

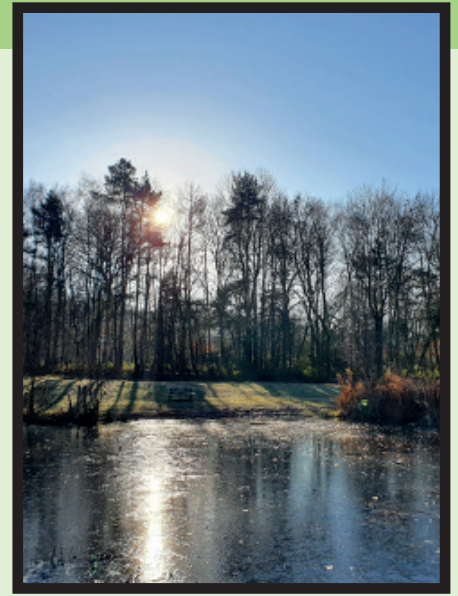
Parish News - February 2021

HELLO AGAIN

Welcome to the February edition of the Parish Newsletter. We have been thrown back in national lockdown to help slow the spread of COVID-19 but with the vaccine on its way hopefully a more normal way of life can resume soon. If you want to know more about Coronavirus and how it is affecting our area you can visit the Solihull MBC website at the following link: www.solihull.gov.uk/COVID-19/Coronavirus

This edition of the Newsletter provides important news on the security gate on Marsh Lane, our pedestrian access and road safety plans, planning news, the update of our Neighbourhood Plan and information about the installation of a defibrillator in Catherine-de-Barnes.

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 **10th March** should you wish to.



CLIVE BOWEN – A TRIBUTE

Many will know that, sadly, Clive passed away on 11th December after a long fight against prostate cancer aged 84. Clive with his wife Angela came to the village in 1996 and lived in Lapwing Drive.

He became a Parish Councillor in 2007 and was instrumental in setting up the Communications Group which led to the publication of our regular Parish Newsletter. As Editor of our Newsletter, his hard work really benefitted the village and ensured that Parishioners were kept abreast of important village issues. He was the co-ordinator of our highly successful Remembrance Day Parade and has taken care of the War Memorial for us, organising the restoration in 2014. Clive

was heavily involved in securing improvements to the station which included approval for the installation of the planters which are now maintained by the Gardening Club. He was also the Parish Council representative on the Airport Consultative Committee. Clive resigned as a Parish Councillor in April 2015 on health grounds but continued as a co-opted member of the Communications Group.

A keen jazz lover and active member and Past President of Hampton Probus Club Clive was also a member of the Bowls Club. In his professional life Clive was, initially, Head of Business Management at the former Coventry Technical College before setting up his own Management Training Consultancy.

SECURITY GATE ON MARSH LANE

The security gate in Hampton's Marsh Lane is now in place. The barrier, installed by Solihull MBC, is intended to put a stop to anti-social behaviour at an isolated spot at the end of the lane close to the River Blythe. This has included fly-tipping and illicit drug-taking. From now on, cars will be prevented from reaching the area at night, with council workers locking the gate in the evening and unlocking it the next morning. Pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders will have through access at all times.


Borough councillor Alison Rolf, who has waged a long campaign for measures to end the Marsh Lane problem, told Parish News there had been a positive response to a public consultation on the security plan. "A few people raised queries, including a resident of Hampton Court who was concerned that drivers of vehicles with rubbish would simply dump it in the road by the gate if they couldn't get through. He was told the situation would be closely monitored."

The times the gate open and close will vary depending on the time of year:

● 1st April to 30th September: 9pm - 7am ● 1st October to 31st March: 6pm - 8am

● Exemptions are applicable to facilitate access for adjacent landowners (any landowner requiring access should have been given a key/code as applicable).

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

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INCREASE IN DOG FOULING

There has been a noticeable increase in dog fouling in many parts of the Parish. The law is very clear in this respect and it is the responsibility of dog owners to clear up after their pets and offenders can receive a substantial fine if convicted.

The Parish Council provides bag dispensers for those who forget their own as well as special disposal bins. In an effort to help to stop this very anti-social behaviour by a small number of dog owners' additional bins are to be provided and all bins will be emptied twice weekly rather than once a week. It should be noted that the cost of this clearing up has to be paid for from the Parish Council budget which is funded from resident's Council tax.

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY (RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION)

Hopefully by now you have all received your subscription packs. We are still hopeful that the May Day Walk will go ahead but realise the March event which was 'to be confirmed' will most likely not happen.

Join our contact list if you would like us to keep you up to date with news and programme information, email chair@hamptoninardensociety.org with contact list in the subject and we will add you.



