



Message from the Chair.

The Past Year.

During the past year the Association has been run on a care and maintenance basis.

- Our financial situation was such at the start of 2018 that we did not need to collect subscriptions.
- We introduced a new style newsletter which, as well as being more eye-catching, was more economical to produce. A new website was set up at www.bhca.co.uk reflecting the style used in the newsletter.
- During 2018 we donated £500 to sponsor the Hemlock Happening and made donations in support of affiliated groups – Bramcote Netball Club, Bramcote NWR, and the 2 local wine tasting groups.
- We enjoyed a very good midsummer pub ramble based on Car Colston.
- As Chair of the Association, I am ex-officio vice Chair of the Steering Group of Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum and have been involved in all the meetings in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Planning Matters:

There are 4 key issues – the green belt, new school buildings in Bramcote for the White Hills Park Federation, the planning application for a retirement complex on the old Bramcote Hills Golf Course and the Bramcote Neighbourhood Plan. Except for the Neighbourhood Plan, progress has been limited.

- The Green Belt. There was very strong opposition in Bramcote to the green belt changes proposed by Broxtowe Borough Council in its local plan. Pressure from Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum has led to modifications to the proposals although we will still lose the Coventry Lane playing fields from the green belt. Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum is pressing for a link between housing development and a new school and a new leisure centre for Bramcote.



Coventry Lane Playing Fields



- Replacement School Buildings. This project has slowly inched forward. Nottinghamshire County Council agreed that they would hand the Coventry Lane playing fields to the White Hill Park Federation so that the playing fields could be sold for housing development to fund the new school buildings. Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum felt that this was wrong in that a public asset was being given to what is essentially a private company, the White Hills Park Federation Academy, without any guarantee that new school premises would be built. The Chair of Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum, Paul Nathanail, wrote to the leader of the County Council, Kay Cutts, regarding this. The replies were dismissive but eventually the Council altered their decision. Now White Hills Park Federation will surrender their lease on Coventry Lane playing fields to the County Council who will sell the land and fund new school buildings. This will not go ahead though until Broxtowe Borough Council's Local Plan is finalised and the Coventry Lane playing fields are removed from the green belt for housing. This will be during 2019.



Proposed Site of Replacement School

- Bramcote Hills Golf Course Development. Outline planning permission has been granted for a retirement complex. The full planning application has not been submitted and the land has been put up for sale. At the December CAT Meeting our local Councillors reported that, as far as they were aware, the land had not been sold. It was interesting that the promotional material for the sale highlighted outline planning permission for dwellings and the fact that these were in a retirement complex only appeared in the detail.



Golf Course Development Site

- Bramcote Neighbourhood Plan. This is ready for submission to Broxtowe Borough Council. In due course there will be a public consultation on the plan by Broxtowe Borough Council followed by a referendum. Broxtowe Borough Council's Local Plan was publically examined by a Planning Inspector in December and Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum was represented at the examination by Paul Nathanail as Chair of the Forum.

Included in this newsletter is a report from Paul reviewing what has happened in 2018.

Neighbourhood Watch.

Sue Sambells writes that Neighbourhood Watch is now promoting the Nominated Neighbour Scheme:

- Do you have vulnerable family, friends or neighbours?
- Are you concerned that they could be conned by doorstep callers?
- If so, contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06.

The Nominated Neighbour scheme helps to protect vulnerable people from unscrupulous doorstep callers and rogue traders.

People in Nottinghamshire who sign up to the scheme can arrange for a trusted neighbour to speak to any doorstep callers on their behalf. The Nominated Neighbour will check the reason for their visit and verify the caller's identification. If appropriate the Nominated Neighbour will return with the caller and once they have finished their visit, the Nominated Neighbour will escort the caller off the premises.

This scheme acts as a deterrent to most types of uninvited callers.

Bramcote Hills Community Association - the Future:

As I have already said, the Association has run on a care and maintenance basis during 2018.

The Association's functions are liaising with Local Councillors and other bodies and in reviewing planning matters. These have largely been covered by the Bramcote Community Action Team meetings and by the Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum. Association social activities have been limited. At first sight, there is no need to continue with the Association. However, your Committee firmly believes that the Association should not be wound up for the following reasons:

- In May there are local council elections and it is possible that Community Action Team Meetings will not continue. The community will need a voice.
- Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum has largely completed its work and planning activities do need to be monitored.
- There are opportunities for social activities provided new volunteers will step forward.

With these points in mind we will be holding a different style of AGM. Formal business will be brief and then there will be an opportunity to discuss the future over a drink and some light refreshments. Do come along and give us your views. Details are on the next page.

Steve Austin,
Chair Bramcote Hills Community Association.

Social Events.

Midsummer Pub Ramble: This popular event will take place on Saturday 22nd June. As usual, we will meet at the pub for coffee and to choose our food and then we will enjoy a walk of 4-5 miles before returning to the pub at about 1.00pm.

Full details will be published in the next newsletter.



Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum

2018 Review.

Much of the year has been dominated not by finalising the neighbourhood plan but in engaging with councils – both local and county.

May's AGM saw Amanda Radford and Sheila Eden step down from the Steering Group. Their support and contributions over the past two years is much appreciated. Michael Cobbett, Phil Sands, Ian Morris (Secretary), Tom Hartman, Richard Willan (Treasurer) and Paul Nathanail (Chair) agreed to stay on the Steering Group whilst Rob Greer and Steve Austin continue to serve as vice-chairs in their roles as chairs of the Bramcote Conservation Society and Bramcote Hills Community Association respectively.

Last year's consultation on the draft neighbourhood plan resulted in very strong endorsement of all our proposed policies and a clear preference for only supporting the loss of green belt at Coventry Lane if it was linked with generating funds for a replacement school building for the White Hills Park Federation and a replacement leisure centre in Bramcote Hills - the neighbourhood plan was all but done.

On the last day before the summer recess, the Government published its new National Planning Policy Framework. While Broxtowe's Local Plan Part 2 did not have to comply with this new framework, planning applications will have to take it into account.

In late July, Broxtowe councillors surprised Bramcote residents by voting to increase the number of houses they want to see on the Coventry Lane playing fields from 300 to 500. Of the extra 200 houses, 40 were envisaged to be on land owned by the Brethren church. A higher housing density and protecting a smaller area of the Bramcote Moor reserve would accommodate the remainder. This was justified by council officers as increasing the certainty of securing the replacement school building but the evidence on which this was based was never made public. Bramcote residents at two forum meetings over the summer did not support the increased number.

In October Nottinghamshire County Council announced a change in its policy towards its land holdings in Bramcote. It will now underwrite the cost of replacement school buildings, and raise funds by selling the Coventry Lane land itself. This reversed its decision of the previous year and should ensure the replacement school building remains in public ownership.

December saw the examination of the Council local plan. Despite concerns that the council's target of 6150 houses over the plan period is too high and likely not to be achieved, there was no evidence that the council's plan would be changed in any substantial way. Many of those taking part in the examination argued that setting aside 5% of plots for self-build was not appropriate on developments such as that proposed for the Bramcote green belt. We also argued that all, not just 10% as the council wanted, new homes on large developments in Bramcote should be adaptable and accessible. This would also help residents down size and stay in the community.

Overall the voice of Bramcote residents has been heard and on occasion acted upon by the councils. Without the forum we would be facing a much poorer environment.

2019 promises to be a busy year. The planning inspector will report back on the Local Plan and our own neighbourhood plan will now be submitted to the council. Local council elections in May will stand between finalising the local plan and it being voted in. In September, the aligned core strategy review begins – and with it, a chance to revisit the validity of the 6150 target.

Paul Nathanail,
Chair, Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum.



Bramcote Hills Community Association Annual General Meeting

We've changed the format of the Annual General Meeting:

How? We're holding it at Suda, Delicatessen and World Kitchen, 151, Bramcote Lane, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 2QJ

When? Wednesday 27th February 2019.

So? There'll be a short business meeting followed by time to chat and give your views about what Bramcote Hills Community Association should be doing in the coming year.

What's different? A glass of wine (or soft drink) and artisan cheese and nibbles.

Who can go? Any resident within the area covered by Bramcote Hills Community Association (Area bounded by Sandy Lane, Derby Road, Moor Lane and the City Boundary).

What time does it start? Meeting to start at 7.30 pm.

Do I have to book? To attend the AGM: no need to book, just turn up.

For catering purposes though, we need to know how many people are planning to stay for the refreshments, and if anyone has any special dietary needs.

Who do I contact? Alison Wilson, Secretary of BHCA, before Friday February 22nd. Contact details: either telephone 07966 630076, or (preferably) email alison@solidus.co.uk.

Requests for inclusion on the agenda need to be sent to the Secretary by Wednesday 13th February 2019. The draft agenda has been published on the Community Association's website www.bhca.co.uk and Bramcote Today www.bramcotetoday.org.uk and the final version will be available on the night.

Find out more

To find out more about the Forum please visit

<http://bramcoteneighbourhoodforum.org.uk>.

If you have any questions, please email paulnathanail@hotmail.com

To join the forum please visit:

<http://eepurl.com/b3LBK9>

Newsletter by Email.

We are keen to move away from paper and to electronic communication with our Members. If you would like to receive our communications electronically, please send us an email request. The newsletter will also be published on our website www.bhca.co.uk.

email: bhca2017@outlook.com

Contacts.

The Community Association's
Committee 2018-2019 is

Steve Austin, Chair;

Alison Wilson, Secretary;

Richard Willan, Treasurer;

Ian Radmore, Chair Planning Committee;

Elaine Morris, Care Group;

and Committee Members: Doris Bannister,

Ann Hart, Paul Nathanail, John Spencer,

Geoff Ward and Alan Willis.

You can contact any Committee Member via

bhca2017@outlook.com

or telephone the Chair 0115 9288153.

