

Parish News - Aug 2021

HELLO AGAIN

Welcome to the August edition of your Parish Council Newsletter! In this issue we have lots to tell you including information about Remembrance Sunday, planning news, pedestrian safety and traffic calming just to name a few!

A POLITE FEW REMINDERS:

- **Dog Fouling:** Dog fouling bins are provided for your use (along with bags should you have run out of them on your walk or forgotten them at home). The Parish Council have arranged for these bins to be emptied twice weekly. Please make use of them. Thank you.
- **Hedgerow Cutting:** Please can we remind residents to trim any hedgerows or vegetation that overhangs onto public rights of way or footpaths (particularly along the High Street where footpaths are particularly narrow). Of course, please ensure that you are able to do this safely and can complete this in line with social distancing guidelines).

Lastly, some great news! The Parish Council, at the request of residents, have now installed another litter bin. This one is located on the fence surrounding the Under 7's play area at the Recreational Ground.



CLOSURE OF SOLIHULL ROAD

It was unfortunate that the Parish Council only received formal notification of the intended closure of Solihull Road on the afternoon of 14th June 2021, having been given prior verbal notice on the evening of 10th June, as this left little time to establish the reasons for such a long closure and to notify residents in reasonable time.

The approval for the M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme was by way of a Development Consent Order (DCO) which is the means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and which includes energy, transport, water and waste projects. A DCO bypasses the normal planning process and whilst some local consultation did take place the effect of the Order is to give extensive powers to Highways England and its contractor, Skanska UK, to operate as they see fit within the boundaries designated in the DCO. Solihull Road is within the designated boundary as both the new Junction 5a and new road bridge are included in the work to take place.

Undertakings have been given that the diversion route will be regularly monitored to identify and rectify any issues and there is an expectation that construction work can be expedited and the road re-opened earlier than planned.

Anyone experiencing problems with the road closure or the diversion route is asked to contact Parish Clerk Julie Barnes.

M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme

A public information event has been arranged for the 10th August at the Village Hall in Catherine-de-Barnes. This will be an opportunity to find out more about the M42 Junction 6 relief road, the associated works and what will be happening over the coming months. The event is on from 11am to 9pm. Similar events are to be arranged for Hampton and Bickenhill during the same week (please check our website and Facebook page for details when they become available).



MOTORWAY SERVICE AREAS – APPEAL

Developers for both Motorway Service Areas have submitted appeals against the decision of Solihull MBC to refuse both applications. Extra MSA will appeal the proposed area off Solihull Road at Catherine-de-Barnes and Applegreen on land off the M42 at Junction 4. The appeals will be heard by way of a Public Inquiry scheduled to begin on 12th October and lasting for up to 16 days. A decision as to whether the inquiry will be held virtually or in person has yet to be made.

The Parish Council, together with the Hampton Society and Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association, has always strongly opposed the Solihull Road application and will continue to support Solihull MBC during the appeal process.

A THANK YOU - PETER KENNEDY

In May 2021, Peter Kennedy, a long-standing member of the Communication Group (responsible for the organisation of this Newsletter), retired from the committee. Peter was one of the longest serving members of the group, working with us for over seven years. A journalist by profession, Peter provided many an article for the Newsletter over the years and brought his news-room know-how and humour to our meetings. **We wish to thank him for all his hard work and his commitment to the Communication Group – thank you Peter!**

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN LOCAL HISTORY GROUP - ART IN HAMPTON (1812 - 2012)

An exhibition is being held at the Parish Church on Wednesday 15th September (2.00 pm to 9.00 pm). Artists featured include David Cox, Ernest Chadwick, Ray Parker, Ossie Webb, Betty Marzano and Grahame Keates.

Refreshments available. Free admission. www.hamptoninardenhistory.org.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 14TH NOVEMBER 2021

An early reminder that this year's Remembrance Day service and procession will be on **Sunday 14th November** (subject to any Covid restrictions that may still be in place at that time).

As with previous events the High Street will be closed to through traffic between 10.30am and 12.00 noon to allow the procession from the church to the War Memorial to proceed safely.

Marshalls will be deployed to control traffic. If any residents would like to volunteer to be a marshall on the day then please contact the Parish Clerk.

ARDEN U3A

ARDEN u3a meet every Monday morning at Solihull Bridge Club in central Solihull. A small, friendly and active group providing a range of dynamic talks by members and outside speakers plus a number of interest groups and external visits to 'feed the brain, meet new friends and have fun'. There is ample parking and it is well served by numerous local bus services. For more information see our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/arden/welcome> or phone Carol on 0121 704 2508 for further details.

HAMPTON IN ARDEN LIBRARY NEWS

All information here is accurate at the time of writing. See www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries and www.facebook.com/hamptoninardenlibrary for the latest updates as the local and national situation changes.

