

Parish News - November 2020

HELLO AGAIN

Welcome to the November edition of the Parish Newsletter. Keep reading for important updates on Remembrance Sunday, changes at the Sports Club, the security gate on Marsh Lane and the inland border facility at Birmingham Airport. Whilst, unfortunately due to the tighter restrictions being introduced to prevent the spread of COVID-19, this Newsletter reports of the cancellation or postponement of a number of village events there is still a lot to be positive about - including our road safety and traffic calming plans!

Parish Office and Council Meetings: Did you know that you can still visit the Parish Office - it is currently open by appointment only. And... you can also attend our Parish Council meetings online! The Parish Clerk, Julie Barnes, is available to assist with any issues or concerns by both telephone and email (01675 442 017, clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) and will happily advise you how to attend our next meeting on the 11th November should you wish to.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - NO PARADE OR ROAD CLOSURE

Unfortunately due to the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the usual Parish Council road-closure and Remembrance Sunday parade down the High Street will not be taking place.

Remembrance Sunday is an emotional time of year and we understand people would want to gather at a War Memorial to pay their respects to those who served in the forces, especially in the two World Wars. However, in light of the current health crisis, we recommend that in order to mark Remembrance Sunday this year with dignity, respect and in a way that is safe for you and your family, you remember those who served in your heart and in your home rather than at a War Memorial.

We appreciate that some members of the public will want to lay wreaths. If you do, we recommend that you avoid 11 a.m. on either Remembrance Sunday (8th November) or Armistice Day (11th November) to prevent groups of people gathering in one place.

The Parish Council would hope that the Village Green will be transformed red with poppies by members of the community by placing a poppy cross (or other memorial) at some time over the weekend and days running up to Remembrance Sunday. Please do so in accordance with the guidelines and in a Covid-secure and safe way. This will enable our community to honour all those that gave their lives for our freedom.



The church will be holding a Remembrance Sunday service at 10:30am, however with invited guests and dignitaries from the village only. **Residents can join via zoom.** Please contact the church for more details (<https://www.hamptoninardenchurch.org.uk/>).

The usual Remembrance service in Catherine de Barnes village hall will not take place this year.

SPORTS CLUB - OAK TREE TO BE FELLED

As many residents will already be aware, particularly those who are members of the Sports Club, the club house is suffering from subsidence with the floor by the rear entrance and kitchen area sinking. After discussions with their insurers and thorough surveys being undertaken by experts, the Sports Club has been advised that the root of the problem is two large trees near to the club house - namely the large Oak Tree that everyone will be aware of and an Ash tree on the boundary with Shadowbrook Lane.

The insurance company have further advised the Sports Club that in order for them to fund the repairs and more importantly to continue to provide insurance cover to the Club - which it obviously needs to continue to operate - both of these trees will need to be felled.

Being the Landowner, the Parish Council has been part of all the discussions and like the Sports Club feels it have no option but agree to the insurance company's experts' recommendations. Rest assured we have queried the recommendations of the surveys and questioned if there were any alternative solutions - such as an engineering solution. We have however been advised not.

As a result, we regret that we have to inform residents we have had to agree to the felling of these two trees which is likely to happen in later October or early November. We are though pleased to also advise The Sports Club have agreed to replace both trees at locations to be agreed with the Parish Council.

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions it will not be possible to hold the planned switch on ceremony on Friday 4th December. We had planned to hold an event similar to last years with Santa and his sleigh in attendance. Whilst it is disappointing not to be able to hold these festivities, the lights will still be switched on in December to bring a little Christmas cheer to the village.



SANTA RUN – POSSIBLE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Whether the Santa Run in Hampton-in-Arden goes ahead this year is in the balance because of the coronavirus pandemic. As the Newsletter went to press, the organiser of the pre-Christmas charity event, Meriden Rotary Club, had still not made a final decision.

