

Review of the year 2011-12: Report to the AGM from BANG secretary

- ❖ **To secure high standards in planning and development that enhance the Broomhill Conservation Area**

Highlights this year:

Opposed conversion of the 'Fresh Asia' shop premises to a takeaway; now we have the S10 butchers instead.

Opposed COSTA COFFEE ruining a stretch of three shops opposite Cream, a greatly improved refurbishment scheme now approved.

Opposed extensions to opening hours for The Place (wanted to open until 3-4 am) and The York (wanted to open until 1 am). Through discussion, have persuaded The York NOT to appeal against refusal of PP but to re-apply for a smaller extension to hours.

Many other examples, including enforcement action against those undertaking work without permission.

- ❖ **To promote understanding and appreciation of the area's character, including its history, social and economic background and the way in which such factors have shaped the area**

Highlights this year:

Contributions to the Broomhill Festival, both financial and practical, developing resources on our website and organising our archive for use by the local studies library, work that we expect to finish in the coming year in order to celebrate 40 years of BANG in 2013.

- ❖ **To preserve and enhance the distinctive features that characterise the Broomhill Conservation area and work for the improvement or replacement of features that detract from it**

Highlights this year:

Worked to save Pisgah House and its garden and bring it back into beneficial use. We have negotiated a scheme with a potential partner and made an offer to the University to purchase the house and garden from them. Our scheme would use the house as a music teaching centre, the garden as a community open space and the coach house as a community meeting room. Not getting very far due to non-cooperation by the university.

- ❖ **To maintain, and where possible improve, the environment and quality of life in Broomhill**

We've had a lot of success in getting the different agencies that regulate night-time trading - planning, licensing and the police – to work together to combat the nocturnal noise problems in Broomhill. The council have instituted prosecutions of the premises that trade outside their permitted hours and this has had a significant impact, with one of them closing altogether. However this is an issue that requires constant vigilance by all of us, otherwise it is likely to recur.

- ❖ **To promote community cohesion in Broomhill**

Highlights this year:

We organised the Broomhill Village Show in September, deliberately timed to create a visible presence for the local community in the centre of Broomhill just after the beginning of the University term, and providing an opportunity for all sections of the community to

join in. We had over 200 entries for the show and it was a great success. We also supported the air pollution conference last week and we are planning to organise a Broomhill Memories day in July this year, as well as repeat outing for the Village Show, providing that this is something that the membership supports.

❖ Future of BANG

Highlights this year:

We set up a working group to amend the constitution and consider how we could keep BANG active and relevant in the modern age with fewer people involved. We decided to discontinue the BANGER paper newsletter and to focus our limited resources on keeping the website current, lively and accessible. Some of these changes are underway though we could always use more help to raise our profile in the area and get more done!

Lee Kenny

Secretary for 2011-12