



# Beacon Street Area Residents' Association NEWS SNIPPETS



## Spring 2011

Full edition available at: <http://newsletter.beaconstreetara.org/BSARA-Newsletter-Spring2011.pdf>

Email: [bsara.committee@beaconstreetara.org](mailto:bsara.committee@beaconstreetara.org)

### Friarsgate & City centre redevelopments – good or bad?

BSARA has invited John Thompson, Chairman of the Lichfield Civic Society, to contribute to this article because the Society cares about the character of the City, and its historic core in particular.

The District Council has now granted a five year extension of planning permission on revised schemes for both the Lichfield Friary Outer car park and the Friarsgate retail development.



#### Friarsgate is not in keeping with St. John's hospital, a Grade 1 listed building, which is opposite

The Lichfield Civic Society's opposition centres around three points – (a) the **impact on the historic character of the City centre**, (b) the proposed **developments are not in sympathy with the appearance of existing buildings** and (c) the **impact on traffic congestion and car parking**.

John Thompson said *"the District Council has an unacceptable conflict between its conservation objectives and its financial interest in expanding retail and office space via a very substantial redevelopment of the City centre. We are particularly concerned that the height and overall appearance of the Friarsgate development is not in sympathy with the appearance of the historic City centre and is neither appropriate nor acceptable for a fragile historic environment."*

The full Lichfield Civic Society submission can be viewed at [www.lichfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.lichfieldcivicsociety.org.uk)

Please consider joining the Lichfield Civic Society

**Telephone:** John Thompson on 01543 264140, or **email:** [chairman@lichfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@lichfieldcivicsociety.org.uk)

### 8,000 Houses in Lichfield District

Over the last couple of years BSARA has been involved with the Lichfield Alliance, studying the proposed Local Development Framework (LDF). This is supposed to decide how many houses will be built between the years 2006 and 2026 and will determine the commercial expansion by way of shops, industrial and office premises. To achieve this necessitates that Lichfield District Council has a vision that encompasses the needs of the local community and ensures that the infrastructure is in place to meet the aspirations of the population.

In addition to the Friarsgate development, upwards of 8,000 dwellings have been proposed. This is likely to generate a population increase of 20,000. How will arterial streets like Beacon Street cope with the extra thirty percent plus vehicles all seeking those precious parking spaces?

The answer is that they won't. Queuing traffic can already be seen at peak times and this will get considerably worse, with the likelihood of Birmingham Road being continually blocked.

The tragedy is that the proposed homes will not help the young people of Lichfield to get a foot on the housing ladder. Nor will it help those, who want to downsize their property at retirement age, to find suitable accommodation.

Over the next twelve to eighteen months there will be two opportunities for residents to comment – firstly during a six week public consultation and secondly during a later public inquiry.

We would implore all residents to **make your individual comments known to the Council when the final consultation appears**. It is your Lichfield and you should have a say on how you want it to be in fifteen years time, bearing in mind 1200 years of heritage can be destroyed by the stroke of a pen.

**Write to:** Planning Policy Manager, Lichfield District Council, Frog Lane, Lichfield WS13 6YZ, or **telephone:** 01543 308189 (Development Plans Team), or **email:** [developmentplans@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:developmentplans@lichfielddc.gov.uk)

## Parking bays & double yellow lines

BSARA has worked with Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to help residents decide the changes to parking restrictions in and around Beacon Street. Additional double yellow lines will be painted at various junctions around Beacon Street. BSARA fully supports these as this will improve safety for pedestrians and vehicles.

Secondly, changes are proposed to the 30 minute parking restriction, currently imposed on the south west side of Beacon Street, between the junctions with Beaconsfield and Greenhough Road. SCC has suggested to extend the waiting time to 2 hours (refer OPTION 1 below). This change would be further imposed on the existing restriction between Shaw Lane and Beaconsfield.

