



## OATEN HILL & SOUTH CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

**BULLETIN #5 May 4**

### **ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE by Scotia Gas Networks Limited for New Dover Rd:**

“We’re writing to make you aware of a forthcoming upgrade to our gas network in the New Dover Road. Our project involves the essential replacement of old metal gas mains with new plastic pipe to ensure we continue to provide a safe and reliable gas supply to the local area. We need to carry out safety-critical work to upgrade the gas network in your area. This needs to go ahead now, rather than wait until the pandemic passes, to ensure your local community continues to receive a safe and reliable gas supply. **We shouldn’t need to interrupt gas supplies to homes or businesses, and our engineers won’t be calling at residents’ home.**

In close consultation with Kent County Council Highways we will start our project **on Monday 4 May and expect to last approximately four weeks.** New Dover Rd will be closed southbound between the junctions of Lower Chantry Lane and Edward Rd. Signed diversions will be in place – motorists travelling southbound will be diverted via Upper Chantry Lane, Oaten Hill, Old Dover Rd, St Lawrence Rd and New Dover Rd.” Please note: any resident who gets an unsolicited visit on the doorstep from someone posing as a SGN worker should not let them into the house and should alert SGN.

### **PLANNING MATTERS:**

(1) The building application for a four-storey building comprising 89 bedrooms for purpose built student accommodation at The White Lodge 2 Abbots Barton Walk was refused in March.

(2) Wickes has applied for the removal of 14 mature trees to redevelop the Homebase site on Wincheap industrial estate. This is yet more loss of healthy mature trees in an urban environment. Planning application: CA/20/00698. If anyone wishes to comment on this application or object to it please write to: <https://pa.canterbury.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=Q7C1YYEAI2T00&activeTab=summary> The expiry date for comments is 22 May.

### **MEDICAL AND DENTAL UPDATES**

**Dentists:** For people with **urgent dental needs**, NHS England and NHS Improvement have set up seven urgent dental centres across Kent, including in Canterbury. If you think you have an urgent dental problem call your regular dentist or any NHS dentist who will go through an initial triage process over the phone and refer you if appropriate. Search for dentists on [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

**Mental Health Matters** have opened safe haven phone lines for all residents over the age of 16 who need support. Kent Safe Havens service is free 6pm-11pm, 365 days a year, and no referral is needed. The staff are skilled, experienced and non-judgemental. Canterbury tel. 07876 476703 or 07483 163953

**The NHS is able to maintain capacity and services are still open.** GPs have organised themselves to reduce the risk of contamination. Cancer specialists are asking that patients don’t ignore unexplained symptoms. A&E departments have ways to minimise the risks of infection and remain open for emergencies and for people with severe symptoms.

**AIR POLLUTION:** The **Canterbury Society** newsletter published an in-depth interview with Professor Stephen Peckham, Director of the Centre for Health Services Studies at the University of Kent, who is well-known globally for his work on Air Quality. In Canterbury, air quality has improved partially since March 23 when lockdown started. The drop in NO<sub>2</sub> levels is the most marked and may be linked to the drop in asthma being reported, as well as anecdotal evidence that admissions have gone down for stroke and heart attacks. However, levels of Ozone and particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) remain the same. Ozone exacerbates respiratory problems, but targets are not being set for reducing Ozone or PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the Environmental Bill currently going through Parliament. Professor Peckham commented “Even though Canterbury breaches the Ozone guidelines set by the UK Government every year, the local authority is not required to take any action. Canterbury is particularly susceptible to three factors which increase Ozone levels — traffic levels, sunshine levels and being in a geographical bowl.”

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