



# The Friends of Thringstone

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## Agenda for meeting to be held at Thringstone Community Centre on Thursday 9 October 2008 at 6.45pm

**Present:** Jane Marrafin, Dave Everitt, Jim Wilkinson, Nita Pearson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Anne Baxter, Pauline Bolstridge, Tracy Hill, Russell Love, Tracy Foulds, Maggie Smith, Tony Newton, Maureen Wayte, Shirley Whitmore, Janet Stevenson, Ray Neal, Jo Johnson, Colin Perritt, Brenda Simpson, Chris Mellor, Ron Mitchison, John & Karon Smith, Bernard Lee, Diana & Albert Gruber, Jim Sorrell, Pam Clayfield, Ann Petty, Colin Porcher, Pam Porter, Ray Woodward, Lesley Mansfield. Citrus Group: Paul Spilsbury, Phil Matthews, Roy Longstaff.

**Apologies:** Roy Hill, Sandie Newton, Jan Cufflin, Rowena Summers, Geoff Walker, Geoff and Jane Wilson

Nita told the meeting that Sandie feels unable to continue as part of the committee due to difficulties with her father's ill health and had resigned, which had been accepted. Nita had sought approval of the committee to take her some flowers and this has been done. Our thanks to Sandie for all her hard work for the events are minuted. We are now looking for a replacement/replacements and Nita suggested that the work should split into three parts. She has details of the work to be done and anyone interested is asked to talk to her. Roy Hill has agreed to take over the organisation and running of Picnic in the Parks and the Grace Dieu Event, and Anne Baxter will take over planning the Christmas party. We are looking for someone to take over the organisational assistant part of the main event next year for FoT.

### Treasurer's Report

Balance b/fwd	1,865.56
Receipts	586.02
Expenditure	605.00
Balance c/fwd	£1,846.58

### Correspondence and publicity report –

#### Letters, emails etc:

- various emails sent to local groups asking for details of any events they have on from Nov 08 to March 09 to include in our next newsletter
- confirmation letter from LCC regarding planting by church wall. Tear-off slip for agreement to be recorded was sent back
- email from Alan Burgess regarding state of Charles Booth's grave and subsequent copy letter
- emails of thanks to those who helped with Snibston event
- emails from Citrus Group Ltd. (see below)

- contact with St Andrew's over potential carol singing around a tree at Community Centre (details already circulated in events minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> Sept)
- neighbourhood management report
- emails to police and replies
- letter to Highways Forum of Leicestershire County Council regarding Lilybank as discussed at the last meeting

### **Promotion:**

- added 4 photographs of the village onto Pictures of England website and also submitted brief history details and information of our group – the history section has subsequently been enlarged considerably by someone
- photos and write up in Echo and Coalville Times on Heritage Event

**Web report** – John reported that everything is up to date with the website, but that he had had problems earlier in the week due to server issues.

**History** – Ann will be speaking to Mrs Morley who was interested in talking to us. No reply has been received from lady from New Zealand, and she may have returned home. Some test pits will hopefully be dug at The Star and also in Mark Gregory's field (near the mill site).

**Publications report** – Calendars have been distributed for sale to The George and Dragon and Ruby's and also to the Community Centre. Stocks of brochures given to the George at Coleorton may have gone missing. Tony will investigate. We now have 13 unplaced calendars only in stock.

### **Guest Speakers:**

#### **Phil Matthews, Paul Spilsbury, Roy Longstaff from the Citrus Group to discuss plans for the redevelopment of The Fox site**

The representatives of the Citrus Group brought drawings on A2 boards (and paper copies) of the proposed Nursing Home for The Fox site and gave an update on how they have responded to the feedback received at the consultation meeting in May.

The architects have recognised 4 main areas of concern and have worked with the Council, Police and Highways Dept to reduce the scale of the scheme by 30%.

