

Grand designs!

NEW buildings, restoration projects and areas which contribute to the outstanding quality and appearance of Charnwood could be in line for a prestigious award.

The search is on to find nominations for the popular Charnwood Borough Council Design Awards, which are held every two years.

They are intended to appreciate new buildings, restoration and conservation work to historic buildings, landscaping plus areas of new paving and street furniture.

Anyone can put forward a scheme to be considered for an award but it must have been completed between June 2006 and the closing date of Monday, 30th June, 2008.

The categories are:

- **New Building:** This is open to any new building, part of a building or collection of buildings both private and public;
- **Conservation:** This is aimed at work to a historic building or environment, including restoration schemes;
- **Landscape:** This focuses on



IN CONTENTION? Will the new Loughborough Magistrates Court (above) or the Wharf building (left) be in line for a Design Award? Inset right: 2006 winners Limehurst House (top) and Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College.

The search is on for 2008 Design Award nominations

the natural setting to a building or group;

● **Streetscape:** Looking at improvement schemes to streets, squares and parks that create safer and more attractive places.

● **Special Awards:** These aim to recognise community-

based projects such as publications or signs.

Martin Tincknell, Charnwood Borough Council's Head of Conservation and Landscape, said the awards were aimed at recognising schemes that had raised public awareness of local

design and conservation issues.

"We received more than 70 entries for the 2006 Design Awards," he added, "and we hope to top that this time around."

"It's important we appreciate good design around the Borough and these awards aim to highlight excellent examples of new build, restoration projects and environmental improvements."

Cllr Stephen Hampson, Charnwood Borough Council's Heritage and Design Champion, added: "If someone wants to nominate a scheme, all we need is an address. It's that easy and I would encourage people to think about the areas they live in and if buildings or projects are eligible for a Design Award."

To find out more about the Design Awards, log on to www.charnwood.gov.uk/environment/designawards.html or call (01509) 634 971.



Submit an entry to the Awards

NOMINATIONS can be made by an owner, client, architect, contractor or member of the public - but all schemes must have been completed within the last two years and need to be submitted by Monday, 30th June, 2008.

The entries will then be shortlisted before a panel of judges assess them. The award winners will receive a plaque and certificate, while highly commended schemes will receive a certificate.

Nominating a scheme is simple - all we need to know is the address or location of the scheme. You can call in or write to Charnwood Borough Council's Southfields offices, phone the Conservation and Design Team on (01509) 634 971 or log on to www.charnwood.gov.uk/environment/designawards.html

Appraisals aim to protect the area's heritage

HISTORIC centres of Charnwood's towns and villages are being analysed and recorded to help protect the Borough's wonderful heritage.

Officers at Charnwood Borough Council are working on detailed appraisals of the 36 Conservation Areas so they can preserve and enhance the character and appearance of places.

And local residents can also play a part by giving their views on the Appraisals and making sure nothing is missed.

So far, Character Appraisals have been written and consulted about Anstey, Beeby, Hathern, Mountsorrel, Shepshed, Sileby, South Croxton and Syston plus Church Gate, Leicester Road, Shelthorpe, Victoria Street, Ashby Road, the Cemetery and Queen's Park in Loughborough.

An appraisal of Barrow is currently underway, while Rothley and Quorn will be looked at later in the year.

Reviews of the other conservation areas - which are classed as an area of special architectural or historic interest - will be completed by 2010 and the appraisals will be looked at again every five years.

Anthony Gimpel, Charnwood Borough Council's Conservation and Design Technician, said: "Conservation area status does not mean that everything should be preserved - it's the character of the area that matters."

"Any development, including new buildings and extensions or other alterations, should be carried out in a way that enhance and do not harm the area's special character."

"Appraisals describe what is special about the area. They cover the history and form of development, the townscape and important buildings, prevalent features and materials used in the buildings plus the contribution of open spaces and trees."



HISTORIC: Part of the Beeby Conservation Area.

"The appraisals also note features that detract from the area which indicate opportunities for change. They are key to help safeguard the Borough's heritage."

"The public meetings gives residents the chance to contribute their knowledge of the area and to make them more aware of the value of the place where they live."

During the next two-and-a-half years, character appraisals will be written about Barkby & Barkby Thorpe, Birstall, Cossington, Cropston, Hoton, Newtown Linford, Queniborough, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Seagrave, Swithland, Thrussington, Thurstaston, Walton on the Wolds, Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves and Wymeswold.

To view all the Character Appraisals written so far, and find out more about Conservation Areas, log on to www.charnwood.gov.uk/environment/conservation_areas.html.