

### **Springing Into Action**

What a year 2011 promises to be – we are expecting that things will be happening that will affect Chellaston for years to come. Firstly, the document that will dictate how the centre of our community will develop, the dryly-named Supplementary Planning Document, will be completed and, we hope, approved by the City Council. This may not sound too exciting but, once it is approved, it will form part of the planning application process. This will mean that it is a document that will have to be consulted by developers who want to build anything within the designated area, which includes most of the central and older parts of Chellaston. The document has been written including the ideas, responses and suggestions that you, the residents, have put to us through the questionnaires that you have completed over the last year or so. This has given us a very good idea of what you want and perhaps even more importantly, don't want. All this information is being used to develop a vision of the way Chellaston will look in the future and will hopefully prevent the sort of unsympathetic developments that not only spoil the look of our area, but also potentially stop something being built which is of more use to the community as a whole. If all goes to plan, we will be exhibiting the document during the Spring and I hope that the new SPD will be welcomed by our residents.

On the subject of developments, there are two which are of interest to us at the moment. You cannot have missed the fact that the Red Lion has been fenced off and this is so that Tesco can renovate the building to create a new store. We think that, whilst it might have been possible to do something more imaginative with the site, it is better that it is at least going to be occupied and serve a useful purpose instead of being an eyesore. In any case, many residents may well welcome a larger store with better parking in what is certainly a prime spot. As we have said before, the CRA would have liked the site developed as a doctors' surgery, but the new surgery is now rapidly taking

shape at the site at the end of Holmleigh Way, along with the care home and retirement residences.

The other major development which has come back in to focus in recent weeks is the Chellaston Business Park which will occupy land between Chellaston and Rolls-Royce at Sinfin. The latest plan has increased the size of the site and proposed more warehousing than previously. This will inevitably require a large number of lorry movements along Holmleigh Way, which, as the long-planned T12 road, will provide the main access to the site. It is possible that this will cause some noise nuisance to residents whose houses are adjacent to this route and we have stated previously that we think that the road should have been built to a higher standard and further away from the residential area. We opposed the first application but, after much consideration and discussion, we have decided not to oppose the present application because we think that a many more residents will benefit from the development in terms of employment and the facilities that the Park will offer than will be disadvantaged. Additionally it will provide some much-needed relief from traffic on the A514, which will now have a diversionary route to the Sinfin industrial area at least - particularly large HGVs which will no longer have an excuse to come through Chellaston. This does not mean that we won't be still trying to get changes made to the plans and we will set up meetings with the developer and planners in the near future.

Finally, a date for your diaries is Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> when we will hold our AGM. This year we have decided to give our residents the opportunity to raise questions with our local MP, Margaret Beckett as they might not have had a chance to do so since the constituency boundaries were re-drawn last year and Mrs Beckett became our MP. I think it will be good to hear what she has got in mind for Chellaston and I hope that all residents who can come along will support the event. We will be advising the details of time and venue shortly and look forward to seeing you there.

John Bowden