

MAY 2012

## Dickens Heath Parish Council News

**T**he Parish Council meets at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month - in the Parish Rooms, Waterside, off Rumbush Lane. The next meeting will be on May 15th 2012.

### Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday May 15th 2012 at 7pm

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday May 15th 2012 at 7pm - refreshments included. This is your meeting - so do come and tell us what you think, or if you have any concerns about life in Dickens Heath.

### Solihull Draft Local Plan

At our Parish Council meeting on the 21st February we discussed the Draft Local Plan for the three sites proposed for development - sites "17" Braggs Farm/Brickiln Lane, "18" Griffin Lane and "20" Cleobury Lane. Sites 17 and 18 are no surprise to us, they were taken out of the Green Belt some time ago. The issue we have been advised by our planning advisors - Stansgate Planning - is really what is the timescale for the development, and whether we can extract some community facilities out of the sacrifice of this land.

As for Site 20 - we are opposing this - it is a surprise to us; I do not feel we have had any where near adequate consultation about this matter and it is in an inappropriate location. This area is outstandingly beautiful, with a wood adjacent to the site which provides a natural break between Dickens Heath and Tidbury Green. The proposed site is in our opinion not fit for purpose because the roads are not up to it - more traffic will inevitably have to come through an already congested village. We suggested a site on Tythe Barn Lane which had the attraction of proximity to Whitlocks End railway station and I would encourage a rethink by Solihull MBC about Site 20.

My heart sinks to think that we are going to have to put up with more development when our village is not finished and that we should have to contemplate further development when we have had to put up with so much disruption for far too long. The financial collapse of Parkridge is a real shame, and will obviously delay matters further, however the contractual obligations contained in the Consortium Agreement do have remedies available to Solihull MBC to take control of the development and make progress with it and finish off and adopt our roads. I note with some concern

that there are no longer any Working Party Meetings for Dickens Heath - we need some concrete [no pun!] steps being taken to get our village completed and need to be kept informed about what is going on - I will continue to press for information and share this with you.

### Parish Rooms

The Parish Council Rooms are now becoming an established venue and catering for a range of activities. We have Yoga sessions taking place and have arranged for free sessions especially for our senior residents or unwaged. The first of these will take place on Tuesday April 24th 2012 at 11am for retired residents - healthy body healthy mind and all that! We have a Tuesday Club for residents to come and socialise and are keen to start a University of the Third Age - we need more residents to come forward to kick start this, please come to our Tuesday Club and speak with Helen our clerk. We also have Bridge Club on a Wednesday evening - contact Julian on 07714 253003 for information and Lace Making on a Thursday evening. The Parish Council are keen to allow use of the Parish Rooms for community activities and do not propose to charge for the use as long as we can see genuine community use; so contact us with your ideas we want to hear from you!

### Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations are to be supported by the Parish Council, we have established a Jubilee Committee and a number of enthusiastic residents have been very busy with their plans. We plan to have a stage on the village green with a sound system staging a number of performances, a concert band that will get us into the patriotic mood, 300 red white and blue balloons to be released (sponsored by Perfect Party - thank you); prizes and children's activities, flags and bunting. We plan to have trestle tables and a picnic area. Many of the local businesses have been approached for sponsorship and support, and many have responded positively. We will publish all the credits in due course - and shame those that don't! We are keen to hear from you with your ideas, the feedback we received from the leaflet has helped us to shape the event. And we have placed an order for our hanging baskets for the summer - we will see if they come in red, white and blue!

**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 at 1 Wharf House, Waterside, Dickens Heath, Solihull B90 1UE.

