

## Annual Report to the AGM for 2010 to 2011

*It is good to report that the committee has met each month except in December when the room here at Hawthorn House was not available because of the severe weather. Meetings were held in the Community Room at the Fire Station in July August and September to save money on hire charges, but following the receipt of a grant from the Council's Community Fund ( for which we were very thankful), we returned here to Age Concern on a permanent basis in September.*

*One of our main purposes is to keep an eye on planning applications in the conservation areas in Wigston, South Wigston and Kilby Bridge. This is done at each meeting. Many do not require comment but we have made our views known on applications at the South Wigston Vicarage, All Saints Church Rooms, the Police Station and the redevelopment of the old Heating Elements site. Such views were not necessarily adverse but on occasions we felt that positive encouragement was appropriate.*

*The last year has seen a welcome reduction in applications for mobile phone masts but tree works applications continue to dominate and often, in our view, are unnecessary, causing considerable cost and time for Council officers at a time when there is a need to cut bureaucracy.*

*A change in the way in which the Council consults on planning applications is being introduced in so far as they are now occasionally circulated on disc. This saves time and money for the Council, rightly so, but makes it difficult for a group of people, as opposed to an individual, to look at the plans to formulate meaningful comment*

*As part of our remit to make Wigston a better place in which to live and work we try to bring matters that need attention to the Council and examples of our work here have been a campaign to introduce a 20 mph speed limit in Long Street and Bushloe End; the cutting back of overhanging greenery in Long Street and Station Road and the reduction in street clutter such as unnecessary signs.*

*We are bringing pressure on the Council to enforce the removal of unsightly advertising hoardings in Leicester Road and we have tried to raise the profile of the unsocial nature of parking vehicles on the pavement and this has included letters in the Leicester Mercury where the cause has been taken up by others.*

*During the year we have added our voice to the campaign to retain County Council grant aid the local Greenhouse Project where people with learning difficulties grow plants for use in out flower displays. The Council has agreed an extension of the grant for a limited period.*

*We maintain an interest in the work of the Pride in the Borough committee and were pleased to hear of its success in 2010.*

*Following completion of the work to the Coach House at the front of Bushloe End surgery we awarded a Certificate of Commendation to the Doctors for an excellent job in bringing this building back into use.*

*Another local building which is not quite so high profile is the old electricity station in Bell Street which has been renovated and is awaiting letting as an office, this needs to be looked at in terms of a certificate being awarded.*

*In July last year we were honoured to host a well attended meeting of EMAHCS, which took place in the yarn room at the Framework Knitters Museum. Our thanks go to The Friends for their help and to Bill Boulter and Peter Clowes for leading tours after the meeting. We try to support EMAHCS where we can as it is a useful source of information and support as well as being less expensive to belong to than the national Civic Voice which replaced the Civic Trust. Your Secretary is now the Independent Examiner for the Association's accounts.*

*Along with The Wigston Historical Society and the FWK Museum we have reinvigorated the dedicated notice board in the library but we are concerned that the ability to display posters on the general notice board in the library is restricted to organisations such as the police and council.*

*We are trying to establish, with others, a project to provide a piece of Public Art in Wigston Magna, even in these straightened times, which we think will enhance the environment .*

*The newsletter has been published three times this last year and we sent a Christmas Greetings card to members as well as organising several lunches.*

*In June we will be hosting a visit by the Leicester Victorian Society to South Wigston, this is a major coup and shows just how important the history in our area is.*

*Looking to the future, the real challenge will be for the Society to survive. We desperately need new and younger members and urgently need a Minute Secretary and a Vice Chairman. Members are urged to consider standing or persuading a friend or relative to help us with these jobs.*

*More purpose will be attached to our existence following the passing into law of the Localism Bill which is currently going through Parliament. This will give us greater opportunity to influence local events affecting the place where we live and work. Finally, sincere thanks go to Members for their interest and hard work during the last year.*