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172 SPRING  
2006

# THE NEWSLETTER

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3,800

## DORRIDGE & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman: DAVID GLANFIELD ~ 779635 • Secretary: MALCOLM SHEPHERD ~ 773374 • Editor: PETER RADNALL ~ 770633  
e-mail address: [info@dorridge.org.uk](mailto:info@dorridge.org.uk) • [www.dorridge.org.uk](http://www.dorridge.org.uk)

• **NOTICE OF AGM (see page 3)**

### BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - WHERE WE STAND

DDRA has serious concerns about the proposals to increase the size of Birmingham Airport by extending the existing runway and adding a second runway on our side of the airport. The second runway would be appreciably nearer to Dorridge and would reach almost to the edge of Catherine-de-Barnes, see map on page 3. We feel we need to make this Association's position clear on an issue which we believe will have a harmful effect on our own area as well as on the airport's closer neighbours. First you may wish to note the following.

The current consultation period, set up by the Airport Company, ends on 31st March 2006. If you wish to comment you should write to:

**Airport Master Plan**, Birmingham International Airport, Birmingham B26 3QJ e-mail: [runway@bhx.co.uk](mailto:runway@bhx.co.uk)

Copy to: **Caroline Spelman MP**, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA e-mail: [Caroline@CarolineSpelman.com](mailto:Caroline@CarolineSpelman.com)

• **Paul Watson**, Head of Planning Services, SMBC, Council House, Solihull B91 3YA e-mail: [paulwatson@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:paulwatson@solihull.gov.uk)

• **Councillor A. Mackiewicz**, 4 Manor Road, Dorridge, Solihull B93 8DX e-mail: [amackiewicz@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:amackiewicz@solihull.gov.uk)

• **Councillor K. Meeson**, 9 Glendon Way, Dorridge, Solihull B93 8SY e-mail: [kmeeson@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:kmeeson@solihull.gov.uk)

• **Councillor I. Courts**, 89 Station Road, Balsall Common, Solihull CV7 7FN e-mail: [icourts@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:icourts@solihull.gov.uk)

Remember, the airport is in Solihull so Planning Application will have to be made to the Council. It is important to make our views known to our local representatives. You can get more details of the proposals from our website, (see above)..

In summary, DDRA's feeling are that

- "Predict and Build" is a shaky principle. BIA plans a huge expansion on the basis of predicted growth in air transport by 2030, but there are factors which could inhibit that growth - diminishing fuel supplies, an increasingly unsafe world, or simply lack of room in the skies or on airport approach and departure tracks.
- The infrastructure around BIA is currently unable to handle the volume of traffic at certain times. A major event at the NEC, an accident, or simply too much traffic brings the M42 to a standstill. The plan to build an improved link between the airport and M42 will not help if passengers cannot even reach the link, and if the NEC's bid to build a Super Casino at the Centre is successful the situation could become even more critical. An additional fear is that in the event of a major incident at the airport emergency vehicles may find access difficult.
- In the Second Runway scenario the loss of a huge swathe of Green Belt extending to the very edge of Catherine-de-Barnes village would be unacceptable.
- Any increase in the number of aircraft using BIA would have the potential to create more noise over Dorridge. This would be far more likely if the Second Runway scheme were to be implemented.

(Continued Overleaf)



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## BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - WHERE WE STAND (Continued)

- We question the need for BIA to serve a greater number of overseas destinations. British Airways has twice introduced and then suspended operations to New York, while American Airlines discontinued its service to Chicago. At present there are scheduled flights from Birmingham to North America, to the Indian sub-continent, to the Gulf, to Central Asia, and to numerous destinations throughout the whole of Europe. We are told that the business community requires an extended airport. We ask - why?
- We suspect - although we do not have the figures - that the majority of BIA's passengers are leaving on holiday, or for three or four day breaks. A report recently published by the Civil Aviation Authority confirms that this is so at other regional airports. One result of the increase in air travel is that the tourism deficit, the difference between what British tourists spend abroad and what foreign visitors spend here, has widened from

£4.7bn in 1997 to £17.6bn last year. It is hard to reconcile this with the argument that an increase in air travel would boost the economy.

To conclude, DDRA is totally opposed to the expansion of BIA to provide a second runway. If it can be shown conclusively that some expansion will be required we believe that this should be within the existing perimeter, and that the least damaging plan would be to maximise the use of the existing runway, notably by the use of fast-exit taxiways.

In 2004 Gatwick Airport carried three and a half times more passengers than Birmingham, and logged nearly twice as many aircraft movements.

### GATWICK HAS ONLY ONE RUNWAY

*SO THAT WE CAN GAUGE LOCAL FEELING PLEASE COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND RETURN IT TO ANY OF THE "SUBSCRIPTION LETTER BOX" ADDRESSES AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER.*

## BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - QUESTIONNAIRE

### 1) Thinking about your home, does the thought of BIA expanding:

- a.  Not worry you, as there is no nuisance and you would not expect to be affected?
- b.  Not concern you if flights are properly managed to avoid overflying Knowle & Dorridge?
- c.  Concern you because you believe that there is bound to be a noticeable nuisance.

### 3) Is your personal preference:

- a.  No expansion.
- b.  Expansion of the existing runway.
- c.  Expansion to a second runway.
- d.  Expansion without limit.

### 2) Do you think you personally will benefit from expansion (tick any that might apply):

- a.  For your holiday travel.
- b.  For your business travel.
- c.  Direct benefit to your employment or business.
- d.  Indirect benefit: the Solihull area becoming more affluent due to benefits.
- e.  None of the above.

### 4) Do you think that the DDRA should:

- a.  Support the airport expansion plan as suggested by BIA?
- b.  Object along the lines we have stated?
- c.  Strongly object to any development whatsoever?