- **Click & Collect at Hampton Library:** Through our free Click & Collect service, you can request a set of books to collect at Hampton-in-Arden Library. **Collections are available between 10am and 11am on a Tuesday morning.** You can also return any library books you have without any appointment needed or charges. You can find the form online at www.solihull.gov.uk/clickandcollect or if you are unable to use the online form you can phone 01676 532590. Simply complete the form with your preferences and you will be notified when your items are available for pick up.
- **Wild World Heroes, The Summer Reading Challenge 2021:** This annual challenge helps school age children to keep up their reading skills and confidence during the long holidays. We're teaming up with WWF for a very special nature-themed challenge that will inspire you to stand up for the planet! Make an appointment to get three children's books from our Click & Collect service and let us know that you want to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge. When you pick up your books, you'll get your Wild World Heroes starter pack including a collector's poster, a bookmark and more! By reading six books over the summer, and coming to the library three times, you can get a full set of special stickers and a Wild World Heroes medal. Don't miss out!
- **Home Library Service:** If you are unable to leave your home or cannot travel to your local library, cannot carry items to and from the library, care for someone who is unable to leave their home, then the Home Library Service might be just what you are looking for. The service is free of charge and offers a wide range of books, many in large print, audiobooks, CDs and MP3s. For more information, phone 0121 704 6947 or visit www.solihull.gov.uk/Libraries/Home-library-service.
- **eBooks, Audiobooks, eMagazines, and eNewspapers:** Our digital collection is now with Overdrive. Through one portal you can access ebooks, magazines, and audiobooks. You can access Overdrive in your web browser at solihulluk.overdrive.com or download the Libby app for Android or iOS. If you have any trouble signing in, get in touch with 247library@solihull.gov.uk and our experts will sort you out. We also have newspapers and magazines from the UK and around the world available through PressReader, and our additional collection of over 1,000 eAudiobooks from Borrowbox.

CATHERINE DE BARNES NEWS

- **The Village Hall:** Following receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy funding from the Parish Council, secondary double glazing will be installed in the Village Hall during school half term week in October. The Trustees have now received planning and highways approval for a dropped kerb and off-loading and small parking area at the front of the Hall. The Trustees have a number of quotations and expect work to be completed before the end of the year. There are plans to install a bench in the front garden of the Hall within the next few months.
- **The Common:** The wildflower sowing earlier in the year proved very successful. Many of you will have now noticed that much of the grass has been cut and the area is now a little more user friendly. There are plans to place another bench on the Common within the next month or so.
- **CCTV:** A Residents Association working group had the opportunity of taking part in a month's free trial of a mobile system, although for the trial, it was in a fixed position. At the time of writing the system is being evaluated. Preliminary meetings have been held with Solihull MBC Highways and further meetings are expected. A representative of the Parish Council has participated in the meetings.

PLANNING NEWS

- **PL/2020/02784/PPF - Newlands Bishop Farm:** A decision on this application for a triple tepee tent is still awaited.
- **PL/2020/02792/PPFL Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association – Land off Catherine de Barnes Lane:** Following the Planning Committee's deferral of this application in March, requesting more information, further documents were lodged in preparation for the Planning Committee meeting on 14th July. Following the publishing of these documents further responses were received which resulted in the applicant providing further information on the day the application was due to be heard. This resulted in the application being deferred once again, whilst planning officers consider this latest information. A new Planning Committee date is awaited.
- **1 Oakfields Way, Catherine de Barnes:** The Parish Council has made enquires with Solihull MBC as to whether the works currently underway comply with the approved planning applications. The situation will be kept under review.
- **Chestnut Farm, Eastcote Lane, (Barston Parish):** The Parish Council is very aware of many residents' concerns about alleged unauthorised activities on this site which are causing considerable concern to many. Planning applications are imminent and will be carefully considered and responded to when received. **Note that Eastcote Lane is within Barston Parish Council's area. However, Policy ENV3 of the adopted Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan identifies the view from Fentham Hall across the landscape towards Barston as being of importance to the setting of Hampton and its Conservation Area and any applications likely to have a detrimental effect will be resisted by the Parish Council.**
- **Solihull Local Plan:** The revised Local Plan has been submitted for inspection and news is awaited.
- **Neighbourhood Plan Update:** Following decisions by the Parish Council and after discussions with Solihull Council a draft outline has been submitted for comment following which further progress will be made.

