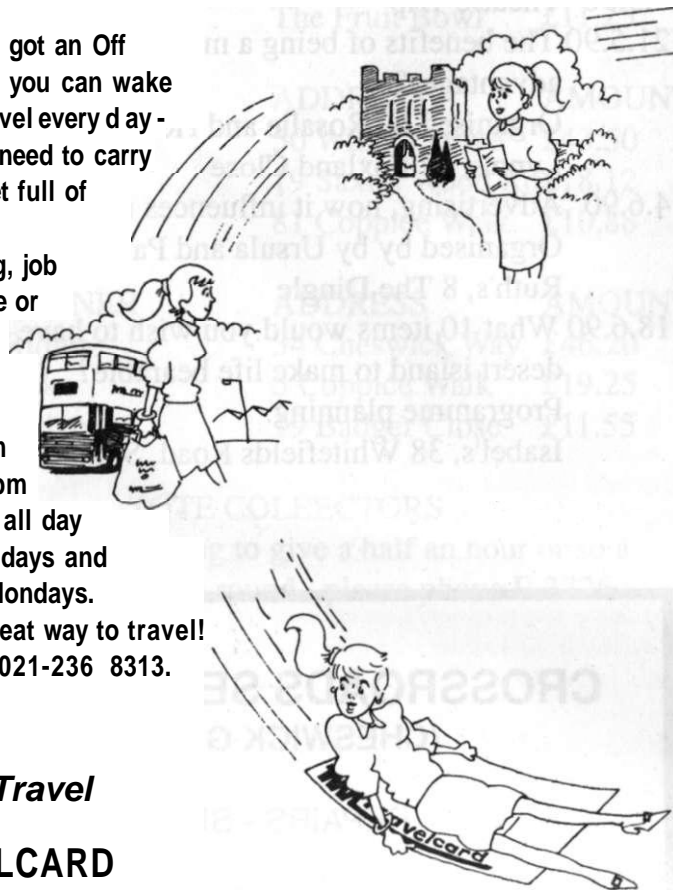


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Cheswick Green News

April 1990

Bryants withdraw plans for office block

Bryants have withdrawn the application to demolish 12 houses and a restaurant in order to build an office block on the site at the corner of Creynolds Lane/Stratford Road. However the Residents Association do not see this as a victory as it is quite likely that having drawn out arguments against the proposal they will submit a new application at a later stage.

United opposition

The Chairman of the Association, Chris Noble, would like to thank everyone for their support in opposing this development. The petition organised by the Residents Association contained 901 signatures; there were 77 letters of objection from members of the public in addition to those from Hockley Heath Parish Council, Cheswick Green Residents Association, Councillor Judy Morris, Councillor Ken Meeson, Shirley Residents Association and Solihull Ratepayers Association.

Between 20 and 30 people turned up at the Planning Subcommittee only to find that the application had been withdrawn at the last minute.

Dangerous Junction

A spokesman for Bryants conceded that the junction of Creynolds Lane with Stratford Road is dangerous and they are to look at possibilities of improving the junction before submitting any further proposals. The Residents Association are requesting the introduction of traffic lights as a means of making the junction safer and pre-empting plans for development by Bryants.

Editorial

I keep hoping for a quiet life in Cheswick Green but events occur which require action by the Residents Association: the petition for a pedestrian crossing and safer junction at the junction of Stratford Road and Creynolds Lane; the Campaign against Bryants application to build an office block at the end of Creynolds Lane; the documentary film on BBC2 about living under high voltage power lines which involved filming in Snowhill Drive. (Details about these issues are included in this magazine). This is in addition to the normal work of the Association which since January has included: a response to the Solihull Unitary Development Plan (our response is printed in full in this issue); persuading the Parish Council to repair the exterior of the village hall and trying to find a way to fund the resurfacing of the tarmac area in front of the shops.

