

# Rochester Riverside Residents' Association

NEWSLETTER  
♦  
October 2025



Welcome to the fifth quarterly local newsletter! We hope that you find some useful updates and information.



## Ethos Escapes - Resident Business

It would be great to hear more about residents' businesses and even have a page on the website dedicated to this. We're very happy for Michał to tell you more about his business.

### **Forget the holiday hassle: your local travel agent is here to help!**

Tired of scrolling for hours to find the perfect holiday? Your neighbour, Michał from 2 Cory's Road, is here to help. With Ethos Escapes, he's turned his passion for travel into a business, offering you a bespoke service to plan your next adventure with ease.

Why use a personal agent? We handle everything, so you can relax.

- We specialise in complex trips: Whether it's an adventurous tour or a multi-stop itinerary, we've got you covered.
- We save you time: Say goodbye to endless research. We find and book everything, from flights to hotels, even for simple beach breaks.
- We save you money: We can price-match deals from companies like Jet2 and TUI.
- We offer peace of mind: You get our expert planning, full concierge support, and your money is fully ABTA and ATOL protected—all at no extra cost.

**Ready to explore? Reach out to Michał on 01634 55 89 88 via phone or WhatsApp.**

**Check out Ethos Escapes on Facebook and Instagram for travel inspiration!**



## AGM - 13<sup>th</sup> November 7pm at George Vaults

Having a Residents' Association is important so that we can centralise and address issues as well as try to link up with other organisations in the area and promote this happy and enjoyable part of the world to live in.

For 2026 we will be working on the vision, what residents would like as well as ongoing issues.

As a Residents' Association we have a constitution and must have an AGM each year.

This year the AGM will be at The George Vaults.

You are welcome to buy a drink at the bar and bring it downstairs for the meeting.

The broad agenda will be as follows:

- 7pm: arrive and a small badge making activity from Sun Pier Arts.
- 7.30pm Start, speakers to include:
  - Address from Chair and voting in of the committee
  - Sun Pier Arts
  - Michał from Ethos Escape - interactive presentation
  - Roger Backway - History of the Riverside
  - Rochester Rotary (tbc)



## Litter Picking

The next litter picking session with Belinda Lamb will be on the 31st October 2025. Areas to focus on are the two creeks on site and the area in front of Furrell's Park. You don't have to stay for all three areas.

The time is 10am - 12pm and the meeting point is at the first creek opposite the Co-op. All equipment will be supplied (you may wish to wear wellies or walking boots!)

It's a really great chance to tidy up the creeks as well as have fun and meet your neighbours. Children are welcome as long as they can get down into the creeks.



## Biggs Apartments and Blue Boar Wharf

### Biggs Apartments Leaks

This issue was escalated to the CEOs of Hyde and Vistry who agreed that Hyde would carry out the work and invoice Vistry. Residents have been kept informed and Hyde will advise on start date when known. Scaffolding has been erected to help deal with the problem. There is a new Hyde contact for the apartments: Michael Scarfe who is a welcome addition.

### Blue Boar Wharf

A new issue may have arisen regarding the brown roof and the cost of fixing this. Guy in BBW is very active in pursuing issues for the block and has already been in contact with Hyde regarding this.



## Cathedral - Autumn/Winter 2025

### Rochester Cathedral 3<sup>rd</sup> Jazz Festival

This is a hugely popular event and could very well be almost sold out by the time of writing. Please join the Cathedral mailing list to be informed about events.

Highlights include:

- 8<sup>th</sup> November Snowboy and the Latin Section St Nicholas Church Strood
- 13<sup>th</sup> November BBC Big Band Rochester Cathedral
- 14<sup>th</sup> November James Taylor Quartet Rochester Cathedral

Tickets for the Jazz Festival can be purchased [here](#).

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Tickets are on sale for the Christmas Carol Concert. As well as performances from the Cathedral Choir there is the opportunity to join in with popular carols.

