

Parish News - May 2018

HELLO AGAIN

With Spring finally in full swing, the bluebells are in flower at last- why not take a stroll around the Spinney to take in this beautiful spectacle?! In this edition of the Newsletter we provide updates on local planning applications, the airport, the flooding at the Recreation Ground car park, crime in the village and our pedestrian safety and traffic calming plans. We also need your help for the Village Tidy Up... Read on for more....

And... Did you know ...?

In the year to 31st March 2018 the Parish Council purchased 19,200 dog poo bags for use by dog walkers using the recreation ground at a cost of £1,600 (including disposal).



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 17th April when residents gathered to hear about the work and finances of the Parish Council for the year to the end of March 2018. Reports were presented on such diverse matters as the maintenance of parish owned land, high speed rail, Birmingham airport, planning issues, pedestrian safety and traffic calming

proposals and more. The accounts and financial statements were presented and residents were able to ask questions on any matters whether of concern or just for information.

The annual report (including accounts) can be read on the website or a copy is available from the Parish Office.

PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW (AKA COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW) – AN UPDATE

The consultation being held by Solihull MBC on the three proposals ended on the 15th April 2018. The results will be discussed at the next Governance Review meeting at

Solihull MBC in late May or early June. The final proposals will then be drawn and put out for final consultation early in July. We will keep you posted!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In the last Newsletter we were pleased to report that a significant number of residents had offered to become Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and their contact details had been passed to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The police say that all volunteers have now been contacted and briefed on what is required of them. It is pleasing to know that more areas of the village are covered in an effort to provide the police with information and help fight crime.

On behalf of the Neighbourhood Policing Team PCSO Aaron Murdoch has issued the following statement:

“Your local police team are looking to recruit volunteers for our new Street Watch scheme. Street Watch is a community-led initiative based on street patrols carried out by members of the public with no police powers. Volunteers for Street Watch must be 18 years or older. Groups are managed by a volunteer co-ordinator who keeps a list of members

and provides advice, guidance and support in consultation with the local police. Volunteers patrol in pairs and register each patrol on a website. The neighbourhood policing team can look at the website before the patrols take place. If volunteers spot suspicious activity they should report it to the police but not get involved.

Please contact aaron.murdoch@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk to get involved”

There is always a need for more volunteers to assist our police team and anyone willing to help should contact Aaron (email above) or Julie Barnes at the Parish Office.


The local Police Surgery is held monthly (subject to operational requirements) at Sandwiches @ No.6 on the High Street and anyone can call in to discuss issues with the local police team. Dates and times are listed at the end of the Newsletter (see Dates for Your Diary), on notice boards, the website or from the Parish Office.

THE NEWSLETTER AND EASTCOTE LANE RESIDENTS

Although the homes in Eastcote Lane are not in the Parish (they are in Barston Parish) a number of residents have a close affinity with Hampton and have requested that they receive the Newsletter so that they are aware of local issues that might affect them. We are very happy to oblige.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

Parish Office | Marsh Lane | Hampton-in-Arden | Solihull | West Midlands | B92 0AH
Tel: 01675 442017 | Web: www.hamptoninarden.org.uk | Email: clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk

 www.facebook.com/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING IN THE VILLAGE

Our updated proposals recommend that a series of speed tables and cushions be constructed at regular intervals along Meriden Road and the High Street, together with a number of other measures including traffic islands and gateways at the eastern and western limits of the village. A priority section has also been identified along Meriden Road, between the Station and Diddington Lane. Along this section we are proposing the re-instatement of

some of the white lining, new traffic islands and the construction of speed tables and cushions.

We have now been able to agree, with some minor modifications, a firm proposal for a funding submission to the HS2 Community Fund with the support of Solihull MBC officers. Once details are finalised and costed, we will be able to make an application under the HS2 Community Fund for the priority section along Meriden Road.

HS2 – AN UPDATE

Work has started preparing for the HS2 in the north of the borough, but it is unlikely any work will start around Hampton-in-Arden until next year. Solihull unveiled their plans to allocate the Road Safety funds from HS2 and the Parish Council are happy to announce that Hampton-in-Arden have made it onto their shortlist. Solihull will be outsourcing the analysis of the shortlisted roads to iRAP (an internationally recognised company). Solihull will then

add in local knowledge and incidental evidence to decide what improvements to implement and where. This is a long process, but we hope to have a decision by 2019.



And don't forget... please continue to send in community needs for the Constructor's wish list.

AIRPORT UPDATE

Despite issues such as the loss of Monarch Airlines, the growth of Birmingham airport has continued in 2017-18, leading to the busiest year in its history. As an affected local community, this growth is a reality that we have to work with. The airport does of course bring advantages, not just in terms of travel but also economic benefits and continues to provide a Community Trust Fund that local community groups are encouraged to apply to.

The Parish Council has continued to maintain its engagement with the airport through its representatives on the Airport Consultative Committee and Airspace Change Stakeholder Group. During 2017 the Parish Council joined with other local communities to review the Night Flying Policy resulting in a new policy being approved which introduced a cap on night-time departures (23:30 – 05:00) and new restrictions to use only quieter aircraft between 23:30 and 06:00.