1. Size. They have now reduced the number of beds to 62
2. Parking. The number of places has been increased from 16 to 22
3. Frontage and effect on neighbouring residents. The front is now two storey and the three storey service wing has been moved to the rear of the site.
4. Building materials. A survey of the varied materials used along Main Street has been carried out, and the architects have altered the proposal to be in sympathy with existing buildings to create a balance.

They feel the scheme is now appropriate to the village and said that the new home should provide 60 jobs.

They answered questions on the following topics of concern from several people present:

1. Drains: The architects are working with Severn Trent, who are aware of the inadequate state of the infrastructure for the removal of sewage and storm water presently in place. They feel that the construction of the new building will move the issue up the agenda for Severn Trent and could force much needed action. It was pointed out that even now, there is often sewage flooding into the gardens of properties on Main Street, and the school. The architects said that the builders would be able to claim damages if the works required to the drainage and sewage pipes were not carried out, so Severn Trent would have more incentive now than at any time in the past to rectify the sewage system.

2. Later changes to the scheme: The architects have submitted a detailed and full application to the Council not an Outline Plan so are unlikely to be able to make submissions for any large changes at a later date. They are now satisfied that the size of the development is commercially viable. The date of the planning meeting at NWLDC is sometime in November.
3. Roofing materials: There will be a seeded roof and others will be aluminium. It was felt by the meeting that this latter material is not a suitable material for roofing in this area, and is more suitable to warehousing, and definitely doesn't fit into the surrounding architecture or 'create a balance'.
4. Parking and vehicular access: The architects said that the increase in parking places on site will solve anticipated problems. They did not accept that the increase in large delivery and waste disposal vehicles would present problems turning in and out of the site. They also did not seem to accept that an increase in other traffic could present dangers for children going to the primary school in Henson's Lane or to residents' vehicles parked on Main Street. Concerns were expressed about what would happen if something were coming the other way when a lorry came down the street, or a lorry tried to turn from the property to go into the street. The architects felt that the volume of traffic would not increase from what had been the case when the pub was open. This was refuted by members at the meeting, as most people who used to go to The Fox walked there, as it was a village pub. It was also pointed out that the 60 jobs created would not necessarily be taken up by people in the village, and workers could also therefore have their own transport which would add to the problem. Some members have already raised fears regarding parking and traffic to the local police. Concerns were raised that there might be a situation of double yellow lines in the future down that end of Main Street because of traffic issues, thus further causing problems for residents.
5. Availability of plans for public viewing. The architects thought that this was a matter to be taken up with NWL District Council and not them
6. The appeal of the property: The architects feel that the proposed property would fit in well with the balance of the area, despite there being a lot of older properties down Main Street, including Grade 2 properties and several early 18<sup>th</sup> century properties. Discussions took place on this, and it was felt that the proposals did not fit in at all, and that the architects should have taken more time to look at the other nursing homes in the village, and in particular The Meadows, and seen how that fitted in, as it had done, and was not an unpleasant feature in the village.
7. Construction. The construction is likely to start in the Spring of 2009 and continue for 12-15 months. Concern was raised over the amount of site traffic that this would generate over a long period of time, and the resultant problems for residents nearby.

### **Councillors' 5 minutes**

Dave Everitt explained why he had been unable to contribute to the discussion on The Fox development. This is because it could compromise his ability to vote at the Planning Committee meeting.

He said that, as far as he was aware, NWLDC did not have any connections with the Icelandic bank which crashed earlier in the week.

Pam Clayfield is continuing to look into work with young people in the hope that they will do work within the village and contribute to it, and agreed to go to the Highways Forum meeting to talk about the letter sent to County regarding making Lilybank one way (mentioned above).

### **10. From Previous Minutes**

- **Police report and anti-social behaviour update**

Jim Sorrell introduced himself as the local Community Support Officer (CSO). He appreciated the opportunity to be made more aware of the issues surrounding The Fox development. He said that he could not enforce the law about such things as pavement parking. This had now

been taken over by the Council. He could only talk to residents and ask them to be courteous to pedestrians with children and buggies and to consider wheelchair users.

