

THE ROLLESTON CRIER

The Parish Council Keeping Villagers Informed

Winter 2005

2005 FULL OF HOPE - AFTER ROLLESTON'S ROLLER COASTER RIDE OF 2004

As they might say in Tabloids: "Phew, what a year!"

THE VILLAGE HALL

It really has been something of a roller coaster ride for Rolleston as hour after hour of hard work turned to bitter disappointment earlier in the year when its application for a village hall Lottery grant was turned down

Then, to the joy of all concerned, an application to DEFRA was successful and the new hall was back in the running.

But, notwithstanding the labour, goodwill and generosity, the village still has a lot of money to raise - and the old village hall has played her part in those efforts to the end, hosting plays, concerts, seasonal markets and themed evenings (see over for a report on the Titanic night, the last ever event within her walls). And even as you read this, the old hall is being demolished to make way for the new.

There is still a way to go in terms of finance and administration, but everyone is working hard and we are getting there.

By September, all being well, we should be giving three cheers and throwing hats in the air at the opening ceremony of our brand new Rolleston Village Hall.

OLD CORNER FARM

As the whole village must be aware by now, the Corner Farm site was sold by Notts County Council with a view to development.

The Parish Council, realising the inevitable and the sensitivity of such a major development in the centre of Rolleston, took great pains to survey village views and to consult and discuss the plans with residents at a variety of meetings and open evenings.

They invited Newark and Sherwood District Council planning officers to give the PC their thoughts on the plans. And they had many talks with the developers before putting their support behind what **they felt was the best deal for the village in the circumstances.**

The outcome was, in its simplest form, a plan of mixed development, with certain surrounding lands being landscaped and given to the Parish Council, along with a children's play area (money would have been set aside for their upkeep), and the sum of £75000 to be given towards the cost of the new village hall.

But all this fell apart when N&SDC Planning Department recommended refusal, a decision supported by our own representative, Councillor Roger Blaney.

A number of residents who had attended the Planning Committee meeting to support the proposal, were unhappy with the decision, and then became incensed when Coun Blaney suggested that "a cynic" might have thought they were only there "for the money"

The resulting uproar and a later public apology to them from a second councillor was duly reported in the Newark Advertiser at the time.

However, the village has now been left in limbo, with an unresolved planning application which could now drag on for a year or more.

**WISHING ALL
OUR READERS
A
VERY HAPPY
&
PEACEFUL
NEW YEAR**

(Continued)

ROLLER COASTER - Continued

SUNDAY RACING

Another ongoing campaign for the Parish Council has been their objection to Arena Leisure's planning application for racing to be held on twelve Sundays in the year.

The PC felt that the dangers of an increase in traffic through the village - particularly heavy horseboxes on Station Rd - litter, noise and a general nuisance was enough to warrant an objection.

The PC presented its case to a meeting of the Newark & Sherwood Planning Committee using the above arguments and also pointing out that in allowing the application the council would be going against the planning principles it had formally adopted some years ago

It made no difference. The Committee voted to allow the application.

STREET LIGHTING

On a lighter note (if you'll excuse the pun), after much lobbying of Notts County Council, new street lighting was installed in the village.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Because we will be without a village hall for most of this year, Parish Council meetings will be held in the restaurant of The Crown until further notice.

AND FINALLY . . .

Residents will be pleased to hear that the Parish Council precept has not been increased this year, the Council undertaking to absorb any extra costs from existing funds.

THE LAST DANCE A TITANIC NIGHT

New Year's Eve saw the final celebration for the old village hall when close to a hundred revellers saw in the New Year with a Titanic themed evening complete with ship's bow, iceberg scenery and a soup kitchen.

Congratulations to everyone concerned with organising such a successful evening

The event raised over £700 towards the new hall building fund.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Our Village Illuminated Christmas Tree, standing proudly in the Jubilee Garden this year, was host to around 30 residents and children for informal carol singing one (very cold) evening during Christmas week.

Our thanks must go to Ross Thackrey and Martin Fish and their band of helpers for organising the tree and the event



Because the village hall is due for demolition, New Years Eve attracted a certain amount of graffiti around the walls. Much of it was unprintable, but one message, found on the toilet door of the Ladies, is worth quoting as a tribute to the old girl;

Thank you hall
You served us well
Many a dance and much to tell . . .
And now its time to say goodbye
I do so with a tear in my eye
Adios
Goodbye
Farewell!