

## Headlines from the Chair's Report to ARERA AGM July 5 2023

**Committee:** Ros Lund, Chair thanked the Committee for their hard work over the past year. There are only five members - Lucy and Graham Edgeley, Ian Cooper and Simon Crisp together with Ros and we would very much like to have a few more. We have been meeting on a monthly basis at Grape Britannia – but when Grape moves to Mitcham's Corner, we may return to meeting at the Haymakers or in members' homes. We have a convivial as well as a productive time together looking at our road's issues and finding ways to solve them.

**Special thanks to Osman Shener** who, literally as soon as he arrived on our road, took on being our Webmaster and who has totally revitalised our website. We are truly grateful for all his hard work.

**Residents' parking scheme** with Hurst Park Ave – HPERA – There was a flurry of activity earlier in the year, before the May elections, when it seemed that some decisions might be taken. However, all was postponed for the elections and since then all has gone quiet. The original proposal was that our road would be subject to double yellow lines – ie No Parking! ARERA objected pointing out that a considerable number of houses on our road had no possibility of parking on their front gardens either because they are too small or because the different levels between the road and pavement/front gardens is too much to make a lowered kerb possible.

**Lowered kerbs.** If you currently drive over the kerb to park in your garden, this is illegal. If you want car access to your front garden once the residents' parking scheme is introduced, you will have to apply for a dropped kerb to be put in and you should do this **before** any signage is put on the road. If you wish to make an application once signs etc have been put in place, you will incur extra costs. This is the link <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/dropped-kerbs-and-access-protection-markings>

**Local councillors.** At the recent elections a new Labour member was elected – Rachel Wade. She joins Richard Swift and Sam Carling as representatives for West Chesterton – all Labour. Councillor Gerri Bird remains the County Councillor representing Chesterton Ward, also Labour. We endeavour to keep them informed and to encourage them to support our work where appropriate.

**Speeding and traffic calming.** We have recently tried to encourage our city councillors to support a possible bid for traffic calming measures on Arbury Road, as it is clear that the 20 mph limit is ignored more than it is adhered to. This would likely be some sort of speed bumps and we have had help from Camcycle in considering the most cycle-friendly bumps. So far we have not had a positive response to this suggestion. We also considered the possibility of applying for a zebra crossing near Havenfield. Unfortunately all such proposals are expensive and it seems unlikely that we can persuade the Highways Authority to spend on this at present.

**Temporary road closure of Union Lane.** Last year as part of the ongoing works on Milton Road, the contractors – Milestone- closed Union Lane opposite Arbury Road. We did a survey of residents of Union Lane afterwards to see how they felt about this temporary closure. We had 21/100 responses. Most felt that it had not caused them a problem. A big majority felt that the road was safer with the closure in place. Two thirds of respondents wanted the closure of Union Lane to be permanent. We are likely to experience a road closure ourselves at some point in the Milton Road improvement works. If we do, we will survey our residents to see how they feel.

**Congestion Charge.** We have followed the developments of the GCP on this – decision making is continuing at a snail's pace!

**Milton Road improvement scheme.** We have attended a number of the drop in sessions at Milton Road Library and been in contact with Milestone's liaison officer. It is a slow process and it must have taken about 9 months since we suggested that a noticeboard for updates could helpfully be placed near the Co-op before a board was installed.

**Road hierarchy review** – again this has been kicked into the long grass to await the completion of the Milton Road improvements and other improvement works across the city. If implemented as expected, it could change the categorisation of Arbury Road which could result in measures to deter through traffic.

**Pavement resurfacing** – Arbury Road was one of the areas which was treated to resurfaced pavements during the last year. This was not well done and communication with residents was poor.

**Potholes** – these are everywhere and hugely problematic especially for cyclists at night. Residents were urged to regular check out the pothole website and make sure that any nearby potholes are listed. Even if they are already on the map please add your own comments to keep up pressure for something to be done about them.

**Houses shaking** when heavy lorries go past. This is partly down to speed, but also because it seems that lorries use our road when they are banned from Gilbert Road. We have explored restricting access for heavy vehicles on Arbury Road but haven't found any support from our councillors. We encourage residents who continue to experience this to complain to the local councillors.

**Camcycle** We have had a lot of support and help for our work from Camcycle <https://www.camcycle.org.uk/>. We are so lucky in Cambridge to have this professional and friendly organisation. In particular Josh Graham and others have been working with the committee to find ways of improving the living and travelling experience for Arbury Road. The latest magazine, which can be downloaded in pdf format, is a particularly good read.

<https://www.camcycle.org.uk/magazine/>

**Finance.** Thanks to Simon Crisp for his Treasurer's Report. Members were reminded that we depend on members' support for our activities. A £5 annual voluntary subscription per household is recommended if possible.

**Jim Smith's talk on the history of Arbury Road and its neighbourhood.** Finally we were all most grateful to Jim for coming to talk to us and showing his slides of our little piece of local history. Jim has spent some years now on researching the Hurst Park estate's history and the streets which abut it, together with some interesting local characters from our community's past. All fascinating stuff and we were only sorry there wasn't time for a full question and answer session. If you are interested to know more this is the website <https://hpehistory.uk/>