



CARA News

Spring 2017

Issue number 2

The Circus Area Residents Association (CARA) was formed many years ago to represent the views of local residents and local businesses within our catchment area, as set out on the map on our website. CARA enables its members to make their voices heard on issues that affect residents.

Chairman's report

Welcome to our second issue in this new format. Feedback from the first one was all very positive. Do tell us what you like or do not like – it is your association after all. The Christmas Carols on The Circus raised over £1500 this year for the Salvation Army locally. Very many thanks to everyone who enjoyed the evening and made those donations. The CARA Christmas lunch and the recent St Patrick's Day evening were both very successful, breaking even on costs – just as we planned. You will see new dates for your diary in this Newsletter – do come and join in, at social events and the 'business' meetings. As a Residents Association, we exist only to represent you, and other people living locally.

We have had success locally on the provision of 5 new waste and litter-bins, we have almost achieved our objective of changing four redundant doctors' parking spaces to residents-only, in addition to a whole range of new central zone residents parking spaces (mostly in Royal Avenue and also in ones and twos around our patch). Why not come to the AGM on 11th May, and hear about all the many other things the Committee has been doing on your behalf – like extensive lobbying to ensure that our waste collection remains weekly, not changing to fortnightly as it will be in November, elsewhere in Bath.

If you are not yet a member of CARA, please do join. It only costs £7.50 per household, per year. You will be very welcome. Details at the foot of this Newsletter. Encourage your neighbours to join, too.

With my thanks to everyone involved in the production and distribution of this Newsletter to every household in our catchment area, not just CARA members. We all hope that you enjoy reading it and learning more about what the Committee are doing on your behalf.

Barry Gilbertson, Chairman CARA

Update on our three priorities for 2016/17

1. **Traffic management.** CARA seeks to achieve the optimal traffic volume for local residents. For some years, we have sought to reduce car traffic and eradicate coach traffic. The Council has accepted the need to restrict coach and heavy vehicle movements and continues to assess the outcome from last July's traffic survey. We keep chasing the results, apparently now with BANES Highway modelling team. Once received, we shall meet officers and discuss outcomes, their recommendations to Councillors and promote much-needed improvements to local traffic movements.
2. **Air pollution.** Much of the work around pollution is out of our hands, but we have (alongside other Residents Associations in Bath) raised the profile with local, regional and national government (oh, and the BBC!).
3. **Enforcement.** Enforcement is a key priority: for example, getting our Council to enforce poor or illegal parking; addressing waste collection and scattered litter problems; and improving street sweeping. In recent months, we have secured 5 new litter-bins and maintained the weekly refuse collection. We hear that the Council will shortly start prosecuting residents who use public litter-bins as their dustbins. It is apparently illegal.

Social events

- **Ladies social:** CARA Ladies meet on the last Thursday of each month at Hall and Woodhouse. Starts at 6.00 pm. No need to book; just turn up. Please feel free to bring your friends (CARA membership not essential).
- **Annual General Meeting:** Thursday 11th May at 6.30 for 7.00 pm at the Royal Pavilion Café in Victoria Park. Complimentary drink on arrival. Finger buffet and pay bar after the short business of the meeting.
- **Theatre Royal backstage tour:** Saturday 10th June at 11.00 am followed by two-course lunch at The Garrick's Head. Cost: £20. Places limited to 20. Please contact Jackie Hampton on Jackie.hampton56@gmail.com for more details/to book.
- **Georgian Garden Summer Drinks Party:** Friday 23rd June at 6.00-9.00 pm at the Georgian Garden at rear of No.4 The Circus. Cost: £20. Please contact Jackie Hampton on Jackie.hampton56@gmail.com for more details/to book. Last year was a great success, despite the rain. The evening sun will be shining this year, surely?
- **September Drinks Social:** Friday 22nd September at 6.00-9.00 pm at Hall and Woodhouse. Cost: £5 for a glass of Prosecco, or buy a drink of your choice at the bar.
- **Meet your Committee:** Friday 20th October at 6.00-9.00 pm at David Simon Contemporary Art Gallery, 4 Bartlett Street. A social evening with the opportunity to chat to committee members. Complimentary drinks and snacks. No need to book, but an indication of your likely attendance helps us to cater adequately. Please contact Jackie Hampton on Jackie.hampton56@gmail.com.

Other

- **Subscriptions.** Membership subscriptions for the year ending March 2018 are now due. For members that pay by cheque, please send a cheque payable to Cara Ltd. for £7.50 to Mike Richardson at the address shown below.
- **Volunteers needed:** CARA has committee vacancies. If you would like to help make a difference to your community, please contact Barry Gilbertson, our Chairman, on barry@barrygilbertson.com for further information.
- **Web-site design/social media.** We are keen to revamp our web-site & social media (Facebook page and Twitter) to improve our communication with you, our members and the broader community. Regularly updating our information for members is crucial to continuing the CARA success story. None of the Committee has the right IT skills. Do you? Whilst we seek to manage costs, this does not have to be a voluntary role. Please contact Barry Gilbertson on barry@barrygilbertson.com.
- **Gulls.** The Council is again paying to manage the gull population in Bath – see BANES web-site for details if you would like to identify rooftops or other locations needing this free service. Available now to local residents. See <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/pests-and-infestation/gulls> for details.

CARA Committee		Contact us:
Barry Gilbertson	Chairman	Click on our e-mail address links on our website: www.carabath.org.uk
Ron Plant	Vice Chairman	
Sue Osborne	Secretary	
Mike Richardson	Treasurer	
Richard Brown	Traffic Management	
Peter Davis	Membership Secretary	
Jackie Hampton	Social Secretary	
Gillian Kersley Ryan	Parking	
Sheila Lamble	General Factotum	
Ron Temperton	City Centre Action Group	

CIRCUS AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (CARA) Membership application

Please send a membership application form to:

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Please return this section to Mike Richardson, CARA Treasurer, 10 Crescent Lane, Bath, BA1 2PU