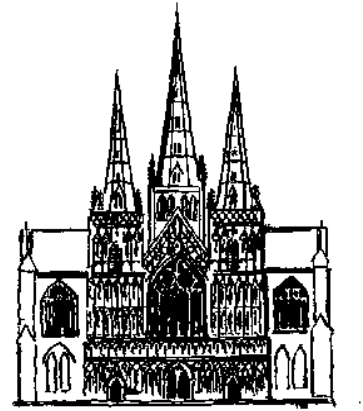


LICHFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



MAY 2009

President - David Duffy
Chairman - John Thompson

COMMITTEE CLIPPINGS

Future Strategy and Improving the Society

The main topic of discussion was a substantial list of suggestions from Executive Committee members and a former Chairman of ways we might raise the profile, develop and improve the Society. We were agreed of the ongoing need to influence decision makers and developers about the importance of retaining and enhancing the unique character of the City. We discussed various ways to raise the profile of the Society, increase our membership and appeal to younger members of the local community. The need for a dedicated press officer was responded to by Tony Crookes the immediate past Chairman and Executive Committee member who volunteered to

become the Society's Press Officer. This is important and helpful development which will assist in increasing awareness of the Society's role and hopefully attract new members. As part of improving communications at our public meetings we will reintroduce a short update on Society business, urgent items of interest and give an opportunity for comments from members before the main speaker's presentation. The discussion about future of the Society will continue at our next Executive meeting on the 1st June and we continue to welcome suggestions or comments from any member of the Society on this topic.

Local Development Framework

Lichfield District Council has published two further consultative documents. The first, a 92 page document, relates to the Core Strategy and is a further consultation to seek broad consensus on the direction of policies to guide development across the District. The second is a background paper to the Core Strategy on Tourism. We will be considering how far the first mentioned document reflects the comments made by the Society on the Preferred Options paper and making further submissions as appropriate. Comments on these consultations are to be submitted by the 11th June. JT



MAY SPEAKER MEETING CONSERVING LICHFIELD – THE HOW, WHEN AND WHY

How do you conserve Lichfield? Where has conservation been and where is it going? Hear it from the professionals. **Conservation Officers** from **Lichfield District Council** will reveal the Authority's plotting, plans and projects to the Civic Society on **Thursday, 21 May 2009**. Will we receive an invitation to be part of the conservation process? Is the conservation of Lichfield in safe pairs of hands? Find out everything you ever wanted to know about conserving Lichfield including the Heritage Parks Project. The meeting will start at 7.45pm at St Mary's Centre, Market Square, Lichfield. SH

YOUR NEWSLETTER

Since its inception many years ago the Society's NEWSLETTER has been produced to ensure that members, whether they attend meetings or not, are kept up to-date with the work within the Society and particularly that of your Committee.....I hope it is considered successful in achieving that primary aim.

I also believe that it is **your NEWSLETTER** in which members are able to air their own views and ideas, can raise issues with or take issue with, if necessary, the Committee and have their own interesting articles published. Amongst our members there must be a thousand and one stories of Lichfield, tales of Lichfieldians, reminiscences of the Bower, etc., etc., - the list must be endless. Members on their travels will have seen some wonderful sights and visited some exceptional buildings and gardens.....why not share those stories and experiences with other members.?

Next month, subject to your participation, I intend to introduce into **your NEWSLETTER** a **Members' Column** in which your views, your ideas, your stories and experiences can be published.....I hope you will give the Members' Column your full support.....please let me have your contributions by e-mail, davidduffy.architect@ntlworld.com, or by post to 15 Oakhurst Lichfield WS14 9AJ. DD

THE LDC INVITES YOU TO.....

Members are invited to attend what is described as "the event of the year"a meeting, promoted by Lichfield District Council, to review the monies obtained by the LDC from developers under Section 106 Agreements entitled "**SECTION 106s UNCOVERED**".

This event will help you to:

- Apply for Section 106 money for local projects.
- Learn about successful local Section 106 funded projects
- See what local people think Section 106 monies should be spent on

The Section 106 team will be on hand to answer your questions and explain more about how Section 106 monies help the local community.

The meeting will be held at **Wade St Church Hall on Wednesday the 27th of May From 4pm until 6.30pm**. Further information can be obtained from Kathrani Asmita, Planning Obligations Monitoring and Implementation Officer, Democratic Development and Legal Services Department] 01543 308149.

PLANNING AND THE GREEN BELT

All members of our Society will hold a view on the question of planning and the Green Belt particularly within the area of Lichfield and its districts. Under current proposals further development within those areas will compromise our Green Belt, in the view of most, to an unacceptable degree.

In response to the concerns of many an open meeting, promoted by residents' groups of both Lichfield and Burntwood, is to be held to consider the question "**CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE PLANNING AND THE GREEN BELT - LICHFIELD AND DISTRICT PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ?**"

The meeting will be held at the Guildhall, Lichfield on Saturday 23 May commencing at 10.00 am and members of our Society are welcome to attend.

A short welcome by the Mayor of Lichfield will be followed by an opening address from the Chairman Colin Wood BA Dip TP MRTPI, Senior Lecturer Birmingham University covering Governments' policy on development and the Green Belt, Regional Assemblies' spatial strategies and Local Development Frameworks [New planning system].

Following the opening address a member of the Regional Spatial Strategy Team will outline the new spatial strategy for the West Midlands and the role of Lichfield and District Council within it.

.....for further details please contact Geoff Crookes 01543 254826

THE CIVIC SOCIETY GARDENING CLUB!

Our indomitable Programme Secretary came up with something completely different for the Society's April meeting. The evening took the form of a visit to The Plant Plot Garden Centre on the Western Bypass. Our hosts, owners Diana and David Muir, provided us with a fascinating insight into the operation of a Garden Centre.

We started with a behind the scenes tour of the site, where there are no less than 400 thousand plants, all to be sold by the end of June. Although many plants are grown on site, many bedding plants arrive as miniscule plugs from Holland....thousands at a time each week. Then it's down to Diana and David with their fifteen staff to grow them on to a marketable size. That demands the scientific management of heating, water supply and the growing medium to ensure the plants are ready for purchase.

A representative of Lichfield District Council will respond to the question....."The Local Development Framework for Lichfield District - where is it now at?"

Concluding there will be a Q and A session followed by an opportunity to look at the display presentations and discuss matters informally with the visiting speakers..... the meeting will close at 12.00 Noon.

Tea and biscuits will be provided

Diana and David took over the site seven years ago. It has now grown into a major operation, with a strong retail presence, a large nursery, a cafe and a developing allotment site, where David and Diana plan to provide help for those persons aspiring to grow their own vegetables.

Afterwards, we moved into the cafe where Diana provided a running commentary of hints and tips whilst creating a hanging basket (one of the 1000 the centre makes each year) with 35 plants and rounded off by making a flower pouch.

So the evening produced something for everyone, from the intricacies of running a garden centre, to the subtleties of flower basket design. And the weather didn't let us down either!

RH