



Chichester City Council

MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 10.30AM ON THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2026


.....
Town Clerk
12 February 2026

CLSC28 / 2026. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To note apologies, receive from members of the Committee prior to the meeting.

CLSC29 / 2026. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest by Members of the Committee in matters on the agenda of this meeting.

CLSC30 / 2026. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary committee meeting held on the 21 November 2025

[Minutes - Community Liaison Sub-Committee - 2025-11-21](#)

CLSC31 / 2026. POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

Inspector Dave Lyons, Amy Hickling and Debbie Kimpton to attend.
For Discussion

CLSC32 / 2026. TO NOTE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Friends of Chartres
- Friends of Ravenna
- Friends of Speyer
- Friends of Valletta
- Chichester BID
- Community Wardens
- Chichester Tree Warde

CLSC33 / 2026. ESTABLISH PRINCIPLES FOR OBSERVING KEY CULTURAL AND FAITH FESTIVALS

Town Clerk to report.

CLSC34 / 2026. ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA
For Discussion

CLSC35 / 2026. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Date of next ordinary meeting: Thursday 21 May 2026

[Chichester NPT overview 2026](#)

CLSC31 / 2026 - POLICING AND SECURITY IN THE CITY

Last modified: 2026-02-18



Chichester NPT overview

Date created 27/01/2026

PS Hickling DH576 – Chichester City Centre

Roof top City Centre Problem profile

OIC PCSO Lavery 44213 – PSF Created 19/07/25

This problem profile relates to on-going issues with youths gaining access multiple ways onto roofs around Chichester city centre. multiple reports from businesses and residents regarding youths gaining access to roofs around the city centre and causing ASB. This is causing tension between the community.

ASB in the area from youths are linked- such as throwing eggs from buildings. Damage to abandoned property also linked to youths.

Incidents were initially occurring during warmer weather however the issues have continued up until as recent at 26/01/26.

SXP response involved identifying all those involved and arranging interventions at home addresses/schools/social clubs. These initial interventions were effective and assisted in a reduction and the group of youth was also reduced. Adjacent to that PCSO Lavery completed several multi agency visits to the sites identified where the youths gained successful access to the rooftops. The sites were reviewed and advice given to owners/businesses about securing the access points.

OP Broadmark

OIC Insp Lyons CL776

Op BROADMARK is Sussex Police's focused response to escalating youth-related serious violence across Arun and Chichester.

Clear escalation in violence, including vehicle-ramming attacks on homes, weapons possession, and retaliatory group violence.

Tier 1 and Tier 2 nominals are the operational focus; most are high-risk MACE subjects with cross-border activity between Bognor Regis and Chichester. Attacks now target family addresses, increasing community risk and displacement of victims.

Vast Positive action has been taken against those involved with fats time arrests following incidents and a drive to securing evidence within a 'golden hour' resulting in offenders being charged and several now imprisoned. Within coming months other involved persons all have court dates pending.

Specialist units have assisted NPT greatly enabling focused Policing to be conducted on daily bases.

Eastgate square

OIC PC Hughes 42570 PSF created 25/11/2024

Eastgate Square, Chichester, in 2024 started to experience sustained and repeat ASB which rose above normal local demand and had a clear and ongoing impact on the local Community confidence in Police. Quality of life for residents and local businesses and visitors to wider Chichester city centre. Incidents were persistent rather than isolated and included street drinking, drug use and dealing, intimidation, disorder, assaults, and intelligence relating to weapons possession. The behaviour was driven by a small number of individuals linked to the homeless community.

Police responded to the issues in this area with regular patrols and focused taskings. Were proactive in issuing CPWs and CPNs under the *Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014*.

A mobile police pod was moved to the location to use as a base for local officers whilst on patrol. This offered a regular Police presence and gave members of the community a local place to come and engaged with officers. SXP worked with Chichester district Council and other agencies and were successful un securing a PSPO for the area and a linked address which was the source of many incidents was identified and was shut down by use of a closure order.

As a result of all the hard work there has been a reduction in reported ASB linked to Eastgate Square. Street drinking and related behaviours have declined significantly and continue to be monitor by a team's channel which all NPT. The PSPO has enabled early and proportionate intervention, prevented escalation and reducing demand on police and partner agencies.

