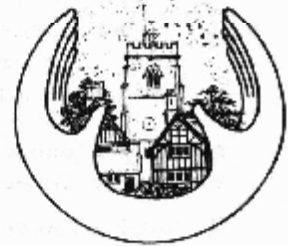


The Knowle Society

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 1990

A SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING will take place on THURSDAY 9th AUGUST 1990 in order to discuss CAR PARKING IN THE VILLAGE. The meeting will be held in KNOWLE VILLAGE HALL and will commence at 8.00 p.m. We hope to have a good attendance to discuss this important issue.

SPECIAL MEETING ON PUBLIC CAR PARKS

The emphasis at the above meeting is likely to be on shopping. What action do you think needs to be taken to make more car parking spaces available for shoppers in Knowle?

Solihull Council's Public Works and Amenities Committee is poised to act, but has agreed to defer action until after Knowle Society has expressed its views. We would like to take the opportunity to put forward a coherent long-term plan rather than any piecemeal solutions. If we put up suggestions along the following lines, would they have your approval?

SUGGESTIONS

1. Plans should be put in hand now to extend the existing central car parks by about 100 places. (Capacity of the present four parks is about 290).
2. All central car parks should be free for shoppers, but there should be a three-hour time limit with a £8 charge for excess.
3. Provision should be made for all-day parkers by means of a number of peripheral car parks all within easy walking distances (say four minutes walk) from the centre of the village.

The extra short term parking in the centre could be provided by:

- a. The area alongside the car park behind the village hall. This is already in the Council budget as a proposed extension.
- b. The triangular area between the side of the village hall and the service road behind the High Street shops. A well landscaped and properly maintained car park would be an improvement on the present untidy state.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat	Sep 1	Local Walk (Angela Coleman) 2.30 p.m. Meet in the car park of McCann-Erickson (formerly Toon & Heath), 1266 Warwick Road, Copt Heath.
Thurs	Sep 27	General Meeting "Herbaceous Borders" Mr. Gordon Veitch
Tues	Oct 2	Theatre Party "Rudigore".
Mon	Oct 22	General Meeting "Knowle in Solihull" Mrs. Joy Woodhall

- c. Diagonal parking at the side of the road facing the front of the village hall. In order to widen the road, no established trees need be touched and there is scope for sympathetic landscaping.

All-day (longer than three hours) parking facilities could be provided on two pieces of Council property, namely:

- d. Land adjacent to the Jobs Close car park on Longdon Road. The existing car park opposite the end of Newton Road could be enlarged and extended to the other side of the footpath across the park.
- e. An area at the top of Jobs Close Park adjacent to the tennis courts. As part of this, the public conveniences could be removed.

Consideration should also be given to the possibility of four further car parks on the following land which is at present privately owned:

- f. The area in front of the football club on Hampton Road. Day time parking need not restrict its current use in the evenings and at weekends.
- g. Land on either side of Station Road within the improvement line for Knowle Relief Road. Preferably this should be on the South side where it could assist parents collecting children from Arden School.
- h. Land adjacent to the Warwick Road dual carriageway just South of the village. Or possibly on the central reservation itself?
- i. Land on Kixley Lane next to the entrance to the Junior and Infant Schools. This should be designed to enable parents to collect children from the school, via Kixley Lane, thus avoiding the congestion and the hazardous exit onto the High Street which is associated with the park behind the library.

Do you think something like this will be needed over the next ten years?
How important is it?

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING AND AIR YOUR VIEWS

Peter Morton
Knowle 778688

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Car parking is becoming a vital issue. More and more spaces are being taken up all day by office workers working in the High Street and the shoppers are finding it more difficult to find a place. Surrounding roads are becoming full. A crisis is threatened! Your Committee has put together a number of suggestions and we have had a meeting with the Council Officers. We have opposed making the Tesco car park "short stay" as this will just push the problem elsewhere, unless alternatives are considered.

Please come to the Village Hall meeting to debate the issues. Participation by members is vital. At the recent Litter Pick-up Day less than ten non-Committee members turned up. You cannot complain if you don't act!

DR. R. J. Bower
Knowle 772648

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

At the Ritz Video Hire shop in the High Street the Local Authority would like the brass picture lights removed - they are considered clumsy and obtrusive within the conservation area and have not received planning permission.

Large brass lights installed at the Curry Centre, also erected without planning permission, are quite out of scale with this small property in the High Street, and ample street lighting is sufficient. The local authority is also requesting their removal.

A change of use requested at the Pet Shop in Lodge Road to a restaurant was refused because of lack of parking provision for customers. Though there is a public car park nearby, provision in such applications must be found by the applicant for restaurant customers.

