



Council's Plans will ruin Park

The latest proposal for the widening of Priory Crescent, which Councillor Roger Weaver has described as "the preferred option", would be as damaging to the Park as any the Council has put forward yet.

This scheme's features are as follows:-

- a dual carriageway to replace the existing single carriageway
- the removal of at least 40 trees
- relocation of the footpath inside the existing Park fence
- the destruction of the green area between Lookers Car Sales and the bridge

Mr. Weaver's claim, reported in the local press, was that "not an inch of park land will be used under the new scheme", but that claim clearly dodges the issue of the footpath: if it is moved from outside the existing fence to the inside, then park land will indeed have been used for this scheme and the park will be all the poorer for it. In addition, there are many trees so close to the Park fence that they must be under threat.

Mr. Weaver also said "There is no option to do nothing as the Council would not achieve future investment," and therein lies the real reason for the Council wanting to widen Priory Crescent. **They want to widen Priory Crescent because if they don't spend this year's budget, then they won't get their hands on next year's.**

Questions the Council cannot answer

How much time will be saved on a journey from Cuckoo Corner to Sutton Road when the dual carriageway is built?

Why does the Council want to widen Priory Crescent when it is clear that the traffic congestion is caused by the Cuckoo Corner and the Sutton Road Roundabouts?

How does the Council propose to reduce the effect of congestion at the Bell, which frequently tails back to Cuckoo Corner?

PPPS Meeting, 29/10/01

More than 80 people attended the last meeting of the PPPS at the St. Mary's Church Hall. Members heard and discussed a report on the meeting of the Priory Crescent Working Group in which the Council unveiled their "preferred option".

Other decisions that were taken were:-

- to obtain an independent specialist report on the health of the trees in Priory Crescent
- to demonstrate on 8/12/01 against the Council's plans
- to launch this Newsletter
- to approve an official PPPS Calendar to go on sale soon.

Join the PPPS

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

I enclose £5 for life membership + £_____ donation.

Please send this to:

Membership Secretary,
236, Priory Crescent,
Southend-on-Sea.
SS2 6PR

How can you help?

Display a Poster in your window

Display a car sticker

Tie a yellow ribbon to your car aerial

Get some petition forms and ask everyone you know to sign.

Deliver leaflets (phone 01702 309692 or email chesscoach@freeuk.com)

Join the demonstration on 8th December

Write to your Councillor

Join the PPPS

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Please feel free to duplicate and distribute this newsletter.

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December 8 - Demonstrate!

The PPPS, Friends of the Earth and Park Life will be holding a joint demonstration against the Council's plans to damage Priory Park on Saturday 8th December. This will be a really important event for the future of the Park - a good turnout is essential to show the Council that the people of Southend won't stand for their Park being trashed.

The demonstration will assemble outside the main gates of Priory Park at 10.30 and will walk around Priory Crescent towards Cuckoo Corner before turning down Victoria Avenue. The demonstration will assemble at the bottom of the steps outside the Civic Centre for a few speeches with the intention of dispersing around 1 p.m.

How will they vote?

The PPPS has written to every one of the 51 Southend Borough Councillors asking about their intentions when it comes to the crunch.

According to the replies we have received, this is how we expect them to vote.

In favour of the dual carriageway and all the environmental damage it entails

Christopher Walker, Andrew Moring (Eastwood Park); Ronald Price, Murray Foster (Prittlewell); Simon Gorham (St. Laurence); David Garston (Southchurch); Jonathan Garston, Ann Robertson (Milton); Anthony North (West Shoebury); James Clinkscapes (Blenheim Park)

Against the road scheme and against any changes which will damage the Park

Stephen George, Dennis Garne, (Kursaal); David Norman, Jane Norman, Chris Dandridge (Victoria); Mike Royston (St. Lukes).

Will not vote because he's Mayor

Howard Briggs (West Leigh)

Did not reply (readers will be able to form their own opinions on the value of councillors who do not bother to reply concerning one of the most important issues currently affecting Southend)

Anna Waite (Prittlewell); Stephen Aylen, Julie Cushion, Margaret Evans (Belfairs); Graham Longley, Brian Smith (Blenheim Park); Richard Brown, Charles Latham, Lesley Salter (Chalkwell); Roger Weaver (Eastwood Park); Nigel Baker, Alan Crystall, Peter

Wexham (Leigh); Judith McMahon (Kursaal); Raymond Davy (Milton); David Ascroft, Alan Cole, Patricia Rayner (Shoeburyness); Ann Holland, Brian Kelly (Southchurch); Michael Dolby, Brian Houssart (St. Laurence); Reg Copley, Kevin Robinson (St. Lukes); Sally Carr, Anthony Delaney, Daphne White (Thorpe); Gwendoline Horrigan, John Lamb (West Leigh); Derek Jarvis, Verina Wilson (West Shoebury); Teresa Merrison, Jean Sibley, Marimuthu Velmurugan (Westborough).

Where does the Park end?

It became clear during the meeting of 29/10/01 that the stretch of Priory Crescent between Cuckoo Corner and Eastern Avenue was built in the 1920s (one of the PPPS members could recall a time when it wasn't there!). The southern section is somewhat older and in those days was called Brook Road. R. A. Jones donated the Park to the people of Southend around the end of World War I. It is certainly the case that the houses on that stretch of Priory Crescent date from 1929.

It is therefore highly probable that the existing fence on the northern side of the Park was only put in its current position as a matter of convenience and that the true Park Boundary is on the other side of Priory Crescent.

OK, the PPPS does not necessarily believe that Priory Crescent should be removed - it's a bit late for that. However, if the boundary is on the other side of the road, then all of the trees bordering Priory Crescent are already in the Park as donated by R.A. Jones.

For the latest news, visit

The PPPS Website



<http://www.pppps.org.uk>