



Sytner Mini

120 Highlands Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 4BW
Tel: 0121-733 5222



STATION APPROACH CONSERVATION AREA 1992

BMW in Solihull



Sytner BMW

120 Highlands Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 4BW
Tel: 0121-733 3444

174 AUTUMN
2006

THE NEWSLETTER

CIRCULATION
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 • www.dorridge.org.uk

MOTORWAY SERVICE AREAS ON THE M42 - THE THREAT RETURNS

DDRA was represented recently at a pre-inquiry meeting which laid the foundations for a full Public Inquiry in November/December to discuss the creation of an MSA at Catherine-de-Barnes. The Association made its position clear at the last inquiry in 1999/2000 when proposals for Junction 4, Junction 5 and Catherine-de-Barnes were discussed. We said then that we do not believe that there should be an MSA anywhere on the Solihull section of the M42, and we have not changed our view. We believe that the volume of traffic, the existence of the NEC, the ever growing Business Park and the uncertainty of airport expansion plans render this stretch of road totally unsuitable for further development. Neither could we endorse the inevitable loss of Green Belt land and the incursion into the so-called 'Meriden Gap' which forms the buffer between the Solihull and Coventry conurbations. While the forthcoming inquiry has been set up to look specifically at Catherine-de-Barnes it was revealed at the pre-inquiry meeting that Shirley Estates is now seeking to revive the application at Junction 4 and have the Box Trees site discussed at the same Public Inquiry. This site would occupy a huge piece of land on the south side of the M42 between the motorway and Gate Lane, with Gate Lane as the access road. All MSA traffic would leave the M42 at the Junction 4 roundabout.

DDRA was also present at a small working party meeting on July 26 when it was agreed that we would form a consortium of local Residents Associations and Parish Councils to oppose both applications. The group would then have full representation at the Public Inquiry. So far Dorridge & District, Hampton-in-Arden, Catherine-de-Barnes and Balsall Common are on board

but DDRA has contacted Knowle Society, Hockley Heath Parish Council and Hockley Heath Residents to ask for their support. This is a serious issue and success by the developers at either site would have a damaging effect on all of us. We will keep you informed via our website and Notice Boards in Dorridge and Bentley Heath. And of course if you have any comments do get in touch by letter or e-mail.

STOP PRESS - WE HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT THE BOX TREES SITE IS TO BE INCLUDED.

You can see the plans at Connect in the Solihull Library Complex.

TOILETS - IT'S LOONACY!

They didn't see it coming did they? Did our Council really think that public toilets across the Borough could simply be removed without a murmur from anyone. In fact what they did get was a concerted roar of disapproval which you will have all seen in the local Press. DDRA was quick off the mark with its own formal protest to Councillor Bell, and we were considering how best to mobilise the troops when it became obvious that we wouldn't have to. We hope that a goodly number of you wrote to the Council following our notices in Dorridge and Bentley Heath and on our website and so great has been the reaction from all quarters that we have retired from the field of battle - at least for the time being. We did receive a few e-mails from Councillor Bell and now we plan to wait and see. As you should all know, we have expressed our satisfaction more than once with the efforts of the Council on our behalf but this time - well they have simply got it wrong.



HOLLAND CORNER,
LODGE ROAD, KNOWLE
TEL: 01564 772234
343 STRATFORD RD, SHIRLEY
TEL: 0121 745 5692

TYRES, TUBES,
ELECTRONIC WHEEL
ALIGNMENT,
BRAKE CHECK & REPAD
SUSPENSION SERVICE,
EXHAUSTS, BATTERIES,
FULL CAR SERVICING
APPROVED MOT TEST
STATION

Stratstone

AUTHORISED JAGUAR DEALER

STRATFORD ROAD · HOCKLEY HEATH · SOLIHULL · WEST MIDLANDS · B94 6HH
TEL: 01564 784935 www.stratstone.com



JAGUAR

DORRIDGE CYCLES

488 Station Road, Dorridge

- NEW CYCLES •
- SPARES & REPAIRS •

~Your Local Family Cycle Shop~

TEL: 01564 779996

**KINGSLEY
TUITION CENTRE**

Tuition for entrance examinations
and specialist help for dyslexic children.

