

**Planning Sub-Committee Report for the
Forest Town Community Council (FTCC)
Annual General Meeting (AGM), 15th March 2016**

The Forest Town Community Council's Planning Sub-Committee was established at our 2011 AGM, when it was empowered to make submissions regarding relevant planning applications and strategic consultations on behalf of the Community Council.

We have been especially busy this past year, having vetted hundreds of planning applications made to Mansfield and to Newark & Sherwood District Councils. This led to the Community Council's Planning Sub-Committee making a number of submissions, some of which were objections and some of which were observations and/or questions. These submissions were informed by discussions at Community Council meetings, and we take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the Planning Sub-Committee over the past year.

As you will be aware, we engaged in several productive exchanges with Mansfield District Council's (MDC's) Parks Development Officer, Andy Chambers, in relation to Section 106 proposals, conveying Community Council members' suggestions and preferences.

In relation to the proposal to replace Loggin's Garage and shop with an apartment complex, we attended MDC's Planning meeting to appeal to Councillors to refuse permission. Fortunately, it appears this development will not go ahead.

As part of that planning process we established the principle that a community owned and managed site, such as Spa Ponds, is entitled to receive Section 106 money to spend on improvements as part of a relevant mitigation and compensation package connected with planning proposals that would otherwise be deemed unacceptable in planning terms.

The Planning Sub-Committee conveyed Community Council members' concerns regarding the proposal to extend operational hours at the Crown Farm sorting facility, including concerns regarding outside storage of potentially flammable material.

We also undertook a fact-finding mission in relation to the sale of MDC land at Queensway to Welbeck Estates for use as allotments. MDC provided several pages of information in response to our request, and the Portfolio Holder for the Environment promised to consult us in the future in advance of any further sale or change of use of MDC land in and around Forest Town.

As Community Council members will know, the Planning Sub-Committee has also been involved in making submissions as part of MDC's recent consultation regarding their Draft Local Plan. In the coming year we can expect the Planning Sub-Committee to continue to vet planning applications, and to provide input where relevant, possibly in relation to the next round of Local Plan consultation.

The Sub-Committee remains open to new volunteers. This is an opportunity for anyone interested to explore planning issues in greater depth than is possible during the monthly Community Council meetings.