CHRISTMAS SANTA RUN

The planned Santa Run in Hampton-in-Arden just before Christmas was a victim of the coronavirus pandemic. The organisers of the annual charity event, Meriden Rotary Club, cancelled it on safety grounds. Club officials did consider making it purely a drive-by event, with Santa's motorised sleigh cruising down residential roads without stopping and without volunteers knocking on doors asking for donations. But this, too, was deemed not acceptable because of the risk of groups of residents gathering together outside.

But all was not lost as far as fundraising was concerned. The club set up an online 'Santa Letter', inviting youngsters to reveal what they wanted to get from Father Christmas. This was a success and, in the process, some money was raised for the club's chosen good cause, Debra, the children's skin charity. Nothing like the hundreds of pounds collected normally during the Santa Run, but welcome all the same.

The Rotary Club firmly intends to revive the Santa Run this year, COVID-19 or any other emergency permitting. The Newsletter will give you the details nearer the time.

PLANNING NEWS

- **2015/51409 Motorway Service Area (MSA) at new junction 5a Solihull Road:** The Parish Council, along with our Ward Councillors remain firmly opposed to this application at Junction 5a. Highways England (HE) has placed a number of conditions on any approval should it be given by Solihull MBC. In the meantime the Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association requested Saqid Bhatti MBE, MP write to the Secretary of State requesting him to "call in" the application which, if successful, would result in a public enquiry being held to examine both this application, and the Applegreen application at Junction 4. The request has been lodged and a decision is awaited.
- **2020/03108 Change of use at Woodhouse Farm - Same Day Transport:** We are still waiting to hear the outcome of the appeal (lodged against planning refusal).
- **2020/02792 Demolition of the existing and construction of a replacement clubhouse building, provision of a new all-weather pitch, reconfigured playing pitches and access improvements in connection with the Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association, Catherine de Barnes Lane:** The Parish Council in conjunction with the Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association have submitted a response to this application and it can be viewed on the Parish Council and Residents Association websites.
- **PL/2020/02784/PPFL Erection of a triple combined tepee tent for use by adults with learning disabilities and groups whilst on site at Newlands Bishop Farm:** The Parish Council have responded to the application with concern that have been raised by residents about potential for noise nuisance in the summer months resulting from the tepee being used for socials/weddings/parties. It can be viewed on our website.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING BEAT SURGERY

Because of COVID-19 restrictions it has not been possible to hold the regular surgery at Sandwiches @ No.6 on 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.



HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions have caused the suspension of our Speed Watch sessions for the time being.

Regular sessions are regarded as a deterrent to speeding drivers and an effective way of slowing traffic along High Street and Meriden Road and **will resume** as soon as circumstances permit.

HAMPTON IN ARDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

The current Neighbourhood Plan does not cover the extended parish adopted in April 2019. The review process of the Neighbourhood Plan has begun and you will recall surveys were sent to residents of both Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes in late summer of last year. The responses are currently being entered into a spreadsheet. Once done the Working Group will need to analyse the results and start formulating the new plan. However, the COVID-19 situation is making this more difficult as the Group feels they need to hold a couple of actual meetings to discuss issues using the final spreadsheet analysis.

Here are some interesting stats for you.... Of the surveys sent out we had 293 responses (23%):

● **211 from Hampton Ward, and, ● 82 from Catherine de Barnes Ward.**

Based on what people declared in terms of numbers within households the 2020 returns cover a population of 468 in Hampton-in-Arden and 174 in Catherine-de-Barnes. In terms of household members age groups these breakdown as follows:

● **Hampton Ward:** under 25's - 20%, 25 to 65 - 48% and over 65's - 32%.

● **Catherine-de-Barnes Ward:** under 25's - 14%, 25 to 60 - 43% and over 65's - 43%.

The returns of the Business Surveys were however disappointing with **only 4 responses** being received representing a response rate of just under 6% and the Group will need to decide how to move forward in this area.

If you would be interested in joining the Working Group please drop an email to the clerk@hamptominarden.org.uk

OUR NEW CHERRY TREES

Have you spotted the new trees that have been planted in Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes? Two ornamental cherry trees were gifted to the Parish Council by Solihull MBC in December 2020. These were planted by the walkway between the High Street and the Recreation Ground car park and along the footpath between Fentham Road and Peel Close. Our thanks to Solihull MBC. At the same time, the Parish Council purchase a wild cherry tree that has been planted on the Common at Catherine-de-Barnes. We look forward to the blossom in the spring.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

● **1st March:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association Meeting (likely to be via TEAMS)

● **10th March (7.30pm):** Parish Council Meeting (via TEAMS)

● **17th March:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association AGM (likely to be via TEAMS)

● **5th April:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association Meeting (likely to be via TEAMS)

● **13th April (7.30pm):** Village Annual Meeting (location TBC)

● **Parish Council Meetings:** Take place at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room adjacent to The Beeches or in the event that COVID-19 restrictions are still in place they will be held via TEAMS. The public are welcome and encouraged to attend. Where meetings are being held online please contact Julie Barnes (Clerk) at clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk or phone **01675 442 017** for advice as to how to participate.

