



Holly Lane Public inquiry

Get ready to have your say!

The Planning Inspectorate is coming to town! A public enquiry will take place on 15th & 16th November 2007 at the Civic Suite, Solihull at 10am.

The developer will employ a barrister to speak for them, as will Solihull MBC. Anyone who has written in objection is eligible to speak at this hearing, but be aware that if you speak you can only reiterate what you have said in your letter, you cannot bring in new issues. If you do decide to speak you could be cross-examined by the barristers. So you would need to be able to substantiate any claim you have made in your letter or given evidence about. Barristers are very intimidating people and you could easily make a mistake, so before you choose to speak make sure that you can substantiate what you say. Hopefully the letters will speak for themselves and with Solihull MBC providing a barrister, the case against the developer should be won.

Public Meeting

There will be a public meeting held at The Parish Hall on **October 24 @ 8.15pm.**

To discuss the overdevelopment taking place in the village and the action that the residents of the village are taking to stop it.

Marston Green Opposing Over Development group is organising a trip to London, a petition, a silent vigil and anything else that we can think of to oppose the damage that overdevelopment is doing to this village.

London Calling Join the battlebus

The coach is booked for Tuesday 16 October 2007. You can join other residents on the battlebus travelling from Marston Green to London. The coach will leave from the Tavern at 9am and arrive in London at app. 11.30am cost £10pp

MGOOD will then present the petition to Caroline Spelman. The petition says:

The undersigned residents of Solihull Borough urge the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to amend the section in the PPS3 which has included gardens in the brownfield land designation.

Thereby allowing high density housing developments to be built on previously undeveloped garden land leading the irretrievable loss of the character of long established communities such as ours. Together with the loss of the varied biodiversity which these gardens support

And over 1234 people have signed it.

Caroline Spelman will meet residents on The Green outside the Houses of Parliament at 12noon to receive the petition and will discuss it with the MGOOD representatives and the press. At 1.30pm Maggie Throup will take 2 or 3 representatives to Downing Street to present letters to Gordon Brown.

Elmdon Lane Application goes to the Planning Committee

We have been reliably informed that Solihull Planning Sub Committee will probably hear the Elmdon Lane application from the developer on **October 17th 2007 at 6pm in the Civic Suite.**

The format is that 1 speaker is allowed to speak in favour and 1 speaker against the planning application being granted. MGOOD has organised a speaker to speak on behalf of the group opposing the application, and there will be a speaker for the developer who will speak in favour. We need as many people as possible to attend this meeting, but please remember only the designated speaker can speak, the audience need to remain silent. Not making any comments that could be misconstrued or give the application any encouragement by upsetting the Sub Committee.

HOW TO OBJECT

Its still not too late

You can still object by letter right up until the day before the Planning Sub Committee hear the application.

If you want to object to the application for Elmdon Lane send your objections to: Lawrence Osborne, Application no. 2007/1713, Planning Services, PO Box 11652, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 9YA

Also you can send copies of your letters to :

Caroline Spelman,
The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

AND

RT Hon Hazel Blears,
Secretary of State, Dept for Communities and Local Government Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU
– (On Hazel Blears copy add a sentence that requests her to remove the words 'back garden' from the bill that designates back gardens as brown field sites.)

Save the Trees and the Wildlife DID YOU KNOW...

That it's an offence to destroy the habitat or shelter of Bats? If you see trees being felled and you have good reason to believe that they are being used by Bats, then under the **Habitats Regulations No's 39/40/44** as of the 21st August this year, you can phone your local **Crimestoppers** and report it as an offence under the Wildlife Countryside act.

WANTED.....WEB DESIGNER

MGOOD are urgently looking for someone who would be prepared to create a basic web page to enable us to get information around the village more quickly. Are you such a person and would you like to help save Marston Green from predatory developers? If so we would love to hear from you. **Please call Linda 779 4787**

M i s s i o n S t a t e m e n t

We will vigorously resist attempts from developers to build inappropriate and unnecessary high density housing which would add further pressure to our already stretched resources. We will fight the creation of a more toxic and environmentally unfriendly way of life. We will protect our green spaces and preserve what remains of our village way of life, for ourselves and future generations.

United We Stand

It is probable that Councillors on the Planning Committee will visit the site of the Elmdon Lane planning application on Saturday October 13th 2007 in preparation for the application to be heard on October 17th 2007. When this happens we hope to hold a **SILENT VIGIL** in Elmdon Lane from 110 to 134 to demonstrate our united support against this planning application.



We need enough people to form a chain that runs on both sides of Elmdon Lane from 110 to 134 to show the Borough Councillors that we are intent on getting this application refused.

Don't leave it to chance hoping someone else will do it-come and **join the chain** – we won't ever have too many people, we might even have enough for a **DOUBLE CHAIN.**

Please come and to support this **SILENT VIGIL** .

Remember if this application gets through there will certainly be more to follow! So let's do our best to make sure it is refused.

Remember the old saying "United we stand, divided we fall" is what it's all about for the current siege situation in Marston Green.

Caroline Spelman's Back Garden Bill

In her speech to parliament she said 'the ready supply of suburban gardens has removed the incentive for developers to regenerate genuine brownfield sites and that is to everyone's cost. Clause 2 (of my bill) addresses the issue of getting genuine brownfield land, as in former industrial and commercial land, brought on stream for housing. It would require public bodies to publish reports on the extent to which their land can accommodate residential development.'

'Gardens and urban green space should be reclassified and councils given discretion regarding development. Currently the local authority has to make a decision on the basis of, if we refuse this will the developers take it to appeal and are we going to waste taxpayers money by fighting the appeal? The rise of garden grabbing developments has been greatest in areas with homes built before the middle of last century with sizeable gardens. In most instances, developers will offer homeowners more than the market value of their home, then demolish existing properties and replace them with estates of smaller houses or a block of flats.'

Marston Green Opposing Over Development can be contacted by post at the Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green. B37 7BU.

Or by email at:
margret@wilden.orangehome.co.uk