

Stoneygate Conservation Area Society

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2000



YELLOW LINES: AN 8 YEAR WAIT ?

ON 17 April 1996 Leicester City Council replied to a letter asking for yellow lines to be painted at certain road junctions in order to stop cars parking right up to the edge. A reply from the Environment and Development Department stated the location had been inspected. It was agreed that the problem was apparent, but work could not start 'at the moment' due to a temporary shortage of staff resources. Nothing happened.

February 1997: SCAS wrote, also raising further issues.

Council response: Staff problems. Two posts advertised; The Traffic Group was fully committed in implementing other traffic schemes to ensure that funding was spent before end of March.

October 1997: Nothing heard. SCAS called for action following a meeting .

4 November 1997:

Council response: Apologised for not sending promised information because Traffic Engineer concerned had been involved in an accident.

27 November 1997:

Council letter revealed many junctions in the area would benefit from waiting restrictions, but the lack of resources still remained.

29 October 1998: SCAS advised Traffic Group of an accident at the junction of Central Avenue and Clarendon Park Road. A further plea was made, pointing out the dangers posed due to the traffic problems in Clarendon Park.

UPDATE 2000

Mr. Peter Webster, Director of Environment and Development for Leicester City Council wrote to SCAS on 17 January. Here are some main points edited from his letter:

'I am sorry that even after 4 years this request is still outstanding. It has taken officers some time to reply because of the extreme pressure under which they are working.'

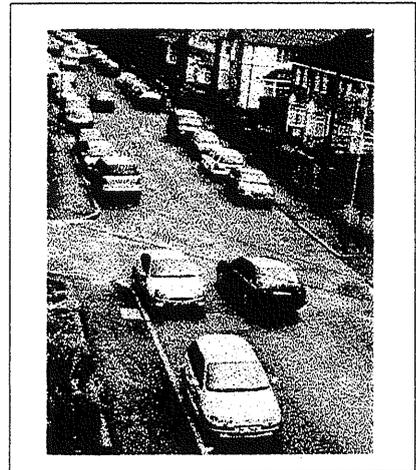
'The fact that your request has not been satisfied is an indication of the lack of resources available and the need to undertake this sort of work in the most cost effective way possible.'

'Parking restrictions cannot be effected simply by laying down yellow lanes. There is a statutory process. The time involved and cost of advertising in the local press make it much more sensible to process restrictions for an area rather than for very small locations.'

'It is now proposed to undertake a review of parking restrictions across the whole of the city, area by area.'

'This will take up to 4 years and while at present I do not have a detailed programme it is likely that the Clarendon Park area will be addressed towards the end of the period rather than the beginning.'

'I have previously looked at the accidents and no particular problems were identified at this or other junctions in the area so there is no justification on these grounds to give this request any increased priority.'



Cars parked up to the Central Avenue and Clarendon Park Road junction.

13 November 1998:

Council response: Advised that any enquiries and a site inspection could mean a wait of six weeks before a satisfactory conclusion can be made.

1 February 1999:

SCAS phone call to Traffic Group. Apology given for not answering previous letter due to lack of staff. One of the three posts was axed and another member staff of staff had been on sick leave. Yellow lining would be looked at during the year as part of an overall review.

Mr. Barry Pritchard of Leicester City Council's Traffic Group will speak at our AGM. Please see overleaf for details. Do come along!

Church applies to install mobile phone transmitter mast on roof

FEARS have been aired to SCAS over the proliferation of masts in the Stoneygate conservation area.

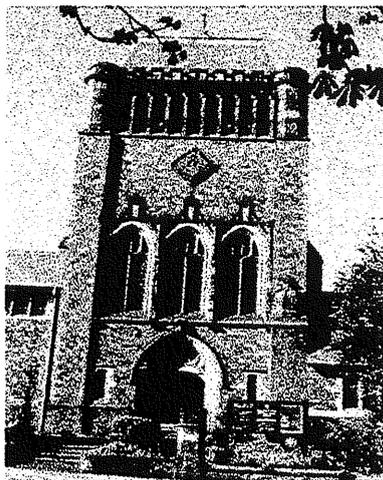
Recent complaints have come from Hollybank Court, and there are worries about an application on behalf of the Congregational Church on London Road Springfield Road corner.

The plan for the church, which is registered as a Grade II listed building, includes a mast with four antennae on the roof of the tower, plus equipment cabins to the side of the building.

There is however a problem for campaigners in that the legislation and advice from the Government on telecommunication equipment gives the operators wide ranging powers without being subjected to the need for planning permission which would apply to other types of development.

The situation applies regardless of whether the area in question is a conservation area.

Basically all that mobile phone operators have to do is notify the



Congregational Church city council who have 28 days to suggest changes to any particular installation. The council's powers to prevent an installation altogether in a particular area are very limited.

In June of last year it was recorded in *The Sunday Telegraph* that David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, had ordered officials to monitor the siting of mobile phone transmitter masts in schools amid a growing concern they may pose a risk to children's health.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ambleside 1 Central Avenue, Clarendon Park. Permission has been granted to convert the main dwelling into seven studio flats with parking spaces for five cars. An application to make alterations to a coachhouse at the coachhouse at the rear (single unit) has also been approved.

342 London Road: Change of use from hotel to 9 self contained flats (class 3). Pending.

27 East Avenue: Change of use of part of nursing home to single dwelling including removal of extension link with 25 East Avenue. Approved.

Southernhay Avenue: Application by J S Bloor of Meacham to build 36 two storey detached houses on allotments to the rear of 254 to 270 Queens Road.

SCAS CONTACTS

Archivist/Temporary Treasurer

Henry Evans 270 2169

Chair

Diane Hall 270 7586

Co-ordinator

David Oldershaw 270 0010

Membership and Planning applications

Odette Fogler 270 5623

Newsletter/PR

Joan Copp 212 8229

Telecommunications

Caroline Cook 2109 685

Trees

Vacant

Also on the committee:

Sandra Grainger 270 5278

New committee members welcomed.

Please contact David Oldershaw.

SCAS Annual General Meeting

Thursday 25 May 2000

at St. John's Parish Centre,

Clarendon Park Road (London Road End)

starting at 7.45pm

Speaker: Mr. Barry Pritchard

of Leicester City Council

Environment and Development Group Traffic Department

Subject: Current Traffic Problems

STONEYGATE CONSERVATION AREA SOCIETY

I/we wish to join the Society/renew membership and enclose cash/cheque for £2.50 (family per year) as from 1st April 2000. Cheques are payable to Stoneygate Conservation Area Society. Please ignore this notice if you have already paid.

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Title) Tel:

Address: Postcode:

(Please send to: Odette Fogler, Membership Secretary, 5 Calbri Court, 37 Knighton Drive, Leicester LE2 3HD. Tel: 270 5623)