

## Parish News - Autumn 2014

### HELLO AGAIN

**We have continued with this four-page format, as there are many important news items to report, including updates on HS2, Birmingham Airport and the Neighbourhood Plan.**

There are significant changes ahead, which are going to affect the nature and landscape of our village and its environs.

Your Parish Council and other important local organizations will continue to work together to ensure that these changes will be appropriately and carefully implemented in an integrated manner (with special reference to the Neighbourhood Plan).

*Please read on, enjoying this unseasonal spell of mild weather as we approach the end of the year.*



### BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - Southerly take off Flight Path Trials

**The Chief Executive of Birmingham Airport has recognized that their handling of these trials, and the reconstitution of the Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee (BACC), has not been one of their best public relations achievements.**

#### **Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee**

The previous format has now been re-established until these trials are completed; changes to the BACC, prompted by new guidelines from the Department of Transport, will then undergo a process of consultation rather than being somewhat dictated to by the Airport Company.

#### **Departure Routes – Trials 5 and 6**

The previously reported six month alternate trials, commencing in May, 2014, have now ended; unfortunately many aircraft failed to adhere closely to Route 6 thereby flying too close to the village due to inaccurate co-ordinates

being entered into their navigation systems.

We are told that this has now been corrected and a **further three-month trial of Route 6 will commence on 13th November 2014.**

Your Parish Council understands that Birmingham Airport will make the results of these trials public and present them to the **Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)** and a Judicial Review of any CAA decision might be possible.

A public Petition, concerning these trials, was presented to Parliament by our MP Caroline Spelman, which she has lodged with the Minister for Transport, now published in Hansard (see **[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141013/petntext/141013p0001.htm#14101342000132](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141013/petntext/141013p0001.htm#14101342000132)**).

### SEVERN TRENT – Water mains renewal

**The work to connect properties on the High Street by the new contractors, Laing O'Rourke, has caused less disruption than was the case with the previous subcontractor.**

In this respect, we would like to thank both Severn Trent Water and Laing O'Rourke for the considerate way in which the latest round of water mains work has been carried out. At the time of writing (mid November 2014) Severn Trent have informed us that they plan to have all their water

mains renewal work complete by the **end of this month** – with their last contractual work being along Old Station Road.

Finally, thank you to both parties (Severn Trent and Laing O'Rourke) for the considerable help they gave to the organiser of the Remembrance Day Parade ensuring that the village was clear of traffic lights, barriers, etc. In this respect, the members of the on site works team were particularly helpful and deserve a special thankyou.

*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

## HS2 update

### *Petition*

**O**ur Parish Council and Hampton Society have each submitted a Petition to Parliament outlining the issues, which still need satisfactory answers.

Both Petitions are to be heard in person by the Commons Select Committee this month (11th December 2014); earlier this year members of the Select Committee paid a brief visit to the village to see for themselves the impact of HS2 on Hampton – in particular they saw what is a real threat of increased flooding which would be caused by the proposed long embankment along the River Blythe. We will let you know of any outcomes as soon as they are known.

**Diddington Lane** - All plans have shown Diddington Lane to be permanently closed to through traffic which we understand has the support of the village residents; the entrance to the new **Interchange Station** will be on the **A452**, near **Melbicks Garden Centre**, and it is anticipated that up to some **2000 passengers** will use the trains in

the rush hour. We feel that if Diddington Lane remains open it will certainly be used as a short cut for traffic from the south undoubtedly increasing the flow of traffic through the village.

**Packington Estate** - They have recently mounted a campaign to persuade HS2 to keep the Lane open encouraging businesses to write letters in support of this request. Both the Parish Council and Hampton Society did meet with representatives from the Packington Estate to try to find an option, which would.

- Maintain access to farms and businesses, thereby
- Avoiding this through traffic

However, nothing has come of this and Packington Estate wants the lane to **remain open**.

We would request that you e-mail – **clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk** or write to the Parish Council to express your views - **THANKYOU!**

## SOLIHULL NEIGHBOURHOODS IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2014

**A**s previously reported, your Parish Council entered the above competition in their 'Village Category' and, on 16th September, 2014, at a Presentation and Prize giving evening held at Kingshurst Academy representatives from the Parish Council were presented with the award (on your behalf) for the.

### **'MOST ENGAGED VILLAGE'**

The judges were most impressed with our continued involvement in so many village organisations, such as Hampton Society, George Fentham Trust, Sports Club (and its very many ongoing sports activities), Scouts and Guides, the Church, Probus, WI, Gardening Club, and so many more...),

not forgetting our local shops, the Post Office, White Lion and the Beeches.

A big thank you to representatives from all these organisations and, of course, a big thankyou to all those splendid volunteers who helped on our clean up day!

