

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**2008 – 2009**

This year has been one of the busiest for the CRA and I am pleased to report that we have made progress on a number of projects which are important to the residents of Chellaston.

It was good to see so many attending our last AGM and Forum last March, and it will be recalled that the theme of that evening was the future of Chellaston. We heard from the Derby City Planners as well as the developers of the Business Park about future projects and how they could (or could not) be influenced by the planning authorities. Following on from those presentations, it was suggested by the Planning Department themselves that we investigate the possibility of producing a "Supplementary Planning Document" (SPD) which assists in planning decisions when it is desired to influence the type of applications which are proposed. If we could produce a suitable document to cover the centre of Chellaston, where we feel there is most to lose from unsympathetic developments, and have it properly approved by the City Council, it would be a very powerful weapon against the relentless pulling down of perfectly good utility buildings only to create yet more residential property. We have therefore started the process of drawing up an SPD which will be a substantial document as it will describe not only how we think Chellaston should look in years to come but also explain why the area needs a certain appearance and requires certain facilities. We will need to consult with residents in order to get their opinions about what Chellaston needs as well as the whole concept of the SPD. We would welcome feedback on these topics at any time through our web-site, and we hope that you will respond positively to questionnaires when these are issued. We will need help, of course, and we would like to appeal to anyone who has appropriate professional skills (e.g. civil engineers, surveyors, solicitors, planners to name but a few) and who would like to influence the way Chellaston could look to get in touch. We will be presenting the story so far and what we hope to achieve at our Forum on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Particular thanks are due to Phil Bailey who has already made a great contribution to the project.

One other issue this year has been the proposed Business Park and, in particular, the link road to it known as the T12. The present plans are for it to continue from where Holmleigh Way currently ends, which means that Holmleigh Way will be used by large HGVs all day during weekdays and also by commuters to access the Business Park and Rolls-Royce. We think that this route is not only inadequate for the expected traffic volume, but also it runs through the residential area of West Chellaston, which we think is unacceptable. We would prefer to see a different road running on a more westerly route away from the houses. Presently we are challenging the proposals as we believe that the impact assessment of traffic has been inadequate since the scope of the Park

has been increased. We are also in contact with the developer as we think that a voluntary change of plan would be the preferred option. We would like to state that we are not against the Business Park development as it will provide new employment opportunities and the new road will give some relief to the A514 through Chellaston. We do however want to see some more sensible proposals for the new road than exist at present.

Other matters have included making representations about the proposal by Chellaston School to install an all-weather pitch, continuing with our battle with Vodafone over their mast near the Red Lion, which we continue to feel is badly situated near schools and senior citizens' residences, and also making representations regarding High Trees Surgery, where we want to continue to see a healthcare presence in the centre of Chellaston.

You will have all seen the youth shelter on the recreation field behind the Community Centre which has been largely paid for out of funds which were generously donated by local businesses, including the Co-op, as well as local funds from the Area Panel. We missed out on some funding from East Midlands Airport due to the time it took for the shelter to be installed, but I am pleased to report that the City Council did not charge the full amount as compensation. Thanks to all involved with this project.

The CRA has a core membership of people who work very hard for the community and I would like to thank them for their contributions over the year. I'd like to mention in particular Ian Colder for looking after much of the administration and keeping the website up to scratch, Phil Bailey for his research work and boundless enthusiasm, Gary Crisp for his work on the T12 and John Crone for looking after the finances. Thanks are also due to our councillors for their support and to the Neighbourhood Board and its local manager, Andrew Mellors. Finally, thanks to the various officers of the City Council with whom we have had contact. Without any of these people, it would be difficult to get anything done and we would be failing in our remit to make Chellaston a better place.

Two of our members, Linda Winter and Mitch Woodward, have said that they do not wish to stand for re-election due to other commitments and the remainder have said they wish to stand for a further year. I hope that at the AGM you will show your agreement that they and I can continue to represent you for a further year. If you would like to join us – and we do have vacancies - we welcome new blood which will introduce new ideas and projects that we can tackle. Either see us at the AGM/Forum, or when we have a table-top exhibition at events during the year, or why not send us an e-mail via the web-site on that or any other topic?

I am sure that the coming year will be as demanding as this one has been but I'd like to assure you that the CRA will always be fighting for the interests of all Chellaston residents. We look forward to your support.