The airport continues to work with airlines to improve the track keeping of aircraft. In particular, the track keeping of those departing to the south (past Hampton-in-Arden on Runway 15) and then turning north (after passing the village) has been an area of development and re-work.

RECREATION GROUND CAR PARK – FLOODING

Regular users of the recreation ground off Shadowbrook Lane will know of the regular flooding of the car park after prolonged rainfall. Investigations into the cause have been ongoing for some time and the recent discovery of a substantial brick culvert running beneath the car park and into which the drainage is connected came as quite a surprise.

Enquiries made by the History Group of the Hampton-in-Arden Society suggest the most likely explanation for the culvert is that it was built as part of the construction of the London to Birmingham railway in the early 1830's to divert

a water course away from the deep cutting which runs alongside the recreation ground. The culvert is

blocked and/or has collapsed in a number of places and is being replaced with a more modern drain incorporating an oil and sediment trap which should cure the flooding problem once and for all.



THE RAILWAY STATION

At the end of our late Spring all rail passengers should shortly be enjoying the colourful enhancement of the two 'Welcome to Hampton' posters with four planted flower troughs. These will be installed courtesy of West Midlands Trains, our own Gardening Club and the Parish Council – a big thank you to all concerned!

Accessible Travel

West Midlands Railway have produced a leaflet - 'Making Rail Accessible' – which outlines the services they offer for passenger accessibility. Areas of assistance covered include: ● booking assistance ● accessible priority seating for disabled people, elderly people and pregnant women ● train and station facilities ● mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

Copies of this helpful leaflet are available at our station (in the main leaflet rack next to the ticket office).

PLANNING NEWS

We are still awaiting news on the Motorway services but two major planning applications have just been submitted:

- **Land off Corbetts Close (the old cricket ground):** Plans for 45 dwellings including 18 affordable units and associated landscaping. Concerns currently include the safeguarding of the existing footpath and control of access for construction vehicles via Lapwing Drive (more information provided later in Newsletter); and,
- **Oak farm, Catherine de Barnes (land corner of Friday lane/Hampton Lane):** Plans for a 182 - bed

Residential care home with associated facilities. Current concerns include the scale of the development with associated loss of green belt land fronting Friday Lane. Plans include the provision of safer crossing points and installation of additional vehicle speed restrictions on Hampton Lane.

You can share your thoughts on each development through our webpage or direct with Solihull planning department. Finally, the application for 13 dwellings on land north of 40 Old Station Road was **refused** by Solihull MBC's Planning Committee principally on Green Belt grounds.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Our village library holds all sorts of events to bring people in the Parish together. Everyone is welcome to attend – why not come along and try one:

Regular Events:

- **Story time for children:** Storytime is fortnightly on Tuesday afternoon with two stories and a craft activity. Contact the library for specific dates (which run through the summer holidays too!);
- **Stories and Painting for children:** Run fortnightly on a Friday afternoon. A story and a chance to paint! Contact the library for specific dates (which run through the summer holidays too!);
- **Watercolour Painters' Group:** Meets weekly on Tuesday mornings. Contact the library for more details;
- **Readers Circle meetings:** Events to be held on the 8th May (The Hogarth Shakespeare series), the 12th June (The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry) and the 10th July (The One plus One by Jojo Moyes). Copies of next month's book can be collected at the library. There is no meeting for August; and,
- **Coffee Mornings:** From 10am to noon on the first Tuesday of each month. Join us for a hot drink, a snack

and a chat. Dates for May through August are: 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July and 7th August.

Summer Specials:

- **Mischief Makers, Summer Reading Challenge 2018:** Begins in all Solihull libraries from 14th July and children can register their interest in the week before (i.e. on Tuesday 10th July or Friday 13th July at Hampton Library) or join any time from the 14th July onwards. Produced by The Reading Agency and delivered by libraries to celebrate the 80th anniversary of The Beano, children will explore a map of Beanotown to find the mysterious buried treasure and become ultimate mischief makers! Dennis, Gnasher and friends will help them solve clues and collect stickers, having lots of fun and adventures along the way! We will also have special activities ongoing throughout the Summer Reading Challenge.
- **Crafty Creations:** Join us between 2pm and 4pm on Tuesday 14th August for a children's session where you can try making clay models of the favourite Beano characters featured in Mischief Makers, draw and write your own comics or make a Mischief Makers sign to hang up at home.

NEWS FROM THE SPORTS CLUB

As summer approaches we are excited about the start of the upcoming Tennis, Cricket, Summer Hockey and Boules seasons, with Squash and Racketball also continuing through the summer. In preparation, we have been busy renovating the clubhouse so it's a welcoming venue for our visiting teams and guests. We are proud that Hampton Sports club remains a favourite venue for visiting teams.

This year we have started selling a variety of real ales with a focus on local breweries as well as supporting local business with the corner shop providing Team Tennis suppers for all 5 men's teams (yum, yum...).

