

LOUGHBOROUGH CHAMBER OF TRADE & COMMERCE

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2004 FEBRUARY 2005

The past year has been both busy and successful for our Chamber and I have enjoyed serving the membership as your President.

I am pleased to present my annual report, covering some of our more significant events and activities.

Our Chamber continued to forge closer links with Charnwood Borough Council and are grateful for the support given by Councillor Mike Jones and his wife Marj, the Mayor and Mayoress, at various functions held during the past year. Mike and Marj carry out their duties with enthusiasm and total dedication to the Borough and their attendance at our numerous events has helped to promote the image of our Chamber. We were also privileged to be able to donate several hundred pounds to the Mayor's Charity through the generosity of our members.

I must mention my trip to Poland last October when I was asked to represent the Chamber at a twinning celebration in Zamosc. Again my heartfelt thanks to Mike and Marj, and to the Leader of the Council Max Hunt, for an unforgettable trip.

Our Chamber remains eternally grateful for the information and enthusiastic help given by Jonathan Hale on his quarterly attendance at our Executive Committee meetings, when we debate openly issues relating to Loughborough.

The Chamber is well represented on local authority issues as follows:

Startegic Partnership Board	-	Michael Smallman
Town Centre Team	-	Michael Smallman David Pagett-Wright
Development Framework	-	Baljit Kooner
Business & Commercial Ratepayers Committee	-	David Pagett-Wright
Charnwood Community Safety Partnership	-	Alvin Bailiss Phil Collin

The Chamber is also consulted on a regular basis concerning business planning applications, car park charges and other local authority matters.

I would like to thank most sincerely all those local authority Officers and Executive Committee members who have been involved in our links with the Borough of Charnwood.

Our connections with the University continue to flourish, although we would like to have a stronger representation on our Executive Committee.

We continue to have a healthy liaison with Action for a Better Charnwood (ABC) and appreciate the work put in by Bob White in attending their meetings. We are also grateful to Tony Stott of ABC for his support of our Chamber.

During the year, we had meetings with our Loughborough MP Andy Reed while Nicky Morgan, Conservative Parliamentary Candidate, attended one of our Executive Committee meetings.

The Chamber donated £1,000 towards the Parish Green project which enabled vital initial design work to be put in place. We feel that this scheme is important through its connection to the Town Centre Strategy. Thanks are due to Adrian McInnes and Phil Collin for their help in promoting the project and for the grateful support given by Canon Reverend Stephen Cherry. There is still a long way to go but our Chamber has pledged continued support for the scheme.

With regard to transport matters in and around the town, I would like to thank Jim Harkness for his continued help and expertise. The Chamber has been involved in consultations concerning the Inner Relief Road and further pedestrianisation of the town centre. During the past year, we have had four presentations from Leicestershire County Council Highways Department, the most recent concerning the Integrated Loughborough Transport Plan. It is disappointing to note that this Plan is unlikely to produce a much needed inner relief road within the next five years. We will continue to press for an earlier start to the road and pedestrianisation.

Our Chamber has at last been able to get up to date with the development of a website. A sub-committee of Adrian McInnes and Annette Holgate expertly prepared a list of requirements and we have appointed Green Wave Technology from Quorn to carry out the necessary technical work. The Chamber is fortunate to have the following sponsors for the website:

Carillon Court Shopping Centre
Green Wave Technology
Moss Solicitors
Travail Employment Group
William Davis Limited

The website - loughboroughchamber.co.uk - should be up and running during this spring and can only be of help in promoting our Chamber. Thanks are due to Adrian, Annette and to Tim Rodgers of Green Wave Technology.

During the year, we attracted 10 new members who are most welcome to our ever growing fold. We held a new members' breakfast meeting in November which was a great success and in itself attracted four further applications.

- Jim Harkness - a Past President who is always willing to help
- Richard Parker - and his staff at Ramada Jarvis Loughborough Hotel
- Martin Palmer - our Treasurer, for keeping the books in order
- Bob White - for representing our Chamber at ABC meetings
- Baljit Kooner - for representation at Development Framework
- Karen Cunnington - for providing so much willing help and for retail advice
- Alvin Bailiss - for his down to earth, common sense approach in all matters
- Phil Collin - for help on Charnwood Safety Partnership and Parish Green project
- Stuart Simpson - for help on membership matters

Finally, I wish to thank our incoming President, Adrian McInnes, for all his help over the last two years. His willingness to partake in Chamber matters is very reassuring and his approach to our business aims is always made with careful thought and common sense. I wish him well in his term of office as our President and pledge my support to him.

I also wish our Chamber continued success and trust that our membership will go from strength to strength.

Michael Smallman
President

February 2005