



STRUTT'S PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2020

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SPRA is non-political and aims to:

- stimulate public interest and opinion
- promote a sense of community in the Strutt's Park area
- improve the safety and amenities of the area
- improve the preservation, protection, development and enhancement of features of beauty, historic and public interest
- further the welfare and interests of the residents of the area and encourage an awareness of the neighbourhood

Neighbours from by-gone days

Various finds of Roman coins and pottery fragments in Strutt's Park have been recorded since 1887. More formal archaeological investigations, from 1970, have produced finds from the 1st century AD leading to speculation that we may have been the location of a **Roman Fort**. The location was ideal – overlooking Ryknield Street and its crossing of the Derwent.

Excavations in the garden of 91 Belper Road revealed a

Roman post-hole and series of gullies indicating a timber structure of some type. Finds included a coin from the time of Nero (54-68 AD) and one of Vespasian (69-79 AD), a portion of a Roman bowl and other tableware, some small bronze objects and a spillage of lead. These objects pointed to the start of the occupation of the site not later than the reign of Vespasian, with continued use of the site into the 2nd century implying that the Strutt's Park site would predate the larger fort on the other side of the river in Chester Green.



Vespasian Denarius - in Derby Museum

Later investigations produced further evidence for a 1st century Roman military occupation. Traces of timber buildings located adjacent to 78 Belper Road were consistent with Roman military structures and indicated more than one phase of building.

Structures excavated at the corner of Derwent Park probably formed part of a barrack block with internal partitions,. The burnt daub and charred timbers hinted at systematic demolition of the fort by the Roman army. Whilst the extent of the fort remains uncertain, from the finds it is suggested that occupation began in the early 50s AD, and continued until the establishment of the fort at Little Chester in the early 80s.

Evidence was uncovered in 2000 on the site of what is now 71 Belper Road of several gulleys and pits, including a refuse pit which allowed a determination of the residents' diet. Artefacts recovered included a metal brooch, a heart-shaped horse harness pendant and a possible plume holder. These, along with finds in 2010 & 2011 pointed to a series of military occupations during the 1st century. Further excavation at the rear of 91 Belper Road revealed a ditch whose profile, orientation, and depth suggested that it was likely to be Roman.

Thank you to Derbyshire Historic Environment Records and our neighbours at 73 and 91 Belper Road.



A huge thank you

A huge thank you from members of the Committee on behalf of everyone in Strutt's Park to all of the key workers, the NHS staff and the volunteers for their continued work for residents of Derby and the nation during this Coronavirus pandemic.

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Changes to the planning system in England

In August the Government published a consultation document with their proposals to overhaul the planning system in England.

One major element is to move much more of the planning process on-line and, in addition to reducing bureaucracy, it is hoped this will encourage greater public participation (and not just leave it to interest groups such as the SPRA). The proposal would require every local authority in England to produce a plan allocating areas to one of the *Growth, Renewal or Protected* categories.

Growth areas would be those considered suitable for substantial development with a presumption of planning permission being granted. This reflects the government's belief that the complexity of the planning system is hindering progress in the achievement of their targets for new house building.

It seems that Renewal areas are to cover most existing built-up areas and likely that these would continue with something close to the current planning process. It is less clear which areas would be Protected other than Green Belt land. The consultation document says nothing about existing conservation areas, such as Strutt's Park and if we were designated as Protected whether all development would be prohibited or we would continue with a modified version of the existing planning procedures.

There has been much opposition to the proposals, some saying that the housing crisis is not a result of the slowness of the planning system, but of a whole raft of other problems. Others see the proposals as a green light for developers to do what they want in their desire for easy profit.

Whilst there might be agreement that the current planning system has become very complex, there is less agreement on whether it will be possible to produce a replacement which can meet the demand for housing without overriding local concerns about developments and the need for conservation. We will have to wait to see whether what emerges from the proposals represents an improvement.