If the Santa Run is given the green light, it will take place over two evenings in December: **Wednesday the 9th and Thursday the 10th** (starting about 6pm on each occasion). On the first night Santa's motorised sleigh will begin its journey at the bottom of the village in Lapwing Drive and work its way along Meriden Road to the railway station, playing merry seasonal music as it goes. The following night it will start at Engine Mews and travel to the top of the village, taking in Fentham Road, Bellemere Road and other residential roads. This year the Santa Run is likely to be a drive-by event without the sleigh stopping in any of the

roads and there won't be a house-to-house collection. The club's spokesman, Rotarian Geoff Arthur, told the Newsletter: *"We decided it wasn't acceptable for our volunteers to handle cash, particularly coins, because of the risk of infection. But we're considering other ways of raising funds so that the charities don't miss out, including asking people to make donations online"*.

During the past decade the Run has raised thousands of pounds for good causes and the Rotary Club will be out to beat last year's record amount of £856. Debra, the children's skin charity, has been chosen as this year's main beneficiary, but other causes will also benefit. Geoff Arthur told the Newsletter: *"I do hope the Run will go ahead as usual, we're all geared up and ready to go. Santa's sleigh has just been given a makeover, a rebuilt body, repaint and more. So it would be a pity if we can't show it off!"*

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCOUTS AND GUIDES CHRISTMAS POST 2020: DELIVERY - DECEMBER 12TH AND 13TH

Please support the local Guiding and Scouting groups by using our Special Christmas Postal Service in Hampton-in-Arden. Post your local Christmas cards into our special post boxes in the Corner Shop and Village Stores from December 1st to 12th and we will deliver them for you. **ONLY 25p per card!**

Please note: ● Name and address required. ● We only deliver cards to addresses in Hampton in Arden ● Last collection Saturday December 12th 2020 (at the Scout and Guide HQ 2.00pm) **Thank you for your support!**

SECURITY GATE ON MARSH LANE

Unfortunately, the secluded nature of this lane has attracted frequent problems of anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and other forms of environmental crime. In order to help address these issues, prevent its use by unsuitable vehicles and to preserve the character of the road and amenities in the area, Solihull MBC Highways are proposing to implement a Prohibition of Driving Order.

The proposed Order would be applicable daily with the times of the prohibition adjusted for seasonal variations: 1st April to 30th September 9pm - 7am and 1st October to 31st March 6pm - 8am. This proposed intervention is considered to be the appropriate compromise to manage this section of the public highway to ensure people can still access the area and enjoy the local amenity, whilst minimising the risk and costs associated with responding to future incidents of environmental crime.

The prohibition will be introduced by gating the lane just beyond the entrance into the Hampton Court development. The design of the gate would be such that it affords access for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders at all times. Council operatives will lock and unlock the gate on a daily basis. Exemptions will be applicable to facilitate access for adjacent land owners; any land owner requiring access will be furnished with a key/code as applicable.

ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING – APPLICATION APPROVED!

Your Parish Council are very pleased to announce that at a meeting of the Solihull MBC Cabinet on Tuesday 1st September our application for funding under the HS2 Road Safety Fund has been approved. **We now await formal approval from HS2 for the release of their funds.** The Parish Council will be contributing £25k towards the total estimated project cost of £60k for this work.

The traffic calming measures approved include four raised informal crossings and associated signage. The locations will be:

- On High Street between the church and the White Lion
- On High Street at The Fentham Road Junction
- On Meriden Road close to the station
- On Meriden Road at the Diddington Lane junction opposite the footpath into Lapwing Drive

Solihull MBC Highways will now develop the design for these crossings and we will keep you informed of progress. Once these are installed, we will review their effect on traffic behaviour to determine if further measures are needed to reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety.

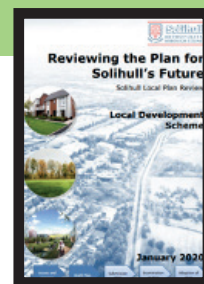
We are also in the early stages of investigating a traffic calming plan for Catherine de Barnes and will give more details in future newsletters as the proposals are developed.

