

Berkswell Traffic Calming Meeting – Communication Update

Following a public meeting at the Reading Rooms in April this year, representatives from The Berkswell Society and Parish Council met on Monday 2nd November 2015 with representatives from various other Community groups linked to the village to discuss traffic calming within the village. The current representatives are Graham Lock (Berkswell Society); Charlotte Ridley (Berkswell Church); Tracy Drew (Head) and Claire Farnell (Governor) Berkswell Primary School; Nick Parry (Berkswell Estate); Dinah Edwards (Berkswell Parish Council) and Jane Edwards (Berkswell Charities). These representatives form the initial Stakeholder Group: they have a broad range of interests in the village along with those who live, work and visit it on a regular basis and the Group has been formed in order to try and resolve the traffic issues within the village ie to reduce the speed of traffic through the village; improve safety in an environmentally sensitive manner and to improve the visual amenity of the conservation area.

Traffic movements, including pedestrian safety within the village continue to be of significant concern to many. It is a daily problem which to date has had no satisfactory resolution. Over many years solutions have been sought by those in the community, however the problem remains. Whilst there have been several accidents at the crossroads there have been no fatalities to date and traffic movements are therefore not judged by Solihull MBC to require urgent action. The Group will, with the help of the community, investigate the issues and plan to undertake an initial feasibility study to determine the best outcomes.

The Berkswell Society and the Parish Council have already been in discussions with Nick Page (CEO) and Ashley Prior (Head of Highways) at Solihull MBC. They have expressed interest in and given a commitment to a community led traffic management scheme within Berkswell. They are keen for the community to proceed with this project and the findings will more than likely feed into the Berkswell and Balsall Common Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Group would like to consider the potential of developing a shared space scheme for Berkswell, as presented by Ben Hamilton-Ballie at the open meeting in Berkswell in April 2015. Ben's methods use shared space principles for street design to improve safety and congestion. More information on Ben's work can be found at <http://www.hamilton-baillie.co.uk/>.

As a community led initiative, the Group will work within the community to develop a successful resolution. Only by building an open and transparent relationship with all parties and achieving community ownership of the project, will it succeed. We will provide updates throughout the life of the project and will welcome your views, and indeed should you wish to get involved or feel you can assist in any way please do contact one of us (via Berkswell Parish Council, PO Box 6379, Coventry, CV6 9LP or clerk@berkswellparishcouncil.org.uk)