The original causes of harm have been effectively addressed and reduced

Op Air

OIC PC Markie CM104

have experienced a high volume of reports around the use of E-Bikes being ridden in an anti-social manner and making off/FTS for Police. These riders are generally wearing face coverings concealing their identities. Some of these riders have been identified as local nominals who are linked to knife crime & drugs. The riders will often attend busy public areas and attempt to provoke Police into a reaction.

A briefing pack was put together which details the hot spots and specific offending times.

Three days of proactive Policing were organised by PC Markie with positive outcomes. Including seizure of two E bikes/Scooters and several arrests for Drug/drink driving and document offences.

Plans are being made for further operations with support from newly formed traffic units.

City centre business crime

The City has been designated specific City patrol PCSO's and Police Constables to tackle the City offences. They were out and engaged with the other support agencies within the City. The officer activity was also captured on an Engagement app which records officers, where they are, what they are doing.

During the Christmas period Op Tinsel was activated. Operation Tinsel is the overarching name for high visibility and proactive Policing activity targeting shoplifting and anti-social behavior, running throughout December from 01 – 31st. The expectation is that Neighbourhood Policing warranted officers and Police staff will engage with repeat offenders, repeat business victims and the public and provide a high visibility presence within high harm and hot spot locations.

We were lucky last year as we had several new officers from different departments come and work within the City and this was very valuable. We were able to visit a number of the commercial stores to find out any issues/complaints they had as well as offering safeguarding/crime prevention advice.

Plans for 2026

Our principles for neighbourhood policing each come under one of four pillars:

- enforcement,
- prevention,
- engagement
- and problem solving.

We have New national specialist training for all NPT officers so that they will be better equipped to resolve/manage issues within the community.

Continue to enforce the PSPO within the city and encourage the community to attend the Police Pod when staffed and speak to officers.

Ensure as warm weather begins, we are proactive in checking the roof accesses of business within the city centre and review how safe/secure they are.

[FoC report for City Council meeting 19th Feb2026](#)

CLSC32 / 2026 - TO NOTE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Last modified: 2026-02-18

Report for Community Liaison Sub Committee meeting 19th February 2026
from The Friends of Chartres

Since my last report we have been continuing with our usual events.

The first was our Christmas Soiree held on 4th December at St Johns Chapel in St Johns Street when the former organist of the Cathedral, Allan Thurlow gave us a talk about the organ in the chapel which has been the subject of a major restoration. He followed this by a recital of the type of music for which the organ was designed. With suitable refreshments on a french theme it was a good start to the Christmas season.

We have continued are series of french films at our Cine Club in the studio at The New Park Centre. The films are in French but with English sub-titles. The most recent was with English title – Don't look now – we're being shot at! and the next on the 22nd February - The Well Digger's Daughter.

Our annual dinner will be on Thursday 26th February again at Restaurant 64 at the Chichester College.

The Annual General Meeting of the association will be on Thursday 19th March. In addition to the formal business we will have refreshments and Anne Scicluna will give as talk about influential women in Chichester.

In our turn this year for us to visit Chartres as they came here last year. The visit will take place between 30th April and 4th May and we know that our friends there will organise an interesting programme of events. In the past we used to hire a coach here and take it to Chartres. The cost of the ferry crossing now means this is not an economic possibility. Last time a number of people took the train to London and then Eurostar to Paris and after crossing Paris by taxi took the train to Chartres. This time we will travel by coach to Portsmouth where we will cross the channel by Brittany Ferries to Ouistreham where a coach from Chartres will be there to meet us. This will make the journey much less stressful.

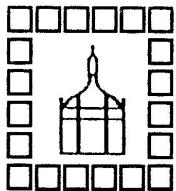
Finally we have had some small success in our efforts to establish a schools link. The pupils of Fishbourne Primary School and L'Ecole Jean-Paul II in Chartres combined to make a Christmas tree collage. A small beginning but a start hopefully in a long term link.