I had intended to stand down as Chairman at this year's AGM but as the planning issue keeps rumbling on I am prepared, if elected, to serve for one more year. There is still a possibility that the Secretary of State for the Environment, Chris Patten, will be asked to intervene and reject the Unitary Development Plan for Solihull. Under the proposed plan Hockley Heath Parish is expected to provide sites for 700 houses in Dickens Heath, 50 houses in Hockley Heath Village, the Blythe Valley Business Park and the remainder of the Parish becoming confirmed green belt. Bryants are objecting to this proposal by Solihull and they have put forward a submission for 2500 houses in Hockley Heath Parish. If this were accepted it could mean 700 houses in Dickens Heath, 1100 on Light Hall Farm (between Dog Kennel Lane and Cheswick Green), 300 in Tidbury Green and 400 in Cheswick Green. This would be disastrous for the area - there would be almost as many houses in Cheswick Green, Tidbury Green and Dickens Heath combined as in the whole of the Monkspath development. Other builders are likely to make similar submissions (particularly where they

happen to have an interest in the land).

It is vital that all of the parish is united in supporting the proposals contained in the UDP. Unfortunately there is a group in the Dickens Heath Area who are opposing the current proposals. I understand their opposition to the proposed development of 700 houses in Dickens Heath but there is a real danger that through their actions they may unintentionally sink everyone else in the parish by allowing Bryants or others to win.

To keep up with events it is essential that the the Residents Association has as many members as possible and that members are kept informed of developments. In order to achieve this the Association needs a strong and effective committee. There is always a danger that a few people end up doing all the work. Several members of the committee are resigning after serving for many years and I would like to offer my thanks for their service to the Community. There are several vacancies for committee members and I hope that volunteers will come forward at the AGM on Wednesday 25th April. We particularly need people who could help with organising social functions, producing the magazine or managing the village hall.

Chris Noble - Chairman

Why not go Green ?

Are you interested in an allotment plot?

They are situated in Wood Lane opposite Manor Farm, Earlswood.

We have a small number of vacancies.

Please contact

Terry Light

Secretary

Hockley Heath Parish Council Allotments Association

Tel: Earlswood 2109

The Residents Association were asked to comment on the draft Solihull Unitary Development Plan. The response from the Association which was submitted in April is included below:

Comments on the Unitary Development Plan for Solihull M.B.C.
by Cheswick Green Residents Association

1 Background

Cheswick Green Residents Association (CGRA) have been asked to submit comments on the proposed Solihull Unitary Development Plan. The comments in this report were compiled from the results of a survey of residents in the Cheswick Green voting area, from letters and comments delivered to the Committee and the views of the Cheswick Green Residents Association Committee.

2 General Comments

Although the residents are generally opposed to development of 'green field' sites there is a general feeling that the present plan is considerably better than one might have envisaged two years ago. A reduction to 750 from an original estimate of over 2000 new houses in the parish is welcomed. There is concern that if the Blythe Valley Business Park is approved then this would increase the pressure for additional housing in the area.

3 Green Belt

There is strong support for the proposal to confirm most of the interim green belt as full green belt. The interim green belt status has made the village feel vulnerable to unwelcome development. Questions have been raised about future development of the area of designated 'interim green belt' adjacent to the Blythe Valley Park. It is hoped that development of this site will not prove necessary. If planning permission for an extension of the Blythe Valley Business Park should be sought in the future then it should have the same proportion of open space to buildings as the present proposal.

4 Housing

It is recognised that the present size of Cheswick Green is small enough to generate a spirit of community and retain the village identity but is large enough to maintain the facilities required by a community ie shops, village school, a medical practice, village hall and adequate public transport. From the experience of residents currently living in the village there would seem to be no reason why a new village of 700 houses in the Parish should not become as pleasant a place to live as Cheswick Green. It is essential that a suitable variety of types of houses is constructed and that the necessary facilities are included as an integral feature of the design and not as an after thought. There are no clear views in the village as to where the new development should be sited but there is a strong feeling that a development at the 'Light Hall Farm' site would be disastrous in planning terms, especially if the objective was to prevent the future coalition of Cheswick Green with Shirley. A more serious threat to Cheswick Green would be a large scale expansion of the village. This would destroy the community spirit, overload existing facilities and increase the likely coalition of the village with either Monkspath or Shirley or both.