HANBURY ROAD, DORRIDGE
TEL: 01564 770730

**Philip McCullough BDS
Samantha McCullough BDS**

DENTAL HEALTH CARE 474 STATION ROAD DORRIDGE SOLIHULL WEST MIDS B93 8HE

A fresh approach to a caring partnership

Telephone: 01564 772578

**THE
DRAWING ROOM**

INTERIORS LIMITED

CURTAINS · BLINDS · LIGHTS · UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE · WALLPAPER · COMPLETE INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE ·

TEL - 01564 770570 FAX - 01564 771551
480 STATION ROAD, DORRIDGE, SOLIHULL B93 8HP
enquiries@drawingroominteriors.co.uk
www.drawingroominteriors.co.uk

THE MUSIC STORE

11 FOREST COURT DORRIDGE • 01564 773100

We stock a good range of instruments, music & gifts

- Dean, Vintage & Brunswick Electric & Acoustic Guitars
- Rodriguez, Kimbara & Santo Martinez Classical Guitars
- Stentor, Primavera & Antoni Violins
- Earham Brass & Woodwind Instruments
- School Recorders from £3.95
- Loads of Music Books

•We also carry out repairs to all instruments to a professional standard

MORE PERSONAL ATTENTION FOR OUR PATCH.

We were pleased to meet recently with two new SMBC employees, Alison Lush and Kerry Mountjoy, who will be taking a personal interest in our area. Alison will manage the newly appointed Neighbourhood Coordinators across the whole Rural Sector and Kerry will be the coordinator with specific responsibility for Dorridge and Hockley Heath. Kerry will join with the Neighbourhood Police Team under Sgt Ann Strachan and our area Park Rangers led by Jon West to form a team whose sole interest will be in our own little corner of the Borough. She will also attend our Committee meetings along with Sgt Strachan and WPC Laura Gwatkin, as well as ad hoc meetings with other Committee members as the need arises. Kerry can be contacted on 0121 704 8304. Ann and Kerry are also hoping to revive the monthly surgery in Knowle Library, possibly in September, and Kerry will have contact with a network of other Council staff so that issues raised by residents can be handed on to the appropriate person.

TALKING OF WHICH.....

Sgt Strachan has handed on the latest news from the Neighbourhood Police Team. Her intention is to provide a monthly bulletin for each beat in her area so that we all have a running commentary on crime levels and police activity. Beat 8 covers Dorridge, Bentley Heath and Hockley Heath and the return for June shows 38 recorded crimes (31 in June 2005). These break down as follows :

- DORRIDGE - 20. Five general thefts; 5 vehicle crimes; 3 criminal damage; 3 burglary dwelling; 1 burglary other; 2 thefts from person; 1 deception offence.
- BENTLEY HEATH - 3. One theft from motor vehicle; 1 general theft; 1 making off without paying.
- HOCKLEY HEATH - 15. Seven thefts from motor vehicle; 3 general thefts; 1 burglary dwelling; 1 burglary other; 1 theft from person; 1 common assault; 1 criminal damage by fire.

Once again vehicle crime comes out on top and many of these involve vehicles left in pub, hotel or other

commercial car parks. Satnavs and Laptops are the favourite targets and owners are once again urged to **ALWAYS MAKE SURE NOTHING VALUABLE IS LEFT ON VIEW IN A VEHICLE!**

The June report also shows that Operation Mulberry is continuing throughout the summer months to combat anti-social behaviour with high visibility patrols, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. Several 'target' youths have been arrested, alcohol confiscated, and warnings given about ASB involving motorcycles. In fact a beach buggy causing concern in Knowle, but also seen in Dorridge, has been impounded.

AND THIS IS HOW IT FEELS.... to be a victim of burglary.

A Poplar Road resident tells how a long weekend away left his family traumatised when they returned to find their home violated. A rear double glazed kitchen window was levered out without even breaking the glass and the house was emptied of all electrical goods, jewellery, cash and the 3-year old Toyota car whose keys were in a drawer in the hall. The homeowner describes the scene as 'carnage' which left his wife and children in tears at the intrusion into the lovely home which they work so hard to maintain and cherish. Of course no house can be made totally safe but think about these points :

- Never believe it can't happen to you. IT CAN!
- When you go away, see if neighbours or friends can keep an eye on the house - maybe even call in from time to time
- At least try to get someone to remove post and newspapers from the porch
- Fit an alarm and/or security lights with sensors
- Have some interior lights on timers set for various times
- Try not to be obvious when loading the car - piles of luggage etc on the drive are a real giveaway and could lead to a real takeaway
- Take spare keys on holiday with you
- Take a hard look at your house and see how YOU might break in - then deal with it!

**MICHAEL
PETERS**

**Specialist
in all Floor
Coverings,
Beds & Blinds**

HOME CONSULTANCY SERVICE

24 FOREST COURT, DORRIDGE, B93 8HN
TEL: 01564 772401
FAX: 01564 770068
www.michael-peters.com






DIXON'S
**PET FOODS &
 GARDEN SUPPLIES**
 WIDE RANGE OF HOME BREW KITS
 6 FOREST COURT, DORRIDGE
01564 775408



Dorridge Travel Service
 7 Station Approach, Dorridge,
 Solihull. Tel: 01564 776252
 ABTA
 An Independent and Personal Service



SALEEM BAGH
 INDIAN CUISINE
 Fully Accredited Fully Licensed
 476 Station Road, Dorridge, Solihull B93 8HE
 OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
 Sunday - Thursday 5pm - 1am
 Friday - Saturday 5pm - 2am
 Open at lunchtime for parties by reservation only.
 We also do outside catering with or without staff.
 TAKE AWAY SERVICE Always available
 (01564) 777190 or 772409



FACE
 Hairdressing
 25 Forest Court Dorridge
 01564 772 729

And of course you can get advice from the Police on 0845 113 5000. Ask for Crime Prevention.