[Tickets sell out quickly and can be purchased here.](#)



## Development Parking

The majority of non-private parking within the development is category R1 requiring a visitors permit (slightly different near the park and co-op). The designated R1 parking is enforced under a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) by the council. All other areas should be double yellow lined. In order to ensure that roads can be adopted by the council, remedial work to rectify any inconsistencies (e.g. double yellows not extending fully) must be completed by Vistry. When phases are new it can take time for all the proper signage and road markings to come into force but once they are in force the restrictions apply to all - residents and non-residents. When Furrell's Road is open there will be yellow lining installed on the corner of Glenway and Furrell's road where the current site entrances is.



## Cory's Road Emergency Lighting

Feedback from Hyde regarding the replacing of the emergency lights system: Most modern systems are sealed units and require complete replacement if they fail. They are tested quarterly. Batteries or LED bulbs cannot be replaced on their own. The lighting is in constant use. It is not just for emergencies. Hyde have explained that a sinking fund has now been established to deal with such events. We have been told that the lights have lasted for their expected lifetime (around 5 years). Residents have an email contact from Hyde if they require more information and Katie says to let her know if you are not getting a response.



## Rochester Rotary and World Polio Day - 24th October 2025

Rotary International is celebrating World Polio Day on Friday 24th October. There are many Rotary clubs all over the world and fundraising for the eradication of polio is a cause they are very passionate about.

Hyde have very kindly given permission for the Rotary along with Residents to come down and plant Crocus's adjacent to the children's play area in Furrells Park. Purple4Polio and planting Purple Crocus's helps to raise awareness of this campaign. This activity will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Timing tbc.

Please could you email **contact@rochesterriverside.org.uk** if you are interested in attending so that we can pass details to the Rochester Rotary on the numbers attending.

## Rochester Small Business Month

You may have heard that the Artisan Market held on the High Street will be no more after 2025 due to costs. There is a BBC article [here](#).

However, November is small business month for the High Street - look out for any promotions and maybe give the High Street a go for any Christmas gifts or decoration ideas.

The last Artisan Markets will be held from 10am - 3.30pm on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Rochester Christmas Markets will take place over three weekends from 28<sup>th</sup> November with the Dickensian Christmas Festival taking place on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December.

It is expected to be busy and although parking and access to the Riverside has been an issue in previous years it wasn't so bad last year.

There will be no change to the Farmers' Market held on the third Sunday of each month in Blue Boar Car Park.

**If you would like to include a notice to your neighbours for the next newsletter please email [contact@rochesterriverside.org.uk](mailto:contact@rochesterriverside.org.uk)**



## Planning Updates

Amanda has been really helpful keeping up with planning over the last few months (and years). We really appreciate her persistence and hard work. She does a lot behind the scenes to address gaps in planning for the development. Gerry has also done a great service for the development.

We have received assurance from the council that work for Phase 5 and 6 (near the school) will not be commencing until Phase 7 is complete and both Doust Way and Furrell's Road are open. You have probably seen that Blue Boar Road is being tidied up. This will open soon (pedestrian only with emergency access). Work will be ongoing regarding opening Blue Boar Road for vehicular access but this will not be in the near future (a high amount of pre-commencement work needs to be undertaken).

### Eventide Park

This site is currently isolated from the rest of the development and can be the subject of anti-social behaviour and damage. The park currently sits with Vistry and they will be carrying out remedials but it will eventually be taken over by Hyde.

The timing could be more in line with the completion of phases 5 and 6.

### Furrell's Road Opening

This is due to be open by the end of the year. It is dependent on some final services work and the block currently under construction opposite to have reached roof stage. If there is any change Vistry will be in touch.

### Acorn Wharf

This development, to be situated on the far side of phase 6 towards the river has received the go ahead from the council. Further information [here](#). Amanda has been key in addressing concerns regarding Acorn Wharf.

### Adoption of Roads

All the roads on the development will eventually be adopted by the council. Phases 1 and 2 should have their roads adopted by the end of the year. Phase 3 remedials are ongoing and this phase is likely to be adopted in 12 months' time towards the end of 2026. The adoption includes estate roads, pavements and street lighting but not private parking courts which are managed by Hyde (Rochester Riverside Managing Agent).



ROCHESTER RIVERSIDE  
RESIDENTS GROUP

[www.rochesterriverside.org.uk](http://www.rochesterriverside.org.uk)

*Thank you for reading!*

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