

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020



WESTBURY PARK POST- COVID

As we (hopefully) emerge from the worst restrictions resulting from Covid-19, there are things we might all think about – as well, of course, as following the latest guidelines.

There have, no doubt, been many more people working from home as we ride out the pandemic. Some, maybe many, of these will carry on working from home, either full time or part time. That is likely to mean less commuter cars on our roads, from both Westbury Park people and those passing through, but it can also have another significant benefit.

All of us no doubt value our local shops, pubs and businesses, but all will have been struggling. So, to reassure them that it's worth reopening, support them as they do so and to help rebuild their businesses, it would be great if all of us – especially those now working at home – could pick up on the national slogan of '**Shop Local!**'

99, DEVONSHIRE ROAD

No great news yet, we're sorry to say! No action on site at all on the now even worse looking hulk of a building. With help from one of our councillors (Liz Radford), City Council officers are doing all they can to press the developer to get the building work restarted. In desperation, a Compulsory Purchase Order might, just might, be possible (but neither quick nor cheap), so Liz is now pressing the government to make that easier in situations such as this. (PS. Someone made a very good offer to buy the site/hulk but it was turned down; so what exactly the owner/developer is up to is unclear)

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

More positive news on this one! We have been in touch with Aurora, who bought the site and buildings from St. Christopher's a few years ago, and, as we thought, they do intend to sell it all. But that is unlikely to happen until next year, as they wait for the markets to pick up. Most importantly, they are not just going to 'cut and run'. They say they will sell the site with a planning permission developed through engagement with us as the local community. It looks as though we will be able to work closely with them on development proposals but don't expect anything much to happen on that until the Autumn, at which point everybody will get an opportunity to contribute. So watch this space!

LITTLE FRENCH RESTAURANT, NORTH VIEW

Little French Restaurant on North View has reached an agreement with the Church in Westbury Park to use the courtyard at the Methodist Church as an outdoor serving area as a **temporary measure** during the Covid -19 crisis. This has allowed the restaurant to re-open and to safeguard jobs that might otherwise be lost. A canopy now covers the smaller courtyard area where meals will be served and social distancing respected.

Last meals will be served at 9.00 pm to allow reasonably early closing and the restaurant and church will monitor and take appropriate steps to stop any activities that impact adversely on local residents. Pedestrian access through the courtyard will be maintained.