

NEWSLETTER

APR 2012



Cheswick Green Parish Council

<http://www.cheswickgreen-pc.org.uk>

Serving the Residents of Cheswick Green and Illshaw Heath

200 houses proposed for site subject to flooding

The Parish Council held a public meeting in the Village Hall in December 2010 to consult residents on suitable sites for housing in the Parish. At that time it was believed that the Mount Dairy Farm site would not be developed and would be put into the Green Belt. In the recently published local plan, however, Solihull Council is proposing that 200 houses should be built on this site.



The residents of Cheswick Green have opposed development of this site for over 30 years. In addition to narrowing the gap between Cheswick Green and Dickens Heath, the main fear is that if the site is developed then rainfall will 'run-off' more quickly causing flash floods.

This risk was brought home to Cheswick Green residents in July 2007 when heavy rainfall caused some properties next to the River Blythe to flood.

More details of proposed development inside

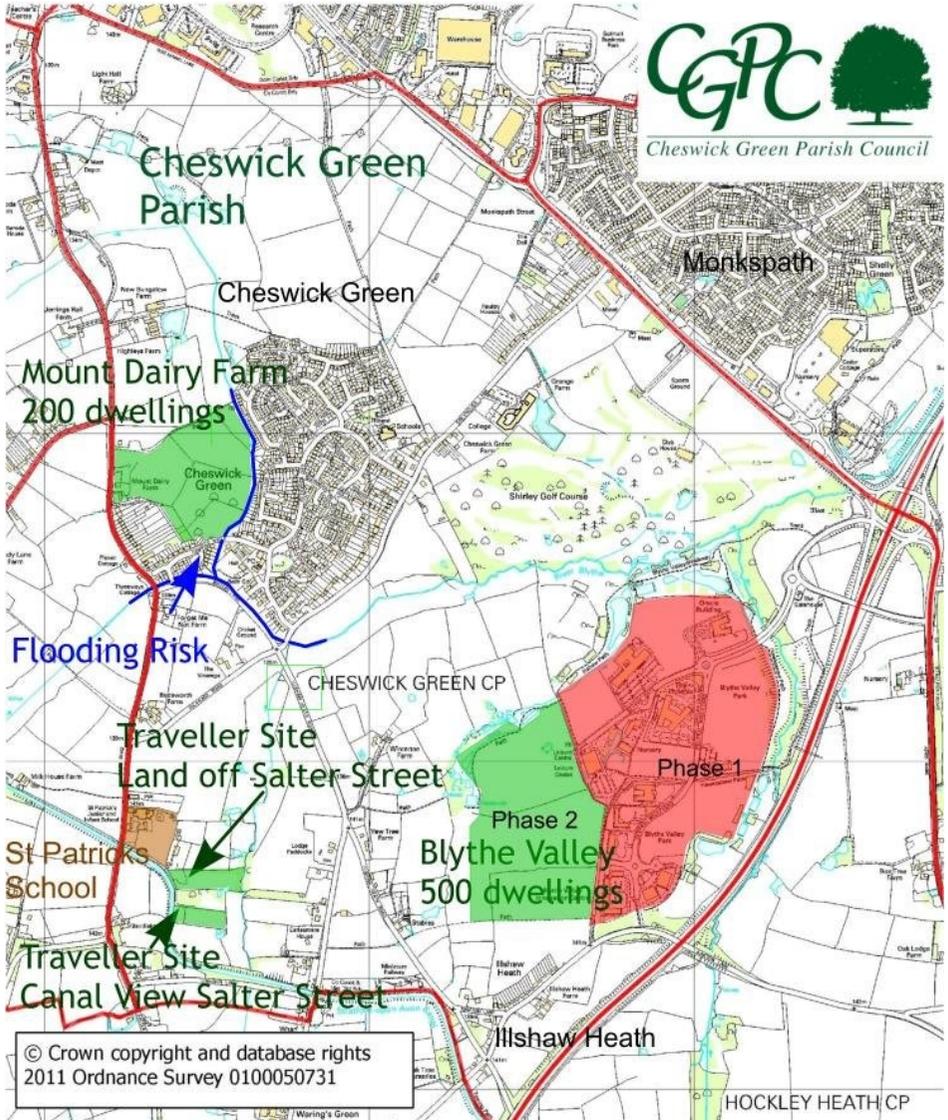
Development in Cheswick Green Parish

Two sites for 700 new homes in Cheswick Green Parish have been identified in the draft development plan for Solihull in which borough councillors have decided to look for sites for 4000 dwellings in rural areas. The Parish Council believes that Cheswick Green Parish is being allocated an unfair and disproportionate number of these new dwellings.

