

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2009 – 2010

In my report on the CRA's activities last year, I said that the preceding year had been one of the busiest we had had. Well, I think I can safely say that the year since then has topped that with the committee members busy working a range of matters which affect us all in Chellaston.

Our biggest project this year has been the Supplementary Planning Document for Chellaston (SPD). This, we hope, will enable the central part of Chellaston to develop in ways that we, the residents want, rather than by random developments with no overall plan. As part of the process, we've had to find out what it is that the people who live here actually want and you should have had two questionnaires delivered to your house in the last few months. Thanks to all who responded and your replies have given us a lot of useful information. We are going to present some of the findings at the AGM. We still have to consult with businesses in the area and then we can start the task of drawing together all the information and drafting the report. (If anyone feels able to help us in this drafting stage, please make contact with us). We are expecting to be able to present the SPD to the City Council for approval in the Autumn and if all goes well, the document will form part of the planning process soon after. Particular thanks are due to Phil Bailey, who has masterminded the project, the SPD sub-committee, our team of leaflet deliverers, the Co-op and Harvey Luke Hairdressers who hosted the collection boxes and Chellaston School whose students are designing the art work. I think we will all look forward to a successful conclusion to this project.

Some of the things which are being asked for in the SPD replies are in fact already coming about. We are pleased to note that both the new library and the Children's Centre will soon be ready and the play area on the Recreation Field is almost complete apart from some finishing off. These projects have been campaigned for by the CRA for many years and we are indebted to our councillors for making sure that Chellaston received the funding for them. We also understand that The Lawns will re-open as a hotel and restaurant soon and all these facilities will inject new life in to the centre of Chellaston. Unfortunately, the Red Lion site remains a problem although the delay in any development starting may be better for Chellaston in the long run as we have some ideas for the site which we are trying to get adopted.

Another bone of contention with many residents is the fact that planning permission has been granted for a medical centre on Rowallan Way which would replace the present High Trees Centre. We have enabled patients to have their say in a questionnaire. We had a phenomenal response and overwhelmingly, patients want to continue to see their GP in the centre of Chellaston where they can get to reasonably easily. (The proposed site is nearly two miles by road from

the present surgery, via the Bonnie Prince). The CRA thinks that the new development alone would justify a new GP practice, but not to the detriment of all the patients in other parts of the area. We are currently discussing the situation with the Primary Care Trust who provide GP services and hope to be able to change the location to one more suitable for all residents.

The CRA has continued to contribute to the Neighbourhood Board (NB) which covers both Chellaston and Shelton Lock. This body does a lot of good work in the community and has a budget which can assist local projects – the CRA has benefitted from funding without which the work we have done so far on the SPD would not have been possible – we are indebted to the NB for this. The NB has more frequent forums than us and we would like to encourage residents to go along so that they can find out more about what is happening in this community. The Forums feature items on local issues and regular updates from the police, Derby Homes and Derby City PCT – there is something for everyone so please look out for announcements.

We have developed our web-site (www.chellaston.org.uk) this year and we hope you find it interesting and informative. The development has been to enable us to receive questionnaire responses electronically which has proved to be a popular facility. This has meant that it costs more to run the site and we are considering ways to fund its upkeep, including the possibility of sponsorship. Thanks to Ian Colder for keeping the site up to date. It's not only the web-site which is costing more, it is all of our activities, because we are trying to do more. Our main income comes from contributions at the AGM and we would ask you to dig deep so that we can continue to work on your behalf.

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 councilors, Harvey Jennings, Matthew Holmes and Phil Ingall and our Neighbourhood Manager, Andy Mellors without whose help and support our work would not be possible.

We have had a number of committee members resign due to other commitments but the remainder wish to continue to serve. 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.

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.

John Bowden, Chairman