IT'S A LOAD OF RUBBISH

After our bit in the last Newsletter about bin bags disgorging their contents a resident pointed out that even double-wrapping will not beat the determined magpie, and he wonders if anyone has any ideas on ways of improving rubbish disposal. Wheelie bins? Some areas have them but there are mixed feelings about their practicality. What do you think? Are there any measures you would like us to put to the Council as serious solutions to this ever present problem? If so, tell us what they are.

SIZE DOES MATTER

At least it does to developers who try to maximise profit by putting up the largest house or houses they can get away with. A recent application for a site in Dorridge was for a 5 bedroom house with 6 bathrooms and 8 WCs! It might have solved the public toilet closure problem but DDRA thought it really was too much, and said so very strongly. Such large properties are often 3 storey, leave minimal garden area and dominate neighbouring houses, and we are trying to get the Council to consider the environmental impact - energy use, materials etc - of simply constructing something of that size where a smaller building could accommodate the same number of people.

We are also talking to the Council about implementing the policies it says it has adopted. One such is that new housing should contribute to public open spaces either by creating some or by providing payments to establish some elsewhere. It appears that this policy has been applied only twice in over 600 applications across the Borough.

Our Planning Secretary is forging stronger links with the Council's Planning Department, including face-to-face meetings with Officers to discuss the kinds of issues outlined above while maintaining our already well-tryed practice of assessing new development plans and, if

necessary, taking appropriate action to mitigate or oppose them. The major concern at the moment is that there are three separate applications for development of 'back land' (ie gardens) within the triangle bounded by Dorridge Road, Clyde Road and Temple Road. Residents and DDRA are working hard to protect the valuable green space which would be lost if these applications were to succeed.


ROADS, RACETRACKS, OR CAR PARKS?

We continue to worry about the speed of traffic on some of the roads on our patch. However a Dorridge Road resident has succeeded in his bid to get the Council to erect a temporary Speed Visor, which should be in place as you read this item. The device will probably be in the region of Clyde Road and will flash '30mph' at any vehicle exceeding the limit.

Parking? Well you know the story. We continue to try to improve the situation regarding huge lorries parking to deliver to Tesco, but we have to admit that residents themselves do not always consider where and how they park. Double yellow lines are ignored, vehicles are left too close to junctions and disabled spaces are abused - all points that have been raised with us by residents. We can only ask that drivers park safely and with consideration for other road users and pedestrians. We are also responding to a local request and asking for a Traffic Warden visit.

In Four Ashes, Box Trees and Widney Manor Roads a range of safety measures were proposed by the Council and sent out for consultation. These mostly involve more prominent signage, but there will also be some improved junctions and minor safety improvements. DDRA was broadly in favour of the proposals but we suggested that there is an urgent need to realign the Earlswood Road/Box Trees Road junction at Bentley Manor to improve visibility and to extend the 40mph speed limit to beyond the junction in the direction of the Stratford Road. We expressed disappointment that Gate Lane had not been included and asked that it should be considered as soon as possible. One view expressed recently is that it should be closed to traffic and turned

Standley & Co *Solicitors Knowle*
 Moving House - Making a Will
 Probate - Divorce - General Litigation
 Business Matters
 Tel: 01564 776287
 Email: partners@standley.co.uk

Dorridge Auto 
 Your one stop shop for all of your car spares & accessories.
 We specialise in roofboxes and bars. Call us or visit our web site at www.roofboxcentral.com for more information.
 Call us on 01564 776144, or come to see us at Forest Court in the centre of Dorridge. There's plenty of free parking!

Hair by *Natalie* Established 1985
 happy to announce 20 years successful trading!
 'Thank You' to all our clients - Ladies, Gentlemen & Children
 Thursday & Friday open until 8pm
 482 Station Road, Dorridge Tel: 01564 772494

**KINGSLEY
TUITION CENTRE**

Tuition for entrance examinations
and specialist help for dyslexic children.

