

# **Dickens Heath Parish Council**

**Meeting on Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 10.30am to discuss concerns in the village**

Present:

Parish Councillors – Phil Brandum, Bob Cudmore

Matt Gardner – Neighbourhood Co-ordinator

Brian Burgess – Borough Councillor

Sergeant Glenn Mernagh

4 members of the public

Clerk – Helen Marczak

## **Litter**

### **Points Made**

- The first concern is the cleanliness of the village. The litter problem along Buckridge Lane, on the traffic islands, on the Village Green and the surrounding hedgerows was discussed.
- Parkridge have responsibility for Main St, Waterside and the Village Green. Waterside was being litter picked during the meeting!
- SMBC should clean the traffic islands.
- The Environmental Champions are organising a litter pick on April 25<sup>th</sup> which will be a canal walk.
- There are no litter bins apart from in the ‘Parkridge’ area.

### **Actions**

- The Parish Council to identify where additional bins should go, possibly for the Ward Action Plan.
- If Matt can provide a schedule of litter pick dates and times, these can be advertised on the noticeboard.

## **Village Appearance**

### **Points Made**

- The Garden Squares boarding is tatty. Part of the boarding is missing to improve visibility for cars, but this is of police concern re metal theft from the site.
- On the traffic islands, bricks are broken and the road patched with black tarmac.
- The roads around Garden Squares and the centre are unfinished, any buyer of Garden Squares will need to take this on (estimated cost £500k).

### **Actions**

- Matt to find out if probational offenders could repaint the boarding.
- Matt is obtaining costings for footway repairs.
- The imprint system is expensive to repair, the machine costs £2,000 per day to hire. The tarmac is a temporary repair. Matt is looking into hiring the

machine to make imprint repairs across the Borough. It is possible that all the roads will need to eventually be redone in tarmac.

- Matt to ask Ian Williams why Ascot Walkway cannot be open.
- Bulb planting – Matt to do a site visit, with a view to SMBC supplying bulbs for the autumn, and working with the school on planting.

### **Replacement of Barrier**

- The quote for removal of the barrier and delivery of 4 planters ready for planting is approximately £600.
- Matt is just waiting for fire service approval regarding access. The 2 remaining barriers at either end of the road need to stay to meet fire service requirements for access.

### **Police Issues**

- There has been a spike in theft from cars. An increased police presence has seen a drop in crime. The police are now on bikes, with the loss of the mobile police station.
- No problem so far this year re youth drinking.
- A man has been charged over the theft of 57 drain covers.
- The police are looking at a new system of property marking for lead/bins/tractors etc.

### **Parking**

#### **Points Made**

- Parking on Rumbush Lane/yellow lines is a problem.

#### **Actions**

- Rumbush Lane is not adopted, so all that Matt can do is deliver reminder letters re inconsiderate parking, asking them to use underground parking or sell it to someone else. Until roads are adopted, not much else can be done.
- Parking on yellow lines is not a police issue. Parkridge have the power to ticket on unadopted roads, but their parking co. has gone bust. The Parish Council to bring this to the attention of Ian Williams.

### **242 Dickens Heath Road**

- The police are keeping an eye on this.
- Matt to see if SMBC have any further information.

### **Apartments – Service Charges**

#### **Points Made**

- People in apartments are reluctant to pay the service charge because they don't know what they are getting for it. Several companies don't seem to do much.

**Actions**

- Different apartments pay service charges to different companies. A map showing which co. is responsible for which roads would be useful. Bob Cudmore to liaise with Brian Burgess and Caroline Spelman.

**Village Hall**

- The village hall is looking for additional staff/volunteers. This could be advertised on our noticeboard. The Clerk to contact Ian Williams.

**Next Meeting**

All agreed that the meeting had been very useful and should take place every couple of months. The next meeting to be arranged for mid to late May again on a Tuesday at 10.30am