

Dickens Heath Parish Council

Meeting on Tuesday July 10th 2012 at 10.30am to discuss concerns in the village

Present:

Parish Councillor – Bob Cudmore

Borough Councillors – Linda Brown, Brian Burgess

Matt Gardner – Neighbourhood Co-ordinator

Ian Williams – DH Management Co.

8 members of the public

Clerk – Helen Marczak

Garden Squares

Points Made

- The site and hoardings are looking very tatty.
- Solihull MBC is only concerned about whether the site is safe.
- It is being marketed and the deadline is Friday July 20th 2012.
- Should some of the proposed flats be converted into houses? However, on the other side of Garden Squares, all the flats have sold and several houses have not.

Actions

- Councillor Burgess is pushing for some action at SMBC.
- Can the hoardings be tidied up? The Parish Council to contact Mike Swallow, Strategic Land Advisor at SMBC, to discuss the budget set aside for finishing off the village.

Imprinted Paving

Points Made

- Solihull MBC insisted on it, but now it is decaying.
- It is 10 years old. Roads only have a 10 year life, and these roads have had construction traffic on them.

Actions

- Councillor Burgess is requesting funding to deal with it.

Unadopted Highways/Parking Problems

Points Made

- The traffic island at Waterside will remain private. DHMC tried to control the parking but were advised that the ticketing of vehicles is illegal.
- Some of the roads should be made one way.
- Main Street is a private road. The shop keepers wanted people to be able to park and so didn't want bollards on both sides.
- Letters are sent to residents with underground spaces, but they don't seem to want to use them.

- There is no timeframe for the adoption of remaining roads.

Actions

- Councillor Burgess and residents would like to see SMBC take over the roads and repair them to an adoptable standard.
- Solihull MBC need to be pushed to adopt the highways as soon as possible – the Parish Council to contact Mike Swallow.

Unmaintained and Overgrown Land

Points Made

- A lot of foliage needs cutting back, much of it is SMBC's responsibility but they are about 2 weeks behind schedule. If it is the responsibility of a private residence – MG will send them a letter.
- Most of the traffic islands are the responsibility of the Consortium (group of all developers). Neither the Parish Council nor SMBC are allowed to carry out any maintenance – we need to get the Consortium to do it, via Mike Swallow.
- Rumbush Lane/Kiln Lane is overgrown, people can't see and there has already been 1 accident. However Rumbush Lane is unadopted.

Speed of Traffic

Point Made

- Along Rumbush Lane, between Brixfield Way and Waterside, cars are driven too fast. A resident has contacted SMBC who say that because there is a blind spot – there is nothing they can do.

Litter

Points Made

- The litter problem along the pedestrian part of Buckridge Lane was discussed again, a bin is needed! 2 residents regularly pick up litter along here.
- Are the litter picks adequate? Are the 10 day litter picks taking place?

Actions

- MG needs evidence re litter and whether litter picks are taking place and are adequate. He asked residents to contact him and keep him up to date. Councillor Brown has organised a litter pick and will feed back.
- On inspection, it would appear that only the footpath along Buckridge Lane is being litter picked, and not the hedgerow and borders. MG to contact the litter pick team about this.

Opening Up of Old Dickens Heath Road

Points Made

- A resident suggested that Old Dickens Heath Road should be opened up so that traffic can drive straight into the village centre. Although this was always designed as a non vehicular road, it would make the village generally safer and would probably be supported by a majority of the village. There was general support for this at the meeting and it was suggested that this could be put to all the village residents as a proposal, including of course the residents of Old Dickens Heath Road.

Kerb at the End of Birchy Close

Point Made

- Vehicles turning left out of Birchy Close catch the kerb unless they make a wide turn into the road – which is dangerous. The kerb really needs taking back.

Action

- MG to take this forward.

Gypsy & Traveller Site

Points Made

- The site is at The Uplands, by the allotments, at the back of a bungalow. 3 pitches have been there for a number of years. SMBC want to authorize the site.
- There was concern that if the site becomes permanent, it could develop over time.

Meeting ended at 11.45am

Next Meeting

The next meeting to be arranged.