

Chesterfield Civic Society and the changing face of Chesterfield

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Chairman

*A talk given by Zoom to Chesterfield Rotary Club
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Chesterfield and District Civic Society

- Founded in 1964 when proposals to build over the Market Place were first seriously discussed.
- Continues to install 'blue plaques' on buildings of historic interest.
- Continues to 'campaign to make Chesterfield a better place to live'.
- Consulted by the Borough Council on some planning applications.

What we are not what we do

- A civic society is not a local history society or a 'preservation society'.
- You can't 'preserve' a town, which is an evolving social organism.
- We support the retention of good quality buildings (of any age) and the replacement of obsolete ones (of any age).
- We support change that improves Chesterfield in the widest sense.

Three current issues

- Redeveloping the station approach and Waterside.
- Houses, flats or shops in the town centre?
- The West to East Cycle Superhighway.

Waterside



Buildings with no future



Station Approach and Waterside

- We support the Borough Council's plans for the station approach.
- The Chesterfield Hotel had no future anyway.
- We support the Waterside scheme as a whole and the buildings so far proposed for the site.
- We wish to see more people living in or close to the town centre but do not wish to see Chesterfield over-supplied with flats.

An evolving town centre

- The use of buildings in a town changes all the time.
- Until the mid-nineteenth century Chesterfield was a 'walking town', in which most buildings on most streets were residential.
- No-one could stop people later moving out to the suburbs and no-one should today discourage people from moving back into the town centre.

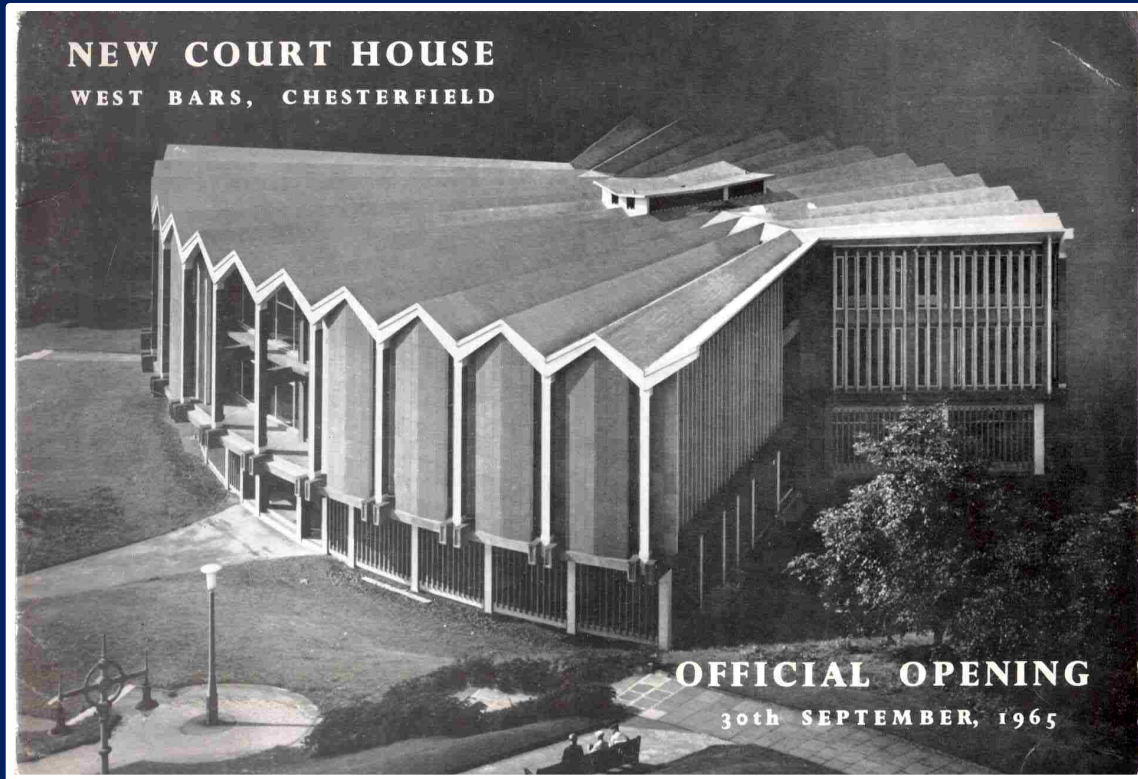
What to do with Burlington House?