Jim spoke about the worries surrounding the Miners Welfare and the recreation area off Henson's Lane (referred to as Clover Park). This is being made a Police priority area for the next three months and there will be regular patrols.

He emphasised that the best way for residents of Thringstone to get action on areas of concern is to report EVERY incident by ringing the police and insisting on an incident number. People should also keep their own record of this number. This would mean that there is evidence to support requests made by the police for changes in shift patterns which would enable more patrols to take place later at night. It was reiterated that people should not think that something is not worth reporting, because nothing would be done, as this just leads to problems escalating. Nita and Pam Clayfield had been to NWLDC to talk to the anti-social behaviour officer Anne Marie Brannigan from NWLDC, who was intending to leaflet the area around Clover Park and the Miner's Welfare explaining how and why to report incidents of anti-social behaviour and why it was so important to report everything to the police and to her as well.

Nita reiterated that, whilst she is pleased to help with reporting things, people must take responsibility for doing this themselves, as otherwise it seems that all the reporting and complaints are from Nita herself, not from the village as a whole.

It was suggested by some that the best solution to the problem would be to close the recreation area, provide full access and lighting and turn it into a car park for Main Street residents. Nita said that the closure of the play area has been mentioned by NWLDC in various emails, and may well happen.

Jim gave details of police reports for Thringstone in the past 30 days, which did not include any reports of anti-social behaviour. The report was:

Theft of a motor vehicle x 1, theft from a motor vehicle x 4, damage to a motor vehicle x 2, domestics x 5, actual bodily harm x 2, theft x 2. No details were provided on how many suspects had been apprehended for these incidents.

Tony Newton offered to meet Jim Sorrell and take him on a walk through the woods pointing out the main trouble spots. They would liaise about a date.

- **Coalville Community Forum** meeting. Nita had attended this to represent FoT but nothing relevant to Thringstone had been mentioned although anti-social behaviour across the district had been.
- **Event update** – the Snibston event had raised £39.
- **Sponsorship update.** Several new sponsors are being contacted by Ray Woodward
- **Walks report** Liaison is being made with the Grace Dieu Priory Trust and the National Forest to include our 2009 monthly walks in their literature and Nita is also going to ensure that a walk a month takes place using our walks brochures between April and September next year.
- **Church wall planting.** This had been started and Nita had taken some photos for the records. The planting team were intending to go again to carry on the work the following day.
- **Charles Booth's grave.** A quotation of £1562.50 had been received from Pick Everard for renovation of the damage caused by acid rain. As it was a listed item it cannot be repaired and cleaned as quoted, and it is necessary to look towards conservation. The quotation was considered to be rather high anyway. FoT would be prepared to make a SMALL contribution to the costs.
- **Flower bed signage.** Ray Woodward is still working on this.
- **Litter pick.** Pam Porter said that the school and FoT had co-operated well with The Big Tidy and it had highlighted some issues, such as there were some very bad patches near

the school, and there is a lack of litter bins near and en route to the school which made it difficult for parents to train children to dispose of their litter responsibly. Nita agreed to contact Annie Walker at the Council about this. The Head teacher had indicated that the school would be willing to contribute some money towards a bin on their driveway.