PLANNING

- **2015/51409 Motorway Service Area (MSA) at new Jct5 M42 - Solihull Road, Catherine de Barnes:** A decision on this contentious application has been further delayed by up to 3 months following a holding notice submitted to Solihull Council by Highways England. Your Councillors have been in discussions with Saqib Bhatti MP asking him to request the Secretary of State to "call in" the application, which would result in a Public Enquiry being held into both this and the application for an MSA on green belt land at Monkspath adjacent to M42 Junction 4.
- **2019/02529/02530/00107- White Lion Car Park Management System:** These applications are still awaiting a decision by Solihull Planning Dept
- **2020/01821- 351 Lugtrout Lane -outline approval for 2 self-build homes:** This application was refused on the 7th October on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt.
- **2020/02077- Major Refurbishment of the Boat Inn – Catherine de Barnes:** Representatives of the Parish Council along with Catherine de Barnes Residents Association have been in regular dialogue with representatives of Greene King regarding implications of the refurbishment for local residents. Those discussions have gone well, and the Council has decided not to object to this application.

SOLIHULL DRAFT LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - OCTOBER 2020

On 6th October Solihull's Full Council agreed Cabinet's recommendation to accept the Draft Local Plan for consultation and subsequent submission to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. The plan covers the period 2021 to 2036. The consultation period will be 6 weeks and is likely to commence around the end of October. The Plan has significant implications for the Parish as a whole and in particular for Catherine de Barnes Ward where two sites have been allocated to take nearly 800 houses. As things stand Hampton Ward has been allocated one site (the Arden Wood Shavings site for 100 homes) and adjacent to this site, at the rear of 86 Meriden Road, another site again for 100 homes (this site is already with Solihull Council for consideration).



We urge residents to consider the plan and have your say! The draft plan as it stands can be viewed by visiting www.solihull.gov.uk/lpr

CATHERINE DE BARNES – COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Village Hall continues to be open to existing classes although the number being held is well down on last year as you would expect. Full Covid-19 regulations are in place and things seem to be running well.

Work continues by the small group of volunteers who undertake the strimming and raking required to keep the Common looking as good as it does now. Preparations are in hand to prepare a couple of small areas to be seeded in the Spring with native wildflowers, and some bulb planting is being undertaken. **Anyone wishing to devote a couple of hours on a Sunday morning as and when a work party is organised, are asked to speak to Heather on 07743 943639.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING BEAT SURGERY

Because of Covid restrictions it has not been possible to hold the regular surgery at Sandwiches @ No.6 Bon High Street for some time now and it is impossible to forecast when they might begin again.

In the meantime any resident who has an issue which could require police advice is asked to contact our Clerk who will take up matters with the police on their behalf.



INLAND BORDER FACILITY AT BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has announced plans for the use of Car Park 6 at the airport as an inland border facility to provide customs and transit checks required for hauliers from 1st January 2021 when the Brexit transition period ends.

The site, one of five in England, would act as a customs office for the starting and ending of transit movements of goods to and from the UK. It would include parking areas for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) and other vehicles as well as security measures and facilities to enable the checking of vehicles and goods entering and exiting the country. It is envisaged that the site will be able to process up to 1,000 HGV's every 24 hours and will be operational from January 2021 until December 2022.

HMRC's proposed use of the site will require special planning approval, which the Government is seeking under the requirements of a Special Development Order (SDO). Planning approval will be considered directly by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and will not be determined by Solihull MBC. Instead the Council and the Parish Council will be a consultee to this application. The initial period of consultation took place between 16th and 30th October 2020. More detailed information can be found on the following website: https://inlandborderfacilities.uk/?page_id=82

VILLAGE TIDY UP – CANCELLED

It is with regret that the Parish Council has taken the decision to cancel the 2020 Village Tidy Up. With the new COVID-19 restrictions in place it is felt that this is the most appropriate course of action. We are hoping that this event can be carried out in 2021 and we will be working with Solihull MBC to set a new date for next year. We will keep you up to date via our website and Newsletter – watch this space!

