

# **BRADWAY ACTION GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 6th OCTOBER 2009**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

It's been a fairly quiet, but in some respects pretty challenging year.

A particular focus of attention has been the local environment where, unfortunately, our efforts to carry out improvements through tree / bulb planting and litter picking were overshadowed, first by Network Rail's seemingly unregulated corporate vandalism of the trees alongside the railway lines last autumn, and then, to our considerable dismay, the total destruction of the trees we'd planted on the Old School Field only last February. The latter was the result of two separate attacks over the summer, the second in broad daylight by children thought to be aged no more than 13 or 14. We will be considering our next move under item 6 of this evening's agenda.

With regard to the built environment, probably as a consequence of the recession, there have been fewer local planning applications than usual, and relatively little cause for concern. Comments were made on only four proposals. Three of these were refused, with the fourth (the former Hatfield's car showroom at the bottom of Twentywell Lane, and actually beyond the Bradway boundary) still under consideration.

Progress with the implementation of the Bradway Traffic Plan has been disappointingly slow. According to an update received only yesterday, the advanced stop sign on the Holmesfield approach to Tinker's Corner is still "expected shortly", as it was three months ago, and the Prospect Road zebra crossing, which it was hoped would be constructed during the summer holidays, is now unlikely to be in place much before Christmas. Other elements of the Plan appear to be stagnating.

On a more positive note, I'm delighted to say that our website [www.bradwayactiongroup.org](http://www.bradwayactiongroup.org) has recorded almost 2,500 "hits" which probably equates to around 300 separate individuals, and our local Planning Statement "Bradway: Past, Present and Future" has finally been published. We are particularly grateful to Tony Smith for all his help in producing the latter, not only in formatting the document and arranging for the printing, but also for generously allowing us to use his photographs. All member households will receive a complimentary copy. You can collect yours from Stephen at the end of the meeting.

We are continuing to make progress with our applications to bestow "Village Green" status on our two main recreational areas, and the first one, that for the Old School Field, having received the greater number of witness statements, is now ready for submission assuming final endorsement under item 6 of the agenda.

Once again, we held two Open Meetings during the year, both of which had public transport as the main topic on the agenda. This was because the speaker from the Passenger Transport Executive was unfortunately indisposed and unable to attend the first meeting, so although we had a good debate, it left a number of questions unanswered. We were most grateful to Roy Mitchell and Gillian Palmer for coming along to the second meeting and more than rectifying that deficiency!

We held three social events during the year. The first was a coffee morning and Easter Egg Hunt on 4<sup>th</sup> April aimed at attracting more membership from families with young children who perhaps find it difficult to attend evening meetings. However, although all those who came along enjoyed themselves, attendance was somewhat disappointing. We managed to attract only one new member, but at least it raised awareness of the existence of BAG and what we're trying to achieve. On 31<sup>st</sup> May we again "walked the bounds of Bradway" with Tony Smith. This was very well attended and I hope it will become a regular event. Then, of course, we had our Annual Fun Day on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Financially, this was less successful than

in previous years, no doubt partly due to a heavy shower just before the start. This probably affected attendance to some extent, but more importantly it meant that many of the stalls were “hidden away” in the Annexe and therefore less accessible than usual. We also had to make do without the valuable help of the local scouts, and crucially, their mess tent (the only year we’ve really needed it!), having inadvertently chosen the very week they were away on camp. However, new attractions this year were a climbing wall and an ice cream van, both of which were very popular.

Once again, many of our activities were supported financially by the City Council’s South West Area Panel. Peter Smithson will be giving more details in his report, but, especially now that the Area Panels have been disbanded in favour of Community Assemblies, I would like formally to record our immense appreciation and gratitude to the Panel for all their help, not just over the last year, but ever since BAG was formed. During that time we have received almost £4000 in grants. It has made a huge difference.

We have attended several meetings of, and regarding, the new Community Assemblies for both the South West and South areas (parts of Bradway being in each) and look forward to an equally productive relationship with them in the future.

Our partnership with the Bradway Bugle has strengthened over the year, with BAG taking on the overall responsibility for distribution – again Peter will be referring to this in more detail in his report – and we have continued to support the Friends of Bradway Community Hall in their efforts to secure improvements to the building.

Our main priorities for next year will be to continue pursuing “Village Green” status for the Old School Field, and hopefully the Recreation Ground as well if sufficient witness statements are received, and to begin implementing the next phase of improvements for the Old School Field (subject to agreement under item 6).

I should like to thank the Committee for all their efforts over the year, particularly the two members who are standing down: Rachel Wilson, who has decided not to seek re-election, and Margaret Wilson who resigned earlier in the year. Special thanks are due to Stephen George, who after four very busy years has decided to relinquish his duties as Secretary. However, I’m glad to say that Stephen has indicated his willingness to continue as a Committee member, and to provide assistance to the new secretary should the need arise.

Finally, I should like to thank the many local people who have given us their help and support over the year. These include 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., the management of the Old Mother Redcap, where we hold our Committee meetings, and those who have provided professional and technical assistance with various projects.

Keep up the good work!

Peter Stubbs