



BRAMCOTE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (BCS)

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2017

Stream of Poppies: We are delighted that our vision to plant a Stream of Poppies cascading down the hillside within King George V Park next year will now take place. Bramcote Conservation Society has worked closely with our local Bramcote Ward Councillor Martin Plackett who helped facilitate our initial meeting with Tim Crawford of Broxtowe Borough Councils Parks Department (BBC). Everyone's enthusiasm to make this happen will mean we can all hopefully enjoy a wonderful visual floral display of Red Poppies to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One (WW1) next year.



Those of you who attended our talk to the History Group recently will know of our desire to see this happen and why. The area has been marked out and cultivated by BBC in preparation for sowing next year. There has been very positive interest in this from many local community groups so we will be meeting in early January with a representative from each group to discuss how we can accommodate their desire to be involved.

Painting a Remembrance Mural on the Reservoir Wall: To Commemorate the Centenary of the ending of WW1 Bramcote Conservation Society will be painting a Remembrance Mural of Poppies on the reservoir wall next year. We hope to incorporate a '1914-1918 Lest we Forget' message into the design. It may not be a "Banksy" but we intend to make it a fitting and respectful mural to honour the memory of those members of our forces who gave the ultimate sacrifice.



I would like to personally thank Andy Wibberley and Severn Trent for their approval, permission and enthusiasm that we undertake this worthwhile project with their blessing.

Moss Drive Footpath Closure: This year we continue to be inconvenienced with the on-going closure of the Moss Drive route to Bramcote Woods by LawnsCo which deliberately prevents all pedestrian access over a



route that has been used by the public for in excess of 50 years.

We were pleased with the progress made in our application for a definitive map modification order and the priority that was given to our application by Nottingham County Council (NCC) last year. We appreciate the situation is still very



frustrating to all local residents, many who have used this route on a daily basis.

We continue to encourage NCC Planning and Licensing Committee to allocate sufficient resources to allow Neil Lewis from the Right of Way Team (ROW) to complete the process within a more realistic timescale. I would like to give my personal thanks to everyone for their ongoing support but in particular to our long serving County Councillor Stan Heptinstall (now retired) for his influence and help in getting this issue actioned originally by NCC. We now require our new local County Councillor and Bramcote Ward Councillors to maintain the momentum of progress.

Planning Permissions: BCS continue to monitor planning applications in the Conservation area. Our regular email to all members listing these applications has proven very popular with members who wish to be kept informed of what is happening locally and the resultant outcome. We urge all members and residents within the Conservation area to seek planning permission, advice and approval from Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC) before undertaking any works or projects to make changes to their property. Please feel free to speak to us, as we have people in BCS who might be able to offer you advice and guidance.

Protection of Bramcote Green Belt: The greatest threat to our area currently is the desire by Broxtowe Borough Council to remove large swathes of our parkland and greenbelt to build additional housing in Bramcote. The numbers Bramcote is expected to swallow are simply too much. We must continue to protect our precious Greenbelt from inappropriate widespread housing development.

BCS are not against new housing but we believe they should not be developed on those areas of existing Greenbelt, regardless of the verbal assurances given. It is our duty to consider each and every application on their own merits and object to those that might adversely impact on our existing local Greenbelt and those protected greenspaces within Bramcote Ward and our Conservation Area.

St John's School of Mission: The St. John's planning application to build 42 new dwellings on this historic site within the Conservation area was approved in full by BBC Planning committee.

BCS had put forward positive suggestions for the planners to at least offer Open Green Space Protection to the area south of the historic walled Ha-Ha. This did not happen and we note that the wonderful Sweet Chestnut Tree by the entrance near the refectory has also now been felled. What a shame.

We accept that the current political direction is to approve all housing applications, but from the actions and comments expressed at the planning committee meeting BCS fear that our Greenbelt and Conservation Area is not in the safe hands we were lead to believe it was when asking for our support.

Bluebell Wood Conservation Volunteering Projects: We have had further positive discussions with the University Estates Office, the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham and local land owners to consider a community project to improve and give better safer access to the paths in and around Bluebell Woods.

At the meeting with the University we presented the fully detailed Tree Survey that was completed by BCS member Allan Foster. Allan's hard work was very much appreciated by the University Estates Team and identified a number of areas within the woods where we might undertake volunteering work on a regular basis throughout the year with their permission, agreement and assistance as and when required.