BSARA wrote to 98 homes directly affected by the parking changes. Residents were offered a vote on two prescribed options approved by SCC., namely: **OPTION 1 – Limited waiting bays** for 2 hours between the hours of 09.30 and 16.30 no return Monday to Friday, or **OPTION 2 – No restriction**.

Of the ballots returned, 58% of the votes were for no parking restrictions, with the remainder choosing limited waiting bays. We are sending the results to SCC and will report back in the next newsletter.

A detailed explanation and maps are available at <http://newsletter.beaconstreetara.org/parkingmaps.pdf>

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## Lichfield Historic Parks Project

“Casey”, the main contractor, has requested an extra 10 weeks to complete the project.

Recent good weather and school holidays have attracted many visitors. This has resulted in an increase in litter, including broken beer bottles.

The wall and railings along Minster Pool have been completed. The path is currently being prepared for re-surfacing. The Garden of Remembrance should be finished by the end of May and the Museum gardens by mid May. Projected completion dates in other areas are as follows:

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| PLAY AREAS                 | – EASTER HOLS |
| CRAZY GOLF                 | – MAY         |
| TENNIS AREA                | – END MAY     |
| KIOSK & HORTICULTURAL AREA | – END JUNE    |
| BUILDINGS                  | – JULY        |

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## Local Crime

**BURGLARIES CONTINUE** — BSARA is monitoring local crime. We are therefore, highlighting a summary

of crime, as reported by the local police in February, for the area of Lichfield. Burglaries in the district continue to be well above normal.

**SCAMS AWARENESS** — Government figures show that nearly half of the UK population has been targeted by a scam – 3 million adults fall victim every year, losing £3.5 billion. Recently, an elderly Lichfield resident received a telephone call telling him he had won £80,000 on an American lottery. Unfortunately, he believed it, and sent off a cheque for £2,000 to cover administration. Treat any telephone calls or e-mails with caution. Do not give any personal details. If it sounds too good to be true, it is!

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## BSARA’S activities

BSARA was formed ten years ago, primarily to combat yobbery and traffic speed. On the latter we have failed so far, but helped with the installation of two crossings. The Police presence in the area has increased and, in the last eight years, total crime recorded by the police in Lichfield District has fallen 33% though yobbery has risen 12%.

In the year ahead BSARA expects to be heavily involved in the consultation regarding the Local Development Framework, including the 8,000 new houses.

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## Joining BSARA

Should you wish to join the Association as a new member please complete the form below — the subscription of £2 per household per annum will cover your membership to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. this year. Please complete and return this form with the subscription to 60 Beacon, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7AT (junction of Beacon St. and Anson Ave.).

### Membership application form

I/We wish to become member(s) of Beacon Street Area Residents’ Association and to receive future newsletters and communications.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Post Code : .....

E-mail address: .....

Telephone Number. ....

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## Contact us

We are interested in your views. Please send your comments to:

**Email:** [bsara.committee@beaconstreetara.org](mailto:bsara.committee@beaconstreetara.org), or

**Post:** The Chairman, Beacon Street Area Residents’ Association, 2A Nether Beacon, LICHFIELD WS13 7AT

# Lichfield Parks Project Update

Now the weather has improved, it has enabled the contractor to make vast strides forward towards the completion of Beacon Park, Minster Pool and Walk, the Garden of Remembrance having been re-opened in 2010 in time for the 11 November commemorations. The play area in Beacon Park has been completed and opened following RoSPA approval however benches, bins and planting are still outstanding in this area but will be installed at the earliest opportunity.

Work to Minster Pool Walk is on schedule with the final decorative surfacing being laid in late May as the weather has to be dry and warm for this surfacing to be successful. The Museum Gardens are progressing well, the statues having been conserved, and the fountain restored. The fountain is due to be recommissioned later in April and the final surfacing to all the paths in this area is due early to mid May. Again, as with the surfacing in Minster Pool Walk, this is a weather dependent operation.

