

## Parish News - May 2021

### HELLO AGAIN

**W**elcome to this jam-packed edition of your Parish Council Newsletter! In this May issue we welcome two new Parish Councillors, provide important updates on planning decisions, HS2, traffic calming and the Hampton-in-Arden Village Festival and, we also have exciting news about new allotments! Read on...



### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**L**ast year, due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Annual Parish Meeting (which would have been held in Fentham Hall in April 2020) was cancelled.

This year, as restrictions on public gatherings are still in place, the Annual Village Meeting was held virtually on 13th April 2021. Although the meeting was extensively advertised, just 15 residents joined online to hear detailed reports presented by Councillors on the work of your Parish Council for the two year period from April 2019 through to March 2021. The

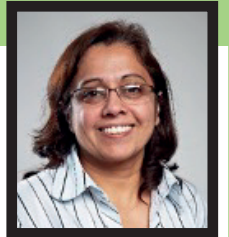
unaudited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 were also presented. Those present were able to ask questions on both the accounts and individual reports.

All of the reports are available to read on the Parish Council website ([www.hamptoninarden.org.uk](http://www.hamptoninarden.org.uk)) or alternatively contact Parish Clerk Julie who will be pleased to supply a hard copy.

We hope to be able to return to our usual meeting in Fentham Hall in April 2022.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

**W**e are delighted to welcome two new Parish Councillors for the Hampton-in-Arden Ward to our team: Roger Waring and Min Grimshaw. The appointments are by co-option and with immediate effect. Roger and Min both bring fantastic skill sets to the Council and we are excited to work with our new members. Our new colleagues takes the number of Parish Councillors up to eleven (and leaves one opening for our Catherine-de-Barnes Ward).



### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR

**C**aroline Albrighton has recently stood down as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Hampton-in-Arden after being post for some 10 years. Thanks are due to Caroline for very effectively helping residents with crime and home safety issues and for regularly liaising with our Neighbourhood Policing Team. Caroline has also been an active volunteer for the Speed Watch team.

***It has not been possible to find a replacement for Caroline as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and anyone who is willing to take on this important voluntary community role is asked to contact Parish Clerk Julie in the first instance.***

### CATHERINE-DE-BARNES LANE TREE CLEARANCE

**M**any residents have expressed concerns about the extensive clearance of trees, hedgerows and other vegetation along the Lane.

The work is being carried out as part of the M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme. This is a major national infrastructure project by Highways England, which was approved by the Secretary of State for Transport by way of a Development Consent Order in May 2020 and following extensive consultations in which the Parish Council were heavily involved. We can re-assure you that considerable effort

has been made by the contractors to identify only what is necessary to remove to facilitate this project. As part of the agreement with Highway England the replacement ratio of trees has been agreed as 7:1.

The main contractor for the project, Skanska-Matt McDonald, has recently issued a detailed statement about the tree clearance work and the effects on nesting birds which can be read on the Parish Council website. The Council is also represented on a Working Group responsible for the landscaping of the completed scheme.

*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

## NEW ALLOTMENTS

**The George Fentham Trust is generously making land available in Eastcote Lane for new allotments. The site, which is adjacent to Hampton Garden Centre (formerly Craddocks Nursery) will be leased and managed by the Parish Council and will provide 12 full sized plots and include a small car park and water supply. As the land is in the Green Belt planning permission is required and an application is to be submitted shortly. If granted, work will be underway to bring the new allotments into use as quickly as possible.**



There is a waiting list for sites which is maintained by Parish Clerk Julie who can provide information if required.

## HAMPTON IN ARDEN LIBRARY NEWS

**H**ampton Library is still closed for the time being. See [www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries) and [www.facebook.com/hamptoninardenlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/hamptoninardenlibrary) for the latest updates as the local and national situation changes.

**While our doors are closed, you can access a variety of services at other Solihull Libraries and online:**

- **Grab & Go at Solihull Libraries:** A number of Solihull's larger libraries are open to the public for a Grab & Go service where you can browse the library for a limited time and borrow books. The libraries that are open are: The Core Library Solihull, Balsall Common Library, Knowle Library, Castle Bromwich Library, Chelmsley Wood Library, Dickens Heath Library, Hobs Moat Library and Kingshurst Library. These libraries are operating with altered opening hours, so please contact the library or check [www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries) before visiting.
- **Click & Collect at Meriden & Shirley:** Through our free Click & Collect service, you can request a set of books to collect at Meriden Library or Shirley Library. You can find the form online at [www.solihull.gov.uk/clickandcollect](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/clickandcollect)
- **Home Library Service:** For more information, phone 0121 704 6947 or visit [www.solihull.gov.uk/Libraries/Home-library-service](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Libraries/Home-library-service)
- **eBooks, Audiobooks, eMagazines, and eNewspapers:** Our digital collection has moved to Overdrive, and this move has brought us a wider collection with an easier-to-use interface. Through one portal you can access ebooks, magazines, and audiobooks. You can access Overdrive in your web browser at [solihulluk.overdrive.com](http://solihulluk.overdrive.com) or download the Libby app for Android or iOS.

