

WIGSTON CIVIC SOCIETY

The Society was officially established in 1978 from an informal action group which had been set up two years before to try to save the former Board School in Bell Street which was threatened with demolition. The battle was unfortunately lost and Sainsburys now stands on the site.

The Society was formed under the auspices of the Civic Trust and members annually elect an executive committee. There is a small annual subscription. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from 7.15p.m. to 9p.m. at Hawthorn House (Age Concern) in Paddock Street and deal with two main areas of work.

Firstly, consideration is given to planning applications received for development within the conservation areas in Wigston Magna and South Wigston together with applications for major developments within the whole Wigston area. The Society receives a copy of each application from the Borough Council and is invited to comment, such comments, along with others received by the planning officers are reported to the Development Control Committee of the Council.

The comments need to relate to planning matters and take into account design, layout, impact on the built environment, the local development plan and planning guidance.

Secondly, it involves general matters of interest relating to the Borough and in particular the conservation areas, these may include a multitude of matters such as: litter, graffiti, cycle tracks, parking, bus shelters, Pride in the Borough Competition; local newspapers, pedestrianisation schemes and crossing facilities, train and road transport matters; design briefs for major sites, listed and buildings of special interest schedules. The Society may draw issues to the attention of the Council or other relevant bodies and then monitor necessary action.

Over the years the Society has been involved in a number of specific projects, most notably, the creation of a garden beneath the large tree on the corner of Launceston Road in memory of Len Phillips, the planting of bulbs in grass verges, litter picks, the establishment of the ten mile Two Steeples Walk with accompanying leaflet and a major exhibition in South Wigston showing 'now and then' photographs.

The Secretary may be contacted on 07813 782899 or by e-mail at cftowell@aol.com if you would like further information or would like to become a member.