

Parish News - Summer 2012

HELLO AGAIN

It is good to be compiling this edition with the sun shining throughout our beautiful village – following on from the success of the Jubilee celebrations we now all look forward to an equally successful international and national Olympic Games.

We have some important updates on HS2, parking restrictions and local housing needs – this, as well as news on a proposed new play area, a new bus shelter, a youth bus and changes to the parish surgeries.

Do please make contact, via our Parish Office, if you have any item on which you would like to comment - thank you.



MEETING LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS

Both Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and our own Parish Council work closely together to try to meet the needs of village residents.

A 'housing need' is defined as:

"any person who does not have a home of their own or a person who needs to move because their present home is unsuitable for their particular requirements"

Locally, this **primary housing need** has been identified as:

Affordable homes for newly forming households, as well as for those elderly residents who need to downsize to a more suitable home but remain within the village; with an ageing population it is also necessary to make provision for people with more complex needs in order that they are able to live as independently as possible.

Affordable homes whether to rent or buy, for single people,

families or the elderly are in very short supply; therefore, your Parish Council and the George Fentham Trust are working together to:

- find suitable land sites for building new homes and/or
- purchase existing properties in the village

A priority is to ensure that any homes which are provided are available, in **perpetuity**, to village residents who have a recognized housing need.

Current planning rules require that any housing development built for sale must have some **40%** of the total as affordable homes.

We now have a chance to provide the future shape of our village by preparing a **Neighbourhood Plan** within which we can identify sites which we wish to protect from inappropriate development; the detail of this Plan will be the subject of local public meetings; we shall be sharing the draft plan with you within the next few months.

HIGH SPEED RAIL – UPDATE

Despite some uncertainty, in both the National Press and in Parliamentary Reviews, we understand that HS2 is still planned to go ahead.

Your local representatives (including those from our Parish Council) have been attending local HS2 forums including detailed written contact with Caroline Spelman, MP about the areas of mitigation we feel need to be implemented.

At a recent local meeting both Caroline Spelman and Jeremy Wright, MP for Kenilworth, pledged their support for a possible tunnel.

Our experience is that HS2 Community Forums are somewhat dysfunctional unable to give detailed answers on such key issues as:

- track bed width
- road flyovers
- viaduct height
- protection of the Blythe valley ecosystem

and have asked for an early meeting, with HS2 to clarify these issues.

The HS2 engineers have now advised us that the HS2 route will not be altered.

SPEED ACTIVATED SIGNS

Two 'speed activated signs' are soon to be installed at the top of the High Street to warn motorists of the sharp corner. This is a result of the quite dreadful collision with the cottages on this dangerous bend in 2011.

The aim is, of course, to prevent any further such accidents – **we sincerely hope so!**

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

What a success – even in the good continuous English rain you came out in your hundreds – “You could only do this in Hampton” commented a Balsall Common resident.

Didn't we all marvel at the scarecrow invasion? drivers slowed down as they passed through the village making 'Speedwatch' somewhat redundant for a time!

Saturday's good old fashioned village fete started the whole celebrations off – the day ending with a flag waving response to the DB Concert Band and the Hampton singers.

Sunday's open air Church Service welcomed a large congregation – the Marquee was packed to the rafters for the 'Big Lunch'.

Our splendid Recreation ground hosted the old fashioned Sports Day – and then the Grand Finale and a concert from MYJO in the marquee with a 700 people turn out, the Beacon was lit by Gill Lewis our Parish Chair followed by an explosion of 'ooh ah' mind blowing fireworks (courtesy of Hampton Manor).

A big thank you to all those involved in the organization and those who attended.

Hampton Festival 2013 - Committee meeting Tues 9 October 2012, 7.30pm Church Hall, volunteers welcome.



YOUTH BUS

A 40 year old Leyland double decker bus has been purchased via a joint project, headed by Duncan Ballard, between the Church and the Village; there needs to be some refurbishment and maintenance.

It is planned to have the following uses:

- mobile classroom
- a youth club
- 'fun space' by the village uniformed organizations
- helping others in the inner city (a Church proposal)
- afternoon Church services
- after school homework club

The project will be run by a village committee, the nature of which is currently being discussed. Meanwhile, Duncan Ballard has asked for volunteers to:

- drive the bus (full training will be given)
- help with the proposed youth and homework club, and
- to clean and upholster, as appropriate

Please contact Duncan via the Church.

Duncan has helped raise some £21000 to finance the project from independent sources, including the George Fentham Trust; we would add that no funds have been provided from the Parish Council precept funds to help finance this project.

POSTSCRIPT

To all those of you who are currently concerned with team building “It's easy to get good players but getting them to play together is the hardest part”

Finally, for us all: “The most important thing in communication is to HEAR what is being said”

PARKING RESTRICTIONS (double yellow lines)

Following on some eighteen months of negotiation with our Borough Council the following parking restrictions are now in place:

- entrance to Old Station Road
- entrance to Fentham Road from the High Street, and
- around the Village Green

A second phase, to help reduce the row of parked cars along the length of Old Station Road, as well as those vehicles parked near the corners of the Office Complex in Station Court, will shortly be published.

These proposals will be published for village public consultation with the aim for an October, 2012 implementation.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND - and outdoor gymnasium

The need for an outdoor play area for younger children (under 7's) was first identified in our Parish Plan as was fitness equipment for both older children and adults.

We have been endeavouring to secure funding for both facilities and have been in discussion with Solihull Council and local providers as well as:

- the pre school group
- local school
- Sports Club
- Parent Teachers Association

The proposed Recreation Ground sites are:

- close to the existing pre school group area, and
- nearby the above for any outdoor gym equipment (to help parents supervise their children and keep fit at the same time!)

PARISH SURGERIES

There has rarely been any attendance from any villager (which we assume implies a general satisfaction), so these surgeries will be held in abeyance, but if you have any problems, concerns or queries please:

- now contact our Parish Council Clerk, Julie Richardson (Telephone 442017) or pop into the Parish Office in Marsh Lane.

The newly appointed Neighbourhood Police Sergeant, Craig Hurst, intends to introduce a new format for community engagement with more appropriate advertising to help improve the uptake.

Your Parish Council will see how best we can fit in with this new initiative.

BUS SHELTER

We shall soon have a new wooden bus shelter installed at the top of the village to replace the tired old glass panelled shelter currently in place. You may ask why?

- it is not now possible to replace broken glass panels
- the new shelter is extremely attractive and will be more in keeping with this sensitive heart of our village, and
- CENTRO will be contributing approximately half the total cost (the Parish Council the remainder)

SPEAK TO YOU IN THE AUTUMN

Our thanks to Councillors Gill Lewis, Alison Rolf, Mike Blomer, John Doidge, Clive Bowen (editor) – and to the Rev. Duncan Ballard.

- Many thanks to you all (07/12)...