

Autumn Almanac

Autumn has arrived again - with some dramatic colour this year, apparently caused by the early frost we had. The seasons roll round and you know that they will all appear again next year. Some of the things the CRA takes an interest in are like that – they crop up with some regularity, perhaps not every year, but often enough for them to be reasonably fresh in the memory. Take, for instance, the T12 road, which has been on the cards for many years and which we thought might start to get built about two years ago when a developer, Wilson Bowden, applied for planning permission to develop a business park between Chellaston and the Rolls-Royce site. The recession intervened and Wilson Bowden put their plans on hold, but now they are back with revised plans which would mean that the business park is developed in a piece-meal way over time. This would enable them to start the development, which would generate income from which they say they can build the link that is needed to Holmleigh Way. Two years ago, the East Midlands Development Agency would have helped with finance for the road, but that body has been scrapped by the coalition government as part of the spending cuts, so the cost of the road is now down to the developer.

Those who live close to Holmleigh Way tell us that there is little to separate the properties from the traffic going along the road. There is also a children's play area which borders the road and presently there is little to prevent children running in to the road. Yet this very road will form part of the T12 route and, as such, it will carry traffic from the A50 to the new business park, Rolls-Royce, the industries on Sinfin Lane and others beyond and so will be much busier than it is today. Although it will take many years for the business park to be built and occupied, the CRA thinks that the present road needs to be re-aligned or, better, completely rebuilt so that it takes a route well away from the houses. This needs to be done as the first action, not as an afterthought when everything is built. We will oppose the latest planning application, unless we can be given assurances about the road, so watch out for the outcome on this.

On a different topic, the Supplementary Planning Document is shaping up and we are expecting to present it to the City Council early in the New Year. Even at this stage, we would like to hear from anyone who might be able to assist with drafting or be able to offer technical input – please contact us via this website.

John Bowden
Chairman