There are about 1000 houses in the Parish and an additional 700 houses represents a 70% increase. The Local Plan proposals include the Mount Dairy Farm which is an area with a high risk of flooding and is currently subject to a flooding study by the Environment Agency. The other site is part of the Blythe Valley Business Park which is currently designated for business use only.

The Parish Council is concerned that the proposed site for housing at Blythe Valley, mainly in Phase 2, is at the back of a business park with the only road access being off a motorway junction. There are poor links to local services and other settlements in the area which would stifle community integration.

This second phase of the Business Park was only granted planning permission in 2006 and questions should be asked as to whether this former Green Belt land should remain protected for employment use only or even, if it is not required for commercial use, be returned to the Green Belt.



The Parish Council has taken professional advice and has objected to many of the proposals in the Local Plan that affect Cheswick Green Parish on both legal and soundness grounds.

Further details about this can be found on the Parish Council website www.cheswickgreen-pc.org.uk

The River Blythe

The Parish Council Recreation Committee met with the Environment Agency (EA), Natural England (NE) and a representative from Solihull MBC, to look at ways that can minimise the risk of future flooding from the River Blythe. We discussed a programme to remove the debris from the river bed and to dredge under the bridges. Natural England is involved because the River Blythe is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and they must approve any work.

A dedicated site visit took place - walking along the River Blythe from the Tanworth Lane/Watery Lane junction to the Creynolds Lane/Watery Lane junction. During this visit, it was noticed that a few residents whose gardens border the River Blythe had put garden waste over their boundary fences onto the bank of the river. NE and the EA asked the Parish Council if it would remind residents of the status of the river and ask that any garden waste be disposed of elsewhere.

On the issue of flood avoidance, the Parish Council has raised a number of issues (including the silting up of the river at the bridges) with Solihull MBC and we hope that these issues will be addressed in the near future.

As soon as a programme has been approved the Parish Council will work with volunteers to clean up the river bed. Details of dates and times will be posted on the notice boards and website. Please join in.

Notice board in Illshaw Heath

Residents of Illshaw Heath will shortly have their own notice board to keep them informed of what is happening locally. Half of the notice board will be reserved for Parish Council use but the remainder can be used by Residents Associations and Charitable/Not for Profit Organisations.

The University of the Third Age

**Retired?
Semi Retired?**



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun.

Would you be interested in helping to start a U3A in Dickens Heath and district?

Enquiries: 07831 407705

Or email janice.anderson@blueyonder.co.uk

National website is www.u3a.org.uk

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

On 2nd June there will be a party at the Recreation Ground organised by Cheswick Green Residents Association to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. During the party there will be a dedication of the Jubilee Garden planted by the Parish Council.

Proposed Renovation of The Mount

The Parish Council (then Hockley Heath Parish Council) renovated The Mount in 1998 with the assistance of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Since then The Mount has fallen into a state of disrepair despite regular maintenance of certain areas. Cheswick Green Parish Council is planning to renovate the site again, and, in particular, the walkways and notice boards, but before it draws up a specification for the work it would like to hear from residents.

Given the fact that work on The Mount needs to be ongoing to ensure that it is well maintained, the Parish Council would also like to hear from residents about the creation of a “Friends of The Mount” group which might lead on to maintaining it in a good state of repair and providing feedback to the Parish Council.

Residents local to The Mount, and others with a particular interest in the site, are therefore invited to a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss what work we should carry out and also the concept of creating a “Friends” group to support this important site of historical interest. Details of the date and time will be posted on the notice boards and website.

Did you know?

There is already one Jubilee Garden in the Parish of Cheswick Green. The triangle at the junction between Vicarage Road and Tanworth Lane was dedicated to Queen Victoria at the time of her Jubilee.

Interested in helping to put the “Green” into Cheswick Green?

The Parish Council is looking at ways in which it can protect and enhance the local environment and how it might encourage others to support this aim.

