

Parish Council News – July 2020

Parish Council Meetings

Following the suspension of a couple of meetings due to coronavirus, the Parish Council has now successfully held a virtual meeting using Zoom. Future meetings will be held using Zoom until it is safe to meet in the Library again, the next ones are due to be held on Tuesday July 14th and September 8th 2020. Please check our website, or contact the Clerk, for times and access details.

Thank You to our Dickens Heath Heroes

So much has changed since our last Parish Council News, lockdown has been an incredibly difficult and frightening time for everyone. So many of our residents have stepped forward to help in many different ways, and we would like to say a massive thank you to them all. Thank you to our Pharmacy volunteers who have been delivering prescriptions to self isolating residents, thank you to Tesco and everyone involved in the food bank donations, thank you to our residents who have been planting up and maintaining the planters, watering our new trees on the Village Green, and helping with litter picking. Thank you to Catherine of the Library for all of your support with the Covid-19 Support Facebook page, and thank you to all other volunteers who are helping in the community – you are all very much appreciated.



Thank you to Dickens Heath Hero Eleanor, aged 6, who has been watering the newly planted trees on the Village Green.



Thank you to Dickens Heath Heroes Jo and Angel who have been litter picking on the Village Green.

Neighbourhood Watch

A group of local residents started to carry out informal patrols in response to antisocial behaviour and crime in the village late last year. These were a success, and this has now progressed to a formal Neighbourhood Watch scheme. There is a patrol usually once a day, but the group struggle to cover the whole of Dickens Heath, and so their aim is to increase the numbers of volunteers. More volunteers and more patrols will make them more eligible for Police support, and the benefits are obvious – less crime and antisocial behaviour, and hopefully lower insurance premiums. It is a really positive scheme. The Parish Council will be offering support to the Neighbourhood Watch and will be publishing their updates – so look out for these if you would like to get involved, or get in touch with the Clerk who will be happy to pass on your details to the Neighbourhood Watch team.

Update on Village Green and Playground

The Parish Council are delighted to report that, after a process lasting many years, the Village Green is finally in the ownership of Solihull MBC and in a long lease to the Parish Council. The playground is unfortunately currently closed due to coronavirus, but the Parish Council are starting to consider the process of procuring a replacement playground. The first step will be to consult with children at the school and Councillor Nargis Rashid has been in touch to find out when it will be possible to do this.

Additional Trees for Dickens Heath



Parish Councillor Mike Small is leading our project to plant additional trees in the village. Just before lockdown 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!

Maureen Holloway

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

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