Michael Bevis Chair The Friends of Chartres

[Friends of Ravenna Report 10.2.26](#)

CLSC32 / 2026 - TO NOTE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Last modified: 2026-02-18



FRIENDS OF RAVENNA

CHICHESTER

Friends of Ravenna Report for the Chichester Community Affairs Committee **Thursday 19 February 2026**

Presentations to date:

On **11 December**, our Christmas celebration was a wonderful evening being entertained by the University Big Band, students in their first to final years, led by Band Leader Emma, with singing from Benny and Amani. We were treated to traditional big band music followed by jazzy Christmas tunes. And an opportunity to get up and have a dance!

On **15 January**, we had a virtual visit to Siena on Zoom. Chiara Fanti's knowledge and enthusiasm for her city of Siena provided us with a very informative and interesting presentation. We explored history, works of art, the duomo, municipal buildings and the world-famous Palio horse race – recognised by the late Queen Elizabeth. It was also a treat to hear from some of our members who had interesting memories to share about their own experiences when visiting Siena.

On **9 February**, we had an illustrated talk about Italian cinema – From Neo-realism to Surrealism, The Life and Cinema of Federico Fellini, looking back at the life, career and major influences of one of the giants of Italian cinema. This was presented by Patrick Hargood and Mike Jennings of the New Park cinema's Education Team. This event was also open to the public and was fully booked.

New members social event:

On 5 February 2026, we held a social gathering for new members to meet some of the Committee and other newer members. There were around 28 people attending.

There is continuing interest in membership and we currently have 212 members.

Ravenna Exchange 2026

Our Exchange with Ravenna is from 8 – 12 May 2026. We have 13 people being hosted by the Amici di Chichester and for all of them, it is their first visit to Ravenna. There are a further 12 people attending in a private capacity, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Chichester, to participate in activities to celebrate our 30 anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Association that took place in Ravenna in 1996.

The signing of the Association in Chichester took place in 1997, so in 2027, we will want to mark the 30 year anniversary of that occasion during the Ravennati visit to Chichester.

Italian language learning

Many of our members are interested in learning Italian and, due to demand, we have now enlisted a third teacher, Bany Egusquiza Diaz, an experienced teacher of languages. She offers Italian lessons to Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced level students.

Jennifer McNeill

Chair Friends of Ravenna

10 February 2026

[CSL Cttee Report Feb 2026](#)

CLSC32 / 2026 - TO NOTE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Last modified: 2026-02-18



Report for CCC Community Sub-Liaison Committee Meeting 19 February 2026

Membership

At the time of writing, the Friends of Speyer has 81 paid members, which represents a modest increase versus 2025, and we are chasing up 23 non-renewals. We hope to eventually attract 100 members. Friends of Speyer was founded in December 2022.

Quiz Nights

Following a successful Quiz Night in November, our next one is planned for later in the Spring. We hope to hold the quizzes 2-3 times a year.

German Film Evening

We will hold our second film evening on 19th February in collaboration with Chichester Cinema at New Park. The film has yet to be chosen but it will be by the renowned director Werner Herzog. The film will be preceded by a talk about Herzog's work.

Language Training & Conversation

Chichester College offers German language training from beginner to intermediate/advanced level, which a number of our members take advantage of. In addition, we have an informal intermediate-level conversation group that meets once a month at the Chichester Inn for chat and socialising.

Music

We are exploring opportunities for music evenings held in collaboration with the university but nothing is fixed yet. Chichester City Band are also willing to perform an evening of German music. Some of our members are hoping that this would include a good helping of Oompah tunes, accompanied by beer and sausages. We'll see.

Christmas Markets

We will participate in Speyer's Christmas Market and our Speyer colleagues have asked if there is something similar in Chichester that they could take part in. Something for all four twinning groups to collaborate on, perhaps?

Sport

Discussions continue (v. slowly) about a potential match between Chichester City FC and FC Speyer 09 in 2027.

Visit to Speyer: 10-14 September 2026

Our second visit to Speyer is currently being planned. 25 people have signed up so far. The visit will coincide with Speyer's lively "Old Town Festival" but there will be plenty of other good things to do. We very much hope that our new Mayor will join the visit.

Other

We hope to undertake additional cultural/culinary/sporting activities in due course.

