

# RIVERSIDE AREA RESIDENTS

March 2011

The Riverside area is a lovely place to live, but it still has its challenges. If you have concerns about issues that may affect you or your environment, the Riverside Area Residents Association (RARA) can help address these, and fight your corner. Our aims are:

- To help ensure a peaceful, safe and attractive environment
- To encourage community spirit within the area.

But to be effective, we need your support. So come along to the AGM, have a glass of wine, meet fellow residents and local councillors, find out what RARA has achieved and learn about plans which may affect you.



## AGM: MONDAY APRIL 4, 7.30 pm, City Church, Brickfields Cheddars Lane

(turn left into Cheddars Lane just after Tesco; Brickfields is on the right).

**Wine and refreshments will be provided**

### **Travelodge - consent granted.**

Planning permission for a budget hotel on the corner of Coldhams Lane and Newmarket Road was finally granted in November, on the third application. The improvements achieved by RARA (working with other associations) include:

- Reduction in height to five storeys from six
- Improved design, including use of brick instead of plastic cladding
- Increased set back from pavement and trees along entire frontage
- An extra £100k to upgrade the traffic light system at the Newmarket Road/Coldhams Lane junction.

### **River Lane lights**

Many residents have had problems turning right into River Lane from Newmarket Road, waiting in vain for the lights to show a right turn filter. RARA raised the issue with County Highways, who discovered that the layout does not encourage motorists to drive up to the right turn pressure sensor. The layout will be adjusted.



*View of the consented Travelodge hotel , looking east*

### **Abbey Road/Riverside junction environmental improvement scheme**

This work is now underway. RARA successfully lobbied to achieve a safe pedestrian route , separated from cycles and cars.

**Stop press!** The information boards show a confusing picture of the Abbey Road turning facility. The City Council has confirmed that traffic from Abbey Road will be able to enter the car-park by the current access, (which will become entry-only) and exit onto Abbey Road, (which will be exit-only). There will be no need for cars to make a three-point turn in Abbey Road.

## Riverside Community Day: Sunday May 8, 12 noon-4 pm

The ancient Cellarer's Chequer, on the corner of Beche and Priory Road, is the setting for a community day being organised by the Abbey Action project in collaboration with Cambridge Carbon Footprint.

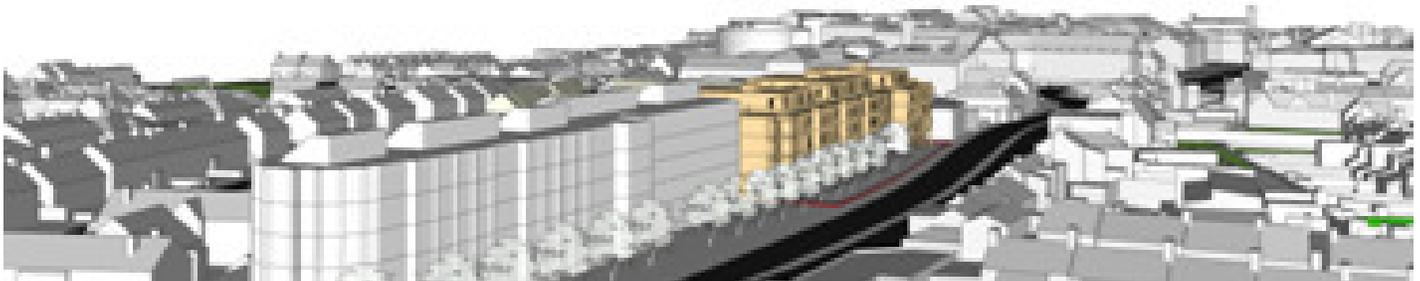
RARA will be running a stall providing tea and cakes and other refreshments. If you can help in any way, do let us know, otherwise we look forward to seeing you there. The day is still being planned but likely attractions include trips to the Cellarer's building and nearby Abbey Church, local history displays, a wildlife walk and children's activities organised by the City Council's Chypps team.

### More planning applications in the pipeline...

We recognise that Newmarket Road badly needs redevelopment. However, we do not accept that 'anything is better' than what's there. Residents will have to live with new buildings, and new traffic for many years -- what's built should be well-designed and of a reasonable scale.

#### **Residential apartment block on Newmarket Road (opposite Post Office).**

One developer owns both the Travelodge site and the site next door. This has been approved for residential development, but in 2009 the City Council rejected plans for a six storey block of 112 flats. The developer has now put in plans for a five storey block with 75 flats. The combined bulk of hotel plus flats will be great - two five storey buildings for a distance of almost 200m (see below). We would like to see the height stepped down, the bulk broken up more and trees planted along the full frontage. The application can be viewed at <http://idox.cambridge.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=LHBNLZDX07A00>. The closing date for comment is 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Comments should be sent to [Tony.Collins@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:Tony.Collins@cambridge.gov.uk)



*Aerial view of consented Travelodge hotel plus proposed apartment block (shaded), looking west*

#### **Yet another budget hotel at the Newmarket Road/Coldhams Lane junction**

Plans have just been lodged for a Premier Inn on the Intercell site on Newmarket Road, opposite River Lane. Yes, another hotel just across the road from the soon-to-be-built Travelodge. This one will be six storeys high with 128 bedrooms. As with the Travelodge, a major concern is increased traffic at one of the most congested junctions in Cambridge (hotels generate more traffic than either offices or residential developments). The plans are not yet available to view online, but will be soon on <http://idox.cambridge.gov.uk/online-applications/> (search for 1 Coldham's Lane).

*Could you help? If you are willing to lend a hand sometimes, or have any skills that could benefit RARA (eg planning, legal, environmental, secretarial, website maintenance) please contact your street or apartment rep representative (details on RARA website) or e-mail [lynette@buslit.co.uk](mailto:lynette@buslit.co.uk).*