

Spring Newsletter 2007

Dear Members

Since the last newsletter in the Autumn, a number of developments have taken place, particularly in relation to the Old Church Tower project, but more of that later.

Spring Event

This will take place on **Tuesday 17th April** at the usual time of **8.00pm** at the **Memorial Hall**. The speaker for the evening is **Gareth King** who will give a talk on **'Village Names'**, the origins behind the names and the communities that inhabited them. It promises to be a most fascinating exploration and I trust you will all give it your support. Our last speaker in October, Dr Paul Roebuck, gave us a most enjoyable evening

Neighbourhood Pride Project

This initiative by Broxtowe Borough Council worth in the region of £30,000 has been awarded to Bramcote village, providing a package of projects which will hopefully make a significant difference and improvement to the area. You may remember a consultation questionnaire was sent out to residents in late Summer coupled with an informal event at the Memorial Hall . As a result we now have new benches and litter bin at the viewing point in King George's Park; a replacement bench at the corner of Town Street and Church Street; replacement Street nameplates; bulb planting at the bottom of Town Street and Church Street and a number of additional litter bins at different points through the village Still to be undertaken are improvements to the car park on Town Street; replacement barriers outside the Memorial Hall; refurbishment of BCS information panel; painting of barriers on Town Street bends; work to play area in K G's Park; investigate new access from the Park to the Old Church tower; install planter at junction of Town Street and Church Street. We also hope additional funding will be made available for footway resurfacing.

Tower Project

Since September we have seen a number of developments and improvements on the site. The restoration of the four lidded tombs at the rear of the Tower have now has now been completed with new stone plinths. A new sill has been installed to the lancet window and the stone lintel above the original tower entrance has been renovated. Sadly as you know we had to remove one of the two beech trees by the gate, but we hope that the remaining base can be creatively integrated into the surrounding landscape. We are having to look more closely into providing disabled access for wheelchair users. A challenge but one we must pursue. Railings are to be installed on the frontage quite soon and Countryside Care will be back to carry out a Spring management programme in April.

Having been unsuccessful in our initial bid to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) we are re-submitting our application. Hopefully this time with modified and additional documentation we will be successful. We were delighted to receive a most generous donation of £2000 from Beeston and District Local History Society as well as a number of

other financial gifts for which we are most grateful. As you may have read in the Evening Post recently, we still need to find in the region of £40,000 to complete the project objectives. We would of course welcome any donations to the fund, whatever the amount, and anonymous if preferred. .

In addition to coverage in the Evening Post, I would like to thank Ian and Sheila Eden of that excellent publication the Beeston Express, for their interest and support in reporting the progress of the project.

Conservation Area Extension

We are awaiting an imminent conservation appraisal for the stretch of Cow Lane from Courtyard down to the junction with Hillside Road to be included in the Conservation Area. We are deeply concerned about the many attempts being made to destroy what remains of the unique entry point to the village. Conservation status would at least make it more difficult for some of the planning proposals and applications to be approved.

Planning and Development

We are mindful of the number of applications being considered at present for new properties to be built in some of the gardens on Cow Lane. Along with those plans already approved we could see at least eighteen additional dwellings! An unacceptable situation and we are prepared to object to each and everyone! Elsewhere the unresolved situation of the development on the site of 60 Bridle road continues. Numerous calls and conversations have taken place with no result. This is now not only a ghastly eyesore but it also poses health and safety dangers. The developer surely has a duty of care and Broxtowe do have a Planning Enforcement Officer. So the more complaints and pressure the better and of course there is always the threat of the press!

Litter Pick

Members of the committee will be taking part in an organised litter pick through the village and surrounding fringes on Sunday 25 March. We will be meeting at the Old Tower at 10.30am. Any member wishing to join us is welcome. Litter pickers and visibility tabards will be made available.

AGM

This is to remind you to make a note in the diary for the AGM which will be held on Tuesday 11 June at 8.00pm in the Memorial Hall. Anyone wishing to put themselves forward for nomination on to the Committee is most welcome. We are always looking for new ideas and stimulus. So please do not hesitate to make contact with either myself on 9252104 or Moira Robinson on 9226782

I look forward to seeing you and your friends on 17 April and once again many thanks for your continuing support