

TRUSTEES REPORT 2022/2023

The main planning event of the year was the decision in March 2023 to refuse permission for a Sainsbury's Supermarket on Nottingham Road at the most important gateway to the town. The planning application had been in the planning processes for more than 18 months and had involved numerous amendments by the applicant.

The Society led by the Planning Secretary, Mike Struggles, had opposed the application from the outset. Objections ranged from it being a serious breach of the statutory Local Plan, major road safety concerns, adverse impact on town centre traders, and environmental damage to trees and ancient hedgerows. The main support came from some residents who were unhappy about some perceived inadequacies of the existing Co-op store and saw Sainsbury's as a strong competitor but this is not a planning ground for allowing the application.

The other main planning issue is the planning application for a large residential development off Lower Kirklington Road. The Society has made strong representations but the matter remains to be resolved.

There were five speakers during the year. Our Chairman, Brendan Haigh, spoke about historic local County maps. There was a talk on local planning issues from Peter Scorer of the Town Council and Martin Tubbs of Newark and Sherwood District Council. Andy Weaver talked about the town's timber framed buildings while Janine Buckley of the County Council Historic environment office talked about the stable blocks at Rufford Abbey and Newstead Abbey. Finally, Professor Chris Brooks gave a talk on how recent advances in technology had been used to better interpret archaeology in particular the Minster Chapter House. The latter concluded with a splendid afternoon tea party in Trebeck Hall.

Representations continued to be made to the Town Council for the Society to be allowed to reoccupy its former premises in one of the old police cells at the Old Courthouse. This has now been agreed in principle which should enable members and the public to have better access to the Society's extensive archive of historic photographs and artifacts, including maps and antique prints.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2023

BALANCE SHEET at 31st July

_____ Treasurer
Date: 24/10/23.

..... Auditor
Date: 24/10/2023