● **Residents Association Meetings:** If residents have any issues they would like to raise, please contact the secretary@catney.co.uk prior to the meeting)

MATERIALS RECYCLING CENTRE AT ARDEN BRICKWORKS

Solihull Council has recently renewed the licence for the continued use of an area within the quarry at the brickworks for use as a building materials recycling centre for a further 10 years. There are a number of conditions attached to the approval the most relevant being:

- no materials other than inert construction and demolition waste shall be imported to the site
- there shall be no burning of waste on the site
- there shall be no floodlighting or external illumination without the prior approval of Solihull Council
- the operating hours shall be 08.00 to 18.00 Monday to Friday, 08.00 to 13.00 Saturday and not at any times on Sundays on Bank or Public Holidays

A further condition of this approval is that the operator, Armac Group, should provide contact details for residents who may be affected by noise, unsociable working hours or any activity emanating from the facility which causes distress or concern to be able to register their concerns with the company.

The contact person is Tony Battle emails to Tony.Battle@armacgroup.co.uk or telephone 01675 445300

HS2'S WORKS NEAR HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN



The major HS2 works are concentrated to the north of the A45 around the site of the new interchange station where new bridges have been constructed. Through our Parish the on-going works are mainly site clearance and service diversions around Patrick Bridge and the truck stop on the A452 Kenilworth Road. Major construction work is not expected to start until later this year.

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

CATHERINE-DE-BARNES VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

Having received funding from the Parish Council through funds generated by the Community Infrastructure Levy the Association and, after receiving approval of the landlords, we will be installing a Defibrillator in Catherine-de-Barnes.

It will be sited on the corner wall of the NISA store and connected to the stores electrical circuit. We are hoping it will be installed during February. We are planning to run an associated training course in the village hall when COVID-19 allows. This course will be free of charge to Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Associations 2021 members. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Tarplin family for allowing us to fix the cabinet to the building and to Bal, at the NISA, for allowing us to tap into his store's electrical circuit gratis. **Thank you!**

COUNCIL TAX PARISH PRECEPT

It is pleasing to report that, at their Annual Budget Meeting held on 6th January 2021, Councillors unanimously agreed that there should be no increase in the precept for the next financial year. It was felt that an increase could not be justified at this time and also the fact that, currently, the Parish Council has fairly healthy reserves.

At the time of writing Solihull MBC had still to decide any increase in their Council Tax.

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

In partnership with Solihull Council Highways, funding has recently been secured to bring forward measures to aid pedestrian access and road safety improvements within the village as part of the first phase of the scheme.

£35k from HS2 Road Safety Fund with £25k match funding provided by the Parish Council using CIL monies (Community Infrastructure Levy) has been secured.

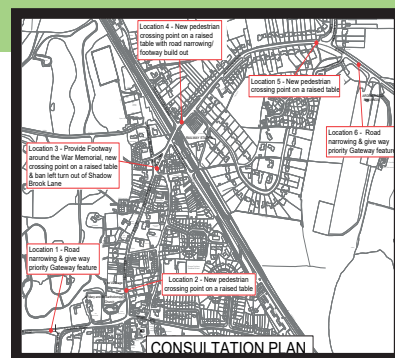
These proposals include four new informal pedestrian crossing points together with signage and improvements to the two gateways at the village limits on Solihull Road and Meriden Road. These will help to aid pedestrian safety and manage traffic within the village.

The proposals include the following:

- Give Way/Priority Gateway on Solihull Road with traffic exiting the village having priority
- Informal tabled Pedestrian crossing point close to the church
- Provide footway around the war memorial, informal tabled crossing point and ban left turn out of Shadow Brook Lane
- Informal tabled Pedestrian crossing point with footway build out/road narrowing on Meriden Road close to the station
- Informal tabled Pedestrian crossing point at Diddington Lane by existing footpath from Lapwing Drive
- Give Way/Priority Gateway on Meriden Road with traffic exiting the village having priority

More information is provided in the enclosed insert to this

newsletter which includes a map showing the locations of the proposed measures and some indicative images of the proposals. Further details/drawings of the consultation proposals will be made available on the Parish Council & Solihull Council web sites.



We would urge all residents to look at these proposals and send any comments they may have to the Parish Council.

It is anticipated that the proposals will receive high support. Subject to the latter and completing the detail design, Statutory Consultations, Solihull Council Highways will be looking to deliver the works by early summer this year. Should funding for all of the proposals not be secured, then some measures may need to be delivered at a later date, when funding has been made available.

Once these improvements are installed, in partnership with Solihull Council Highways, the measures introduced will be reviewed to determine whether further measures are needed to improve road safety. The implementation of any further measures would be subject to securing future funding.

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

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

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.