Clive Lemmon

Pumping Station by Poplar Row, Darley Abbey

Severn Trent have provided an update on the progress made in addressing the sewage smell from the vent pipes in the area around Arthur and Margaret Streets. Their second planning application for the installation of a "dosing rig" in Darley Abbey was approved and Severn Trent are currently working with their contractors to plan and procure the items for the build. Their civils team have set up on site and have started the ground works.

After constructing the boundary wall they will create the concrete plinth for the chemical dosing rig which is planned to arrive on site on 9th November. The installation, commissioning and electrical items will follow and Severn Trent are hoping everything will be completed by the third week in December.

Parking on Pavements

Pavement parking has been prohibited in London since 1974 and the City Centre since 2015. As part of its options for change initiative, the government is conducting a survey on pavement parking. Between cyclists, bins and parked cars, pedestrians often seem to be compromised on the one area - the pavement - intended for them. The problem particularly affects people with mobility problems and those with prams and pushchairs. Details of the government's consultation and the online survey where you can give your own views can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking/pavement-parking-options-for-change>

All those apples.....

If you have any excess apples you can take them to Darley Abbey Cider. The cider maker is on Folly Road and will use them to make their flavours of cider - sweet, dry and fruity. In return you may be given some of this locally produced cider.

For more details visit their website: <https://darleyabbeycider.co.uk/>



The Darley Neighbourhood Board comprises local councillors, residents and representatives from community organisations (including SPRA) and the public services. It meets several times a year to discuss local issues and decide on priorities for the area.

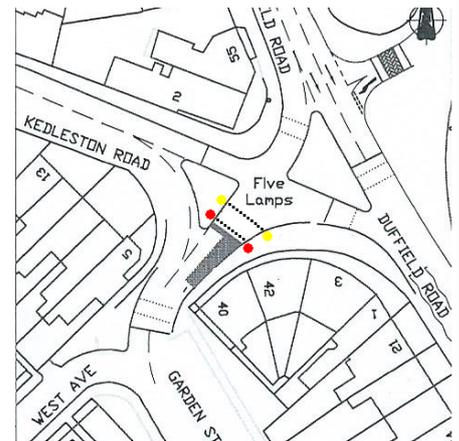
Parking

The extension of the Residents' Only Parking scheme along Arthur Street has displaced parking problems particularly into the northern half of Arthur Street and Otter Street. Following a public meeting last year to discuss parking issues, the Council agreed to a ballot on a further extension of the scheme to cover the whole of the area between the Derwent and Duffield Road. Whilst 67.5% voted to have Residents Only Parking there were only 26.9% returns and the Council considers this an insufficient response to proceed.

A similar ballot in the Six Streets area produced a much higher and more positive response and Resident Only Parking was due to be introduced in the area this year.

New Traffic Lights at Five Lamps

Following a spate of accidents at the Five Lamps junction with cars travelling from Kedleston Road hitting vehicles coming from Garden Street north onto Duffield Road, the Council have added a new set of traffic lights at the junction to try to ensure traffic coming from Garden Street can only proceed if it has a clear run either north up Duffield Road or to U-turn south back toward the City Centre.



Public Protection Officers

The numbers of Public Protection Officers in Derby was increased to 20 earlier this year. They are assigned to specific wards and act as a named point of contact for local issues. They have powers to issue fines for antisocial behaviour and environmental crime, such as noise, littering, fly tipping and dog fouling, and they have powers to issue fines for parking offences. The Darley Neighbourhood Board has highlighted the key local issues as bins on streets, poor parking, and dog mess. If you see the PPOs when they are patrolling you are welcome to introduce yourself and to explain any concerns about the Strutt's Park area.

The A38 Junctions

The A38 Junctions rework is waiting for the final go ahead from the Secretary of State. When this is in place Highways England will begin work. This will lower the A38 so that it can pass underneath the modified Kingsway and Markeaton junctions, widen the road to three lanes in each direction between the Kingsway and Kedleston Road junctions and create two new bridges to carry traffic over a modified roundabout at the Little Eaton junction.

