

Planning

- The Arun Park Estate (to the east of the city) was built between 1970 and 1982.
- There are 10 blocks of flats each with 12 units in buildings 3 storeys high on what is known as Charles Avenue. The entire estate is a mix of social rental, rental and owner occupier flats and houses.
- It is busiest when children/students are going to/returning from school/college, also commuters to/from work.
- There have been issues with sporadic episodes of what could be deemed 'anti-social' behaviour around the flats areas but there is a strong residents community group operating determined to make the area better for all residents.
- The flats are now fifty years old with some attendant problems that were inherent in the original design i.e. no covered areas for communal bin stores. These issues are being addressed with the active participation of the C.A.R.E. (Charles Avenue Residents Engagement) group and management organisation Clarion (who have overall responsibility for managing the flats).
- This is a residential area. The C.A.R.E group have placed strong emphasis on providing play equipment for all age groups and there are dedicated storage sheds to keep group equipment in. The areas are well used by children from the flats.
- The estate has one main 'through road'; Charles Avenue that traverses from Oving Road (north side) linking with Windsor Road on the south side, either through Buckingham Drive or Osborne Crescent. Conditions for the visually impaired, deaf or those using mobility scooters are similar as for other areas.
- Designated 'play areas' and spaces were 'designed in' with the original build. Over time some of these have become less well used and some areas have a slightly 'neglected' feel.
- There is a small building (originally the cleaner's storage area) that has been designated the HUB (Helpful, Useful Bunch!) that can accommodate small group meetings and has a pleasant outside area that C.A.R.E are planting up for overall enhancement.
- The eastern side of Arun Park abuts the A27 Chichester by-pass. It is difficult to envisage how any of the proposed changes to the Chichester by-pass will affect the estate. The predominant wind direction is south westerly thereby tending to dissipate air pollution to the north east.

Arun Park Estate PLACE Assessment

- There are a couple of small areas (off Charles Ave east side) that have become neglected. Unfortunately the original design (4 entrance/exits from a small area) can be an attraction for 'anti-social' behaviour. C.A.R.E are aware of this and are actively seeking to make improvements.
- No overground wire/masts are observable. There are some dishes etc to the exterior of some of the blocks of flats.

Landscape

- Arun Park estate is a residential area with a mix of blocks of flats and houses.
- There are pleasant grass/planted areas around the flats. Clarion Management are responsible for ground maintenance, grass and hedge cutting.
- Children's play equipment utilises areas of the green.
- Florence Park (just to the west of Arun Park estate) is a very useful resource for the eastern edge of the city. It is well used with a good range of equipment (some recently installed). A football/basketball court and tea-bar make this a pleasant area for people to meet and socialise. It is also well used by dog-walkers with appropriate waste collection bins placed on the perimeter of the park.
- Areas on the perimeter of Florence Park have been left to 'grow out' to attract pollinating insects. There are a range of medium sized specimen trees to the south west of the park as well as around the perimeter.
- Florence Road allotments run to the north, west and south of the park.
- Hedgerows about the allotment sites. There are small hedgerows on the flats areas of Charles Avenue and throughout the estate.

Architecture

- The HUB (off Charles Ave) has been designated for community use by the residents of the blocks of flats.
- UK Harvest (dedicated to rescuing perfectly usable food to redistribute to those in need) operate from here on Thursday afternoons at present.
- There are no retail outlets on the Arun Park estate. The nearest general store is the Co-op on Bognor Road.
- It is a fifteen minute walk from Arun Park into Chichester town centre exiting at the cattle market car park. Quicker by bike!
- The whole estate is between 40 to 50 years old.

Culture

- C.A.R.E group are actively engaged to rename the blocks of flats and improve signage on all blocks of flats, not least to enhance delivery vehicle and emergency vehicle access.
- A residential area is being developed to the south of Chatsworth Road, which will effectively form a southern 'block' to the present Arun Park estate. This was originally Bartholomews (Agricultural Services) with a very architecturally attractive 'Reception' building. It would enhance the eastern approach to the city to keep this building. With a little forethought this building could be utilised as a community asset for the whole of the Arun Park estate as well as the new build that surrounds it.
- To have built the original Arun Park estate with no forethought as to provision of a community building for the use of all was surely a grievous oversight, to compound that with further residential building only compounds that original mistake.

Engineering

- The main routes from the east of the city into the centre for pedestrians and cyclists are Blackberry Lane, Pound Farm Road and Oving Road.
- Bognor Road is the main arterial road into the city from the east.
- There is a very prominent issue of the need for some sort of pedestrian crossing from Royal Close (elderly/sheltered housing) to the Co-op on Bognor Road. This is a busy main road. The issue has been explored and taken up actively by one of our councillors. Unfortunately this is a 'hard' engineering issue with a small, ill-proportioned pavement not suitable for installation of standard pedestrian road crossing structure. I'm not sure what the solution is but, sooner ... or later ...
- A bus service is provided to/through Arun Park estate.
- There is ample on-street parking although this is under review along with all on-street parking for the whole of Chichester.
- Driveways and garages supply many of the houses on the estate.