The award consisted of a Certificate and a £50 Notcutts Voucher which we have added to the £100 voucher from 2013; In conjunction with the Gardening Club we shall shortly be planting a **flowering cherry tree** on Solihull Council land on the verge next to Meriden Road opposite Lapwing Drive, complementing the two mature flowering cherry trees opposite - **again, a VERY BIG THANKYOU!**

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2014

**W**e have much pleasure in reporting that this important event in the Village Calendar went well, with more villagers and visitors attending than ever before (we estimate some 200 plus), on this the 100th anniversary since the outbreak of the First World War.

Your Parish Council has organised the Ceremony in this way, with its appropriate road closures, for the past **eight years** ensuring a safe and appropriate procession and War Memorial Service.

We were particularly pleased to welcome three uniformed

members from the armed services as well as representatives from our local Fire Services (Solihull and Bickenhill) And didn't the weather serve us well? A fine sunny morning indeed!



Grateful thanks go to the Rev.Duncan Ballard, members of the Church, the Parish Council, Scouts and Guides, Probus and the George Fentham Trust.

Finally, a big thank you to all those Marshalls (and local Police members) who ensured the safety of all involved.

## NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR – David Sandells

**F**ollowing our recent advertisement for a new Parish Councillor, we are delighted to announce that we have appointed David Sandells.

David lives in Old Station Road with his young family and is keen to help preserve and develop the character of our Village.

We all wish David a long and rewarding association with the Parish Council.



## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN your village – your plan – your future

**The latest draft of our Neighbourhood Plan was presented to a public meeting, in Fentham Hall on 29th October last, attended by over 80 people.**

This revised version of the Plan has taken into account the replies and comments received from both village residents and businesses who completed and returned the questionnaires sent to all Hampton-in-Arden households at the end of 2013.

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a “**Vision**” for Hampton-in-Arden, part of Catherine-de-Barnes and the surrounding rural area, until at least **2028**; this vision statement, adopted at the meeting, is as follows:

- A viable and sustainable community with adequate and appropriate support of business and community services
- The maintenance and enhancement of the green and semi-rural character of the villages
- An improvement in local transport reliability, frequency and access

- A careful, controlled and balanced development of housing on approved sites which meets the needs of the local community, by the provision of affordable family homes, retirement homes and bungalows
- The safeguarding of the Meriden Gap Green Belt, as an integral part of the Arden landscape and heritage
- Support and maintenance of the farming community and rural activities as part of the characteristic nature of a semi rural community

The Plan sets out, in detail, how we hope to achieve this vision over the coming years

### The next steps:

- Completion of the draft plan
- Further consultation with all interested parties
- Submission of a final plan to Solihull Council, for examination, by March 2015, and
- Following a Parish Referendum, have our Neighbourhood Plan adopted as part of the Statutory Development Plan

## ADDITIONAL PARISH COUNCILLORS

**Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council has asked Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to consider increasing the number of Parish Councillors who sit on our Parish Council. Currently, we have seven Councillors and are requesting that this number be increased to a total establishment of nine.**

Solihull Council has agreed to carry out a review of our Parish Council and, in this respect, has published a Terms of Reference Document (in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007); this can be viewed via:

[www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/Voting/CGR](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/About-the-Council/Voting/CGR)

Our Parish Council has **Quality Parish Council** status and aims to engage fully with all issues affecting the local community in a highly professional manner; Our Council members are involved with a number of complex and time-consuming issues including, inter alia:

- The Neighbourhood Plan
- HS2
- Birmingham Airport
- Planning
- Representing the local community in these matters
- Maintaining the village environment to a high level
- Organising and participating in a number of local community events (eg Remembrance Day Parade, Solihull Festival, Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom)

## CATHERINE-de-BARNES (known to locals as Catney)

**As part of the village of Catherine-de-Barnes (up to the Solihull Road approach to the canal bridge from Hampton-in-Arden) is within our Parish we are going to outline some of the main areas of concern to its local residents, from time to time.**

The name originates from Ketelberne, the man who owned it after the 1066 Norman Conquest, but its main significance came from the building of the Grand Union Canal.

**The Common** This is an attractive part of the village which is well worth a visit; However, the Residents Association of

Catherine-de-Barnes (**Secretary David Cuthbert Telephone 0121 705 8037**) are always alert to its abuse and are asking their local residents to inform them of any misuse such as illegal parking. An amended Planning Application (number 2013/1743) has been lodged for the erection of three bungalows to be built adjacent to the Common and David Cuthbert is asking for comments on this new development.

Please see the item ‘**Planning News – Muslim Burial Ground**’ as well as reference to the construction of Birmingham Dogs Home.