5 Public Open Space and Recreational Facilities

The residents are pleased with the proposal to have a country park adjacent to the village along the River Blythe as the current provision of public open space in the village is much lower than that which the Council would require in new development. There is some disappointment that the country park is only available as part of a business park. There is concern that in the Hockley Heath Area Action Plan the country park is designated as 'open space' and not 'public open space'. The designated open space must be open to the public but be carefully managed to protect and preserve the most environmentally sensitive areas.

Hockley Heath Parish and adjacent parishes in Warwickshire and Hereford and Worcester are popular areas for recreational activities such as walking, riding and cycling and it is hoped that future traffic management schemes will direct additional traffic away from the rural lanes and roads in this area.

6 The Blythe Valley Park

6.1 General Comments

Most residents in the village do not wish to see the development of land at Sidenhales and Valentines farms and there are a significant number who are totally opposed to the Blythe Valley Park proposal. There is a feeling of resignation amongst a majority that if development has to take place then the scheme proposed by Speyhawk is probably the best that might be expected when compared to similar developments elsewhere provided that the current proposals are adhered to and not modified significantly at some future date.

6.2 Justification

The residents are not in a position to comment on the economic justification for the proposal. It would appear that strategic decisions have already been made at local, regional and national levels for the provision of a series of business parks around the West Midlands conurbation. There is strong concern that if planning consent is to be granted then restrictions imposed should strictly limit the use of the site to a minimum of B1 use and preferably the types of users should be explicitly defined.

6.3 Users of the site

In the event of the developers having difficulty in locating suitable users, due to an economic recession for example, there must be no possibility of downgrading the consent, say to B2 use. Similarly, while it is understood that an application for a hotel and for retail outlets is included in the proposal to provide facilities primarily for users of the site there must be no legal loophole through which the consent could be changed to that of principal retail or hotel usage. Planning permission for the hotel and for retail outlets should only be granted when the economic success of the park is assured.

It is understood that some limited access to leisure facilities would be made available to local residents.

6.4 Environmental Aspects

Residents are pleased to note that the proposals include details for maintaining and encouraging conservation of the ecology of the site. It is expected that there will be local representation

involved in the management of the country park.

There is strong concern about the provision of an electrical supply to the site. The consultant's report suggests connections to the 132 KV overhead line which runs in an east to west direction through Cheswick Green. This would significantly increase the current flowing through the conductors thus increasing the density of electromagnetic fields adjacent to the line. As there are possible health risks to people living in close proximity to high voltage lines this would be unacceptable. This subject is a matter of study and research by the general practitioner in the village. Cheswick Green Residents Association are to campaign for the existing 132 KV line to be placed underground to eradicate health risks to residents. Any increase in the number of high voltage towers will be strongly opposed.

The proposed changes to the M42/A34 junction are unsuitable. There are three main areas of concern. These are:

- i) The junction of Gate Lane with the A34. Traffic leaving Gate Lane to travel to Shirley will have to cross two lanes of the gyratory system in a very short distance.
- ii) The exit of Tesco/Notcutts to the A34. Traffic leaving this site will have to cross the proposed running lane and then merge with two lanes of traffic. This junction is already dangerous. Local traffic will now have to travel around the gyratory to return towards Shirley. One possible solution to these problems would be the construction of a roundabout on the A34 outside Tescos.
- iii) The proposal to have traffic lights on the exit lane from the M42 with the potential of causing tailbacks onto the motorway.

The consultant's estimates for peak traffic flows into the site are 2800 vehicles per hour at the peak times. They estimate that 34% of this traffic will use the A34 West which means an increase of 952 vehicles per hour on the Stratford Road through Monkspath.

7 Conclusion

It is encouraging that Solihull Council have sought the views of the residents of Cheswick Green and it is hoped that comments provided in this report will be noted by the Council.

