

Parish Council News – April 2020

Parish Council Meetings

As of writing, with social distancing being encouraged due to the coronavirus, it looks increasingly likely that future Parish Council meetings will have to be suspended – please check our website or Facebook page for the latest update, or contact the Clerk directly.

Update on Village Green and Playground

The Parish Council are delighted to report that on February 21st 2020 the ownership of the Village Green was transferred to Solihull MBC. Solihull MBC are now in the process of advertising the lease of the Village Green to the Parish Council, and you may have seen posters up on lamp posts around the Village Green or in the local press. This final step in the process is expected to take a few months, but once the lease is signed and the Parish Council have responsibility for the Village Green – we can finally move forward with updating the playground. This has been a very long negotiation process, and it is very good news that the Village Green is finally in public hands.

Dickens Heath Library Opening Hours

The Parish Council were very disappointed to learn in February that SMBC still planned to go ahead with a pilot of reduced opening hours for our Library – particularly disappointing given that the Parish Council had sold its premises at Waterside in order to co-locate in the Library and contribute towards the running costs. SMBC Senior Library officers attended our February meeting where a large number of residents conveyed how passionately they felt that the Library should not have any reduction in opening hours. The SMBC officers took this on board and a Library Working Group has now been set up to look at issues including the Library's opening hours, when residents would like it to be open, and whether opening hours could be extended on a self-service basis. The first meeting of the Working Group was due to take place at the end of March, but this is now likely to be postponed.

Additional Trees for Dickens Heath



Parish Councillor Mike Small is leading our project to plant additional trees in the village. On March 15th Mike joined members of Dickens Heath Scouts to plant saplings on the Village Green. Solihull MBC have pledged to plant a quarter of a million trees in the next 10 years, and Dickens Heath is officially their first partner in this. Well done to everybody involved!

Dickens Heath In Bloom 2020

Following last year's In Bloom success of a Silver Gilt medal, we are most definitely aiming for Gold in 2020. We have formed a committee of In Bloom volunteers who have been looking at colour schemes, planting out and discussing other enhancements that can be made to the village. The next meeting had been scheduled for late in March – but in light of the latest advice concerning coronavirus, this has now been postponed. We hope that this can soon be rearranged, and that we can make progress on our In Bloom plans – but it is clearly going to be a very challenging time for all.

And Finally

In this very difficult time – be careful and take care of yourselves, and we are sure our wonderful community will all pull together to support each other.

Maureen Holloway

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

Contact Us:

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