

Stoneygate

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2004

Conservation Area Society

MAN IN

Transco is digging up London Road. Kevan Varley, Network Officer, contacted us to explain what is happening.

THE KNOW

Cast iron gas mains are being replaced with polyethylene pipe on both sides of the road between the Victoria Park roundabout and Stoughton Drive. Transco apologises for the inconvenience inevitably caused by limiting the width of the road.

ON ROAD

Further details are on www.transco.co.uk, but it would probably be quicker to ring Kevan (01536 486873) to ask for a map if you would like further details.

WORKS

Meeting is your chance to talk, listen – and look

SCAS will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, May 26 at St John's Octagon, Clarendon Park Road.

The programme is:

7.30pm – AGM.

8.00pm - View the society's photographic project.

8.30pm - September seminar with the British Association.

The SCAS committee formally gives notice that during the AGM it will propose that the subscription be raised from £3 to £5 a year.

The AGM will give a full account of the committee's activities on behalf of SCAS, and its deployment of resource. It also provides an important opportunity for

members to ask questions and to raise any concerns they may have.

The meeting encompasses two other events as well. The finale of the evening will be a

This will be preceded by an informal opportunity to view the photographic project that has come on apace since the last newsletter.

You may recall that we asked



Talking point ... members at last year's AGM.

speaker from the British Association, Beryl Allan, who will describe its purposes and activities and give details about the seminar it is planning jointly with SCAS (progress to date summarised on Page 3) on November 6.

members to take photographs of Stoneygate in all weathers and moods; capturing not only buildings and streets but also people and typical activities. This will give us a fascinating

□ Continued overleaf

Spotlight on contemporary conservation

The British Association (BA) used to be known as the BAAS – British Association for the Advancement of Science. It hosts meetings jointly with local societies on various subjects.

On Saturday November 6, SCAS and the BA will host a meeting at

Vaughan College. This will explore technical issues about maintaining properties, and the challenge of new build in the area.

This is an exciting opportunity to hear from outside experts, who will expand our understanding of how to look after our buildings.

Why not take an Awayday to Leicester?

On Saturday, June 12 the East Midlands Amenity Societies Association and Leicester Civic Society are arranging this awayday.

It starts at 9am at the Holiday Inn at St Nicholas Circle, where you can buy coffee while meeting up. From 9.30 there is a guided walk of ancient Leicester. During the 12.30pm lunch break they suggest going to the Globe, though other venues are in easy reach. At 2pm a coach will take everybody to Leicester Abbey, Belgrave Hall and Bradgate Park; back to the Holiday Inn for 5pm.

The cost is £8.50 excluding lunch and refreshments. Advance booking is essential. Send cheques, made out to EMASA, to Stuart Bailey, 48 Meadow Lane, Loughborough LE11 1JT. He will send a receipt, map and details of the day.

UPDATES ... UPDATES ... UPDATES ...

- Thanks to Geoffrey Hall, the website is now up and running, though at the time of writing not complete - getting sufficient material to Geoffrey is our current consideration. We will update the material when we can: it is likely to be the place to learn more on the BA/SCAS meeting as planning progresses. The web address is a mass of code – best to go to *beehive.thisisleicestershire.co.uk* and SCAS is on the Residents Groups page.

- London Road improvements: We have heard no more; intelligence welcome.

- One Big Sunday is not happening this year. We believe our objections combined with those of other groups, but never really know how such decisions get taken.

SCAS CONTACTS

Chair: Diane Hall 221 5630. Co-ordinator: David Oldershaw 270 0010. Treasurer: Henry Evans 270 2169. Membership: Odette Fogler 270 5623. PR: Madeleine Cooke 270 6420. Newsletter: Jennifer Clegg 270 5181 and Julia Killey 210 9077. Trees: Caroline Cook 210 9685. Members: Tom Copp 270 4975, Anna Revill 270 9885, Matt Matthew 270 3143.

Meetings are enjoyable and informative. New committee members are always welcome. If you would like to join SCAS or renew your membership, please return the form below.

Stoneygate Conservation Area Society

JOIN BEFORE THE AGM
— BEAT THE £2 RISE!

I/we wish to join the Society/renew membership and enclose cash/cheque for £3 (per household per year) as from 1 April 2004. Please make cheques payable to Stoneygate Conservation Area Society.

Name

Address

Tel

Send to: Odette Fogler, Membership Secretary, 5 Calbri Court, 37 Knighton Drive, Leicester LE2 3HD (tel 270 5623)

Phone masts are a hot topic — so what are your views?