It is setting up a small working group to come up with an environmental policy that will deliver achievable, practical and sustainable benefits to the environment and the community.

Issues that we want to explore include:-

- Supporting and encouraging plant and animal diversity
- Conserving, improving and protecting natural resources through proper management and the preservation, restoration and reinstatement of places of historical interest
- Investigating sustainable supplies of energy to power its premises and the introduction of sustainable energy sources within the Parish
- Supporting the development of local cycle routes to reduce the reliance on motor vehicles and
- Supporting recycling and composting schemes.

If you are interested in the environment and would like to join this working group, please contact the Parish Council by email (clerk@cheswickgreen-pc.org.uk) or by telephone on (01564) 700168.

Parish Precept

The Parish Council raises funds to pay for services by means of a precept which is collected with the Solihull Council Tax. There has been no increase in the precept for 2012/13 which will be exactly the same as that for 2011/12.

Exercise classes for the over 50's

There are currently 4 (1 hour) classes running at the Village Hall, with two levels: the more gentle classes take place on Monday at 2:30 and Thursday at 2:45; the intermediate level classes are on Monday at 3:45 and Thursday at 4:00. There are currently spaces available at all these classes and the intention was to offer these to residents of Cheswick Green first followed by any patients of The Village Surgery.

Owing to a decline in attendance, we will now be advertising these classes in Dickens Heath and Monkspath. If you are interested, however, please contact the Parish Council as soon as possible to obtain a place.

Next Meeting

Have you any issues or ideas that you would like to put to the Parish Council? At every meeting there is usually an opportunity for members of public to raise matters with the council.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 9th May at 7:30 p.m. in Cheswick Green Village Hall.

The Youth Shelter

As many of you must already be aware, our Youth Shelter on the Recreation Ground was set fire to on Monday 15th April at about 9.15pm. The damage was, luckily, not as bad as it could have been. The Parish Council now needs to decide whether or not we pay to have it repaired.

The Youth Shelter was an idea that came out of a meeting in 2001, organised by Cllr Len Cresswell and Residents Association member Ian Sill, between our local shopkeepers and representatives of our local young people. The shopkeepers and many residents were often complaining about nuisance and bad behaviour outside the shops, especially during school holidays. The young people said things like, “We are not doing any harm; where else can we meet and talk?”. Ian and Len looked round for a design that would be in keeping with the locality and the Parish Council paid £2,618 for what most people thought looked good and did the job it was supposed to do. The Parish Council paid for repairs to the roof and repainting 18 months ago.

Our Neighbourhood Police are looking into the crime and would welcome reports from anyone who can provide any information to identify who was responsible. If you do know anything about the incident but don't wish to talk to the police please contact the Parish Council.

The Jubilee Garden

The Parish Council has arranged for a mini wood to be established at the entrance of the Recreation Ground to celebrate and commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year.

30 trees are being planted at this location and the Parish Council is offering you the opportunity to 'sponsor' one of these trees. This could be in memory of a lost loved one or for whatever reason you wish. The cost is £30 per tree and these will be given on a 'first come, first served' basis. As the residents of Heron Close are mainly affected, these residents were consulted and given the first option to come forward to sponsor a tree.



If you are interested in sponsoring a tree, please complete the slip below and return it with your cheque made payable to Cheswick Green Parish Council by Monday 14th May 2012.

In return for your sponsorship the Parish Council plans to have the trees tagged or numbered and put on a master plan. You will also receive a certificate.

The Parish Council will maintain the trees and replace any that do not grow.

The Parish Council will not consider any plaques being put on or near the trees.

✂ _____

I wish to sponsor a tree in the Jubilee Garden

Your name and address

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.....
.....

In no more than fifteen words (15) please write your dedication in block capital letters below:-

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.....
.....

**Please Return to:- Cheswick Green Parish Council,
Cheswick Green Village Hall, Cheswick Way, Cheswick
Green, Solihull B90 4JA**

There is now a letterbox at the front of the Village Hall.

Extension to traveller sites

In addition to the housing proposals, there is also the possibility of extensions to the two traveller sites which are situated in the Parish adjacent to St. Patrick's School.

The sites have only recently been given planning permission. They were both originally established, without permission, in the Green Belt.

