



BMRA

**Bury Meadow
Residents Association**

WEBSITE: www.burymeadow.co.uk

EMAIL: info@burymeadow.co.uk

BURY MEADOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM

15th October 2020, via Zoom at 7pm

Log in at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88095286280?pwd=L1IPNUZoMkNFMDhCREVtUzVvUVU1dz09>

Meeting ID: 880 9528 6280

Passcode: 117596

1. Welcome and apologies.
2. Review of the Year.
3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Arrangements for the Christmas Party.
6. Any other matters residents wish to discuss.
7. Election of Committee Members (new members welcome). One vacancy has already arisen.

Review of the Year

• **Planning Applications:**

1. 17 New North Road – This went through despite opposition and consultation, but since the council granted permission the developers have put the site up for sale through Strutt & Parker. Details may be viewed at this link:
<https://www.onthemarket.com/details/8315672/>

- **Christmas Party** – Many thanks again to Sue Francis for hosting yet another successful event. This year, the proposal is understandably rather different. More on that later in the meeting. Full details will be posted on the website, on the noticeboard at the park gates and emailed to all those on our email list.
- **Local support for the vulnerable** – The BMRA formed a response system covering all of the Duryard and St James Ward as part of a city-wide initiative. This provided support for those who needed shopping, collection of prescription and the occasional phone call. Activity was carefully monitored, with the group obtaining feedback from the support volunteers and those who received support. Our special thanks go to Ali Lucas and Stephen Fisher who oversaw the whole operation, as well as to the multitude of volunteers offering support.
- **Bury Meadow Park:**
Many thanks again to the gardening volunteers who play a huge role in keeping the park looking wonderful! And special thanks to Antonia Maks for her continued coordination.
- **Gate at the entrance to the back lane behind Velwell Road** – Many thanks to all of those who supported this initiative, including the ECC and DCC, and to co-chair Stephen Fisher for all his efforts in bringing it about. The gate is now installed, securing the back lane from drug-related anti-social behaviour.
- **Drug activity in the park, nearby roads and Hoopern Valley** – The problems are ongoing and became exacerbated during lockdown. Committee efforts to persuade the local Police Commissioner to support town centre drug consumption rooms to control and contain the problem fell on deaf ears despite these proving effective in pilot projects in Scandinavia. The police continue to suffer from very restricted resources and struggle to contain the problems. Effective police work is also not feeding back into the community. A County Lines dealer from Liverpool was caught in the valley in March but the local community were unaware even after the arrest was reported on DevonLive. The committee is looking at better channels of communications with the police to help build on these successes and encourage reporting.
- **Bury Meadow Playground Equipment** – We are delighted to report the replacement of the giant tyre swing, the toddler slide and the repair of the trampoline thanks to Cllr Keith Owen and Daryl Taylor (Project Officer in Environment and City Management).
- **Exeter College liaison** – This came to a temporary end in March with the departure of Vice Principal Steve Campion and lockdown. Ivan Macquisten, who has been chairing the group, is in the process of re-establishing contact, but has had little response so far. Outstanding issues include on-going contact with the Clock Tower Boarding House, student behaviour in the park, the large gatherings of students in Queen Street throughout the day during the week, and the challenges these present on the COVID front. Despite earlier assurances to the contrary, the College have now said they are unable to stop their students from acting inappropriately in the park. Ivan is chasing this.
- **Exeter University liaison** – Stephen Fisher has been very active on this front and has met with the University, Police, County and City Councillors about the return of students. His attempts to persuade the university to employ a police patrol rather than the private patrol for more effective enforcement has so far proven unsuccessful.



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- **Graffiti** – There is an increase of graffiti in the area. The City Council has a good website on which to report graffiti, but they are no longer reacting to it.

2020 Christmas Party alternative

- The BMRA Committee is suggesting that we hold a 'Passeggiata' evening, with residents touring along Velwell Road, Howell Road and Elm Grove Road. We're still finalising the details, but the general idea is for properties to dress their front gardens with decorations and lights (either tasteful or tacky), the hubs containing a firepit strategically placed around for warming up and socialising. By touring the roads, everyone should be able to admire the decorative efforts, enjoy a hot drink and meet up while adhering to whatever COVID regulations might be in place at the time. If anyone has additional suggestions, please send them to the Committee via the BMRA email address at info@burymeadow.co.uk