

February 2011

Dickens Heath Parish Council News

Recent News:

The Parish Council meets at 7.30pm, usually on the second Tuesday of every month, in one of the classrooms at Dickens Heath Community Primary School. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th February 2011 and then Tuesday 8th March 2011, please come and join us!



Solihull's 'Call for Sites'

As part of the ongoing review of Solihull's Local Plan the Borough Council has suggested the level of housing growth it would like to see in the period to 2026. Following on from that it is now trying to identify housing sites that could accommodate that growth.

It was as part of this process that, at the end of last year, the Borough Council published its assessment of possible housing sites and asked for public comment.

A number of sites (some big, some very big and some small) were put forward around Dickens Heath. The Parish Council responded by appointing its own planning consultants for guidance. Following their advice it was agreed that it was unrealistic to say 'no' to any further growth and that to adopt a wholly negative stance ran the very real risk of unacceptable growth being foisted upon the village.

Accordingly the Parish Council has adopted a proactive approach based upon being aware of the need to enhance village facilities whilst also achieving a more balanced and organic rate of growth.

The Parish Council thus indicated its general support for limited growth on the southern edge of the village, on two smallish sites, if these were required. However, there was a big covenant to this – the support for any form of growth was only on the basis that any future growth should make a proper contribution to future facilities for the village and should include a site for a youth play area.

The Borough Council is now assessing the response it has received from across the borough and will be issuing its findings in the middle of the year.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will report again in the summer.

Traffic Islands

Planting on 2 of the traffic islands should be starting very soon, managed by Solihull MBC - weather permitting.

Environmental Champions

Trish Willetts of Solihull MBC is looking for new environmental projects for 2011. She will be coming along to the Parish Council meeting on February 8th - so if you have any ideas, we would love to hear them.

Rail Improvements

A representative from Centro will also be attending the Parish Council meeting on February 8th so if you have any questions or concerns that you wish to raise – please come along.



And Finally.... Photos of Dickens Heath

Have you got any great photos of Dickens Heath? Would you like to see them on the Parish Council website, which is currently in need of some photographic decoration? If you can help us then please email the address below – many thanks!

Richard Holt, Chairman

CONTACT US: If you would like to get in touch, please contact Parish Clerk – Helen Marczak on 07772 469271, by emailing dickensheathpc@hotmail.com, or via Dickens Heath Library, Dickens Court, Old Dickens Heath Road, Solihull B90 1SD.