

BRADWAY ACTION GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 12th OCTOBER 2010

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In my report last year, I said that our main priorities for 2010 would be to continue pursuing “Village Green” status for the Old School Field, and hopefully the Recreation Ground as well if sufficient witness statements were received, and to begin implementing the next phase of improvements for the Old School Field (subject to agreement later in the meeting). Disappointingly, I have no progress to report on the former, where, as with similar applications for three sites in Dore by the Dore Village Society, the City Council does seem to be dragging its heels, although we are assured that things are happening behind the scenes. With regard to possible improvements to the Old School Field, in the event last year's AGM decided we should concentrate instead on maintaining what we have. So far, this has taken the form of regular maintenance sessions on the first Saturday of the month, mainly involving litter picks, but also clearing grass and weeds that have encroached on to the surface of the playground, and supplementing the Council's grass cutting activities by using our new petrol strimmer to clear vegetation from around obstacles. We also replaced the vandalised trees, and I'm delighted that these have survived the summer unscathed. A new seat was installed near the entrance to the playground with the benefit of a grant from the South West Community Assembly (SWCA). Our main priority for fundraising in future years will be the refurbishment of the playground, which is already beginning to show signs of wear and tear, despite having been in existence for only four years.

Away from the field, we received a further grant from the SWCA to enable us to provide a planter outside the Wollaton Road shops. This was stocked using our own funds. We also restocked the existing planters at the top of Twentywell Lane and outside S17, although we sadly neglected to replace the winter pansies in the former with summer bedding, resulting in a rather disappointing display this year. We also planted another 1000 crocus and 500 daffodil bulbs, concentrating on the Bradway Road / Greenhill Parkway junction and, for the first time, the St Quentin Drive / Twentywell Road junction and the area around the Wollaton Road shops. These flowered very successfully, but to our dismay, some of the bulbs at Wollaton Road were subsequently removed when the owner of the building decided to have the boundary wall rebuilt and the grassed area re-graded. Hopefully the bulbs have been retained for replanting.

Traffic and transport matters have again been prominent. Briefly, these include the Tinker's Corner petition, the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive's consultation on bus services, and the Bradway Taffic Action Plan. I'll deal with these in more detail under item 6 of the agenda.

Both our Open meetings this year had environmental themes. The first explored the level of support there might be for promoting the concept of “Sustainable Bradway”, with a well-researched and down-to-earth talk by Rachel Smith. Sadly, we have been unable to pursue this much more due to Rachel's illness. The second was a talk on recycling by Gavin Foulstone of Veolia. Our annual “Bounds Walk” was not as well

attended as in previous years, probably the result of poorer publicity, and although the Fun Day generated as much income as usual, the net proceeds were well down due to having to pay for the climbing wall (last year it was free) despite a generous £400 grant from the South West Community Assembly.

We have continued to manage the delivery of the Bradway Bugle by collecting them from the editor and distributing them to the deliverers, whose efforts are greatly appreciated. We shall shortly be receiving the copies directly from the printers, so reducing the burden on the editor still further.

It was another quiet year so far as planning applications were concerned, with objections sent regarding only one, the proposed construction of a block of three flats at 31 Rosamond Close, citing concerns over parking and the loss of green space. Although consent was refused, the applicant has since appealed. We also sent in some comments on the proposed extension to the Annexe, not objecting to the scheme as such, but asking whether the external appearance could be made more in keeping with the existing building. The application was approved with conditions.

We continue to attend meetings of the South West Community Assembly, which covers the majority of Bradway, asking questions and making comments where appropriate, and to support / manage the Dore and Totley Ward Forum. The next meeting of the Forum will be held here at the school on Tuesday 30th November. I'd love to see a good turnout, so please come if you can. One of the items on the agenda will be to review the operation of the Forum to date, as by that time it will have been in existence for a year.

All our activities this year have been insured, thanks to a grant of £500 from Grassroots Grants.

In the coming year, we shall continue with our maintenance sessions on the Old School Field, and we have another 1000 crocus and 500 daffodil bulbs to plant. We would be happy to consider any suggestions for where to put these. We also need to decide what to do with funds passed on to us by the former Bradway Neighbourhood Association. Again, ideas would be welcome.

I should like to thank the Committee for all their efforts and the many local people who have given us their help and support over the year. This includes all those who turned up to plant the trees and the bulbs, the litter pickers, those who maintain the planters, the many people who rally round to do their bit for the Fun Day or provide raffle prizes, etc., and the management of the Old Mother Redcap, where we hold our Committee meetings. Currently, almost 150 households are members of BAG, representing over 250 individual residents. Many have provided donations in addition to their nominal membership fee, for which we are extremely grateful. I hope you will all continue your membership in 2011, and encourage others to join. The more members we have, the more we can claim to represent the local community.

Thank you.

Peter Stubbs