



## Wirksworth Civic Society

### Informal Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2006 off St Mary's Churchyard ('Red Square')

#### *Draft minutes*

#### **Present**

Colin Pidgeon, Chair  
Janet Pidgeon, Secretary  
Barry Joyce  
Marian Vaughan  
Andy Link

Ian Dare  
Graham Barfield, Events Secretary  
Paul Clarke  
Adam Lathbury

#### **By invitation**

Jenny Hoon

Ralph Selby

#### **Purpose of meeting**

To consider possible options for development of paved area off the churchyard ('Red Square' –to distinguish area from churchyard itself)

#### **Key points**

Barry outlined history of area:

- houses demolished, leaving access passage & revealing red brick houses behind
- area was landscaped but problems ensued with walls; grant was accessed for paving
- space is no longer outlined & contained
- other areas needing attention are railings around churchyard & the walls District Council is responsible for them; also, tarmac covers gritstone paving which would need total replacement if tarmac were to be removed

#### **'Red Square'**

- discussion on desirability of redefining space & introducing seating
- area offers flexible space & view of church but is under-used

#### ***Jenny Hoon's views-***

- proposal for 3 or 4 trees following perimeter of area
- young people to be involved in planting, education grant could be sought
- trees would need to withstand vandalism
- budget would need to include elements for care & maintenance
- trees & planting could cost around £2,000 each
- stone benches an option
- Mr Shields of Longcliffe Quarry prepared to donate some stone

*Ralph Selby's views-*

- Civic Society's actions could have a significant impact on the space 50 years on
- development of 'Red Square' should be seen as part of a whole strategy for the area around the churchyard
- proposal that seating be introduced to performance space, possibly stone semi-circular benches
- District Council should be actively involved
- Ralph shared his designs for seating

***Main agenda item at next Committee Meeting***

*Proposals for next steps-*

- options to be drawn up by Ralph Selby & Adam Lathbury
- funding for tree-planting to be explored
- approach to be made to District Council via Mike & Irene Ratcliffe

*Discussion points-*

- should other designers be invited to put forward designs?
- need for consultation with neighbours & community
- CS should invite community to vote for designs, possibly by publishing them in Community Fayre
- should sponsorship to be sought & from whom?

***Date & time of next meetings:***

**Full Committee – Tuesday 5th September, 7.30pm, 10 Summer Drive**

**Townscape Working Party – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm  
10 Summer Drive**

***Please confirm attendance***