

Villages with a Plan for the future



Residents and businesses of Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath (KDBH) have joined together to create a Neighbourhood Forum which has just been officially designated by Solihull MBC – making it the first such Forum to be approved in the Borough.

As a recognised statutory body representing the three villages, KDBH Neighbourhood Forum will lay out the shared vision, aims, planning policies and proposals of residents and businesses in the area. This will include proposing facilities and putting forward where any key sites for future development should be located.

With UK Central, HS2 and other growth drivers affecting the area, the Forum's initial priority is to raise awareness and further increase membership so as to involve as many people as possible in shaping the future of the villages - taking advantage of new local planning powers. A PR and marketing campaign is already underway to officially launch the Forum and its Plan, with a series of activities from 7-15 November 2015. This creates a solid foundation on which to actively start engaging local people in developing the Plan.

The campaign will culminate with an open event at Arden Academy on Sunday 15 November 2015 from 2-4 pm. Everyone is invited to come and discuss aspects of housing, roads and infrastructure and learning, leisure and community facilities with members of the Forum, and to explore how they can get involved. Our local Councillors have all expressed their support for the initiative, and will be represented at the Launch. There will be refreshments and entertainment for children, so bring the family along.

Communities now have a unique opportunity to write Neighbourhood Plans and have a say in what their neighbourhoods will look like in the future.

I am delighted that the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum is the first such Forum to be recognised within Solihull, and am privileged to be one of its supporters as an elected member.

I urge adults, students and business people of these villages to get involved - you have a voice through the Forum; help shape the development of your villages in a way that will help to keep them the special places that they are now.

Councillor Diana Holl-Allen

For more information about the Neighbourhood Forum, the launch event and campaign please go to www.kdbh-np.org

Bryan Hunt and Louisa Jakeman