Bob Long
Chair, Friends of Speyer
Frospeyer bob@gmail.com
9 Feb 2026

[Friends of Valletta report to Community Affairs Committee February 2026](#)

CLSC32 / 2026 - TO NOTE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Last modified: 2026-02-18

Friends of Valletta

Report to Community Affairs Committee

FEBRUARY 2026



Past Events

The AGM was held on 3 December 2025 and after the meeting, during the informal discussion, members said they would like a meeting/event monthly, except in July & August, and an Annual Dinner at the College.

At the Zoom talk in January 2026 entitled “Treasures of Maltese History” Vincent Zammit said that recent excavations showed that occupation in Malta in the Neolithic period was probably from 5200 BC based on finds of skeletons of baby elephants, which is 2000 years earlier than previously thought.

Future Events in 2026

On Tuesday February 24 at 7 pm Patricia Scott, National Secretary of The George Cross Island Association will be giving a talk in the Council Chamber about the work of the association.

On Friday 27 February at 7 pm the Friends will field a team at the NSPCC quiz night at St Paul’s Church in aid of the society.

Kevin Patience, an ex-RAF officer, will be giving a talk in the Council Chamber on Thursday 12 March at 7 pm about the recovery of a Spitfire from the sea off Malta after the war.

Last year we had a most interesting Zoom talk by Rev David Wright, Chancellor of St Paul’s Pro Cathedral, about its history, and we are currently hoping to arrange a similar Zoom talk in March about St John’ Co Cathedral, following the suggestion from Bishop Martin that we establish close links with the Cathedrals of Valletta with Chichester.

The Four Cities evening in support of the Festival of Chichester will be on Monday 22 June at 7.30 pm in the Assembly Room when the guest speaker, James Kenny, Chichester Archaeology Officer, will give a talk entitled “Romans & Normans playing in the Park” about the excavations over the years in Priory Park.

On Saturday 27 June the Gala is in Priory Park when the four twinning’s will be represented.

The Annual dinner will be held in the College restaurant in October, date TBA.

The AGM of Friends of Valletta will be held in December in the Council Chamber at 7 pm.

Membership

We have a total of 59 members including both Annual and Life Members.

General

Anne prepares issues of the Melita newsletter every two months for members with interesting articles from various sources as we are concerned to keep in touch with our members and she is always keen to receive new material.

Graham Pound

Chairman Friends of Valletta

[Chichester BID Ambassadors Report Dec25Jan26](#)

CLSC32 / 2026 - TO NOTE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Last modified: 2026-02-18

Ambassador Report

Reporting Period: December 2025 – January 2026

Prepared by: Chichester BID based on City Ambassador daily reports

Area Covered: Chichester City Centre, retail areas, car parks, underpasses, vacant premises

Executive Overview

Across the period, Chichester City Centre experienced a moderate but persistent level of retail crime, antisocial behaviour, and safeguarding concerns, punctuated by intermittent high-risk incidents. Seasonal footfall linked to Christmas events and post-Christmas trading placed additional pressure on retailers and public spaces.

Key challenges included repeat shoplifting offenders, youth-related antisocial behaviour, rough sleeping and welfare issues and aggression at transport hubs. High-visibility patrols, proactive safeguarding, and strong partnership working with Sussex Police, PCSOs, retailers and support agencies were critical in deterrence, early intervention, and harm reduction.

Overall threat levels remained moderate, with short-term escalation during peak trading hours, evenings and weekends.

Key Themes and Trends

Retail Crime

Retail theft was the most consistent issue throughout the period. Incidents ranged from low-value opportunistic thefts to high-value, repeat offences (notably fragrances, cosmetics, supplements, alcohol and clothing).

- Repeat offenders and known youth groups were responsible for a significant proportion of incidents.
- Distraction tactics, group offending and attempted de-tagging were common.
- Ambassador intervention frequently resulted in deterrence, recovery of goods, bans and police engagement.
- Retailers consistently reported reassurance and confidence from visible Ambassador patrols and rapid response.

Youth-Related Antisocial Behaviour and Risk

Youth incidents increased notably during December and remained a concern into January.

