

Berkswell Parish Council

Come and say hello.

As part of our on-going commitment to make the Council more accessible to residents we will be running trial “open sessions” during March. Our new clerk, Sharon Butterworth, will work from the Balsall Common library and Berkswell Stores’ Team Room for two hours each week during March. We hope this will enable residents who are unable to attend our monthly meetings to raise any issue with Sharon directly in an informal and open environment – so do come along and say hello. She’ll bring issues and questions raised to our next meeting, and respond directly back to you with any outcomes.

Monday: 10.00-12.00 Berkswell Village Stores’ Tea Room

Tuesday: 10.00-12.00 Balsall Common library

Spirit of Berkswell website. You’ll have read in the last issue that www.berkswell.org is now live and now incorporates the websites for the Parish Council, Church, Berkswell Society and the School. This is just the first phase of development of this exciting initiative. The next phase will be to incorporate many more community, clubs, societies and other organisations to eventually create a one-stop-shop for anything and everything “Berkswell”. Take a look, and get involved if you can.

HS2. By the time you are reading this the Council will have submitted its response to the latest HS2 Consultation – on the impact on the environment of the scheme. “Immense” would be our simple response but we are going to great lengths to elaborate on that, and to set the scene for future petitioning. Petitioning is a potentially complex thing to get right, so we will be investing in professional help to ensure we (and individual residents) can petition effectively. More on this in a future issue.

Other development issues continue to arise. Residents made their views very clear at a recent Council meeting in relation to the proposed Duggins Lane development. The Council’s own response echoed these concerns and over 30 objections have now been received by SMBC. We are therefore hopeful that the developer will think again and come back with a more appropriate plan – and one in which the residents have contributed.

A plan is emerging to build a Solar Park at Nailcote Farm which would consist of 80,000 solar panels placed on structures up to 10ft high. More information will become available at a public exhibition which will have been held in February – see next issue for an update.

The Pound Close play equipment has now been removed and ideas on the future use of this land will be discussed at our next meeting on the 27th March – if you have ideas, please come along to discuss them. The land is owned by the Berkswell Estate, but leased by the Parish Council.

Litter Pick time again. Litter-pickers please put 5th and 6th April in your diary for the annual litter picking weekend – more details in the next issue.

Vacancy. We currently have a vacancy on the Council – if you’d like to put a little back into the community we all enjoy, please get in touch and we’ll provide you with more information about the role.

Next Meeting. Thursday 27th March – Jubilee Centre, Station Road, Balsall Common. Visit www.berkswell.org for more information and agenda – published at least 3 days before the meeting.

Graham Lock
Chairman