Cheswick Green Residents Association look forward to further consultation with the Council on matters affecting the local area.

Wine Club

Do you like wine?

If the answer is yes then whether you make it or just enjoy drinking it join this small but noble band. You will be made welcome; if interested ring Chris for a chat.

Venue details from Chris Kenyon - E3138

Cheswick Green Residents Association

List of Committee Members as at April 1990

Chairman	Chris NOBLE	16 Willow Drive	E.2075
Vice Chairman	Diane MUMFORD	65 Foxland Close	E.2805
Hon.Sec.	Ruth STANTON	66 Saxonwood Road	E.3293
Treasurer	Mike BENTON	46 Saxonwood Road	E.3159
	Linda SHERGOLD	Adrian HARTLEY	
	15 Foxland Close	38 Saxonwood Road	E.3835
	Roger PARKER	Jackie NOLAN	
	30 Willow Drive	23 Knoll Croft	E.2753
	Trevor BOURNE	Roger NOLAN	
	41 Willow Drive	23 Knoll Croft	E.2753
	Len Cresswell	E.3244	
	11 Foxlands Close		

There are currently 5 vacancies for committee members

Cheswick Green Residents Association

Annual General Meeting

Wed. 25th April 1990

The Village Hall 8.00p.m.

Items of business to the secretary
 Ruth Stanton 66 Saxonwood Road E.3293

Letter from Peter Davidson, Parish Councillor. ^

This week you will have received your poll tax bill. Included in the total is a sum of nearly £6 for the Parish Council. When all these £6's are added together the Parish Council will have £25,000 to spend this year.

This seems a lot of money but by the time £5000 has been spent on repairs to Cheswick Green Village Hall and £5000 on grounds maintenance, including grass cutting in Cheswick Green and Hockley Heath, there is not a lot left for the possible extension to the Village Hall which is much needed. Fortunately because of careful budgetting and a successful negotiation on land prices at Tidbury Green there will be enough money to consider a very useful extension to the Village Hall. Indeed in the last few years the Parish Council will have built a new Village Hall at Hockley Heath and Tidbury Green and made major improvements to the recreation ground at Hockley Heath. Next must be the improvement to the playing field in Cheswick Green but that will have to wait until money is available.

Another possible call on the Parish funds could be representation at the public enquiry into the "High Tech" Park at the M42/A34 junction. The Parish is currently obtaining expert opinion on the question of issues surrounding the development particularly the proposed road junction. If the Parish Council decides that it is necessary to be represented at the enquiry this could also cost large sums of money. Unfortunately we have not had many expressions of opinion from local people on this matter but there is still time for you to express your views to us. This is particularly unfortunate in the light of the opposition expressed by you in respect of the proposed office block at the end of Creynolds Lane. Many of you were concerned about the traffic problems which this may cause but these would pale into insignificance alongside the growth in traffic which will be gen-

erated by the "High Tech" park with 6000 vehicles going into or out of the site at the rush hour, morning and evening.

1st Cheswick Green Brownies

Another busy term has just finished for the Brownies and we welcome Emily Lowry who made her promise at our last meeting before Easter. Congratulations to Becky Dawes who won our Easter quiz.

Next term we are looking forward to Fun Out of Doors and to taking part in a number of events including Family Church Garden Party on 9th June and Cheswick Green Fete on 23rd June.

New Brownie & Guide uniforms are due out in April so watch the press and TV and in particular the Clothes Show on Sunday 15th April and Sunday 22nd April to find out what they will be like.

Beverley Prater
Brown Owl.
E.2030

Cheswick Green on TV

Cheswick Green was featured in the BBC2 programme 'Nature' on March 22nd. This documentary programme featured an item about the possible dangers to health for people living under high voltage power cables. Our GP, Dr. Mark Payne, has done some research on the subject and he appeared in the programme which showed Snowhill Drive, Chartwell Drive and parts of Monkspath.

