

Bourne Civic Society News

February 2005 Editor Robert Kitchener

Ever since the T.C.M.P. was set up for Bourne, we have taken an active part in the ideas of the best possible promotion and modernisation of the town. When the approval of the Elsea Park estate became a reality, we were by rights a receiver of East Midlands Development Association funding which helped finance our Town Centre Co-ordinator Ivan Fuller, a qualified Town Centre planner. At the same time we have the good fortune to have Robert Fuller (no relation) as our Vice president also with a wealth of experience in planning representing us on the T.C.M.P.

In December the developers of "The Core Centre" as it has become known presented their cases for town centre development in the chosen area that borders North Streets, listed buildings and Burghley Street and the listed buildings of West Street. Originally nine developers enter for the work, with some found unsuitable and others withdrawing. A fair hearing was given to each, and a short question time arranged. Later that day those with a particular interest and businesses were given a preview, and in the evening the public were invited to a meeting where the three developments were presented and the procedure for approving the most desirable development set out. The S.K.D.C wished to make a quick decision in five days to stop speculation with regard to present owners. However it was suggested they were being too hasty.

The following Thursday to Sunday these developments were put on public display at first in the splendid new Youth Centre and then at Corn Exchange. It is rather sad to report that only about 400 people attended these. The Town Council were able to discuss the developments on the Tuesday on the sixth day, and theirs was the first collective decision announced. Matters were addressed again at the T.C.M.P. meeting on January 5th, when the Henry Davidson scheme was finally selected.

We are also planning alternative ideas for "The Croft". The Croft development is back on the agenda. Following objections the first proposal has been withdrawn. The new proposal is for 51 houses, and as a result of the strong public feeling a new date has been fixed, and is expected to last two days. See Events. For a public enquiry in March and is expected to last two days. In the meantime we are preparing a submission on "The Croft".

At the E.M.A.S.A. Greaseley meeting, considerable discussion time was given to the new proposals being promoted by new members of the Civic Trust. I was asked to represent E.M.A.S.A. as East Midlands Heritage Forum (E.M.H.F.) "Heritage Counts" launch in Lincoln, which was given radio and press publicity. Again I stood in for our Regions representative at the "National Committee of Civic Societies in London.

The Chapel of Rest, in the grounds of Bourne cemetery, became a news item when it was suggested it was dismantled. Brenda and Jim were quick to respond, and in line with Civic Society thoughts, asking for the building to remain. The whole of the cemetery was surveyed in the mid 1977 and no serious matters of concern noted, even with the Chapel of Rest. The building has recently been used as a storeroom, but its function as a Chapel of Rest ceased some years ago.

At one time it was offered that the Collyweston roof could be replaced with a mock Collyweston tiling that would be free of charge to the Town Council. The offer was not taken up. We are proposing a proper survey is undertaken before any action is approved.

To sell the building "As is" for a specific purpose such as Memorial Rooms to an enterprising developer, that would relieve the council of any costs, but would at the same time they would lose the use of the building, recently suggested for Council Meetings.

As a Civic Society we promote ideas that seem beyond the imagination of business or government. To propose a change of use, and modernise a building are not on the agenda.

There are several ways of having memorials such as statues, graves, War memorials, garden's of remembrance and vaults. The least expensive are plaques and books of remembrance, and it is these that could be housed in such a building.

I am involved in helping families discover their family history, and the requests and time involved is regarded as worthwhile. To have no place to record this in Bourne except as stated above is wrong, and we don't wish to travel many miles to the larger town for such records.

On a fine night in January we had a very good attendance for Tony Stubbs illustrated on memorials. We were pleased to have Ernie Napier, E.M.A.S.A. Chairman, From Boston Preservation Trust join us for the evening

We welcome members to join our Committee, and help in sharing the workload. We have a strong committee with new ideas, and motivation, and maintain our successes. We need help in setting up web sites, and help for the Secretary.

We very much appreciate the efforts of our distributors who dispatch the mail so efficiently. They are Robert Fuller, Brenda Jones, Mollie Manderfield, Tony Stubbs and Norman Williamson. This onerous task saves the costs of postage.

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