

MERIDEN

(Including Millison's Wood, Eaves Green and surrounding areas)

Parish Plan Newsletter

November 2011

Published by the Meriden Parish
Plan Action Group



Thank you to everyone who responded to the questions on the Parish Design Statement in the spring edition of the newsletter. That enabled the drafting of the full Design Statement that has since been discussed with Solihull Borough Council officers and has now been approved by the Parish Council, subject to a final round of consultation on the most controversial issues.

This edition of the Newsletter forms that final consultation. The Parish Council needs to know for certain that it has the support of residents on three key issues. These are outlined below and over the page.

Please let us know your views.

Parish Design Statement – your support needed

What is it and what is it for? – a reminder: Meriden's Parish Design Statement (VDS) will form part of our Parish Plan. A parish design statement informs planners and developers what has been agreed by the local community in order to supplement Solihull Borough Council's general guidance on development. It seeks to ensure that any future changes, large or small, are based on an understanding of the parish's past and present. The aim is to draw attention to the valued characteristics of buildings and environmental features throughout Meriden Parish and village so that inappropriate and unsympathetic development can be avoided and to identify where improvements can be made to the public realm to enhance the environment and liveability of the village and the parish as a whole.

Results of consultation in Spring 2011: We consulted on Meriden's landscape setting, the built environment, public space and on the specific planning related issues in each of Meriden's 'character areas'. On most issues, there was overwhelming agreement. On two issues in particular, there were significant differences of opinion – firstly whether or not to support limited, small-scale, housing development in the village and secondly, while agreeing on the need to slow traffic down, opinion was divided on the measures needed.

The Parish Council's view: The Parish Council has considered these issues in the light of the previous consultation and come to a view on each of them. However, while recognising that there will not be a consensus, it needs to be sure there is substantial support for its proposals before finally adopting the Design Statement. In addition to the two issues mentioned above, the Parish Council is calling for a renewed affirmation of the previously expressed near consensus view of all residents that planning policies should ensure that the Meriden Gap be preserved and that developments as proposed by Taylor Wimpey in Leys Lane should be vigorously resisted.

Please turn over, consider the issues and respond with your views by 7th Dec. to:

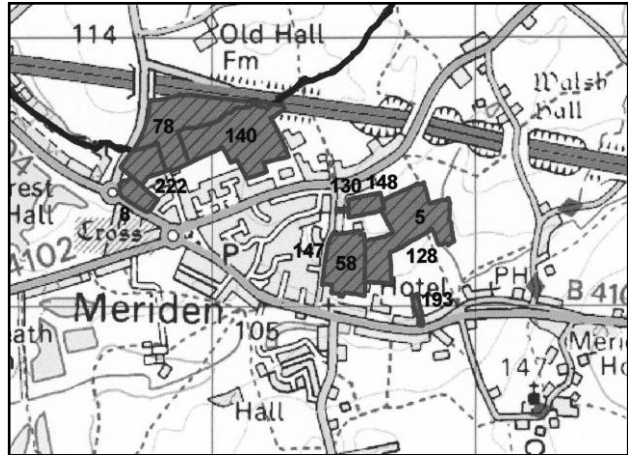
Iain Roxburgh, Chair, Meriden Parish Plan Action Group at IainRoxburgh@btinternet.com

Or at one of the following drop off points:

The Library, The Centre (charity shop), Blitz (Millison's Wood)

The Parish Council approved the final draft of the Meriden Parish Design Statement at the end of September, subject to a last round of consultation on these issues:

1. **The need to resist the intense pressure for housing development on the green fields surrounding the village.** This map shows the sites around the village that have been the subject of an application for planning permission for housing in the last few years. In addition, fields to the south-west are known to be owned by developers, practically completing the ring around the village. With planning guidelines being changed by the Government, developers see an opportunity to take advantage of the situation, as we can see with the Taylor Wimpey application in Leys Lane. In the Household Survey three years ago, 98.5% of residents said the preservation of the Green Belt is important or very important.



Do you still support the Parish Council in resisting more large-scale housing developments in the Parish?

Yes	No

2. **The need to make provision for the housing needs of local residents and in particular, older people.** The Parish Council has negotiated an allocation of homes in the current Maxstoke Lane development for local people with local connections. And it believes that the other housing priority – older people wanting to downsize locally into sheltered accommodation – should be addressed through a small-scale sustainable housing development. The draft Parish Design Statement proposes such a development on the site on the north side of Birmingham Road, near the centre of the village. This would also provide the opportunity to improve the appearance of the western ‘gateway’ to the village. The first round of consultation showed a majority in favour of a development in this location.



Do you support in principle a development of older people’s housing in this location?

Yes	No

3. **The need for further action to slow traffic down, making it easier and safer to cross roads.** The draft Parish Design Statement proposes that measures be taken to enable the imposition of a 20mph speed limit on the roads around The Green, on Fillongley Road to beyond the school and on Leys Lane. The police will insist that a 20mph speed limit should be helped by self-enforcing measures, such as the narrowing of roads. This would provide opportunities for more and safer parking.

Do you support in principle the development of self enforcing measures to slow traffic down?

Yes	No