There is no proof at present that illness is caused by power lines but as a precautionary measure the Residents Association are to campaign for the power lines to be moved and to oppose any plans which would increase existing load on the cables.

More information on this at a later date.

Chris Noble

ORGANISATIONS IN CHESWICK GREEN 1989/90

Alderbrook PTA	Carolyn Gayton	021 705 3031
Allotment Association	Terry Light	E.2109
Babysitting Circle	Jenny Cockcroft	E.3091
Ballet Classes	Joanne	0564 8245
	Simone	021 430 8919
Boy's Brigade	Capt P Tonks	E.2009
Brownies IstC/Green	Beverley Prater	E.2030
Brownies 2nd C/Green	Anne Cresswell	E.3244
CGRA Chairman	Chris Noble	E.2075
CGRA Tote Organiser	Richard Hunter	E.3276
Cubs	Dave Quigley	E.2953
Family Church	Beverley Prater	E.2040
	Rev Peter Clarke	0564 822151
Girl Guides	Mrs K Youdan	E.2732
Karate Club	Clifton Elcock	0860 558160
	Sue Battle	E.2388
Nat Womens Register	Ursula Ison	E.2787
Mother & Toddler	Pauline Simper	E.3088
Playgroup	Mary Hanson	E.2945
Save The Children	Jenny Cockcroft	E.3091
St Johns Amb Cadets	Div Supt Claveley	021 708 0514
Salter Street PTA	Kate Fellowes	E.2786
School Association	Dave Lechmere	E.2757
Saxon over 35's F C	John Stubbs	E.2158
Scouts, Salter Street	R Snuth	021 745 1135
Thursday Club	Gwen Fincham	E.2127
Vicar, St Patricks	Rev Chris Race	E.2579
Wine Club	Chris Kenyon	E.3138
Womens Institute	Sylvia Roddy	E.3330

Please inform us of any organisations not included or of changes or mistakes in this list. E.3554

FETE

Saturday 23rd June 1990

This year's Fete is to be held on the Village Green and has a theme of a traditional Country Fayre. It will start with a procession, led by the Boys' Brigade Band, leaving the School at 1.45 pm and proceeding along Cheswick Way, Saxonwood Road, Knoll Croft, Willow Drive and back on to Cheswick Way to the Village Green.

The main events are a Maypole Dance, featuring dancers from Simone's School of Dance, and an "It's A Knockout" style competition. There will also be music provided by the Boys' Brigade Band.

There will also be all the usual stalls and competitions, Raffle, Lucky Programme Draw and Children's Colouring Competition, ice-creams, drinks and light refreshments.

Cheswick Green Family Church

Sunday 15th April	10 a.m.	Rev.Peter Clark
Sunday 22nd April	10 a.m.	Rev. Roger Bidnell
Sunday 29th April	10 a.m.	Mrs. Dot Berry
Sunday 6th May	10 a.m.	Mr. Roy Boffey
Sunday 13th May	10 a.m.	Dr. Tony Bradshaw
Sunday 20th May	9 a.m.	Communion
	10 a.m.	Rev.Peter Clark

Please come along and join us in the School Hall on any Sunday morning when a warm welcome will be extended to all. Young people are also welcome to join in the first part of the service and then to go to their own Junior Church classes.

You are particularly invited to join us on:

- Saturday, 9th June - Garden Party, Tinkers Lane, 2.30 p.m.
- Sunday, 24th June - Open Air Service on the village green.

Beverley Prater
Secretary E.2030

C

Cheswick Green Boys' Brigade (49th Birmingham)

We are now well into our 1990 session in which the Boys' Brigade in Cheswick Green celebrates its 10th Anniversary (was it really 1980 when we began?). All three sections continue to grow with Anchor Boys, aged 6 - 9, at maximum capacity but some space for a few 9-11 year olds in Junior Section.

This year's annual display is on Monday 18th June at 6.30 pm in the School Hall and our theme, well, you've guessed it, is "Celebration" and will conclude with party cake and buffet for parents and friends.