## UK CENTRAL

**This is a huge scheme to create 100,000 jobs in the Midlands and has been unveiled amid claims that it will boost the economy by almost £20 billion; this project, dubbed UK Central, focuses on the area around the NEC and Birmingham Airport.**

If HS2 goes ahead Solihull Council wish to develop the triangle of land around the new station; both the construction and operation of this will have a huge impact

on our village at the same time HS2 is being built (and on the surrounding road system).

Draft approval was given by Solihull Council’s full Cabinet on 23rd October and details of the Plan can be viewed on line.

The Parish Council have met with one of the senior planners from Solihull Council on Monday 17 November 2014; this is our initial response to what will be, subsequently, a full public consultation. (See enclosed flyer for further details)

## SOLIHULL WINTER WARMTH CAMPAIGN 2014/15

**As we approach the Winter Season, we would again like to draw your attention to this important campaign – information and support is available to all residents of the Borough of Solihull through their Winter Warmth Campaign Helpline 0121 704 8080**

Assistance can be provided to all residents who require it, in the following areas:

- Temperature cards
- Provisions of quilts, blankets and warm clothing
- Volunteer training and home visits
- Access to gas/electricity engineers
- Provision of

emergency heaters ● Financial support (eg. re benefits and grants) ● Provision of electric blankets/blanket testing ● Warm Home Discount

*Temperature cards notify the holder when the temperature is descending to harmful Levels – available from: flu jab clinics, local GP surgeries.*

Further information: [www.solihull.gov.uk/winterwarmth](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/winterwarmth)

You may know of a person or persons who may benefit from this excellent and extensive service either within the village or beyond - **THANKYOU!**

## PLANNING NEWS - Muslim Burial Ground

**As a Parish Council we respond to all planning applications which have an impact on both our village and on our neighbours – few have been as contentious as the application for a Muslim Burial Ground in Catherine-de-Barnes Lane.**

- First application (4000 plots) - refused by Solihull Council's Planning Department
- Second application (7000 plots) - we understand this may have been **withdrawn**

These applications are for a significant development on Green Belt land next to the, currently under construction, **Birmingham Dogs Home.**

We have worked closely with Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association to oppose both Applications; here, we are grateful for the support received from our Ward Councillor, **Bob Sleigh.**

We will continue to be vigilant in opposing any inappropriate development on our precious Green Belt land.

## NETWORK RAIL - Tree work and platform access

**Due to poor maintenance, over very many years, the village has been left with some large insecure trees within the railway embankment which we have been told constitute a danger to railway passengers; following two meetings with Network Rail, the residents of both Station Road and Old Station Road have now become reconciled to the necessity (on safety grounds) to the felling of many of these trees.**

Work has now begun and will progress, in sections, over the next two months with some **night work** being necessary.

- A Network Rail supervisor will always be on site to ensure public safety

- A mobile 'phone number is clearly displayed if you have any concerns

Our negotiations with Network Rail have resulted in:

- An undertaking to plant a **hedge** on the rail side of the Old Station Road fence, and
- For some planting, resurfacing and improved drainage along Station Road
- A promise for some larger trees to be planted on Parish Council land on the Recreation field

These discussions and negotiations have also resulted in Network Rail promising to **Consider improved access to the Birmingham platform... let us all hope!...**

## YOUTH ISSUES

**As part of the Consultation Survey completed earlier this year for the Neighbourhood Plan you told us that more facilities were needed for children and young adults in the Village.**

● **Younger Children** The completion, and all round success, of the Under 7's Play Area at the Recreation Ground in July of this year has certainly helped to fulfill the needs of younger children in our community.

● **Older Children** The Parish Council, moving forward, now wants to focus on the needs of older children and teenagers

in the Village; we have started by reviewing the results of the Consultation Survey to ascertain what facilities were most requested; we will now consult with these older children to identify those ideas which we feel are feasible – this with a view to delivery.

Meanwhile, we would welcome any ideas or suggestions you can provide so do please get in touch via our website [www.hamptoninarden.org.uk](http://www.hamptoninarden.org.uk)

Our aim is to work hard to ensure that our young people have more facilities in the foreseeable future - **THANKYOU!**

## SPEAK TO YOU FROM OUR WINTER EDITION (2015)

Again, many thanks to all our contributors, including Parish Councillors and to David Cuthbert of Catherine-de-Barnes; we hope you find the nature and content of our Newsletters of use, and please do access our website [www.hamptoninarden.co.uk](http://www.hamptoninarden.co.uk)

Meanwhile, your Parish Councillors send to you all our Christmas greetings and wish you well for the forthcoming New Year and beyond. **cfb editor...**