

# Parish Council News – March 2018

## Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council's meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, our next meetings will be on March 13<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>. Please come and join us, with an opportunity to ask questions at the start of the meeting.

## Welcome Gates



Early in the New Year, the Parish Council were delighted to see the new welcome gates installed just past Miller & Carter – they are a very attractive addition to the village, and we would like to thank Solihull MBC for their assistance in the installation. The Parish Council would like to fund additional gates on the other approaches to Dickens Heath, but this will depend on whether there is enough space on the verge once the new developments have been finished off.

## Dickens Heath in Bloom

The 2,000 bulbs that were planted by the Parish Council around Dickens Heath in the Autumn are now starting to grow and we hope to see a lovely display in the Spring. We will soon be making plans for the planting out and maintaining of all the planters around Dickens Heath, and we would be very appreciative of any help from residents - particularly in assisting us to maintain the planters through the Spring and Summer. If anyone would be able to help, please do get in touch.

## Parish Council to Fund Additional Litter Picking

Litter is a constant problem across the whole of Solihull, and the Parish Council currently funds 8 hours per week of litter picking – many of you will probably have seen Simon out and about. This complements litter picking carried out by Solihull MBC and Dickens Heath Management Co. The Parish Council are aware, however, that some of the main routes around the village really need to be litter picked more than once per week, and also the number of roads in the village are increasing as the new developments are occupied. We have therefore decided to increase our funding of litter picking, on a trial basis initially, to 16 hours per week – as of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. We hope that this will go some way to tackling the on-going litter.

## Please Don't Leave Bins on the Grass Verges

As Spring approaches, Solihull MBC will begin their regular mowing of the village grass verges. Residents do notice, and complain to the Parish Council, if any verges are not mown regularly. But if bins are left out on the verges, Solihull MBC's staff can't do their job and will leave those verges unmown – so please leave your bins to the side of the verge. And let's hope the binmen do the same!

## Annual Parish Meeting and Opportunity for Community Groups to Bid for Funds

The Parish Council will be holding its Annual Parish Meeting (APM) for residents on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 7.30pm. This year we have decided to combine the APM with the award of a 'Community Chest' of £3,000 – which we propose to allocate to community groups within Dickens Heath. We hope that community groups will get behind this initiative and apply for a proportion of the funds, and then the community will be invited to vote for the proposal or proposals that they support. We envisage that the vote will take place at our Annual Parish Meeting and the £3,000 will be awarded on the basis of this vote. This is the first year that the Parish Council have allocated a budget for such an initiative, and we really hope that it is a success. We will be publicizing details about the Community Chest soon, but in the meantime, if anyone knows of a community group that may be interested in further details – then please do get in touch with our Clerk, Helen.

**Maureen Holloway**

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

**Contact Us:**

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