What to do with Burlington House?



Magistrates Court House



And one which is not going to happen



Houses, flats or shops in the town centre?

- More people living in the town centre means more footfall in shops, pubs, restaurants etc.
- It should also mean less vandalism or anti-social behaviour.
- It may also mean less short-distance travelling by car.
- This is why we support the conversion of empty offices over shops into flats and the building of new houses in the town centre.

The West-East Cycle Superhighway

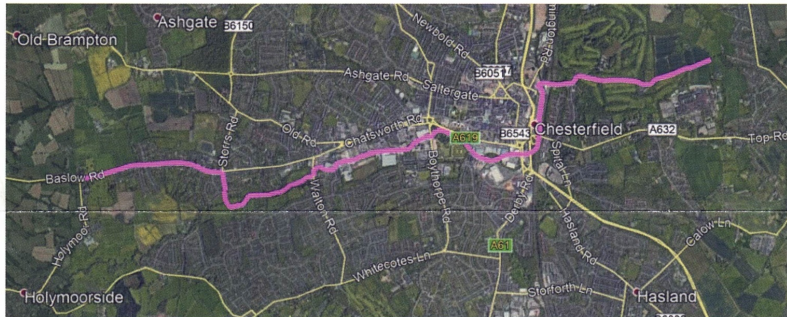
- The county council has been offered Government funding to improve facilities for cyclists.
- It proposes to extend the existing cycle route from Somersall to the station west along Chatsworth Road to Holymoore Road, and east from the station to the Royal Hospital along Crow Lane, which is to be closed to motor traffic.
- A 'consultation exercise' of questionable validity was held in March. The county council's final decision has yet to be announced.

Dear resident,

We are writing to you to ask for your views on a new cycling and walking route in the town.

Derbyshire County Council have been given funding from the Government to build the route and have asked us to design it.

The route will go from the A619 junction with Holymoore Road, along Chatsworth Road and the existing Hipper Valley Trail, through Queen's Park, and to the hospital by using Crow Lane. The pink line on the map below shows you the route in more detail.



As you live on or close to the route we want to know what you think to our plans. It's important that you know that the money allocated cannot be used for anything else, or a route elsewhere.

This route was chosen as it met all the criteria set out by the Government, and it will really improve cycling and pedestrian access to workplaces, schools, Chesterfield College and the hospital. By making cycling and walking safer and more attractive more people will choose to do this, helping to cut traffic in the town.

A consultation on the route will open on Monday 8th March and close on Thursday 25th March. To find out more and to have your say please visit chesterfieldcycleroute.commonplace.is

If you do not have access to the internet please phone us on 01482 679911. This phone line is available between Monday-Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm, or email us on info@ltp.co.uk.

Once the consultation closes, we will carefully look at all feedback and this will inform the further design of the proposals.

Thank you for your time.

The county council letter
to householders
which many householders
didn't get

The Civic Society knows of 18 streets
(out of 117 said to have been
leafleted) where this circular was not
delivered. Our list includes
Chatsworth Road.

Should Crow Lane remain closed to motor traffic?



Should Chatsworth Road be ruined?



Should Chatsworth Road be ruined?



The West-East Cycle Superhighway

- The Civic Society strongly opposes the building of a two-lane, high-speed cycle track along the north side of Chatsworth Road between Holymoore Road and Storrs Road.
- We support the closure of Crow Lane but acknowledge that 700 people have signed a petition in favour of reopening, whose views should not be ignored.
- We consider the county council's 'consultation' to be largely bogus and can show that the house-to-house leafleting was not done as claimed.

Campaigning to make Chesterfield a better place to live

- The Civic Society supports changes which will improve Chesterfield as a community.
- The society opposes changes which will have the opposite effect.
- The society commemorates important buildings and people with blue plaques.
- The more members the society has the more influence it can claim.