

## Parish News - Spring 2012

### HELLO AGAIN

**F**rom an early Easter followed by a continuing cold Spring, your Parish Council have some important items of news to impart especially on HS2 and the effects on the village of the Localism Act – this, as well as some items of particular interest – please read on!

We are pleased to hear that our first colour edition was well received by you THANKYOU – do continue to make contact - also, please inform the Parish Council Office if you would like a copy of our Annual Parish Report for 2011/2012 – call in if you wish as we would be pleased to see you.



### THE LOCALISM ACT, NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AND HOUSING

**S**olihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), in its Local Development Framework (LDF), has identified several development sites to meet its central Government set target of 11,000 new homes in the Borough, by 2028; In Hampton-in-Arden they have identified the following site for appropriate development:

- The Meriden Road Depot and adjacent land off Lapwing Drive planned for 110 homes (including 40% affordable) – the land would not be released before 2023; the site currently used by Arden Wood Shavings would be reclaimed and added to the adjacent wildlife area.

Your Parish Council considers this to be an over intensive use of this site and has called for a significant reduction of planned homes and

density whilst also retaining the principle of affordable homes being available to Hampton residents and family members.

During the course of the next twelve months your Parish Council will be developing a **Hampton-in-Arden Neighbourhood Plan** which will identify sites which we wish to protect from inappropriate housing/commercial development.

In close co-operation with **The George Fentham Trust** your Parish Council is committed to the provision of **affordable homes** for local people; suitable sites and funding is being actively pursued – the intention is that these homes should be available, in perpetuity, for local people with a proven housing need.

**We will continue to keep you fully up-to-date on these very important issues.**

### HIGH SPEED RAIL

**Y**our Parish Council will continue to oppose this development (the appropriate Bill will be presented to Parliament in 2014/15) whilst seeking to ensure the best possible mitigation measures during the construction phase should the scheme go ahead; we shall also be seeking assurances which will protect our village and the fragile ecosystem of the Blythe Valley; this will be via:

- local forums of Hampton, Berkswell and Balsall Common
- Solihull High Speed Rail Consultative Committee
- Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (officers and elected members), and
- Caroline Spelman, MP

**Our concerns include:**

- road and footpath closures, diversions and temporary restrictions
- safe access to all private properties, businesses, farms and farmland, animals environmental sites

- the effect of extra traffic and noise
- the lack of any **environmental impact assessment** (yet to start with a report in 2013)
- householder and business compensation (including that for relocation and environmental damage such as waste and compaction of soil)

**We are also concerned about:**

- the effects of the new Interchange Station on the Green Belt, and
- the pressure to develop the 'Meriden Gap'

**We shall continue to keep you fully informed.**



*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

## DIAMOND JUBILEE

**Preparations for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations (2 - 4 June 2012) are now well advanced - do come and enjoy:**

- the fete and produce show
- concert in the park with your own picnic supper
- open air church service followed by the 'Big Lunch'
- watch the Thames barge procession on two large screens
- take part in the Family Sports Day



**Buy your tickets for the MYJO Jazz Concert and the Pork Roast followed by the lighting of our own village beacon and a firework display.**

## RAIL - ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEME

**If you are having problems in getting to the trains, from the Hampton to Birmingham platform in particular, we are advised that this scheme will provide an accessible taxi (free of charge) to Birmingham International.**

You need to book 24 hours in advance from London Midland's Assisted Travel Scheme team (**Telephone 0800 0924260**); do please let us know how you get on.

## TELEPHONE BOX

**This iconic village item, purchased some years ago for the princely sum of £1, is now being repainted and furnished with letter-type racks to contain leaflets, maps and programmes of events - a focal point for local information.**

## NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

**We are very pleased to welcome Bonita Bagnall to our Parish council team - Bonita has lived in the Village for some years and has young children attending our local school.**



She has been involved with a pre-school group and various other school committees and is now keen to improve facilities for our younger residents.

We very much welcome Bonita to the Parish Council and look forward to her contribution to our work and hope she enjoys being with us.

**NB. Please refer to our website, during the latter half of May, when the responsibilities of each of the seven councillors will be outlined.**

## VILLAGE DIARY

**This can be accessed via the left hand side located drop down-menu of our website, so do please inform us of your events via any of the following:**

- [www.hamptoninarden.org.uk](http://www.hamptoninarden.org.uk)
- [clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk)
- [alison.rolf@bopenworld.com](mailto:alison.rolf@bopenworld.com)
- 01675 442017 (Parish Council Office)

**Perhaps you would kindly include the following brief detail:**

- nature of the event and its location
- date(s) and time(s), including the price of any admission
- contact information (organiser, telephone/e-mail)
- location of any ticket purchase



Do please let us have any annual programme of events which you may publish at the outset of your calendar year, as well as advising us of all events well in advance - the earlier the better!

**Finally, keep us updated especially regarding any changes or cancellations - remember, it is free of charge - HERE'S TO ITS SUCCESS - THANKYOU.**

## SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

**Solihull Council have now approved a School Crossing Patrol for Hampton-in-Arden which would be positioned across Marsh Lane from the Beeches car park; this should reduce traffic flows along Fentham Road with, we hope, parents feeling more comfortable to safely walk their children to school - in time we may even develop what is known as a 'Walking Bus'. We are currently seeking the necessary funding.**

## POSTSCRIPT

**What did happen to our Plant Troughs? One minute they were there and the next they were gone; 'Gone with the Wind' some said, or perhaps they had been stolen! Full of flowers too, just a blooming tragedy we thought.**

The Police were called but failed to unearth the situation but, quite suddenly, they reappeared - Wipe'em and Cleanwell, sorry, Wyckham and Blackwell had, unbeknown to us, very kindly taken them to give them a spring clean and pretty good they look now so many thanks to them for that.

## SPEAK TO YOU IN THE SUMMER

Our contributors this edition were Councillors John Doidge, Mike Blomer, Gill Lewis, Alison Rolf, Malcolm James and Clive Bowen (editor). - **Many thanks to you all...**