

Every new lease will need to have an agreed plan of the allotment boundaries to be agreed with the council, submitted to the Land Registry.

All of which means that the allotment associations are being asked to take on more responsibility and administration whilst paying more for the privilege. We encourage our members to look at the ODFAA website and to contact your local councillors to lobby for changes to the lease.

### **Become a member**

We rely on member subscriptions to fund our activities. If you are not a member and wish to support us, see our website for details on <https://friendsofquarry.org/join-us/> or phone 750731/ 07783 540 156.

### **Communications**

We will continue to produce Newsletters periodically, but would like to be able to communicate with you more regularly than that. There are a number of ways that you can engage with us to get our news and other updates including:

- Our website ([www.friendsofquarry.org](http://www.friendsofquarry.org))
- Our Facebook page (The Friends of Quarry)
- NextDoor
- Subscribing to our email list

Our updates will continue to be available on the website and Facebook as well.

If you want to contact us or subscribe to the email list, the best way is to email [friendsofquarry@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofquarry@gmail.com) or send us a note via the 'Contact Us' page of our website or phone 01865 760026, or 01865 762418.



## **Friends of Quarry**

### **Newsletter September 2023**



We have been delighted with the success of the bulb planting which we carried out in the autumn of 2021 and in 2022 at the entrance to Beaumont Road. We have continued to receive comments on how well the flowers look. Having checked that the tulips would return this spring we would like to extend them to both sides of this entrance to Quarry and elsewhere in Quarry.

### **Planning**

#### **1 Quarry High Street Planning Enforcement 18/00097/ENF**

Members may recall that a planning enforcement order was served on the mews development at 1 Quarry High Street in Jan 2022. The owner appealed and the case will go to a public hearing but a date has yet to be arranged. We have been in contact with the Planning Inspectorate and believe that a date will be set this autumn.

### **32 Quarry High Street Planning Applications 23/01178/FUL and 22/02950/FUL**

The original proposal to demolish 32 Quarry High Street and replace it with a block of 4 flats was opposed by local residents and Friends of Quarry. Planning refused the application and the developer re-submitted a modified version of an earlier application to retain and extend the original house. This much more acceptable application has been approved.

### **The Chequers Planning Application 23/01869/FUL**

A planning application has been made to turn the Chequers Pub into a private dwelling. This would mark a significant change in Quarry. The Chequers has played a long and important part in the life and history of the Quarry. For this application to succeed, the applicant has to demonstrate that every effort has been made to sell the pub as a business.

### **Holy Trinity Church Extension 20/01316/FUL**

A contract for the Church extension has now been signed and building work is due to start shortly. Friends of Quarry has met with The Church to raise resident's concerns about minimising the impact on nearby graves and to look at ways of improving communication between the Church and local residents.

### **Flooding in Quarry and House Insurance**

Have any residents in Quarry been surprised by a sudden increase in their house insurance renewal premium? I certainly was after a nearly four-fold increase in our premium. The justification has been a new assessment based on flood risk (this now includes flooding due to stormwater). If you want to understand your risk you can use the [floodRE.gov.uk](http://floodRE.gov.uk) website (a joint effort between insurance companies and the Government) to input your postcode and view the results on

a detailed map. It makes for interesting reading and raises questions about how the risk has been assessed.

### **Social events**

The erratic weather over the summer made planning any outside events difficult but hopefully we will have better weather for the proposed **bulb planting on the 30th September**. We will be hoping to get 500 tulip bulbs planted at the entrance to Beaumont Road and along the grass verge on Quarry Hollow along side the park. The daffodil and tulip bulbs planted two years ago have returned this year and we would like to increase the impact of these with this planting, weather permitting. Mark the date and turn up with a spade and help us get them planted.

Following the successful lecture at our last AGM by Maurice East on the history of Quarry we are delighted that he has agreed to give a longer presentation on the **history of Quarry on 13<sup>th</sup> October** in the village hall. This will be free to our members and £2.50 for non-members. There will be a small **cash** bar and tea and coffee to keep attendees refreshed throughout the evening. **The Friends of Quarry AGM will be held on 10th November in the Village Hall**. Leaflets with further details will be posted around Quarry close to these dates.

### **Allotments**

We would draw the members attention to the proposed changes to allotment leases proposed by the council. These are being imposed by the City Council despite the best efforts of the Oxford Federation of Allotment Associations to negotiate a less draconian new lease. The major impacts of the proposed new lease will be:-

A 25.9% increase in the block rents and that further rises will be linked to the retail price increase.

Local allotment associations will be required to take responsibility for general maintenance of sites including fences with legal and financial penalties for failure to comply.