

Thank you Chairman. My name is Chris Noble and I am Chairman of Cheswick Green Parish Council.

The Parish Council welcomes the adoption of the Solihull Local Plan. The Planning Inspector supported phased development and the Plan proposes that this site, Mount Dairy Farm, should not be released until phase 3 and there are good reasons to support this view. The major worry of many Cheswick Green Residents is the increased risk of flooding from both the River Blythe and Mount Brook. The floods of 2007 flooded the Village Hall, 4 houses and many others suffered flooded garages and gardens. There were 2 more events in November 2012 that almost reached the same level.

An Environment Agency study identifies up to 130 properties at risk from flooding and many now receive telephone flood warnings. Flooding events are now occurring more frequently than predicted so it is quite likely that we can expect a catastrophic event in the near future. We have been lucky so far.

Current planning law only requires developers to look at the effect of flooding on their own site and this leads to moving the problem elsewhere. Any rain water falling in Dickens Heath ends up in Mount Brook in Cheswick Green; indeed **any** development in the upstream river catchment area will affect Cheswick Green. The flooding problem is too large and too complex to be solved by one development and may make things worse. The applicants have not shown how they are going to improve water storage and run off from the site or to prevent flooding of adjacent properties.

As the map shows, when Cheswick Green was built in the 1960's the point where Mount Brook joined the River Blythe was moved 300m upstream and the existing flood plain was filled in to increase the area for development. This reduced the space for the river to overflow and has led to silting. No maintenance or dredging has ever been undertaken. This has not been highlighted before and its impact on the existing flooding problem has not been fully realised or understood.

The Parish Council wishes to see a wider study of the water catchment area and the implementation of a system to solve the flooding problem on both rivers once and for all before any more development takes place.

More development will also require more infrastructure. Time is needed to plan for more school places and more primary health provision, to improve the communication links and to solve the current flooding problem.

In conclusion I urge the members of the Committee to support the local plan and reject this application but not to support recommendation B as the issue of flooding is too important and needs to come back to this Committee to be discussed in public.

Thank you