

## **Parish Council News – August 2019**

### **Parish Council Meetings**

The Parish Council's next meetings will be held on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup> and then Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2019, 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**

We are very pleased that negotiations with Solihull MBC and the Liquidator owners of the Village Green are progressing well. Solihull MBC propose to take back ownership of the Village Green and then lease it back to the Parish Council for 125 years. As of writing, a report is due to go to SMBC Cabinet on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 and, if approved, the process for SMBC to take ownership of the land will begin a week later. By law, SMBC are required to advertise any disposal of land, and the lease of the Village Green to the Parish Council is no exception. So don't be alarmed if you see these adverts – the Village Green is not up for sale, and is still protected by covenant as a public open space. SMBC will then have to consider any responses to the adverts before progressing with their proposal to lease the Village Green to the Parish Council. So, we await the decision of SMBC – but all looks very promising.

### **Update on Waterside Nature Reserve**

This Nature Reserve, also known as the Country Park, is currently owned by the Liquidators. The Parish Council hope that Solihull MBC will take ownership of this land too, and manage it alongside their nearby Large Nature Reserve. Negotiations on this are taking a little longer as SMBC are looking into maintenance costs.

### **Festival on the Green 2019**

The Parish Council would like to thank members of the Festival on the Green committee for all of their hard work in organising a very successful event, despite the unpredictable weather.

### **Dickens Heath in Bloom**



Judging has recently taken place both for the Best Front Garden Competition, and for Dickens Heath in Bloom. I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors Di Potter, Nargis Rashid and Doreen Wright for their hard work in planting, weeding and watering, and to Parish Council litter picker and handyman Simon for his help with watering. We hope that



residents have noticed the flowers really cheering up the village. Two new planters have been delivered to the school and planted up and are now being looked after by the school children. Dickens Heath Allotments have also planted up and added some colour around the Welcome to Dickens Heath gates by Miller and Carter.

### **New Community Facility at Dickens Heath School – We Need your Views**

Now that planning approval has been given, we are anticipating the erection of the new community and youth facility at the school. In advance of the completion of this facility, Solihull MBC are running a consultation – they would like the young people of Dickens Heath to tell them how the new facility should look and be furnished, what games and activities should be available, and what it should be called. You can find the full questionnaire on the Parish Council website and Facebook page – please tell us what you think, return completed questionnaires to us at the Library or [dickensheathpc@hotmail.com](mailto:dickensheathpc@hotmail.com) and we will forward them on to SMBC. SMBC are also planning a

youth engagement event on the Village Green, with a proposed date of August 16<sup>th</sup> – look out for final details which will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

**Maureen Holloway**

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

**Contact Us:**

Dickens Heath Parish Council Tel: 07772 469271, Email: dickensheathpc@hotmail.com  
www.dickensheathpc.org.uk c/o Dickens Heath Library, Old Dickens Heath Rd, Dickens Heath,  
Solihull B90 1SD