



## **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

### **'A work in progress'**

'A work in progress' is the best way to describe the Neighbourhood Development Plan this month. Copy for One Way must be submitted a good two weeks before the publication date and work that will be finished or close to completion by the beginning of October is still underway.

### **The Questionnaire**

The Questionnaire was distributed to all households in the Neighbourhood Area in the middle of August for completion by 20th September. The results will be announced during the autumn, once we have had a chance to analyse all the responses.

### **Heritage and Character Assessment**

Another work in progress is the Heritage and Character Assessment that is being prepared for us by consultants as free technical help under the terms of our government grant. The consultants visited the Neighbourhood Area during a week in August for fieldwork and photography. The response to our call for old photographs of the Neighbourhood Area to provide for the consultants' work and report was on the whole disappointing. Special thanks are due to Andy Mainwaring of Blackbrook for lending photographs and to Charlie Cliffe of Lunts Farm, Aston for photographs of the Swan Inn. Staff of the Borough Museum and Newcastle Public Library were extremely helpful in providing photographs from their collections. We expect to receive the final report from the consultants in early October.

### **Fun Day at Whitmore Village Hall**

The Fun Day will be over by the time you read this. We hope that many of you will have visited our stall to explore the Neighbourhood Map, see the display of old photographs and share with us your thoughts on the future of the Neighbourhood Area. As the old photographs showed, some things seem to stay the same, but change, whether great or small, is always present – and without change there would be no progress.

### **A story of change**

The Whitmore Festival talk on the Mainwaring Arms 1816–1948 illustrated well how changes occur and shape where we live. In the history of the Mainwaring Arms and Whitmore some changes resulted from big decisions that were beyond local people's influence. Other changes came about when local people acted on change that had gone before and used it to their advantage. Now, can we make change work for us?