- Rooftop access, misuse of fire exits, interference with street performers and disorder in retail and public areas were recurring issues.
- One confirmed knife safely surrendered and passed to police.
- Criminal damage, attempted arson and break-in activity at vacant premises (notably House of Fraser) elevated risk levels.

These incidents represented the highest-risk category during the reporting period.

Safeguarding, Rough Sleeping, and Welfare

Safeguarding remained a core operational priority.

- Ongoing engagement with known rough sleepers and street community members across Assembly Rooms portico, underpasses, car parks, Eastgate Square and retail service areas.
- Issues included begging, alcohol misuse, fire risk, environmental health concerns and accommodation instability.
- Positive outcomes included successful housing placements, welfare interventions and joint working with Stone Pillow, Change Live Grow and other partners.

Public Safety, Aggression, and Medical Incidents

- Multiple incidents of intoxication, verbal aggression and public disorder were de-escalated without injury.
- First aid and welfare support were provided following falls and medical incidents.
- The train station, saw aggression and a racially motivated assault over the period

Events and Seasonal Operations

- Christmas events and activities significantly increased footfall and demand on Ambassador resources.
- Ambassadors were invaluable in supporting *Let It Glow* illuminations on Cathedral Green – they acted as de facto hosts, provided crowd reassurance, public information and operational setup/pack-down.

Partnership Working

Strong multi-agency collaboration underpinned effective responses:

- Sussex Police and PCSOs
- Community Wardens
- Retail managers and loss prevention teams
- Support agencies and charities

Intelligence sharing, DISC reporting, CCTV review and joint responses enabled targeted action, though police availability was occasionally constrained during peak demand.

Overall Assessment

- **Threat Level:** Moderate, with periodic high-risk spikes
- **Primary Risks:**
 - Repeat shoplifters and youth groups
 - Vulnerable individuals and safeguarding concerns
 - Car parks and vacant premises

- **Key Mitigations:**

- High-visibility patrols
- Strong retailer engagement
- Proactive safeguarding approach
- Effective partnership working

Priority Recommendations

1. Maintain monitoring of repeat offenders and known youth groups.
2. Continue patrols at key retail locations, car parks, rooftops and vacant buildings.
3. Strengthen preventative youth engagement during afternoons and evenings
4. Sustain multi-agency safeguarding work with the street community and vulnerable individuals.

[Wardens - Whyke and Chi East City Council report Feb 26](#)

CLSC32 / 2026 - TO NOTE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Last modified: 2026-02-18

Community Wardens for Whyke and Chi East City Council Report

Feb 2026

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you all had a great Christmas.

Things were relatively quiet over the last quarter. Very little ASB reported to us.

We persuaded some young people to get off the new development area near Graylingwell Chapel.

We have been attending the Foodbank in Quarry Lane, as and when time allows. We have offered to help with any emergency deliveries.

Electric bikes and scooters are, and continue to be, a cause of concern.

Fly tipping is a continued problem and we have observed a climb in what appears to be trade waste including fencing and Kitchens for example.

The Bellway Housing Development Office building on Bognor Road (by the railway bridge) was broken into some time ago and is still left unsecured. Police aware.

There have been Parking issues reported to us around Kingsham Primary School. We did some Patrolling at the peak times. To deter inconsiderate parking.

We have been giving out and fitting free sets of Bicycle lights as part of Operation Shine.

We have helped with City Patrols in Warden Dawns absence. The area at the rear of M&S, around the Public toilets appears to be frequented by some of the Street Community. A report was made to us about them bothering an elderly man, we attended but they had gone. On another occasion we were able to notify BID who then attended.

We have been in contact with the new representative from Age UK via Sarah Sharp. We may be able to offer assistance in home visits to provide support to any of concern in our area.

Councillor Sarah Sharp is organising a project, with support from the RSL, to get some of the gardens on the Whyke Estate tidied up and rubbish free. We have volunteered to help her with this project.

Thank you for your support, and as ever, if you have any questions please contact us.

