

# Dorstone Parish Council – Update June 2012

## Neighbourhood Planning

As reported in the last Update, the Golden Valley has been chosen as a Pilot Area to develop Neighbourhood Plans with funds being available to offset the costs of preparing a Plan for the Parish. The Council has decided that this is too good an opportunity to miss and therefore will be making an application to Herefordshire Council to develop a neighbourhood plan and take part in the trial. Councillors have attended workshops, run by the newly established Herefordshire Council Neighbourhood Planning team, and it is clear that it will be possible to build upon the Parish Plan agreed in 2010 in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Dorstone Parish. The Council is convinced that there are real advantages in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which concentrates on future land use. Our Plan will have equal force with current Herefordshire Council Strategic Plans and the new Local Development Framework which is in its final stages of preparation. As with the Parish Plan parishioners will be consulted at each stage of the process.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Chairman and Vice Chairman gave a presentation reviewing the first year's work of the newly elected Council and the Chairman gave an overview of neighbourhood planning referred to above. The owner of Pen-y-Bwr farm on Pentre Lane/Dorstone Hill gave a presentation, at the Council's invitation, on his plans to develop the farm, including the siting of a proposed Yurt Camping site, the initial stages of which, are currently the subject of Planning applications (see below).

## Jubilee Celebrations

Dorstone Jubilee Celebrations took place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June and were generally regarded as a great success. The day was organised by a team consisting of representatives from all Village organisations, including the Parish Council. A big thank you to small businesses based in the Parish – GV Web Design, Elliot Associates, Hereford Enterprises, Andrew Wright Roofing, All Seasons Travel and Pen Tours and Talks who funded the costs of the day, including a commemorative £5 coin for all young people aged 16 and under in the Parish. **There are still some available in DFR if anyone wishes to buy one.**

## Speeding

The Council received disappointing news at our May meeting that, despite waiting already 2 years for action to introduce speed limits on the B4348 and in the Village area, we are 89<sup>th</sup> on the list of sites awaiting action by Herefordshire Council to introduce new limits. The Council will be taking the matter up with the senior Officers of Herefordshire Council who are ultimately responsible for this state of affairs.

## Planning Issues

A planning application to rescind a condition requiring the closure of entrance to new Barns off Scar Lane has been the subject of discussion with the Applicant and neighbours concerned about the mud/water on the road surface. The Council is supporting a series of proposals put forward by Herefordshire Council's transport unit for measures to alleviate the muddy conditions on the lane arising from the Barn access.

Two planning applications in respect of developments at Pentre Lane on Dorstone Hill have been considered by the Council. The applications to site two caravans under a timber frame canopy (ref no 110773) and the retention of a track to provide all weather access (ref. No 120982) are not supported by the Council for the reasons stated in our response which can be seen on Herefordshire Council's Planning web site.

## Flooding

Following the recent flooding incidents, particularly at Brooklands Bridge, a site meeting was held with Land Drainage engineers from Amey/Herefordshire Council. Unfortunately it is clear that Herefordshire Council have no funds to carry out work to reduce the risk of future floods. However

the Engineers have undertaken to provide advice for the Parish Council and riparian owners on possible measures to reduce future flood risk. Additional dredging work has already been carried out voluntarily by Mr Colin Miles, to clear the bed of the stream at the bridge, in addition to the annual dredging that was carried out in December 2011.

### **Dorstone's Front Room**

The DFR has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which recognises outstanding contributions by groups of volunteers. For a volunteer group it is the equivalent of getting an MBE. The DFR was nominated for the Award by Ward Councillor Philip Price and will be presented in September. Cllr Price stated on the Herefordshire Council Web site that "*I nominated them because they are an exemplary example of how a community can pull together a facility that meets community need. They are quite right to be proud of what they have achieved*". Congratulations to all the volunteers who have helped make the DFR such a resounding success.

**Colin Thomas**  
**Chairman**