There will be around 50 large specimen trees being planted within Beacon Park in the next month with species including walnut, sweet chestnut and river birch. Paths within the park where they have been worn due to contractor traffic will be mended, and bare areas of earth, seeded. The District Council is also currently working on a series of interpretation panels which will be installed throughout the park before the summer holidays. Further interpretation in the form of self guided leaflet trails and podcasts are also due to be produced later in the year.



The woodland paths



The fountain stonework



For more information call the  
Historic Parks Team on  
01543 308869  
[www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/historicparks](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/historicparks)

# Beacon Park Events 2011

## Dawdle at Dawn

Sun 1st May 4am– 6am  
Marvel at the wonders of the dawn chorus on this early morning walk led by local expert Bob Russon. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars if you have any. £2.50 per person. To book your place, please call: 01543 308183.



## Mini-monsters Bug Hunt

Tue 31st May 10-12pm or 1-3pm.  
FREE family pond dipping and bug hunting as part of National Family Week. All children must be accompanied. Meet at the Pavilion in the middle of the Park.



## Paint a Bird Box

Sat 30th July 10am-3pm  
Join the rangers and paint your very own bird box (while stocks last). No need to book, just turn up. Head for the pavilion in the middle of the Park. £3.50 per box.



## Fairy Walk

Sunday 28th August  
Hear the story of the Beacon Park fairies, then wander through the Park. FREE. Fancy dress encouraged. All children must be accompanied. 11am, 1pm & 3pm. Lasts up to 1 hour. No need to book - head for the tennis courts and look for the bunting.

## Beacon Park History Walk

Tue 10th May 11:00am  
As part of Local and Community History Month, learn all about the history of Beacon Park, Minster Pool and The Garden of Remembrance. Lasts approx 1.5 hours. FREE but please book your place on: 01543 308869.

## Minute and Magical

Fri 3rd June 10-12pm or 1-3pm  
Enter the magical world of fairies, goblins and elves through games, play, stories and crafts including wings and headbands/crowns. £2.00 per child. Booking essential: 01543 308869. Most suitable for children aged 4+, all children must be accompanied.



## Beacon Park Fun Day

Thurs 4th Aug 11am-3pm  
Enjoy a wide variety of games, sports and outdoor activities in the new look Beacon Park. And don't forget your picnic & teddy to join in the **Teddy Bear's Picnic** (photo 2pm). Free entry.



## Lichfield Proms in Beacon Park

Sat 3rd Sept  
Lichfield District Council's free annual outdoor concert for the whole family. Now in its thirteenth year, the event is an opportunity to enjoy a late summer evening of al fresco dining, live classical music and fireworks. Lichfield City Band from 6:15pm. Main Concert from 7:30pm.

## Moth Recording Mornings

Thurs 19th May, 16th June, 21st July, 18th Aug & 22nd Sept.  
From 8:30am. Join us first thing to try and ID moths caught in the trap from the night before. Presence of moths cannot be guaranteed. Ring 07931 891 086 from 8:00am to confirm. FREE.

## Tree-mendously Useful Summer Tree Walk

Wed 27th July 11:00am  
Tree Officer Gareth Hare will lead a gentle walk around some of Lichfield's most interesting trees highlighting the specific uses of certain species. £2.50 per person. Approx 1.5-2 hours. Please book: 01543 308869.



## Bat and Moth Night

Fri 26th Aug 8:30pm til late  
A fascinating evening discovering the secrets of night-time wildlife in Beacon Park. All children must be accompanied. Wrap up warm. Torch recommended. £2.50 per person. Please book: 01543 308869.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

Would you like to learn new skills, meet people and help the Park? Volunteers wanted to help with various conservation tasks and at events. Please email [ruth.witczak@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.witczak@lichfielddc.gov.uk) for further information.

## Also in Beacon Park:

### Lichfield Greenhill Bower

Monday 30th May  
<http://lichfieldbower.co.uk>

### Cars in the Park

Sat 2nd/ Sun 3rd July  
<http://www.carsinthepark.com>

### FUSE

Fri 8th/ Sat 9th/ Sun 10th July  
<http://www.lichfieldarts.org.uk/fuse.asp>