Kind Regards Carol and Jon

[Wardens Chi West - Feb 2026](#)

CLSC32 / 2026 - TO NOTE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Last modified: 2026-02-18

Chichester Council Report February 2026

Chichester West

Here is a brief overview of the past few months:

- I have been involved with two Nursing Homes in my area promoting their community events, including Remembrance Day and a talk on Wills/Power of Attorney. I am joining residents and local people for a special lunch for those who live alone to come together and celebrate Valentine's day. I have invited two elderly gentleman from Parklands to come along and enjoy some food and company.
- I gave a talk on scams and benefits help to my local older people's club. Lots of Christmas fundraising events attended locally.
- UK Harvest events regularly attended and promoted CDC's the new food waste collection service.
- Within the past month I have helped two more elderly, vulnerable residents to successfully apply for Attendance Allowance where both were awarded the higher level tier, plus a substantial back payment. Not only has this relieved financial worries, I was able to identify other health and safety issues within their homes. I have also assisted one of these residents with applying for a Blue Badge.
- I'm happy to report that I had more toiletries donated for My Sister's House that I delivered just before Christmas to their office in Chichester.
- Numerous issues in one particular area with fly tipping reported to Hyde but a month later still awaiting removal. Abandoned car reported for removal.
- Ongoing issue with rubbish, flytipping and overgrown vegetation from the side of a profoundly disabled resident's bungalow as it's still there despite 6 months of my multiple requests to Hyde asking for it to be collected and removed. Ongoing issue for past year with a resident driving across kerb, pavement and grass area to park directly outside their home. There is now severe damage done to the grass, with deep ruts filled with water, I have asked the Hyde to take robust action with their tenant to halt this behaviour before any more damage is done. The pavement and kerb have become damaged and is a trip hazard.
- I was involved with colleagues from CDC and Police at our very successful Road Safety event in Parklands, particularly focussing on young people cycling without lights. We handed out over 40 sets of bike lights and gave advice on road/cycling safety to children/parents.
- Finally, it is the end of an era and I am retiring at Easter. I have been a Community Warden since the very first day, 21 years ago! I will take with me so many happy memories of events/projects, and all the lovely residents and colleagues I've met along the way. I hope I've managed to make a positive impact in the different areas in which I have worked and I'm grateful to have had such a wonderful job for so long. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and encouragement over the years.

Sue Long
Community Warden Chichester West.

[2026-02-09 Chichester TWs Report to CCC \(CLsc, 19-Feb-26\) fv pdf](#)

CLSC32 / 2026 - TO NOTE REPORTS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Last modified: 2026-02-18

Report to: Chichester City Council - Community Liaison Sub-Committee
for its Meeting on Thursday 19th February 2026

From: Paula Chatfield, Chair of Chichester Tree Wardens

Date: 9th February 2026

Chichester Tree Wardens have had a quieter few months since we last reported (14th November) as volunteers eased up for Christmas and various other personal reasons. Our activities to promote trees and encourage protection of and planting trees are once again gearing up.

- **Community Tree Nursery** - we have submitted a list of necessary practical amendments to the standard Allotment Tenancy Agreement for a plot newly created at Minerva Heights and intended as a Community Tree Nursery with elements of community orchard. These need to be signed off before we can get the keys. In the meantime, we are working on a Business Plan for the project. CDC has agreed to fund some small fruit trees to espalier to border our new plot and provide an element of community orchard.
- **Mind the (tree) Gap at Terminus Road** – individual residents can use WSCC's [donate-a-tree scheme](#) to have street trees planted where they live, but who pays attention to the public streets where people work/trade? For some time, we have been uneasy about the loss of trees and aging tree vitality in Terminus Road and this year we hope to do something about it. We are starting with an audit of the street trees there – WSCC records suggest they have about 35 individual trees (plus a couple of hedgerows) and likely have lost nearly 20. We do need some dry weather when we can get out to sense check the position on the ground. Once we've properly understood what's there, and the opportunities for tree succession planning, we will need to liaise with business occupiers alongside to understand their appetite for tree watering, and hopefully funding, and their perceptions of street trees generally. WSCC currently requires a donation of £257 per tree, representing circa half its first 3-years cost. It's a tough environment for a street tree to grow and, without a watering strategy, there is no point trying – the goodwill of business occupiers and staff will be essential, so we hope to learn how to reconcile their needs with encouraging a street tree canopy to look after people and place in future.
- **Chichester City Tree Trail** – preparation of this stalled last year. We have now agreed a new format and are working up a revised Business Plan. (We currently hold £290.10 in CCC grant awarded to us towards the end of 2023 when it was intended to update the original format, before that turned out to be impossible. We will update you when we have firm revised proposals.)
- **Street Tree Watering** – despite weeks of rain this winter, young street trees will still need watering this summer. The trees planted are “extra heavy standard” – nursery grown in pots to a size less likely to be damaged in our urban street environment. The flip side of this is that their growth has relied on the measured water supply of nursery irrigation and, unless extremely lucky with their space and weather, they have insufficient roots to sustain themselves for the first circa 3 years after planting. A good soak once a week in spring/summer encourages them to grow the large network of fine roots they need to access