Our AGM this January was one of the best-attended meetings in recent memory which shows just how big a part of the community this club is. Many members of the club and the wider village community attended to hear our plans for the clubhouse regeneration which we were pleased to share. We recently engaged with an independent consultancy to help us develop a vision, business plan and operating model for the future of the club. We will continue to share information about the project and our plans at regular intervals and upon each milestone. Please come and see the Club regeneration noticeboard at the club any time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **9th May (7.30pm):** Parish Council AGM - George Fentham Meeting Room. All welcome to attend.
- **17th May (7.30pm):** Hampton Community Crafts Poetry Evening (including wine and cheese) - Arden Room, Fentham Hall. Tickets £10 each – please contact Bernice Griffiths (01675 442240).
- **30th May (11.30am to 12.30pm):** Police Surgery – Sandwiches @ No. 6.
- **23rd June (9.30am to 11.30am):** - Village Tidy Up. Please meet at Fentham Hall.
- **27th June (11.30am to 12.30pm):** Police Surgery – Sandwiches @ No. 6.
- **4th July (7.30pm):** Parish Council Meeting – George Fentham Meeting Room. All welcome to attend.
- **24th July (11.30am to 12.30pm):** Police Surgery – Sandwiches @ No. 6.

GET READY... IT'S NEARLY TIME FOR THE FESTIVAL

It's that time of year again, when we start the build up to our fabulous Hampton Festival! We'll have all the usual favourites – Church Fete stalls, Car Show, Bouncy Castles, WI Bake Off and Crafts Competitions, Welly Wanging, Tennis Finals Day, Raffle, the Scarecrow Competition and ending with the always awesome Concert in the evening.

There'll be a range of food stalls, an ice cream van, Solihull Fire Engine, the Open Air Church Service and BIG Lunch on the Sunday and much more to be confirmed...

Put the date in your diary now... 29th June to 1st July 2018

And the Scarecrow theme this year is "Music" so get your thinking caps on and let the creative juices flow...!

VILLAGE TIDY UP – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are holding our annual Village Tidy Up on the **23rd June between 9.30am and 11.30am**. We would be grateful for any volunteers willing to come and lend a hand to help give the village a spring clean. Please meet at Fentham Hall (next to the Beeches). All equipment will be provided and there will be refreshments and a prize draw for all those who help out.



THE OLD CRICKET PITCH – MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Plans have been unveiled for a major housing development in Hampton. A local developer, **Elegant Homes**, is proposing to build 45 homes on about three acres of land off Meriden Road which was once Hampton Cricket Club's ground. The site has been vacant since the club moved out about 17 years ago. The housing scheme comprises a mixture of two, three and four-bedroom houses, maisonettes, apartments and bungalows (with 60 per cent to be sold on the open market and the remaining 40 per cent allocated as affordable housing with the latter being mainly for renting but with some offered on a shared ownership basis). It is proposed that priority for affordable housing would go to people who have lived in the village for two years, past residents, close relatives of current residents and those employed in the parish for at least two years.

Access to the new properties would be by way of Corbetts Close and the scheme includes what is described as a community garden. The plans were put on show at a public consultation at Fentham Hall in March 2018. Barney McElholm, Managing Director of Hockley Heath-based Elegant Homes, who lives in Hampton, told the Newsletter he had an option to buy the land and intended to apply to Solihull MBC for planning permission. "I think we've come up with a good mix of housing that suits local needs, ranging from family homes to bungalows for older people perhaps and affordable housing for working people." Full information about this planning application can be viewed on Solihull MBC's website:

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Planning/searchplanningapplications>

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PROBUS CLUB – COME AND JOIN US

PROBUS is a contraction of 'Professional and Business' and is a successful local men's association with a current strength of 53 plus active members. It is aimed at retired, semi-retired or near retired professional and business men who live locally or, if further away, have an association with our village.

Our annual programme includes ● monthly talks on a wide range of topics following an optional lunch at the Beeches restaurant, ● short walks (always involving a local hostelry), ● crown green bowls and boules, ● trips to local

and national places of interest, ● Christmas lunch at a local hotel, ● social, curry and sports evenings.

Wives, partners and friends are welcome to join many of our activities.

Our main members meeting take place on the third Monday in each month (2pm in the Arden Room at Fentham Hall). Annual subscription £20.

For more details please contact Ken Blanch, Chairman (01675 442762 or kenjblanch@gmail.com) or Bob Sahota, Hon. Secretary (01675 442268 or bsahota1@gmail.com).

1ST HAMPTON IN ARDEN SCOUTING – CAN YOU HELP?

1st Hampton Scouting was incredibly proud to take part in the St George's Day Parade in Knowle this year, the Beavers and Cubs were very well behaved and were a credit to Hampton-in-Arden. We are still looking for adults to join our team, from occasional helpers to section assistants to section Leaders, especially as we are planning to relaunch our Scout group this September. If you feel you are able to help and would like to join in the fun, please email: vickyw79@gmail.com



THANK YOU FOR READING AND WE WILL SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN IN AUGUST

As always, thank you to all the contributors to the newsletter and the volunteers who deliver it to each household in the Parish.

Don't forget to check out our website for up to date information between Newsletters (www.hamptoninarden.org.uk)