

# BRAMCOTE CONSERVATION SOCIETY



## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2008

Dear Members

Having experienced the recent earth tremors, we hope that any future 'rumblings' might only be those emanating from prospective developers and will be ultimately, benign and non-effective! I am of course referring to the latest proposals to attack our Green Belt but more of that shortly. On a more positive note, there is some good news.

### Spring Event

This will take place at the **Memorial Hall on Tuesday 15 April at 8.00pm** when Mike Walker of the South Notts. Bat Group will talk on '**Bats and Conservation**'. We are hoping that there will be live bats and this should provide the focal point of what promises to be a fascinating and informative evening. Please make every effort to support this event.

### Website

As highlighted in the Autumn Newsletter, the Society now has its own dedicated website which can be accessed at [www.bramcoteconservation.org](http://www.bramcoteconservation.org). We think it looks good and hopefully it offers relevant information, which will be regularly updated. Our grateful thanks go to Tim Akin for registering the domain and particularly to Phil Sands for designing the site along with the advisory group who were responsible for providing text and visuals. Although all members are receiving this newsletter as hard copy, it will be available on the website.

### Threat to Green Belt in Bramcote

We were truly delighted by the support given by members and local residents to the open meeting we organised at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 29 February. We were fortunate in having Nick Palmer MP and Stan Heptinstall as the evening's speakers, who presented a comprehensive outline of intent, but offered clear indications that they would oppose any attempts by developers to build on Green Belt between Bramcote, Chilwell and Toton as was the unanimous response expressed by the over 170 attending. It was also reassuring, that even at this early stage, representatives from across the political spectrum are joining forces in a united front in voicing their opposition. For those of you who were unable to attend and who would like to register your comments, you should address them now to: **Dawn Alvey, Nottingham Regeneration Ltd, Shire Hall, High Pavement, Nottingham NG1 1HN** and also **Peter Stone, Director of Planning, Broxtowe Borough Council, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1AB**.

### Tower Project

Since the autumn there has been considerable activity both on and off site. Countryside Care group have carried out further tree and ground management work for which we are most grateful. In November a second week of archaeological survey took place with volunteers and archaeologists from Notts. County Council working together. It is hoped that further exploration can be undertaken, as there are still a number of identified plots for excavation. The 'Awards for All' Arts project to design and provide seating, information panels and a stained glass window for the Tower is now underway. Sculptor Andy Smith has been commissioned to run the project and after the initial open family workshop that took

place recently at the Memorial Hall, he will be undertaking further workshops with local schools and community groups. The stained glass will be undertaken by ESCAPE, an organisation of mature female glass artists from Eastwood headed by Stella Chadwick. The tombs fronting Town Street have recently seen restoration on them completed and also new sandstone steps have been installed at the entrance. The gates are now able to open inwards and in addition there will be handrails. Details on the design of the railings fronting Town Street have now been finalised and these should be in place very soon. In addition a new path of Breedon gravel is to be laid and the installation of the Physick Garden will be happening soon. We are now moving forward towards setting up a trust to take ownership and to govern the management and upkeep of the Tower and grounds. We do however still need to seek more funding, somewhere in the region of £50,000, particularly for the restoration of the Tower. We will therefore not only be applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant, but also seeking funding elsewhere. We would of course welcome any donation, however large or small.

### **Conservation Area Extension**

We have been advised that an open consultative meeting is to be organised by planning officers from Broxtowe towards the end of April when a presentation of the appraisal findings will be given and residents will have the opportunity to discuss and comment. Details will be made available soon of the date and venue.

### **Neighbourhood Pride Initiative**

The scheme for Bramcote has now almost been completed. You may have noticed the refurbishment of the car park for King George's Park still requires final landscape planting and we have already made representation about the over-kill with signage for the entrance and exit points! We understand that two of the signs have been removed but those that remain still need be reduced in height. The planter at the corner of Town Street and Church Street now has 'Welcome to Bramcote Village' emblazoned on two sides You may have noticed by the way that we have already carried out two litter picks since last summer. My thanks to all who volunteered to take part. We shall continue but Broxtowe also have a duty to maintain and uphold such a service.

### **Planning and Development**

We are pleased to see that Southfields House, one of the areas listed buildings and previously deemed 'at risk', is now under new ownership and is to be restored to its former glory as a family residence. The old 'eyesore' of 60 Bridle Road still occupies our concern. After a restart and removal of yet more hedging, building work is once again at a standstill and has been for the past few months. It is a most unsatisfactory situation and does nothing to enhance the attractiveness that is Bramcote

As always may I take this opportunity of thanking you all for your continuing support. We are always very pleased to welcome new members, so do encourage friends and neighbours to join us. Contact details can be found on the website.

A further date for the diary, the AGM will take place at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 10 June at 7.30pm. when we will also have a guest speaker (TBC). I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the **Spring Event on Tuesday 15 April at 8.00pm**

Yours sincerely

Peter Hillier Chairman 139 Derby Road Bramcote NG9 3GZ