water and soil nutrients for themselves. 26 new street trees have been planted in CCC's area by WSCC highways this winter; WSCC's local tree officer has supplied us the list. We don't have a detailed breakdown of how these were funded, but know at least 11 used the donate-a-tree scheme (Summersdale Residents' Association are in the habit of donating 6, and we happen to know of a generous private donation of another 5); and 4 were definitely WSCC-funded as we liaised on these. Having the WSCC list allows us to check with people living nearby that they are aware of the need to water and someone is happy to do so. We will revisit the lists from the previous 2 years too, so we are ready to action this nearer the time (last year, new tree watering started in March as a prolonged dry spell set in).

- **Events** – our capacity is limited, and opportunities this year seem endless! We will be entering 1 or 2 events into the Festival of Chichester calendar by the end of this month: Explore Trees at Litten Gardens, sponsored by Chichester Quakers, on Thursday 25th June, and possibly a talk by Jon Stokes, Director of Trees, Science and Research at the Tree Council. Ray is working with Paz and Kingsham Primary School to assist with tree selection and planting for Junior Mayor for the Day scheduled for 15th April. (This role was for many years previously undertaken by retired Tree Warden Geoff King.) Also in April, I've agreed to give a talk to Chichester & District Gardens & Allotments Association.
- **Random tree interactions** continue with examples listed below.
 - Following up ongoing concerns about developers' commitment to young tree establishment, e.g. at Minerva Heights. (We will be looking to increase engagement with residents at Minerva Heights alongside our tree nursery efforts.)
 - Discussions about laying a young hedgerow bordering Northgate car park, in the area leased to Chichester Festival Theatre (now in proximity to The Nest). This was planted several years ago by a volunteer with Transition Town Chichester. Whilst it's not quite big enough yet, we hope to be able to help lay this hedge in a year or two.
 - East Broyle Residents' Association has planted 22 mixed species whips (baby trees) to thicken the tree screen between Canterbury Close and St Paul's Road.
 - I have been invited to be a judge in a tree-naming competition! For a bit of fun, Westgate and West Walls Residents' Associations are running a competition for their residents to choose a name for the young plane tree planted in the noughties on what is now the Dutch roundabout. We hope the tree will thrive following the tree protection measures taken whilst the roundabout was reconfigured.

Fiona Bell Currie regretfully resigned last month to concentrate on other commitments. This leaves a **current cohort of 8 volunteer Chichester Tree Wardens**: Ray and Laura in Summersdale; Jenny, Lynne and Clare in Whyke; Diana just east of the city centre; and Rebecca and I in Parklands. Ray also volunteers for Summersdale Residents' Association; the Whyke team liaise with Whyke Residents' Association; and Rebecca keeps in touch with Parklands Residents' Association. East Broyle Residents' Association's tree volunteer is also keeping in touch as he explores his new role and considers whether to join us in the Tree Warden scheme.

We are very conscious that our effectiveness depends on eyes and ears on the ground – people who love trees being interested in becoming Tree Wardens and/or getting in touch with us with ideas/opportunities and concerns relating to the Chichester trees and spaces they are familiar with. **Please do help us by spreading the word and encourage anyone you know who loves trees to consider volunteering to help us.**

Finally, photographs below of the likely Georgian/Victorian lime felled last week in Canon Lane. Its loss serves as a reminder that we rely on the foresight of generations past for the tree canopy we enjoy today, and future generations rely on us.

With best wishes,

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