## FESTIVAL UPDATE

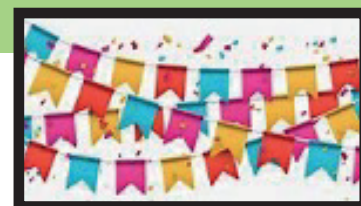
**Whilst we are still hopeful that Step 4 of the Covid Roadmap will take effect from 21st June, the Festival Committee has taken the decision that due to many uncertainties which remain and the fact that this date is very close to the usual Festival weekend dates they have no alternative but postpone this year's Festival.**

The Committee is hopeful if everything continues to plan and the village feels comfortable in mixing and socialising together - which we suspect many will be after a year of

lockdown - that we look to hold a scaled down Festival in the either **late August** or **early September**.

- The Committee is also looking into the possibility of holding a Village Bonfire and/ or Fireworks Night this year.

Further details on all of the above will be issued on the Resident's Facebook page once there is more to report.



## PLANNING NEWS

- **PL/2015/51409/PPOL MotorwayService Area on Solihull Road:** Following the Planning Committee meeting on the 24th February, the Planning Committee (following representations from Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (CdBRA) and the Parish Council) **refused** the application on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt. We expect the applicant to appeal which will result in an Examination in Public sometime later this year at which we, along with the CdBRA will seek the opportunity of putting our case. A success for now anyway!
- **PL/2020/02792/PPFL WGAA Facility at Catherine de Barnes Lane, Solihull:** We had a number of concerns regarding noise mitigation, and clubhouse design. Against the Officers recommendation to approve, the Planning Committee voted for **deferral** of the application until the Applicant provided more information. We understand that this information is going to be provided and is likely to go before the Committee in May or June.
- **PL/2019/02546/PPOL Land at rear of 86 Meriden Road - Outline planning application for 109 houses:** At the Planning Committee meeting on 31st March the Committee members voted to **approve** the application on the understanding that the full application (which will include comprehensive details of the design, landscaping etc) will go before the Committee for consideration. Prior to the application being heard the PC had been involved in several discussions with Solihull MBC concerning matters such as the layout of the scheme, public open space and traffic calming.
- **In addition, there are a number of issues on the go with Solihull MBC's Enforcement Team where we believe there to be unauthorised development and fly-tipping to be in progress.**

## CATHERINE DE BARNES NEWS

- **Village Hall:** The Parish Council, at their last meeting, approved an application from Catherine de Barnes Village Hall Trust for a grant of £7,300 from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund for the costs of secondary double glazing the village hall as part of their project to improve the sustainability of the amenity. The Trust purchased new double glazed PVC windows for the kitchen and toilet area in 2019 as well as installing a new, more efficient boiler. Getting the planning application approved for the dropped kerb to facilitate easier offloading at the hall is proving more difficult than was thought. A detailed drawing incorporating a vehicle turning area at the right-hand side of the Hall has now been submitted to Solihull MBC and hope that is sufficient to allay Solihull MBC's concerns over highway safety.
- **The Common:** The local resident's group "Common Friends" recently laid low fertility top-soil followed by 16m<sup>2</sup> of wildflower meadow turf on the Common in an effort to create a wildflower area. This will be followed up with the planting on numerous wild-flower plugs to further enhance the amenity.
- **CCTV:** A small working group has just been established by the Residents Association to investigate the possibility and implications of installing CCTV cameras for village safety and security reasons. Matters are at a very early stage, more information should be available for the next issue.

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING

**Solihull MBC Highways are currently carrying out the detail design for the interim plan for Hampton-in-Arden Village and we are hopeful that construction work can commence later this year. On completion, we will monitor the effects of these measures on vehicle behaviour and speeds to determine if any further measures are deemed necessary. This interim plan includes the following elements:**

- Gateway on Solihull Road at the limit of the 30 mph zone with traffic exiting the village having priority;
- Informal tabled crossing point close to the church;
- Informal tabled crossing point and additional footway by the war memorial;
- Informal tabled crossing point and build out on Meriden Road close to the station;
- Informal tabled crossing point on Meriden Road by the existing footpath from Lapwing Drive;
- Gateway on Meriden Road at the limit of the 30 mph zone with traffic exiting the village having priority.