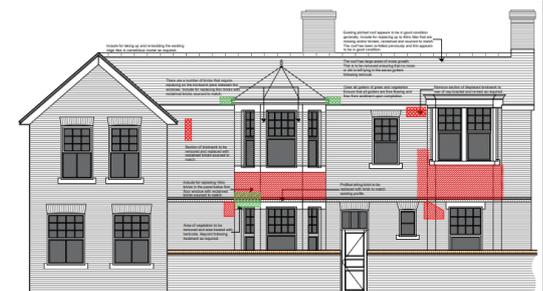
The work should take 4-5 years and will result in significantly shorter journey times between the M1 and Birmingham with the A38 becoming the preferred route to the M1-A42 alternative.

There has been much concern over the impact of these roadworks and the inevitable congestion they will produce. The City Council expect significant displacement of traffic onto Kedleston and Duffield Roads with an increase in rat-running as drivers seek to minimize their journey times.

St Helen's House

Further changes are afoot for the St Helen's House complex. The architects, Brownhill Hayward Brown, have submitted plans to the City Council for the two remaining undeveloped buildings.

The Pearson Building would become two apartments on the top (second) floor, a large open plan office unit on the first floor and, on the ground floor, four commercial units with shared reception area, kitchen and toilets. The plan for The Headmaster's Cottage would produce two generously sized apartments, each with a lounge featuring the existing bay windows, a dining/kitchen area, bathroom and two bedrooms.



<https://docs.derby.gov.uk/padocumentserver/index.html?caseref=20/00159/LBA>

Strutt's Park's Wildlife

The Strutt's Park Wildlife Initiative (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/struttswildlife>) aims to connect residents keen to create wildlife friendly gardens and wildlife corridors between individual gardens.

I was inspired to create the group following the arrival of a hedgehog (now two!) in my garden (Arthur Street) and while doing everything possible to create a welcoming environment - including providing food, water and a home, the most critical thing we can do is link up our gardens so that they have free passage through their environment.

Hedgehog numbers have halved since the millennium with only 1 million remaining on mainland Britain compared to 30 million in the 1950s. This is mainly due to the loss of habitat and with our garden walls and fences becoming more secure, the land available to them has drastically reduced. Hedgehogs can travel up to a mile each night searching for food and a mate so you can imagine what a challenge our built environment poses.

Similar challenges face other mammals and wildlife such as amphibians. Our gardens are of increasing importance in the fight to protect them.

Individually our gardens may be small but together they could provide a gigantic haven for nature.

Please join the group and let's work together to make life easier for wildlife - Lucia Whittaker



Our Local Friendly Community Group

The Strutt's Park Community Group, set up in October 2012, was inspired by the good spirits, fun and sense of community created by events such as the Jubilee Street Party. The Group agreed on a shared desire to get back to living with some old fashioned community values. They encourage and support local residents to create their own groups, clubs and activities such as book clubs, dog walking circles and local history groups. They invite residents to let them know if they need help or, indeed, just want a friendly chat. The group has increased neighbourliness, friendship and fostered a greater sense of community. They are a non-profit, non-religious and non-political community group.

To find out more you can: email: struttsparkderby@gmail.com, check the website: <http://www.struttsparkcommunity.co.uk>, by post to 2 Kingston Street or simply talk with your neighbours.

Nextdoor

This is a web site for people to come together to greet newcomers, exchange recommendations, and discuss local news. It provides a forum to find and support local businesses and get updates from public agencies. Our local group covers the Darley area so it provides an opportunity to see the news and concerns in neighbouring districts such as The Six Streets and Chester Green. To sign up go to: <https://nextdoor.co.uk>

SPRA Committee 2020 - 2021

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Neighbourhood Board Rep: John Austin
Helen McGloin

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Or visit our website, www.strutts.org, for:

- AGM minutes & Past newsletters
- The Conservation Area Booklet: general advice for those wishing to make alterations to their property
- National Organization of Residents Association (NORA) newsletters
- Further details on many of the items in this newsletter

GET INVOLVED - WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE