

Parish Council News – December 2020

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council will be continuing with meetings using Zoom for the foreseeable future. The next meetings will be held on Tuesday January 12th 2021 and February 9th 2021 at 7.15pm. The public are very welcome to attend - but please remember that once public participation is over, any input from members of the public is at the discretion of the Chair. Please contact the Clerk for meeting access details.

Christmas Trees in Dickens Heath

It has been such a difficult year for everyone, with so much of normal life cancelled. Our Remembrance Service had to be scaled right back to a simple laying of wreaths, and the village Carol Service and Tree Lighting will sadly not be able to go ahead this Christmas. You may however have noticed that the lamp post Christmas trees have already been installed, and a new electrical supply has been installed to ensure that the Christmas tree on the Village Green is brightly lit up. Lighting up is due on December 1st and we hope that this will bring some much needed Christmas cheer to the village.



Trees for Village Green

Three diseased and dead horse chestnut trees have now been removed from the Village Green, and Solihull MBC have provided 3 replacement trees, including the pictured silver birch tree. A fourth tree has also been planted close to the Village Hall, and this is a flowering cherry that SMBC have given to the village to remember 2020 – to remember those who have lost loved ones in 2020, and to remember the dedication of the key workers and the unsung heroes within our community.

Meeting with Saqib Bhatti MP

The Parish Council were pleased to recently meet with Dickens Heath's MP Saqib Bhatti. Some important local issues were discussed – including the Solihull Local Plan Review consultation, unresolved problems with the drainage system on The Paddocks, and the fire safety concerns at Waterside that have resulted in huge increases in the service charge for residents. We would like to thank Mr Bhatti for taking the time to meet with us, and for his assurances that these concerns will be raised at Government level.

Update on Solihull Local Plan Review Consultation

The Solihull Local Plan Review is now out for consultation until December 14th 2020. SMBC hope to submit the Plan in January 2021, with a Public Examination in the Summer 2021. The impact of the plan on Dickens Heath has been much reduced, by around 50%, in terms of housing – there are now 650 homes included for the parish. The Parish Council will focus its response on issues including the protection of hedgerows and woodland, and the replacement of the playing fields that will be lost to the development. SMBC have not yet decided where replacement playing fields should be located, but the Parish Council feel very strongly that they should be relocated nearby.

Annual Parish Meeting

We usually hold an Annual Parish Meeting, which is a meeting for residents, in the Spring of each year. Suffice to say that this is another event that Covid-19 has put paid to. We are hopeful that we will be able to hold the APM in the New Year, and feel that this could be a good opportunity to discuss the replacement of the playground with residents. We are nearing the position where we have enough information about replacement play equipment to consult with the School children. So if you would like to know more about, or would like some input into, proposals for the replacement playground – look out for details in the coming weeks on our website and Facebook page.

And Finally:

As we near the end of the most difficult year that most of us have ever known, everyone at the Parish Council would like to wish all of our residents the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Maureen Holloway

Chair, Dickens Heath Parish Council.

Contact Us:

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