

## **Parish Council News – February 2020**

### **Parish Council Meetings**

The Parish Council's next meetings will be held on Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup> and then Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 starting at 7.15pm, in our new venue of Dickens Heath Library 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Please come and join us, with an opportunity to ask questions at the start of the meeting.

### **Update on Village Green and Playground**

As of writing, we are hopeful that this very long negotiation process is finally nearing completion. The General Election, followed by Christmas and the New Year, have unavoidably slowed things down. We understand that the Liquidators have now completed their paperwork, the Parish Council are ready to put the maintenance programme in place – we are just waiting for Solihull MBC and the lawyers to finalise the transaction. With a bit of luck, the next Parish Council News will confirm that the Village Green has finally been transferred into public ownership.

### **Dickens Heath In Bloom 2020 – Seeking Help**

Following the fantastic success of Dickens Heath in Bloom 2019 – in which the village won a Silver Gilt award – the Parish Council are aiming for Gold in 2020! Every extra contribution could make the difference. Would you be prepared to help? We need help with planting and tending the planters around the village, and with watering. Or maybe you have a spectacular front garden or hanging basket and would like to enter our Best Front Garden Competition? If you could spare a little time to help then please do get in touch – it would be greatly appreciated.

### **Additional Trees for Dickens Heath and Wildflower Planting**

Councillor Mike Small is leading a project to plant additional trees in Dickens Heath, and has placed an initial order for 30 saplings to be delivered in March 2020. Both Dickens Heath Community Primary School and Dickens Heath Scouts have indicated that they would like to be involved with this project. The Parish Council have also been discussing the planting of wildflowers with Solihull MBC officers. A couple of the approach roads into the village are being looked at for this, around the Welcome to Dickens Heath signs, with a view to sites being seeded in April with flowering from June onwards.

### **Parish Council Precept Charge 2020/21 – Good News!**

And finally – some good news for residents regarding our council tax. Although the Parish Council are planning for some increases to their budget – for example in taking on responsibility for the Village Green – the move to the Library has significantly reduced our premises costs. So the Parish Council have agreed to a reduction for their part of the Council Tax bill, and you will be seeing a 3% reduction in our precept charge for 2020/21.

### **Maureen Holloway**

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

### **Contact Us:**

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