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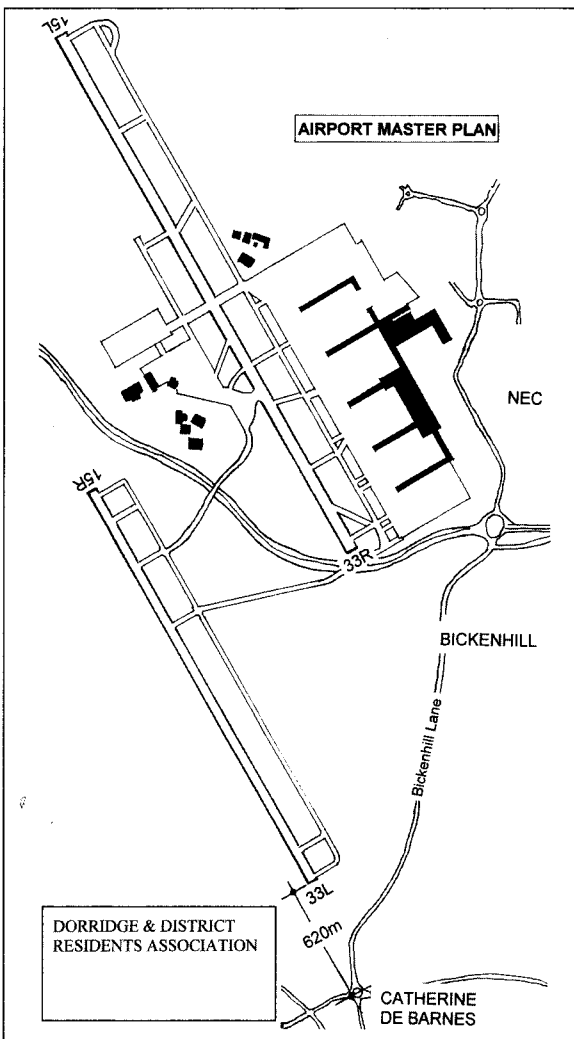


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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 45th Annual General Meeting of The Dorridge & District Residents Association will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd March 2006 at Bentley Heath Community Hall, Widney Road, Bentley Heath.

After the **DDRA** formal business there will be an interval when coffee, tea & biscuits will be served. This will be followed by a talk on 'The role of Magistrates and the Court in the Community' by Mr John Barritt, Chairman of the Bench, Solihull Magistrates.

**EDUCATION**

More good news for us on the education front this year. Solihull is the 7th best LEA nationally, despite the low funding from the Government over many years.

Dorridge Nursery and Infants Schools, and Arden School have been rated the best of the best by OFSTED again nationally. Arden was one of only two schools in the West Midlands to achieve this standard.

To complete the hat-trick Bentley Heath Primary School came second, again nationally, in literacy, numeracy and science for 11 year olds.

Congratulations to all on this wonderful effort.

**DARLEY GREEN**

Residents in Darley Green contacted the DDRA concerning speeding traffic, which has caused one serious and two less serious injuries, extensive damage to their homes and cars between January 1st 2002 and July 31st 2005.

Although Darley Green is in Knowle, the DDRA prepared a report calling for traffic calming supported by letters from residents. A petition and detail proposals were then submitted on their behalf to Solihull MBC.

We are pleased to report that the present 60mph limit will be reduced to 40mph between Blue Lake Road and Mill Pool Lane. Plans to enhance the road signs and road markings have also been approved.

**ANYONE FOR CROQUET?**

Enjoy idyllic spring and summer evenings at the Silhillian Croquet Club, Knowle (by Junction5, M42)

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Giles and Heather Dolleymore 01564 773468  
 Deryck Crump 01564 775300  
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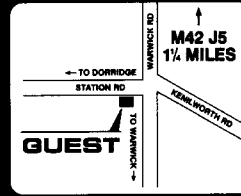
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## THE WRITING'S ON THE WALL!!

A 15 year old from Knowle has appeared in Court following a graffiti writing spree in Knowle and Dorridge and has received a 4 month Referral Order (a kind of Community Sentence), a CRASBO (Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order) and has been ordered to pay compensation for the damage. Youngsters tempted into defacing premises really do need to think about their actions and the effect on their victims, their families and, ultimately, themselves.

Many thanks to the Police for their prompt action and to Solihull Council for a quick response to our request to have the graffiti removed.

## FUN RUN GOES ON-LINE

A new web site has been launched by Knowle and Dorridge Lions to allow runners to register on-line. The event is becoming increasingly popular and internet registering will save the Club a lot of work by not having to key in runners' details. It is hoped that as many runners as possible will use the system by logging on to [www.KnowleFunRun.org.uk](http://www.KnowleFunRun.org.uk).

And please note the date for this year's run - **SUNDAY MAY 14th.**

## DORRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

The Dorridge Village Hall Association was formed in 1977, 'to maintain and manage the hall, and to promote it for the benefit of the residents of Dorridge, and others, by way of clubs, societies, private and public functions, theatre groups and such'.

The hall is self-supporting financially, and is managed by a small committee. The hall is financially sound, is in good repair, and is well used by a wide range of groups.

For the last 28 years, Paul Burley has been Chairman, Trustee and Honorary Architect.

Paul Burley and his wife have now moved away from Dorridge and he now feels that it is time for someone else to take over from him as Chairman and Trustee.

Interested? contact - Paul Burley on 01789 414 481

## VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

The visit on 1st November last year to The Houses of Parliament organised by Pam Nunn was so successful that she has been asked to organise a second visit. Pam needs to know how many people are interested. If you would like to be included telephone Pam Nunn on 772806 - no commitment on your part or ours.

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