

Parish Council News – July 2017

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council's meetings are changing to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, and so the next meetings will be on Tuesday July 11th and September 12th at 7pm in the Parish Rooms. Please come and join us, with an opportunity to ask questions at the start of the meeting.

Solihull Local Plan (SLP)/Neighbourhood Plan

Earlier in the year, the Parish Council made a response to the consultation on the Solihull Local Plan Review, and this response was based on a survey completed by residents. Solihull MBC will be publishing all of the responses shortly, and they expect to publish a revised version of the Plan towards the end of 2017. As the production of a Neighbourhood Plan will need to comply with this new version of the Solihull Local Plan, the Parish Council has put the Neighbourhood Plan on hold until the SLP has been clarified.

Literary Litter Pickers – Community Litter Picks in Dickens Heath

Councillor Dave Jones is continuing to run monthly litter picks in conjunction with Solihull MBC and the library. They are held on the second Saturday of each month, and so the next ones will be held on July 8th, August 12th and September 9th – meeting at 10.30am at Dickens Heath library. A few volunteers litter picking for just one hour can make a huge difference to the village, so please come along and support us if you can. Refreshments will be available afterwards in the library – many thanks to Tesco for their support with this.

Floral Decorations in the Village

We are looking forward to a spectacular year with our floral decorations. The hanging baskets and flower boxes have been ordered, the 9 planters around the village have been replanted with bedding plants, and Elegant Homes have also ordered floral decorations to enhance the areas around Garden Squares and the village centre. Dickens Heath should be ablaze with colour for the summer!

Dickens Heath Sports Club – Grand Opening

Dickens Heath Sports Club's fantastic new facilities were officially opened in June, and the Parish Council have been looking at ways that these facilities can be used to benefit the community of Dickens Heath. The Parish Council have supported Dickens Heath Football Club in moving to the Sports Club as of the 2017/18 season. They are also looking at whether the Club can offer activities for the young people of the village – in particular for older teenagers. This proposal would be in addition to any community facility at the school, and would not be looking to divert any of the funding that SMBC have earmarked for such a facility at the school.

Car Parking in the Village Centre

The scheme to provide temporary parking spaces in the Garden Squares underground car park for the businesses to use had made a steady start. The Parish Council had hoped that the use of the spaces would improve over time, and therefore further ease parking for residents and visitors in the surface car parks. However, recent use of the spaces has been disappointing. The Parish Council are continuing to work with the businesses to try to ensure that the scheme is a success.

Maureen Holloway

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

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