

Parish Council News – January 2013

The Parish Council meets at 7.30pm, on the third Tuesday of every month, in the Parish Rooms, Waterside, off Rumbush Lane. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th January 2013 and then Tuesday 19th February 2013, please come and join us!

Flooding in Dickens Heath

The Parish Council, along with many residents, are very concerned about the extensive flooding that occurred at Waterside following torrential rain. 10 apartments were flooded, and the lives of those residents have been disrupted for weeks. Solihull MBC are preparing a report into why the flooding occurred and, we hope, will have a strategy for ensuring that this does not occur again. There is concern that the additional development proposed for Griffin Lane will increase the risk of future flooding. We have been assured that Solihull MBC are taking this very seriously.

Youth Facility

The Parish Council continues to press for the provision of a facility for the village's 11 to 16 year olds. Two of our young residents attended a recent Parish Council meeting to put their case for a skatepark for the village, and there is evidence from internet campaigns that there is certainly support in the village for such a facility. There have been calls for a public meeting to discuss this, which the Parish Council is happy to facilitate. However, Chris Barr of Solihull MBC is currently looking into a variety of proposals for how a youth facility might be delivered in Dickens Heath. He is due to meet with Parish Councillors at the end of January 2013 with, we hope, at least one realistic option. Following this meeting, we would then propose to call a public meeting in February 2013.

Solihull Local Plan

The Independent Examination of the Solihull Local Plan takes place in January 2013. This includes 3 sites on the edge of the village which are proposed for future development. The Parish Council has again objected to the inclusion of the Cleobury Lane site, which is currently Green Belt, and (in our opinion) has not been open to sufficient public consultation.

Parish Rooms

The Parish Rooms continue to be used and I am pleased to hear that a resident has facilitated the acquisition of a table tennis table and we are hoping that there should soon be coaching sessions for "ping-pong". The Tuesday morning coffee club continues and free Yoga sessions are being provided for retired residents once a month – usually on the last Tuesday of the month at 11am.

Thank you to Councillor Bob Cudmore and 2 of our residents who planted 800 daffodil bulbs around the village, we look forward to seeing them in the Spring. I hope that everyone noticed our solar Christmas Trees brightening up the dark and chilly nights. And finally, I am delighted that the village clock is at last fully operational!

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.