

Express Buzz

The Beeston Express

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Beeston Express is independent of any organisation, commercial or political. Our policy is to provide readers with news and information that is fair, accurate and balanced.

We try hard to avoid mistakes, but some may inevitably slip through. If you have any comments to make about the paper, or any complaint, please contact us. We will, as far as possible, try to put things right when the error has been ours.

NEXT ISSUE

Friday, March 28, 2008

Deadline for Adverts
Tuesday, March 25

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Bramcote residents will oppose development of green belt land

CONCERNED Bramcote residents attended a second meeting organised by Broxtowe MP Nick Palmer to raise awareness of the potential threat to green belt land – west of St John's College in Bramcote village and the top of Stapleford Lane, Toton.

Mr Palmer had organised a similar campaign meeting in Chilwell a week earlier.

Central government has been making enquiries in the area for somewhere to build the 62,500 new houses that, they say, will be needed in Nottinghamshire by 2026 to meet the needs of a population much increased in size.

The 'land assessment study' now under way seeks sites that could be considered as SUEs – suitable for Sustainable Urban Extension; good transport links as well as access to local services, schools and employment. Initial reports highlighted land in Chilwell, Stapleford, Trowell and Toton as well as Bramcote. Speaking at the meeting in Bramcote Memorial Hall, the MP said he believes the time to put voice to objections

is now, as surveys are carried out and information gathering begins on behalf of Nottingham Regeneration Ltd, an organisation created to represent all of the local councils in Nottinghamshire.

“Nothing to object to”

Acknowledging that there is nothing tangible to object to until such time as a specific planning application is put before the local authority for approval, Mr Palmer commented: “In the real world, we need to stop the project before it gets going. We want any developers to see that the amount of objection already expressed means development in that particular area is not worth pursuing. We accept there are reasonable alternatives in the area other than the land between St John's College and Bardill's island, and we will need a lasting campaign to defeat any proposals to build here.”

More than 140 people attended the meeting chaired by Peter Hillier of the Bramcote Conservation Society (BCS). Cllr

Stan Heptinstall, ward councillor for Bramcote, was on the bench with Mr Palmer.

Cllr Heptinstall said: “We thought we'd be OK following an earlier suggestion that other green belt land around Nottingham could be removed but not that at Broxtowe.

“There are local authorities who will be looking for the opportunity to enhance the infrastructure in their area with money that will be made available from the Government wherever these plans go ahead.”

Concluding the meeting by encouraging people to write to Nottingham Regeneration Ltd to express their views, Peter Hillier reminded them of the *raison d'etre* of BCS by quoting the late Conrad Elsdon, previously chair of BCS.

“Bramcote Conservation Society believe in the duty to preserve the green belt and open wildlife areas for the enjoyment of the whole community – rather than sacrificing them to the interests of a few.”

Conserving Chilwell's Cottage Grove

A consultation meeting is being held to discuss proposals to create a Conservation Area covering Cottage Grove in Chilwell.

'Cottage Grove' is the area of land bounded by Grove Avenue on one side and Park Road on the other, and a meeting to discuss the proposals will be held at Christchurch Hall on Monday, March 17 at 7pm.

The idea has been instigated by the Beeston & District Civic Society, who have circulated a leaflet in the area seeking early feedback.

The area reaches to the Hop

Pole public house and is bounded to the north and south by Chilwell Road and Bramcote Avenue, and has a fascinating history.

The land was acquired by 'The Labourer's Friend's Society' under the agency of James Orange after the Nottingham Enclosure Act of 1845.

James Orange was an energetic campaigner on behalf of the poor and his pamphlet “A Plea for the Poor” in which he put forward the “Cottage Garden Plan” was published in 1841. His intention was to help alleviate poverty and all that it entailed, but of course the poor could not afford to follow

up the plans for cottages and allotments, so eventually the local rich bought the plots and built their houses, many of them as they are today.

Despite later building and infill housing, the 'country cottage' appearance that the area retains to this day is the result of the original 1841 Cottage Garden Plan.

The consultation meeting will be held at Christchurch Hall, Chilwell Road, Chilwell on Monday, March 17 at 7pm.

M1 widening work

WORK to reduce congestion and improve safety by widening the M1 between Junction 25 at Sandiacre and Junction 28 at Pinxton continues.

The layout of the northbound and southbound carriageway has been changed between Junction 26 and Junction 27 with the introduction of narrow lanes, no hard shoulder and a 24-hour 50mph speed limit.

To limit any delays to drivers, the Highways Agency will be keeping three lanes open in each direction during the day and will not be using a contra-flow.

Nuthall A610 bridges

Work to upgrade the two bridges that carry the M1 over the A610 at Junction 26 near Nuthall began on March 10 and is expected to be completed in July 2008. During the upgrading work there will be single lane closures on the westbound and eastbound A610 approaches to the Junction 26 roundabout and on the roundabout.

Fire! Police!

ON the evening of Friday, February 22, Beeston police received a call alerting them to a blaze in Chilwell that had been started by a petrol bomb thrown through the window of a bungalow, not far from Alderman Pounder Infant school.

On arrival at the scene, the Fire Investigation Team (FIT) used the services of a fire dog to locate and remove the bomb before any serious damage was done to either the bungalow or its occupants. There were no casualties, but all of the people involved were, understandably, very shaken.

The incident is under investigation and police are asking for anybody who might have information regarding the fire to step forward and call either Nottinghamshire Police on 0115 967 0999, or Crimestoppers (anonymously) on 0800 555 111.

Five days later, a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) took place on Abbey Road, Beeston, leaving one vehicle overturned and its driver trapped inside. A Fire & Rescue team rescued the casualty from the wreckage of their car.

The team then went on to tame a blaze that had broken out in the outbuildings of Smedley's Farm, Stapleford. Four sets of breathing apparatus were used by firefighters before the blaze was brought under control.