



***FOCUS** on Dunchurch and Knightlow.*

from Ron and Sally Ravenhall

* **Development Threat!** As we warned you during the May election, our villages face urbanisation. This was denied by the Conservatives, whose leader said,

*“No sites have been put forward, but even if they were,
they would not be going in rural areas.”*

Now **Dunchurch** is seriously threatened by the latest proposals in the new Rugby Plan, resulting from Government insistence that the Borough must build 10,800 homes or more. The consultation on these proposals begins in September, but things look bleak. We Liberal Democrats shall of course fight the proposals on your behalf. We don't lie to you and keep our promises.

Dunchurch is scheduled for 'limited expansion', **within and outside the village envelope, primarily as 'local needs' housing, but after that as 'market' housing.** The number of homes will be allotted proportionate to the relative size of the village. **500 houses** are intended in an **outward expansion of Cawston.** Still worse is that there will be a 'contingency' area for development **from Alwyn Road towards and beyond Lime Tree Village.**

Stretton is due for minor development within the village envelope. Princethorpe is no longer to be treated as a main settlement village and **Thurlaston, Frankton, Marton, Bourton and Draycote** will happily stay as they are in the present plan, with presumption against development.

* **Parking in Dunchurch** is becoming more and more of a problem. Some years ago Ron appeared at W.C.C. Area Committee to ask for a parking area to be ceded to Dunchurch when the Service Depot in Southam Road closed. At that meeting a promise was made that the request would be earnestly considered when the time came. Since closure is now imminent, Ron returned to the Area Committee in July to remind WCC of its promise.

* The following grants were made from the **Rural Development Fund:-**

- * £582 to Stretton W.I. for hall rental, speakers and workshops.
- * £1,655 to Dunchurch & Thurlaston W.I. for CH boiler replacement.
- * £720 to Stretton Over Sixties for outings and speakers.

Can we remind village organisations and Parish Councils that RBC has three Grants Funds, which Ron helped to initiate. The **Rural Development Fund** (£75,000 per year) can be applied to by both Parish Councils and village organisations for grants up to £10,000. The **Parish Capital Fund** (£100,000 per year), for major projects, is limited to Parish Councils and grants up to £50,000 can be obtained. Bourton and Stretton have benefited to date. There is also the **Sports and Arts Fund** to which applications for up to £1,000 can be made. Ron sits on the Working Party, which recommends the grants for all three. Application forms can be obtained from the Town Hall.

* In support of the people of **Frankton**, Ron spoke at the Public Inquiry into RBC refusal of planning permission for multiple occupation of **Firs Farm, Frankton**, which had caused serious nuisance in the village. The Inspector upheld refusal on the grounds Ron had argued.

* We responded to complaints about the car boot sale at Northampton Lane, **Dunchurch**, by referring the matter to RBC Planning and Environment Heads, who reported back that there was no evidence of any breaches of planning or licence.

* Sally has completed all the various induction courses at RBC, to assimilate the complexities of the Council organisation and is now fully fledged and raring to go! She has also attended all of our Parish Councils to keep up with the local issues and meet the various Parish Councillors.

* There were problems of grass cutting, the state of a ditch and RBC garages repair in **Meadow Close, Stretton**, which we resolved successfully.

* Following the latest severe **flooding at Marton**, Ron attended a site visit, arranged by Marton Parish Council, with Officers of the Environment Agency, who promised to review the problem of inundations there.

* Ron has been appointed a Governor at Cawston Primary School.

* **Drainage and flooding at Draycote** has again been brought to our attention and we arranged for another inspection by an Officer of the WCC Highways Authority. Severn Trent is in the process of updating/diverting the sewerage system and pumping capacity.

* **Dunchurch** Parish Council is unhappy with the dilapidated state of the old BT Telephone Exchange there and the Borough Council's dealings on its behalf. We have therefore written a stiff letter, from all three Members for the Ward, insisting on action.

* **Parking in Daventry Road, Dunchurch** remains a problem. A site visit has resulted in a double yellow lines proposal, on the Guy's Common side, by WCC Highways Officers, which the Parish Council and some residents are not happy with.

May we remind you that we are elected to serve you. We don't expect you to attend surgeries at our convenience, but will come to you to discuss and try to solve any problem you may encounter. Our telephone number is-

02476 542985

And you can reach us on e-mail-

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Yours sincerely,

Sally Ravenhall

Ron Ravenhall

Lib Dems work all the year round- not just at election time.