

## **DEPPERS BRIDGE**

Last year saw the campaign for a weight limit on Deppers rail bridge. Since then, the limit has been trialled and made permanent. The knock-on effects of this have been a welcome reduction in heavy goods through traffic and an unwelcome diversion of the no. 64 bus route around Deppers, leaving those who are dependant on public transport without a practical and convenient link with Southam, Leamington or any of the nearby villages. Unfortunately they are the ones who, through age or infirmity, cannot manage to catch the bus from the Great Western. Efforts to restore the service by replacing the 50 seater buses with lighter 30 seat type vehicles which could cross the bridge, have been unsuccessful for various reasons of which the credit crunch must be one. The coming year will see us working to establish a service to Southam, linking there to the 63 and 64 routes.

Last year also saw EMEB consulting on a plan to replace the existing 33000V grid line on pylons with a 132000V line on tall poles along new route passing through Deppers Bridge. Apparently it was meant to improve the supply to the East Midlands. No planning application was ever lodged with Stratford District Council so perhaps with demise of the eco-towns this application is unnecessary now. We continue to watch for any further activity, which we will continue to oppose unless the cable goes underground rather than on poles.

**Cllr Ron Grey**