



Camelford Association of Residents

Issue No.1 Summer 2006 Published by Eddie McCormick

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Welcome to the very first issue of the C.A.R. Newsletter !

The aim of the Newsletter, just like our website, is to keep you informed. Although we only intend to print quarterly, any major issues or events will be included on www.camres.org.uk as soon as possible, so please make use of the website for 'recent' and 'new' stuff. The Newsletter will be more of a record of what's been going on.

Camelford Show 2006

This year's Show was our first and what a 'learning curve' it provided ! We didn't quite break even but we did learn valuable lessons for next year. The obvious ones are that we need a much more robust cover, with sides, if the cold winds of this year are ever repeated. We also need to study the location of our pitch - there we were trying to sell balloons (amongst other things) while just opposite there was a stall giving them away !

It wasn't all bad news though, we were greatly encouraged by the large number of people who stopped for a chat about what C.A.R. does or who offered their support for our work so far - thanks to each and every one of you.

Next year we promise to try harder !

C.A.R. & Town Council

One thing must be made perfectly clear - CAR doesn't oppose everything that the Council does, we have often congratulated them on the good work they do for our town. There are times, however, when the actions of the Council are seen to be against the needs of the town and its residents - when these issues arise we will continue to press for full and open discussion.

We don't expect the Council to get it right every time, there will always be some people who are adversely affected by the decisions of politicians, but the duty of politicians, at any level, is to serve the majority - not the 'silent majority' whose vote isn't used but the people who care enough about the democratic process to turn out and register their vote on the understanding that just one vote can make a difference.

CAR is currently working on a Camelford Town Forum project to tidy up the river & riverside walk from The Bridge to Fenteroon Road. This is a beautiful area at any time of year, and a real asset to the town, but unfortunately there are areas that need some work. Action items include clearing the man-made debris from the river bed, addressing the Japanese Knotweed problem, and repairing the paths and gates where needed. Work to clean the riverbed is due to start next spring (to avoid disturbing the local wildlife), and volunteers will be needed. So if you're interested in helping out, dust off your wellies and get in touch with Mel Baber on (01840) 212312 !

FREE - Please take one - FREE

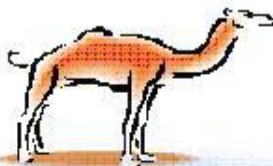
How to contact C.A.R.

You can get in touch by phone, post or e-mail as follows:-

Tel: (01840) 213527 (to Secretary Clare Ireland)

Post: CAR Secretary, Timberlines, Dark Lane, Camelford, PL32 9UQ

E-mail: clare@camres.org.uk



What C.A.R. isn't !

It has been stated many times - incorrectly - that CAR was formed to oppose parking charges. It has also been said, usually by Councillors who actually know differently, that CAR is a 'single issue' organisation. We've tried on numerous occasions to have this misinformation corrected, so far without success!

CAR was formed because the Town Council decided to ignore the result of the referendum held in August 2005 - they basically said that your vote didn't count for anything and that the people who didn't, or couldn't, vote must have agreed with the Council - that's like saying that the majority (around 68%) of the British population who didn't vote at the last General Election wanted a BNP government! The Town Council's logic being that if you didn't (or couldn't) vote against them then you must welcome their policies.

'Silent majority'

At the Town Council meeting which was held shortly after the referendum, all but one Councillor, (ex-Mayor Brian Lush), stated that, rather than abide by the result of the vote, they would listen to the 'silent majority' who hadn't voted. If the result of the vote had been in favour of the Council would they have still listened to the 'silent majority' and assumed that that majority opposed the Council? Interesting!!

Many residents attended that Council meeting and were disgusted at such a obvious disregard for the principles and spirit of democracy - that was how and why CAR came to be formed. We at CAR don't all oppose parking charges but we do oppose the way those charges were imposed without the community being consulted.

What C.A.R. is

CAR is a properly constituted resident's association which is recognised by, and a member of, NoRA (Network of Residents Associations), a nationally recognised group which lobbies and advises local and national government on resident's issues.

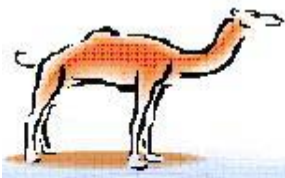
All residents of Camelford (with a PL32 postcode) are automatically members of CAR and can attend meetings, voice their opinions and make suggestions. There is no subscription fee but, because we are self-financing at the moment, all donations towards our running costs are welcomed.

Self-financing?

