

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2010 - 2011

Another year has passed and I can report that, once again, the CRA has been busy looking after the interests of our residents.

The **Supplementary Planning Document** for Chellaston (SPD) is now taking shape thanks largely to the sub-committee who are bringing the project forward, particularly Phil Bailey and Sophie Kelly. As you will be aware, the objective of the SPD is to enable the central part of Chellaston to develop in ways that we, the residents, want, rather than by random developments with no overall plan. The document is now in a form to be presented to the City Council for approval and we will stage an exhibition probably at the Library so that everyone has an opportunity to see what the SPD is actually all about and what it is likely to do for Chellaston. We expect that it will soon become an integral part of the planning process in our area and I think we can all look forward to a pleasanter place to live in the future. I would like to thank the Neighbourhood Board for Chellaston and Shelton Lock for their support without which it would not have been possible to bring this project to realisation.

Residents will have noticed a number of changes in Chellaston over the last year, two of the more obvious being the opening of the library, which is an excellent addition to the area and the conversion of the old Red Lion in to a convenience store. We are not sure that this is an ideal use for the building but it does at least mean that the building will no longer be derelict. We are continuing to note that developers are applying for permission for developments which are totally unsuitable for our area, in particular the building of houses on garden land. Apart from the reduction of open space and the effect on surrounding properties, we believe that this also now contravenes government policy. We will resist this type of development unless it can be shown to be beneficial and complementary to the locality.

Our campaign to retain a GP practice in the centre of Chellaston has not been successful and the new surgery is now taking shape on the site off Rowallan Way, despite very strong opposition from our residents. The CRA continues to consider that central Chellaston should have its own doctors' practice, located where people can actually get to easily and it is to be hoped that the forthcoming reorganisation of primary care will give a mechanism for this to be proposed.

The CRA is concerned that the Children's Centre is earmarked for closure only a few months after it was opened. This was to provide invaluable support for very young children and their mothers but now it would appear to have been axed before it has had a chance to reach its full potential. We understand that the same services can be provided by another centre on Boulton Lane, but nevertheless this will involve mothers and children in more travelling. We cannot help feeling that there has been a degree of short-sightedness on the part of politicians involved in the provision of the centres in the first place.

The development of Chellaston Business Park appears to have stalled this year although the outline planning permission is due to be renewed shortly. Although the application for renewal has a number of changes from the original, not least of which is the increased size of the site, we have not objected to it as we think that, on balance, the benefits that the park will bring in terms of employment, additional facilities and the alternative route for HGVs and other traffic that will be created will outweigh the nuisance that the extra traffic on Rowallan Way will bring. We are continuing our dialogue with the developer and are optimistic that we might be able to influence certain parts of the plan so that the road in particular will impact less on the residents who live close to it.

Our **web-site** ([www.chellaston.org.uk](http://www.chellaston.org.uk)) continues to develop and we are pleased with the number of "hits" per day that it receives, which is steadily increasing. We are in the process of renovating it and one of the new pages is a listing of local businesses. Many of these have made a donation to the CRA in return for the listing and this helps toward the cost of running the site. We would like the list to have a good range, so would invite any local businesses which are not listed at present but would like to be to contact us through the web-site. I would also urge residents to support those shops and businesses who are listed and let them know you found them through the web-site. Thanks to Ian Colder for looking after the site, which can be time-consuming. If you have any suggestions for the site, such as features you would like to see, please let us know.

The CRA has a core **membership** of people who work very hard for the community and I would like to thank them all for their contributions over the year. Also thanks to our councillors - Harvey Jennings, who will move away from the Chellaston ward in May, Matthew Holmes and Phil Ingall and our Neighbourhood Manager, Andy Mellors. Without whose help and support of councillors and council officials, our work would not be possible.

We have had a number of **committee members** resign due to other commitments and, in particular, John Crone, our treasurer, wishes to stand down at the AGM. John has been a stalwart member of the CRA for about 16 years and his knowledge and expertise will be missed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John for his contribution over the years. The remaining members are willing to stand for re-election and I hope that at the AGM you will show your agreement that they and I can continue to represent you for a further year. We do need to replace those who have left us, so, if you would like to **join us**, we would like to talk to you. Either see us at the AGM/Forum, or when we have a table-top exhibition at events during the year, or send us an e-mail via the web-site.

Finally, it just remains for me to say that I hope that what we have done is what you wanted us to do and we look forward to representing Chellaston once again in the coming year.

**John Bowden, Chairman**