An illuminated fascia sign at Xtra Vision Hire in Station Road has been refused as the property faces houses which lie within the Knowle Conservation Area, and such lighting is an intrusion on these properties. A retrospective application for a new shop front at this property was reluctantly approved at a recent local authority Planning Committee.

An application for 29 houses to be built on a 10.5 acre site at Pool Meadow Close, Copt Heath, was refused. The land lies within the Green Belt and any development would be clearly seen from the motorway.

An application for an agricultural bungalow was refused at Springfield Farm as it was considered by the local authority that the agricultural need of the farm holding appears to be satisfied by the presence of Springfield Farm itself.

A planning application for a High Street development of the Fine Arts and Antique Shop in the High Street to a restaurant/take-away has been opposed by the Knowle Society. We already have four such outlets in this part of the High Street.

However, an application by Richard Lukeman for his properties, 1675-1677, in the High Street, we have found to be a most appropriate development, encouraging the kind of outlets we need to retain and attract shoppers to Knowle. The local authority deferred the application but invited the applicant to resubmit.

An application for a change of use of a gown shop in the High Street to a bookmakers was approved by the local authority. The Knowle Society objected to this loss of a retail outlet in the High Street and felt that the bookmakers present location in Station Road, with parking facilities available, was a far more suitable location. Two other objections to this application were received by the local authority.

At Middlefield Hospital, Grove Road, approval has been given for three detached community bases homes for the mentally handicapped. These houses will count in the 100 to be permitted on this site.

A Mercury 'phone booth, which the local authority consider to be fairly vandal-proof, will be installed on the wall of the National Westminster Bank in the High Street. The local authority cannot refuse the installation of these booths.

Myffy Parsons
Knowle T72967

AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of Knowle Spring Clean Day, by collecting litter and distributing sacks. More "eyesores" were attended to than last year, but we collected less sacks of rubbish. Maybe that means that Knowle is tidier than it was!

A big thank you goes to young William Holder who attended the "opening ceremony", to the many shopkeepers who displayed posters for us, and of course to Ted Walden who did all the hard work of organising it. Also to the Council who kindly provided the skip and the sacks. Our Chairman set the finest of examples by collecting seven sacks full of litter. However, not so many people followed his lead and we are reconsidering whether a repeat effort next year would be justified. What do members think?

Peter Morton
Knowle 778688

NATURE CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Warwickshire Nature Conservation Trust has recently launched a Village Nature Trail competition to encourage local communities to become more closely involved with the wildlife habitats on their own doorsteps. Each Trail should be a short easy walk of 2-5 miles, incorporating aspects of wildlife interest along a circular route. The winning three entries will have their leaflet professionally designed and produced by the Trust, and the overall winner will also receive a commemorative bench for their village and a notice board for the Trail. If you would like to have a go at this imaginative project over the summer holidays, contact me for an entry form. Closing date is 30th September.

Knowle Nature Reserve has taken quite a battering over the last few months at the hands of certain local teenagers who, not content with using it as an adventure playground have been damaging and debarking trees. Local residents are very concerned and have called for greater protection, resulting in a meeting on site with two officers from Solihull Council. It now seems possible that the Council may be able to provide stronger post and rail fencing and their own notice boards, which we hope will ease the situation and remind people of the importance of this tiny site which encompasses many special habitats linking it back to its ancient Forest of Arden ancestry and which, incidentally, earned the Reserve its place in the MacMillan Book of Nature Reserves. The washing machine effluent pouring into the stream is also to be investigated by Solihull Council.

PS. Do you remember the last Bat Survey? Please tell me if you still have bats around your house or garden.

Stella Jarman
Knowle 774528

MEETINGS AND SOCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 27 September 1990 - General Meeting at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall

Mr. Gordon Veitch, the well-known local Horticulturist, will talk to us on "Herbaceous Borders".

Monday, 22 October 1990 - General Meeting at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall

Fresh from writing her new history of Solihull, Mrs. Joy Woodhall will talk to us about the contribution of Knowle under the title "Knowle in Solihull".

Tuesday, 2 October 1990 - Theatre Party in Solihull Library Theatre

Knowle Operatic Society will present "Ruddigore" at 7.30 p.m. (seated).
Tickets at £5.00 each including our own private coffee (no queuing).
Tickets from Iris Griffiths. Early application would help.

Esca Allday
Knowle 776062

To: Mrs. I. Griffiths, 59 Crabmill Close, Knowle (Tel: Knowle 773902)

THEATRE PARTY - "RUDDIGORE" - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2 1990

Please reserve me tickets at £5.00 each.

I enclose cash/cheque (payable to Knowle Society) for

Name

Address

Tel No.

I/We would like a lift from the Village Hall
the Guild House

I/We can offer a lift from the Village Hall or the Guild House

(We will let you know if we need to take this offer up).

No cancellations after 18th September 1990.