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY AGM



Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, we have decided to postpone our AGM this year. We did not feel the benefits outweighed the risk, the most important thing, at the moment, is to keep the rate of infection down, so we can get back to normality sooner. We shall publish the accounts online at www.hamptoninardensociety.org and the recap of the work done this year will be part of our subscriptions pack, which we hope to deliver as normal in the new year. Any questions can be emailed to chair@hamptoninardensociety.org and the Society will endeavour to respond promptly. Our programme for next year will probably be quite reduced as well, it is difficult to book speakers and organise events when times are so unpredictable, but we do have events in mind as soon as things are back to normal.

Your resident's association continues to work on your behalf in the background, currently pouring over Solihull's Draft Submission Plan and preparing a response.

We have noticed that our benches in the children's playground at the Recreation Ground are looking a little worse for wear, we are in the process of getting them renovated, please bear with us. This means they may be roped off for a couple days while in repair.

Finally, we'd like to congratulate the Parish Council for their successful bid to get traffic calming measures in the village. We know this is one of the greatest concerns for the villagers and so are extremely pleased this has come to fruition.

HS2'S WORKS NEAR HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN

High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high speed railway for Britain. Early works for HS2 are carried out by a joint venture between Laing O'Rourke and J. Murphy & Sons known as LM, and main works are carried out by Balfour Beatty VINCI known as BBV.



For the remainder of 2020, LM's works closest to Hampton-in-Arden are concentrated near the A452, A45 and M42, which surround the site of the future HS2 Interchange Station. BBV will be carrying out test piling off Diddington Lane and undertaking various types of surveys along the future railway routes, to prepare for construction works from 2021.

We advise subscribing to HS2 in Solihull at, www.hs2insolihull.co.uk, to receive news updates about all of HS2's works in Solihull including traffic measures.

You can get in touch with HS2 via their Helpdesk team all day, every day of the year on, **08081 434 434**, and at, hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, if you have any enquiries. Find out more about HS2 at: www.hs2.org.uk

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW CHURCH WARDEN – DEBBIE WALKER

Hello Everyone! I have recently been appointed as our Village Church Warden, for St. Mary and St. Bartholomew our Village Church. Nick Hodgson is the established Warden and my apprenticeship starts now! Together, we are responsible for this ancient building, which is fast approaching an anniversary of 900 years, since worship first took place in Hampton in Arden.

In 2020, we are facing the challenge of guiding our community through these difficult times, as Covid-19 affects all our lives. Social Distancing has put a stop to all the normal activities we used to share as a village community, the societies, groups, sports etc. made Hampton such a vibrant place to live. Yes, in time when it is safe to do so, Hampton will re-open; friendships will include hugs and handshakes again.

As Vera Lynn sang "We'll meet again" in the meantime, please may I ask for your support? <http://smile.amazon.co.uk>, as a part of their charitable giving will donate .05% of your online purchases to the church as a registered charity. Traditional fundraising for the Church stopped in March, this method does not cost anything extra, but it accesses Amazon's existing policy to help registered charities. Shopping online this Christmas is going to be more popular than ever, signing up will help Hampton Church in difficult times. Looking at new ways to reach out to the whole community is a challenge the Church Wardens are working through together, a hope for the future.

The Link for Amazon is: ***The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St Mary And St Bartholomew, Hampton In Arden***

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) REVIEW

Although we are still receiving a few surveys back the first part of the NP review process is complete with some 300 questionnaires having been returned. The next stage is for the individual responses to be recorded on spreadsheets and then analysed. Based on the results the NP working group will start to formulate the revised plan. The current Covid-19 situation has made things quite difficult and slowed the process somewhat. In the meantime, the Government has launched a consultation on proposals to radically change not only the planning process but how Local Plans and future Neighbourhood Plans should be constructed. Members of the working group are reviewing these proposals to identify the implications for our review.

THANK YOU FOR READING AND WE WILL SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN IN FEBRUARY

Don't forget to check out our website(www.hamptoninarden.org.uk) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pg/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil) for up to date information between Newsletters. Finally, we hope you all stay well and stay safe.