The issue of mobile phone masts has come up frequently at SCAS committee meetings.

The committee agrees that when these are visible, they add to visual clutter that detracts from the area. In those situations, SCAS always objects to them.

However, it has been more difficult to reach consensus about phone masts concealed inside tall buildings, because they have no visual impact on the Stoneygate area.

These are the key issues we have discussed.

Some people consider it inappropriate to object when owners of large and difficult-to-maintain buildings earn badly-needed income by housing such masts.

Others counter that mobile phone masts introduce unacceptable health risks. Yet there is debate about the health risks. Some consider the masts highly dangerous; others that the issue is not proved either way; others that this is a contemporary fear of new technology, just as some people used to be afraid that rays from the TV would harm them.

Of course, as soon as we stray down that route, both pro and anti can think of occasions when such fears did and did not turn out to

be justified.

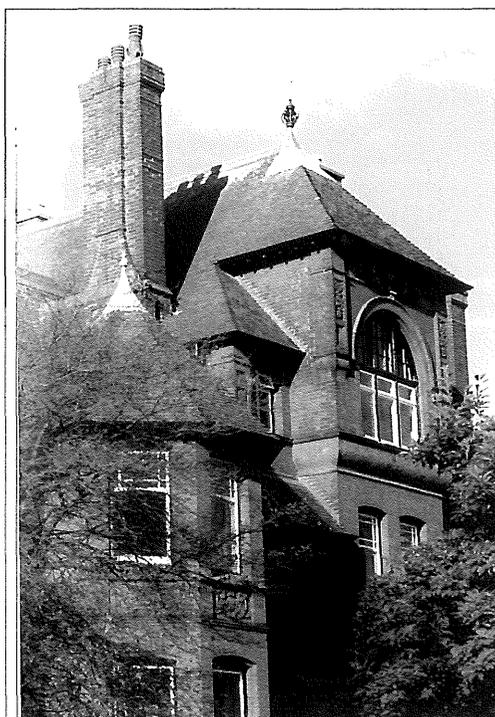
If there are health issues, it is also debatable whether they are relevant to conservation. Some regard health as a matter for local politics in general, to be taken up by individuals with their councillor or public health officer, not by SCAS.

Others think any significant matter affecting the area does come within SCAS' remit. They argue that Stoneygate has a disproportionate number of masts: others wonder how they could be sure of that. Objectors point out that SCAS is the only local community organisation in a position to raise

community concerns with planners.

Finally, people who use their own mobile phone a lot feel less uncomfortable, aware that by objecting they would be taking a Nimby view of a technology from which they benefit.

Help us develop a coherent view. Since we have been unable to reach a conclusion, we hope that members will give the committee a steer. We will raise the debate about phone masts at the AGM, but also hope you will express your views on the website, or by letter to any committee member, if you are unable to attend.



Photographs like this will go on display.

Talk, listen and look

From previous page snapshot of our life. It will also provide important archive material for future historians, giving them a clear impression of the way the area looked, and its people lived, in 2004.

There is still time for you to contribute your photographs, or to the project's organisation – contact Anna Revill on 270 9885. We expect to display the photos in a number of venues as well as at the AGM.

This has been another busy period in which SCAS has maintained a watching/active brief over the 57 applications considered by the city council within the conservation area, 50 of which were approved, three refused and four withdrawn.

As ever, a large proportion of the applications (32) concerned the felling or pruning of trees.

The applications included:

10 Central Avenue: Change to three flats – refused.

3-5 Knighton Park Road: Front dormer window – refused.

16 Knighton Drive: Use of building to rear as flat – refused.

19 Woodland Avenue: Alter garage roof – approved.

9 St Johns Road: Wall and railings – approved.

Oliver Court: UPVC windows – approved.

38 Ratcliffe Road: Alteration and part demolition – approved.

27 St Johns Road: Extension to nursery – approved.

1 Knighton Park Road: Convert to eight flats – approved.

Springfield Road Congregational Church: Antennae and cabinet – approved.

20 Alexander Road: Two-storey side extension – approved.

Barratt Close: Block of 14 flats – approved.

Beyond these, the long-awaited London Road/ Mayfield Road Roundabout improvements are about to resurface and the proposal to convert garages to houses at 99 Clarendon Park Road, which was refused, has gone to an appeal. Watch this space.

We also brought a number of planning contravention issues to the council's attention and lobbied for action to take place – often with very close and positive support from our local councillors.

Remember, if you are concerned about a planning matter, contact the council's Development Control section at New Walk Centre or your local councillor, or get in touch with SCAS for advice.