HANBURY ROAD, DORRIDGE
TEL: 01564 770730

**Philip McCullough BDS
Samantha McCullough BDS**

DENTAL HEALTH CARE 474 STATION ROAD DORRIDGE SOLIHULL WEST MIDS B93 8HE

A fresh approach to a caring partnership
Telephone: 01564 772578

**THE
DRAWING ROOM**

INTERIORS LIMITED

CURTAINS · BLINDS · LIGHTS · UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE · WALLPAPER · COMPLETE INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE

TEL: 01564 770570 FAX: 01564 771551
480 STATION ROAD, DORRIDGE, SOLIHULL B93 8HP
enquiries@drawingroominteriors.co.uk
www.drawingroominteriors.co.uk

THE MUSIC STORE

11 FOREST COURT DORRIDGE • 01564 773100

We stock a good range of instruments, music & gifts

- Dean, Vintage & Brunswick Electric & Acoustic Guitars
- Rodriguez, Kimbara & Santo Martinez Classical Guitars
- Stentor, Primavera & Antoni Violins
- Earham Brass & Woodwind Instruments
- School Recorders from £3.95
- Loads of Music Books

• We also carry out repairs to all instruments to a professional standard

MORE PERSONAL ATTENTION FOR OUR PATCH.

We were pleased to meet recently with two new SMBC employees, Alison Lush and Kerry Mountjoy, who will be taking a personal interest in our area. Alison will manage the newly appointed Neighbourhood Coordinators across the whole Rural Sector and Kerry will be the coordinator with specific responsibility for Dorridge and Hockley Heath. Kerry will join with the Neighbourhood Police Team under Sgt Ann Strachan and our area Park Rangers led by Jon West to form a team whose sole interest will be in our own little corner of the Borough. She will also attend our Committee meetings along with Sgt Strachan and WPC Laura Gwatkin, as well as ad hoc meetings with other Committee members as the need arises. Kerry can be contacted on 0121 704 8304. Ann and Kerry are also hoping to revive the monthly surgery in Knowle Library, possibly in September, and Kerry will have contact with a network of other Council staff so that issues raised by residents can be handed on to the appropriate person.

TALKING OF WHICH.....

Sgt Strachan has handed on the latest news from the Neighbourhood Police Team. Her intention is to provide a monthly bulletin for each beat in her area so that we all have a running commentary on crime levels and police activity. Beat 8 covers Dorridge, Bentley Heath and Hockley Heath and the return for June shows 38 recorded crimes (31 in June 2005). These break down as follows :

- DORRIDGE - 20. Five general thefts; 5 vehicle crimes; 3 criminal damage; 3 burglary dwelling; 1 burglary other; 2 thefts from person; 1 deception offence.
- BENTLEY HEATH - 3. One theft from motor vehicle; 1 general theft; 1 making off without paying.
- HOCKLEY HEATH - 15. Seven thefts from motor vehicle; 3 general thefts; 1 burglary dwelling; 1 burglary other; 1 theft from person; 1 common assault; 1 criminal damage by fire.

Once again vehicle crime comes out on top and many of these involve vehicles left in pub, hotel or other

commercial car parks. Satnavs and Laptops are the favourite targets and owners are once again urged to **ALWAYS MAKE SURE NOTHING VALUABLE IS LEFT ON VIEW IN A VEHICLE!**

The June report also shows that Operation Mulberry is continuing throughout the summer months to combat anti-social behaviour with high visibility patrols, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. Several 'target' youths have been arrested, alcohol confiscated, and warnings given about ASB involving motorcycles. In fact a beach buggy causing concern in Knowle, but also seen in Dorridge, has been impounded.

AND THIS IS HOW IT FEELS.... to be a victim of burglary.

A Poplar Road resident tells how a long weekend away left his family traumatised when they returned to find their home violated. A rear double glazed kitchen window was levered out without even breaking the glass and the house was emptied of all electrical goods, jewellery, cash and the 3-year old Toyota car whose keys were in a drawer in the hall. The homeowner describes the scene as 'carnage' which left his wife and children in tears at the intrusion into the lovely home which they work so hard to maintain and cherish. Of course no house can be made totally safe but think about these points :

- Never believe it can't happen to you. IT CAN!
- When you go away, see if neighbours or friends can keep an eye on the house - maybe even call in from time to time
- At least try to get someone to remove post and newspapers from the porch
- Fit an alarm and/or security lights with sensors
- Have some interior lights on timers set for various times
- Try not to be obvious when loading the car - piles of luggage etc on the drive are a real giveaway and could lead to a real takeaway
- Take spare keys on holiday with you
- Take a hard look at your house and see how YOU might break in - then deal with it!

**MICHAEL
PETERS**

**Specialist
in all Floor
Coverings,
Beds & Blinds**

HOME CONSULTANCY SERVICE

24 FOREST COURT, DORRIDGE, B93 8HN
TEL: 01564 772401
FAX: 01564 770068
www.michael-peters.com

