

Parish News - Autumn 2012

HELLO AGAIN

The seasonal signs of autumn remind us all of how the year is moving on with clocks being put back, the noticeable chill in the air – yet accompanied by those so beautiful colours we all enjoy before the oncoming winter period.

We have some important news updates on HS2 and the Neighbourhood Plan as well as looking forward to next Summer's proposed Hampton Festival.

Do please respond, if appropriate, on the 'Big Society', Bus Services and Recreation Equipment items or on any item on which you have a view – **thankyou**



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - 'our plan, our future'

The new Localism Act gives our village community a greater say in our future planning; our own Neighbourhood Plan will set out policies related to the development and use of land and will influence the outcome of planning applications; this will be adopted by Solihull Borough Council and form part of the Development Plan for our area until 2026.

Your Parish Council is applying to Solihull Council to be designated as a 'Neighbourhood Area' ie:

- Covering all the land and properties within the Parish boundary, and
- Which will become the area to be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan

Proposed timescale:

- Neighbourhood Plan (early draft) launch at Annual Parish Meeting 16.04.13
- Final version publication – late 2013

Full consultation

- All residents, businesses, community groups, eg, via surveys and public meetings enabling all to express their views and to contribute to the future of our beautiful village and its surrounds.

HIGH SPEED RAIL - an update

Solihull Council's HS2 Working Party held a recent meeting attended by some 20 Parishioners; your Parish Council pressed, again, for a date when Caroline Spelman is to meet up with the new Secretary of State for Transport (already postponed) to cover:

- Tunnel and realignment away from the village (saving some businesses from demolition/closure)
- Information on the possible rail viaduct design, and

- The design and impact of the Kenilworth Road flyover (approaching the Meriden Road roundabout)

NB Some Parishioners have just received a leaflet from HS2 which announces the Governments **compensation proposals** which vary according to the distance from the proposed rail track; Your Parish Council will be vigorously pressing for full market value compensation for those affected as well as working with national agencies to press for urgent revision.

HAMPTON FESTIVAL - Summer 2013

Following the success of this year's Jubilee Celebrations, a group of Villagers are planning a somewhat similar event for next year.

- Proposed dates: the weekend of 1st and 2nd June 2013 (for your diary, please)
- Proposed nature: Saturday am/pm Village Fete
evening 'Proms in the Park' style concert

- Proposed nature: Sunday am/pm Open air Church service 'Big Lunch' and a Sports Day
- Proposed location: Recreation Ground (as this year)

The next meeting of the organizing committee is Thursday 22 November, 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Rooms (back of the Church); please do come along and offer your help – **you will be most welcome!**

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - Neighbourhood Award

The judges of this years Best Kept Village Competition were so impressed by the combined community endeavour which had gone into:

- Creating and maintaining the village planters (Gardening Club and Wyckham Blackwell)
- Wild flower meadow (Conservation Group)
- Woodland and arboretum (George Fentham Trust)

That they entered us for a RHS Neighbourhood Award this Summer;

We received 98 out of a possible 100 marks resulting in the award of two certificates:

- Commendation, and
- One for outstanding achievement (the highest possible classification)

Many, many congratulations to everyone involved – very well done indeed!



BUS SERVICES

Centro, the West Midlands Public Transport Authority, awards contracts to private operators to run local bus services; most of these contracts will be ending in Summer, 2013 and Centro is seeking the views of local people from which to make any changes to routes and/or timetables.

If you have any views in this respect please fill out a questionnaire.

- Either online at www.centro.org.uk/southsolihull.htm,
- Or there are hard copies in our library, the High Street 'phone box, the Parish Office and the Corner shop.

The questionnaire is available until 31 December 2012.

VILLAGE PHARMACY

You should all have received a note from us asking you to consider carefully before supporting a pharmacy other than our own Village Chemist.

Our Chemist provides invaluable support to the community, particularly to those who are elderly or infirm.

If our Village Pharmacy loses even a small percentage of its current business (in the form of a reduction in its current sales turnover) it is very likely that their current comprehensive, and efficient, service provision would have to be forfeited – to be replaced by an incomplete service without the important individual personal touch which is so important in our village community.

HEAVY LORRIES

Some weeks ago there was a very noticeable, and sudden, increase in the number of large gravel lorries thundering through the Village – it seems they are carrying spoil from the Parkgate development in Shirley to a land fill in Cornetts End Lane; our own Village Speedwatch team was organized on Meriden Road to:

- Count the number of lorries
- Identify their owners, and
- Assess their speed

The collected data has been forwarded to the SMBC Highways Officers who are now talking to the Parkgate developers to try to ensure that these vehicles use the A45 rather than passing through our own and other rural villages.

The situation should now have improved – thank you Speedwatch!

RECREATION EQUIPMENT

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a sum of £10,000, by the 'Big Lottery Fund, for outdoor exercise equipment and would ask that, if you have an interest in the configuration of this facility, your input would be very welcome – do please get in touch.

Also, we have submitted a bid to SITA for funds for younger children's play equipment (under 7 year olds) to be sited on the Recreation Ground (near the Scout and Guides building); the bid is currently being assessed.

We are also looking to update the equipment on the existing play area situated to the side of the school, in Fentham Road.

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN - Your 'Big Society' 2012

Would you like to become involved in the following projects to help improve the look of our village?

Adults and accompanied youngsters (over 16) are urgently required for the following working parties:

- General woodland maintenance - Saturday 10 November 10.00 – 12.00 (meet at Catherine-de-Barnes Common, Bickenhill Lane)

- Daffodil Planting - Saturday 17 November 10.00 – 12.00 (meet at the Parish Office near the Beeches)
- The Spinney woodland maintenance - Saturday 24 November 10.00 – 12.00 (meet at the Recreation Ground Car Park)

Please wear old clothing and bring robust gloves and a flask!

POSTSCRIPT

'Just when you think you've graduated from the school of experience, someone thinks up a new course'.....

SPEAK TO YOU IN THE WINTER

Many thanks to Councillors Gill Lewis, Alison Rolf, Mike Blomer, John Doidge and Clive Bowen (editor).

- Many thanks to you all