O.K. We're not totally self-financing via donations, we have held quizzes to generate some funds, and other activities are in the pipeline to add to our bank balance. This is money we need to produce things like this Newsletter and the various posters we've displayed around town plus stationery for the numerous items of correspondence we've been engaged in. None of the Executive Committee of CAR claims expenses for the time, effort and, occasionally, travel that they undertake - this might change in the future as we become more integrated into the NoRA organisation or because we get more involved with other local residents groups. We haven't (yet!) applied for any grant funding that might be available - stuff like that will depend on just how active, effective and necessary CAR becomes over the coming months and, maybe, years.

How you can help

You can send donations of any size to our secretary at the above address or make a gift at any of our meetings. For our quizzes etc., just come along when you see the posters advertising the event.



A.G.M.

The CAR Annual General Meeting will take place on October 5th at 7.30 in the Liberal Club.

All residents are welcome to attend (subject to space/fire-restrictions)

Local Businesses

CAR will happily advertise your business within the pages of our Newsletter (subject to space) without charge, please contact our secretary. You can also advertise on our website for free - who said there's no such thing as a 'free lunch' !! Our intention is to promote our community as much as we can - we'd still accept any donations that you would like to make, (hopefully these will be tax-deductible for you) but please remember that CAR is not a charity when filing your tax returns.

Curry Night

Tickets will shortly be available for our exclusive 'Curry Night' on Sat 28th October. The menu will include Thai Green Chicken, Sri Lankan Venison, mild Dupiaza and a vegetarian alternative along with various starters, accompaniments and desserts. Tickets priced at £10 per head and restricted to the first 20 applicants for the event, to be held at Clare & Bob Ireland's place, will be on a first come first served basis.

Parking on Town Trust land

It is on the cards that the parking bays between the Darly and the Library and the 3 disabled bays outside the Lib Club will be leased to the Town Council by the Town Trust. The proposal is that the disabled spaces be restricted to one hour and the other spaces to a 30 minute limit, thereafter a fine will be imposed, payable to the Council.

In addition the number of spaces between the Darly & Library is to be reduced so that there will be just 3 bays on the A39 (Market Place/Fore St.) side while spaces on Back St. will stay as they are.

Plans for these proposals and a copy of the draft lease are available at the Council offices in College Road, please contact the Town Clerk for details, either by post, personal visit or by telephoning him on (01840) 212880.

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Let us know

What would **you** like to see in the future issues of this Newsletter?

Hopefully we will be able to include letters and comments from readers/residents on issues that our community needs to know about or would like discussed but please remember that we are restricted by space.

Our contact details are given on the top of Page 2.



Camelford Christmas Lights

Who let Geoff Kay loose with a cheque-book ?!!!! The lights are, we're sure, going to look even more spectacular this year because Geoff's been on a spending spree!! The down-side is that the Lights Committee now need to attract some funds, so look out for special events designed to recover some of the recent expenditure.

2006 Fireworks

There's a possibility that there might be a (small) charge for attending the fireworks display this year - this is due to a misunderstanding about the ability to reclaim VAT. This oversight has been identified and rectified for the 2007 display but the Fireworks Committee apologise in advance if a charge does become necessary this year.

CAR Meetings

As shown elsewhere, the AGM will take place in the Liberal Club lounge but future public meetings of CAR can no longer be held in St. Thomas's Church Hall so the Executive committee will have to arrange an alternative regular venue.

As soon as we have a regular meeting-place we will let you know - watch this space and keep an eye on the CAR web-site.

Councillor Bob Ireland

Councillor Ireland is the husband of CAR secretary Clare. The Editor would like to take this opportunity to wish him a speedy recovery from his illness and to thank him for his tireless devotion to the people of Camelford.

In addition to his duties as a Town Councillor Bob is also a colleague on the Town Forum and has selflessly worked to see that the bridge over the river in Enfield Park is completed on time and on budget.

Get well soon Bob, Camelford needs you!

Distributor Road

Cornwall County Council will protect planning consent in case of a "change of circumstances", our Town Council plans to petition Downing St. and that they and residents write to South West Regional Assembly and central government.

Many residents see the road as beneficial because it will reduce heavy-goods traffic through the recently narrowed A39. Other residents and some businesses view the distributor road as a threat because potential visitors (and their spending-power) will be diverted from our town.

Please attend our AGM, a vote will be taken to decide CAR's stance.

Camelford Talking Shop

There was some controversy - and definitely some misunderstanding - about this subject recently. The 'Talking Shop' is what's known as a Bulletin Board that provides a forum for anyone, whether from Camelford or not, to join and 'post' messages. It can be accessed from the CAR website, just as the Council's web page is accessed from the 'tintagelweb' site. This doesn't mean that CAR controls the 'Talking Shop'. By the same token, Camelford Town Council is not governed by Tintagel - merely that the page is 'linked' and available from another location. If you would like to view, or join, the 'Talking Shop' you can click the link from www.camres.org.uk or you can go direct to it by going to www.bobthewebbuilder.co.uk/BB