

Buzz

Chilwell Road traders form alliance

TRADERS on Chilwell Road, Beeston, and High Road, Chilwell who will find their business adversely affected during construction of NET Phase 2 Line 2 are to form a group that will give them a stronger platform for negotiating with NET and other agencies.

The decision to do something was taken after Notts County Council pulled out of their Joint Agreement with the City Council. The Agreement was for the county council to contribute a portion of the cost for building the tram extension, construction of which should start in 2012.

Withdrawal from the Joint Agreement meant that, in addition to no longer helping with the funding, the County Council was no longer bound by its pledge to provide compensation to the Chilwell Road traders of up to £2 million during physical construction of NET Line 2.

To decide what action could be taken, if any, about 22 Chilwell Road traders gathered at a non-public meeting immediately before NET's presentation to members of the public at Round Hill School, Foster Avenue, on Friday, October 9,

Broxtowe MP Nick Palmer and county councillors Richard Jackson and Steve Carr, all of whom had agreed

to come along and answer questions, joined them.

In order for the meeting to have any relevance, it had to work on the assumption that NET Phase Two would go ahead, no matter what happens in next year's General Election.

The recommendation that a group 'collective' would be useful in talking to NET as the project moves forward was accepted as a good idea. Nominated group representatives can then join discussions with NET. In the first instance this would be about seeking compensation from any quarter as the businesses find heavy road construction equipment literally parked on their doorsteps, but would also help the traders keep up to speed with practical issues such as access, disruption to utilities and services, restricted deliveries, etc, during the period of upheaval.

Cllr Richard Jackson, County Council Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways, told the traders "the County Council will not abandon the Chilwell Road traders." Clarification of this point was sought, as the decision taken by the County Council to withdraw from the Joint Agreement appeared contradictory.

He replied by indicating that

the City Council would be obliged to pay the agreed level of compensation. He said: "I'm 100 percent certain" that the City Council will find themselves with an obligation to pick up the compensation tab of £850K per annum over three years now that the County has pulled out, adding: "It will all be clarified by Christmas."

Cllr Jane Urquhart, Nottingham City Council's portfolio holder for Transport and Area Working, had come along to have a look at the NET presentation later the same evening.

When Cllr Jackson's statement was relayed to her, she said: "We've currently got our lawyers looking at ways of untangling the legal aspects of our Joint Agreement with the County Council.



Chilwell Road shopkeepers will find tram construction work just feet from the entrances to their shops.

"I would agree that we have a moral responsibility to support the Chilwell Road traders, and we have three months in which to negotiate whilst the lawyers are at work.

"I am hopeful that we will be able to conduct the negotiations in a sensible manner and come up with an outcome that meets people's needs."

Meanwhile, the NET representatives were kept busy answering questions from a steady stream of visitors to their informative displays. Now that NET Phase 2 has been given the go-ahead by the government, local residents were keen to re-acquaint themselves with the intricacies of the Line 2 route – and have their questions answered directly.

Snippets

Rotary Club Book Sale

A SALE of second-hand books held at Beeston Market on Saturday, October 10, raised £439.29 for Rotary charities.

At the club's meeting on Monday, October 12, Dr George Kavvouras, a Civil Engineer/Project Manager with the East Midlands Development Agency, was inducted as a new member. Rotarian Adrian Gibson followed the induction with a talk on the activities of his own club, the German twin club of Tuttlingen.

Broxtowe Conservatives Coffee Morning

THE next Broxtowe Conservatives Ladies Coffee Morning will be held at the Beeston Conservative Club on Station Road, Beeston on Thursday, November 5 at 10am, coffee at 10.30am. The speaker will be a librarian from Beeston Library. All are welcome.

Top mark for Sports Team

BROXTOWE Borough Council's Sports Team has been notified that it has achieved one of the top marks given in a category, following a two-day assessment by Quest, the UK National Quality Award for Sport. It awarded Broxtowe Sport 83 percent in the 'Highly Commended' group.