- **A big litter pick** is being arranged with FoT, NWLDC and the army Cadets on 30<sup>th</sup> October during half term, from 9.30 – 4pm, meeting at Thringstone Members Club. NWLDC are going to tell the media about this, as it is a new development in partnership working for litter removal. The litter pick will concentrate on the woods and the removal of large items to include things found in the stream, the area round the bomb holes and the area where young people ride BMX. Nita felt that we should seek permission from Squire de Lisle's brother as the Squire, who owns sections of this woodland area, was taking part in a sponsored cycle ride to Jerusalem. She had therefore contacted him about this but was waiting for a reply. Bertie de Lisle had already made promises to the Grace Dieu group about clearing debris from The Culvert area, which could potentially be done at the same time. Pam Porter has been negotiating with Adele Toon about a skip. Adele was concerned that items would be put into it that would need payment for disposal at the dump. Russell Love said that he could probably bring 8 Explorers/leaders to help. He could also investigate the supply of an 8m skip from BIFFA, and Nita reported that Claire MacRory would try to get a skip from the Fire Service, as we are sure that there will be more items to dispose of than one or two skips full. Residents were asked to tell Pam Porter if they knew of any large items dumped in the woods. Pam will liaise with Russell, Nita and Claire MacRory at NWLDC to organise all this, but FoT members were asked to try to help as well, if at all possible, by turning out on the day, as there could potentially also be the need to cut items out of the stream.
- **Thursford trip**  
At the last meeting Jan Cufflin had suggested FoT offer, as a thank you to certain members who had worked hard on the Heritage Event, to pay for tickets to her organised trip to Thursford. This had been seconded but not ratified by the meeting. Nita had since spoken to Jan as there had been concern expressed over FoT money being spent on trips out. They have subsequently agreed that some other way of thanking the people concerned will be found. Jan still has some spare tickets.

## AOB

- **Newsletter** Nov/Dec 08. This is now being prepared for printing and will be produced on higher quality paper, as agreed by the committee. This will cost approx. £11 more but will give a better image of the group. The newsletters will need to be delivered in the second half of November. Russell offered his Explorers to help with any areas which were not covered.
- **CCTV cameras** around Clover Place area. Nita stated categorically that FoT would not be funding CCTV cameras. We are not a vigilante group, and people who felt they needed CCTV cameras should buy their own. She had mentioned this to the anti-social behaviour officer at the recent meeting, who will contact others in the council about this to see if there are any plans to install CCTV cameras anywhere in the village. Jim said that these are not a very effective way of tackling ASB problems anyway. Nita told the meeting that a Thringstone Neighbourhood Forum has been suggested by NWLDC as a possible way forward, but felt that the work already being done by the group more than covered anything which this group might contribute to the village.
- **Quiz night** 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct at the Community Centre. A FoT team has been entered. Anyone interested in joining should contact Nita.
- **Christmas Tree & carols.** Lorraine was asked to consult The Community Centre management committee about the donation by FoT of a 20 foot Christmas tree and lights for outside the Community Centre as a focal point for the village during the festive period. Carols round the tree were suggested for 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Alan Burgess has said that he is willing to come with the church choir and others could also bring a group.

Lorraine will discuss with the management committee to seek approval, and also ask if County permission were needed. Russell Love could potentially help with cutting down and transporting the tree. Lorraine agreed to report back on the meeting's views as soon as she could.

- **Bob's Closs;** A paved patio area at the top of Bob's Closs had been proposed with disabled access. Lorraine was investigating grants and County approval. Materials and manpower would be needed. She is also going to mention this at the management committee meeting and will report back.
- **Community Centre Programme.** The attention of the meeting was drawn to the events which were advertised on the tables, particularly the performance of the Last Waltz – a tale of a railway signal box, on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Tickets from the Community Centre Office. This has already been advertised on the FoT website.
- **Agreed Dates for meetings in 09,** are: January 8<sup>th</sup>, February 19<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup>, July 9<sup>th</sup>, no meeting in August, September 10<sup>th</sup>, October 8<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, December 10<sup>th</sup> (party). These dates take into account previously announced Community Centre closures.
- **Sschool's sponsored walk** Sandie is doing the school sponsored walk on 17<sup>th</sup> October at 1.30pm representing FoT. Anyone willing to sponsor her or accompany her please get in touch direct

**Next meeting:** Next full meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> November at Thringstone Community Centre, 6.45pm start. At this meeting we will be handing out our newsletters to the volunteer delivery team and discuss our last meeting in 2008 and arrange our Christmas party