

## WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

### CHAIRMANS REPORT

Welcome to Members and visitors to the 2017 Annual General Meeting. The last twelve months have again proved to a successful and busy year for the Wigston Civic Society, attending events, undertaking campaigns, and ensuring publicity all undertaken by the Committee on behalf of the members of the Society and the people of Wigston.

#### **The main events taken place during year have been;**

In May 2016 the replacement plaque at South Wigston Station was unveiled with the Mayor in attendance, paid for by a grant of £225 from South Wigston Residents Forum and £225 from The South Wigston Traders

June 2016 saw the relaunch of the Two Steeples Walk, a highly successful day with Mayor and Rector of All Saints in attendance to send us off.

In July 2016 the memorial stone to Sgt W E Boulter VC was unveiling at the Bell Street pocket park. This was a Council led event and very well attended. A new information board about Sgt Boulter has also now been erected on the site.

Our Annual Lecture was held in September at South Wigston High School with John Stevenson talking on the Railways of Wigston. Another well attended and successful event.

Also in September we had a display stand at the Great Wigston Show, which we may repeat again this year.

In October 2016 we were challenged to a skittles match at the Horse and trumpet with Oadby Civic Society, again very well attended and I think we won that one.

In November we again undertook planting bulbs, this time on Aylestone Lane.

In February this year new trees were planted on the path leading to Willow Park from Central Avenue with grant of £400 from Residents Forum. The new trees were to replace vandalised trees and some which had died.

March 2017 - Another skittles match again at the Horse & Trumpet with the Leicester Civic Society, very well attended and we beat the Leicester Civic again!

April 30 2017, just last Sunday, we held a Heritage Walk to celebrate 50 years of Conservation areas, 10 years of Blue Plaques, Civic Day 2017 and the list of Significant Buildings which we and the Greater Wigston Historical Society have been working on. A circular walk developed by myself, so well attended we had to split the walkers in to two groups, the second led by Colin Towell. We must thank the FWK Museum for providing the much needed tea and coffee at the end of the day.

#### **The Committee**

The Committee have met every month during the year with good attendances plus some regular attendances by members who are not committee members.

We had another awayday (Half day) again at the Fire Station community room to discuss extra items not fully discussed at committee meetings.

We held society lunches at The Fairfield pub in September and February with another planned for 25 May this year at the Plough in Wigston.

We have also published two editions of Wigstons' Voice newsletter, and revised the Society publicity leaflet

### **Major planning matters;**

We have discussed, commented on and monitored planning applications for:

Pochins Bridge Road, Newton Lane, the Heating Elements site, Kirkdale Road, Meadow Hill (Cooks Lane), Premier Drum factory site, The Long Street Working Mens Club, the new Prison at Glen Parva and many other smaller applications. We are disappointed that no proposals have yet been put forward for the Hat and Cap factory on Canal Street.

We have also contributed comments to the Council on the Local Plan.

### **We have several ongoing issues and campaigns**

Overhanging hedges, the land adjacent to the swimming pool, cars parked on pavements, block paved front gardens, A blue plaque for Admiral Sportswear, Assets of Community Value, History of Street Names, Information board at the Pinfold and others.

### **Events attended to display the Society's advertising material**

LRFHS AGM, Library, Wigston Heritage Day, Stakeholders days (twice), Grand Wigston Show

### **Residents Forums**

We always try to attend and are a major contributor to discussions at the local Residents Forums

### **Matters raised in last year's report still ongoing**

The Elms Social Club (RBL) still no work done to improve façade

J Hoots chemist, no improvement to the brick work

No success in preserving house names at local senior schools

### **Looking ahead**

Annual lecture on Thursday 14 September here at Age UK based on the Heritage Walk.

WWI parade in South Wigston on 6 August

An outing to Castor near Peterborough