bookmark your own life journey
As we daydream
browsing endlessly in the maze of books
we pass on this shared book read over and over
with turned over pages, smudges in the margins, worn out pages, a
lost bookmark
Still we run into books
to find our better self
safe in the pale pages
In this library that belongs to us all.

*Read by the author at
the opening of the
library in June 2019.
www.poetbrownie.com*

*Right: the City of
Cambridge crest which
has been restored and
reinstated above the
library entrance*