Broxtowe Sport works with a variety of partners to improve the quality, quantity and range of sports provision in the borough. Key areas for attention include developing volunteers and coaches, organising events and school-based coaching, providing community based sports opportunities and supporting partners in applying for funding.

Beeston goes retro

A NEW 'vintage and retro' store will open in Beeston at 10am on Thursday, October 29, at 7 Wollaton Road.

The store will stock a range of donated vintage and retro clothing, which will be on sale at bargain prices. All money raised in the shop will help Sue Ryder Care continue to provide health and social care in people's homes for people living with end of life and long-term conditions including cancer, stroke, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, dementia, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease and motor neurone disease.

Beeston's residents are asked to support the store, not just by seeking out the bargains, but also by donating suitable unwanted items.

The shop is also looking for volunteers to help. If you would like more information, call the shop staff on (0115) 943 0785.

The Free Ranger...

Our monthly columnist shares his thoughts with us...

THE Free Ranger lives in Attenborough, but asks to remain anonymous so that he can share his opinions freely about local matters that affect all of us.

Please remember, however, that the opinions he expresses are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Beeston Express. If you wish to comment, please write to the address on page 2.

Great Bus Journeys of the World

FOR the first time in a while, I caught the bus from Cator Lane in to Nottingham and back during the late morning on a recent Saturday, and what an experience it turned out to be. I normally tram and ride it from Wilkinson Street on a weekend – now I remember why.

Firstly, despite the posh new buses with the leather seating proclaimed on the back of the vehicle; you only get the luxury of leather if you actually get to sit down. With the 30-odd other people stood up (I counted) the whole experience was hot, uncomfortable, cramped, bouncy, slow and frankly just awful. Now you may say 30

stood up must be against the licence for the bus. But, in fairness to the driver, the bus is allowed up to 39 standees (I checked) and he stopped picking people up after Beeston bus station. Anybody who says there is no problem with our bus service does not travel on them at peak times. But I digress.

This trip was just after the start of the university term and it was noticeable how many new overseas students were catching the bus. As I wound my way through the town I started to think what a welcome this overcrowded bus trip and Beeston presents to the new arrivals to our area. So on the way back I paid slightly more attention than normal to what you see out

of the bus window. Here is a summary of the journey.

As you come in to Beeston along Broadgate from the university, you are greeted by a nice row of shops and the refurbished park, which then gives way to takeaways and what is to all intents and purposes, a pawnbroker. Left turn down Humber Road and then right into Middle Street to see the prominent boarded-up pub on the left, and a few run down student lets, followed by the abandoned and fenced former site of the old Cow pub, with its 6ft high weeds. Next on the right is the wasteland of the Tesco site, with the isolated funeral directors' premises dwarfed by the rubble piled up behind.

Then comes the new

gateway to the town itself; the approach to the bus station. As you approach the turn into Station Road, there is another pub that is looking a bit dilapidated and up for lease, with a large 'To Let' sign, on the left. In front of you is the old fire station, boarded up and with the odd smashed window. You then trek up the side of the multi-story car park with another panoramic view of the Tesco wasteland to the right.

On drawing in to the bus station itself, you get to experience the boarded-up Somerfield dominating the entire area (although it is not the only boarded-up shop you will see). A glimpse to the left reveals more rust stains dripping down the car

park, with the odd stalactite of leached concrete hanging down. Never the most pretty of structures but nicely offset, to its detriment, by the grim omnipotence of the closed Somerfield. A quick glance to the right at first floor level from the bus reveals a poor effort mock-up panel, with a bad colour match, to mimic the 70s fibreglass panel that has been lost or fallen from the end of the precinct roof. A glimpse up the precinct itself reveals more boarded up and frankly dilapidated shops, the litter strewn in the path being dodged by the small number of people walking down the street to get their bus in the windswept bus station.

Welcome to Beeston, the pride of West Nottingham!