***The Parish Council continues to lobby HS2 for the closure of Diddington Lane to through traffic, with safety concerns regarding the proximity of its northern junction to the Stonebridge Roundabout. We have requested that a highway safety audit be carried out to assess the potential risk at this junction with the A452 Kenilworth Road.***

We are also developing a draft Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Plan for Catherine-de-Barnes Ward in discussion with the Resident's Association and local residents. We will be holding informal meetings with Solihull Council Highways to agree and finalise this Plan before formally submitting for funding under the HS2 Road Safety Fund.



## HS2'S WORKS NEAR HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN

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

In 2021, LM's works closest to Hampton-in-Arden will be concentrated near the A452, A45 and M42, which surround the site of the future HS2 Interchange Station. We refer to this area as the Interchange area. Throughout the year, phased traffic measures will remain in place on and around Northway Island, including short sections of the B4438 and A452 when necessary. These traffic measures will be installed west of the M42, en route to the National Exhibition Centre (NEC).

From mid-2021, BBV will begin activities east of the M42 in the Interchange area, mainly concentrated on HS2 land. This will include the completion of a BBV compound off the A45. BBV will also temporarily close sections of the B4102 for

8 nights from Monday 3 May to undertake surveys in the area.



We advise subscribing to HS2 in Solihull at, [www.hs2insolihull.co.uk](http://www.hs2insolihull.co.uk), to receive news updates about all of HS2's works in Solihull including traffic measures and virtual HS2 information events.

HS2 has also launched a user-friendly interactive map to make it easier and simpler to keep up to date on current and upcoming works that are being carried out near Hampton-in-Arden. You can access the map at: [www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map](http://www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map)

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](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk), if you have any enquiries.

Find out more about HS2 at: [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk)

## SOLIHULL LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

**A**t the time of writing no new information is available as to the likely timing of the Public Examination of the Plan which we expected will be held during the summer months.



## PARKING

**With the country re-emerging from lockdown and traffic and footfall increasing, we would like to take the opportunity to remind residents to be courteous to fellow road users.**

**In particular please refrain from:**

- Parking on either double yellow lines or 'keep clear' signs and markings;
- Parking on the footways which may cause an obstruction to pedestrians and in particular mobility scooters and pushchairs;
- Parking within 10 metres of a road junction;
- Parking in 'disabled only' spaces if you do not have a blue card.

## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH AND STREET WATCH

**D**ue to Covid 19 restrictions Speed Watch and Street Watch have been suspended. Both will resume as soon as circumstances permit.

## HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY (RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION)

**Hampton-In-Arden Society and the History Group present History of the Railways 25th June**

Hampton-In-Arden Society were very disappointed to have to cancel our May Day walk but we are determined, as long as restrictions allow, to go ahead with the History Group Talk on the History of the Railways on the 25th June. It will be held at Fentham Hall at 7.30pm and we expect it to be as fascinating as usual. This is a rescheduling of the talk we had

to cancel last year, the Society is so happy to be able to be getting back to normal and we look forward to seeing you all there.

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

## AGE CONCERN LEAFLET – HOW TO RECOGNISE SCAMS AND CONFIDENCE TRICKS

**A**ge Concern have produced a guidance booklet to help older residents recognise and deal with scams and confidence tricks. Copies of this booklet, called Avoiding Scams, are available free from the Corner Shop, the Post Office, St Mary's Pharmacy, the Village Stores and NISA at Catherine de Barnes, and, when open, from the Parish Office in Marsh Lane. Further copies can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk and an online version is available via the Parish Website.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **4th May:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association Committee Meeting (likely to be via TEAMS)
- **12th May:** Parish Council Annual General Meeting (via TEAMS)
- **7th June:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association Committee Meeting (likely to be via TEAMS)
- **5th July:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association Committee Meeting (likely to be via TEAMS)
- **14th July:** Parish Council Meeting (likely to be via TEAMS)
- **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](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) or phone 01675 442 017 for advice as to how to participate.*

- **Residents Association Committee Meetings:** Member of the public are not invited to these meetings. However, If residents have any issues they would like to raise, please contact the secretary@catney.co.uk prior to the meeting. No open meetings (either on-line or physical) planned at this moment in time

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

**T**hanks to the sterling efforts by fellow Cllr. Peter Green, the responses to the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation have now been entered onto spreadsheets for subsequent analysis. Unfortunately, Covid -19 has resulted in slower progress than we would have liked but the working group are in the early stages of analysing the data ready to enable the reviewing the policies for the new Neighbourhood Plan.

We were made aware, at the end of last year, of the Governments intention to review the Planning and Neighbourhood Plan process and responded to the relevant consultations. We held a meeting with Solihull MBC towards the end of April. We will be in a position to give you more information in the next edition.

## THANK YOU FOR READING AND WE WILL SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN IN AUGUST

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