A few days later on 23rd June we head the procession with our thriving band for Cheswick Green Fete so do join the procession from school at 1.45pm in fancy dress.

Later in the Summer we have our Junior Section camp at Earlswood and Company Section Camp to Blackwell Court Adventure Centre.

We are delighted to welcome three new officers to our company staff: Mr I Simpson, Mrs J Worthington and Mrs B Bullock.

Now, our big push is on to buy a new company colour. These are expensive but after 10 years we think that we should have a "flag". So if you would like to send a donation to help us please contact me.

Boys' Brigade meets Mondays at Cheswick Green School

Anchor Boys 5.30 - 6.30 aged 6-9

Junior Section 6.45 - 7.45 aged 9-11

Company Section 8.00 - 9.30 aged 11-16

New members are welcome although Anchor Boys has a waiting list.

Peter Tonks
Company Captain

St. Patricks C. of E. Primary School*it's close by*

Almost in the centre of your parish and adjacent to the parish church of St. Patrick, Salter Street, the school is a little over a mile from Monkspath and Shirley; even closer to Earlswood, Cheswick Green and Illshaw Heath. St. Patrick's Primary is an aided school with no catchment area.

it's spacious

Set in green playing fields with great old oaks, St. Patrick's is a school with happy children and a real family feeling. It's protected too; a large parking area provides safe and easy access off Salter Street.

it's efficient

Because of its size, the teachers and pupils can really get to know each other; closer contact means better learning. High priority is given to teaching all basic skills at a personal level.

it's modern

We have up-to-date video and computer equipment and an extensive library. There is a large school hall and gym equipment for indoor activities.

it has variety

And fun, beyond the regular curriculum. Children are encouraged to take part in such varied activities as school trips, chess, cricket, badminton, gym, netball, football, music and needlework. And of course school Sports Day.

it has parents

Who are really involved - some were pupils here themselves - and that's the way we like it. As soon as your child starts at St. Patrick's, you are part of the active and happy P.T.A.

it is for you

If your children are between the ages of 4 and 11. For the under 4's, our well equipped pre-school playgroup provides a popular introduction to education.

there's a bus too

Which collects children from nine different points every morning in time for school. And drops them back in the afternoon.

Any **enquiries** - Mr. Alan House, Head Teacher, St. Patrick's C.E. School
Salter Street, Earlswood, B94 6DE. **Tel: 728-2278**

Kate Fellowes- Chairman P.T.A.

CHESWICK GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY TOTE RESULT

Jan 1990	WINNER	ADDRESS	AMOUNT
	Howell	7 Coppice Walk	£45.00
	Instone	103 Coppice Walk	£18.75
	Burgess	The Fruit Bowl	£11.25
Feb 1990	WINNER	ADDRESS	AMOUNT
	Prater	50 Willow Drive	£43.50
	White	19 Saxon Wood Rd	£18.12
	Brewster	81 Coppice Walk	£10.88
Mar 1990	WINNER	ADDRESS	AMOUNT
	Ridler	34 Cheswick Way	£46.20
	Coke	5 Coppice Walk	£19.25
	Sedgeley	19 Badger Close	£11.55

TOTE COLLECTORS

If there is anybody willing to give a half an hour or so a month to take on a local tote round - please phone E.3726.

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Cheswick Green NWR Programme -1990

- 23.4.90 Should parents be responsible for their children's criminal acts?
 Organised by Eileen and Rosemarie Rosalie's, 25 Saxonwood Road
- 7.5.90 Theatre Trip
- 21.5.90 The benefits of being a man. Do they have all the advantages?
 Organised by Rosalie and Heather. Lynn's, 22 Foxland Close
- 4.6.90 Advertising, how it influences us and children.
 Organised by Ursula and Pat. Ruth's, 8 The Dingle
- 18.6.90 What 10 items would you wish to have with you on a desert island to make life bearable?
 Programme planning.
 Isabel's, 38 Whitefields Road, Solihull

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