VILLAGE WATCHES

- **Community Speed Watch:** Speed watch sessions continue to take place as often as police resources allow. The target is to hold two sessions a month. At the session held on Meriden Road on 7th July a total of 18 motorists were "clocked" at speeds of over 35mph in a three-quarter hour period.
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** The voluntary position of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator remains vacant and consequently this valuable contribution to community security and safety is not able to operate effectively at present. Anyone willing to help out is asked to contact Parish Clerk Julie Barnes.
- **Community Street Watch:** The Street Watch Co-ordinator has recently stood down and whilst incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour has reduced of late, Street Watch is, unfortunately, not operating at present. Again anyone willing to help is asked to contact Julie Barnes.

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY (RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION)

In the words of Jonas Salk, currently very appropriate for the times, 'Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality.' It is with this hope that the Hampton-In-Arden Society and The Local History Group have rescheduled the talk 'A History of Hampton's Railways' to **Wednesday 22nd September**

2021, at 7.30pm in Fentham Hall. Please check are Facebook page, our website or sign up to our mailing list for more information nearer the time.

As we are also your Residents' Association, please do contact us with any village concerns on info@hamptoninardensociety.org.

COMMUNITY POLICING

PCSO Aaron Murdoch has, to all intents and purposes, been our "local bobby" for the past 5 years. Aaron has announced that he will be leaving the local team at the end of this month to move to Solihull CID. We wish him well.

Aaron's place will be taken by PCSO Emma Harkin who has been working alongside Aaron for the past few months. Emma explained that her "patch" is Hampton, Catherine-de-Barnes, Bickenhill, Berkswell and Balsall Common. She will also take over from Aaron as Farm Watch Officer. The strength of the policing team for our area should be 4 x PCSO's but currently Emma is the only one and it understood that recruitment is in progress.

Covid-19 restrictions have continued to affect the monthly Police Surgery usually held at Sandwiches@No.6 and, currently, there is no date for it to restart.

FOOTPATH OFFICER

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that a new councillor, Roger Waring, has undertaken responsibility for monitoring the status of Footpaths and Rights of Way within the Parish.

Roger is a keen Rambler and regularly walks all of the footpaths around Hampton and Catherine-de-Barnes. If you have any concerns or specific problems with local paths or Rights of Way, then Roger will be pleased to assist. **Simply contact our Clerk, Julie, by email (clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) with the details so that Roger can investigate the issue in more detail on your behalf.**

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING IN HAMPTON IN ARDEN

Solihull MBC Highways have now completed the design for the interim Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Plan in Hampton in Arden. Additional funding of £17k has been obtained from the HS2 Road Safety Fund and this sum, together with the WALC donation of £8k, covers the shortfall in the £90k estimated total cost.

Solihull MBC Highways are now conducting formal consultations with residents, local businesses, bus company and emergency services. **Construction is expected in August 2021 subject to contractor availability.** There will inevitably be some traffic disruption during construction, but this will be measured

in days rather than the 18 months for the M42 J6 work. As a reminder this interim scheme consists of:

- Four tabled informal crossings (at the Church, at the War Memorial, on Meriden Road just beyond the station, and just before the Diddington Lane junction); and,
- Two gateways at either end of the village at the 30 mph limits with traffic entering the village giving way to traffic leaving the village.

Once installed over the following months we will monitor vehicle speeds and behaviour to judge the effect of these measures to determine if any additional works are necessary.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING IN CATHERINE DE BARNES

A draft plan has been prepared for an interim scheme in Catherine-de-Barnes to improve pedestrian safety and reduce traffic speeds on village roads. The interim scheme includes the following elements:

- Tabled gateway on Hampton Lane at the 30 mph limit into Solihull;
- Tabled informal crossing on Hampton Lane approximately 100 m before the Lugtrout Lane junction;
- Two pairs of speed cushions on Lugtrout Lane at the west end of the lane;
- Tabled Gateway on Lugtrout Lane on the entrance into the village;

- Associated signage;
- No additional measures are needed at this time in the village centre as Solihull MBC Highways are proposing the construction of a pedestrian crossing in this area;
- No measures are proposed to the east of the canal bridge as this is dependent on whether the Oak farm development proceeds. If so, then planning conditions associated with this development are likely to include upgraded pedestrian facilities.

This interim plan has been approved by the Parish Council and has been submitted to Solihull MBC Highways for their approval.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **6th September:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association Committee Meeting
- **8th September:** Parish Council Meeting
- **4th October:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association Committee Meeting
- **1st November:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association Committee Meeting
- **10th November:** Parish Council Meeting
- **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 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.

HAMPTON FESTIVAL, SAD NEWS - FESTIVAL CANCELLED!

Despite the recent lifting of most legal restrictions, due to the continued rising rates of Covid - particularly in Solihull - and the uncertainty what this might mean for any future restrictions which could be reimposed, it is with regret that the Hampton Festival Committee have had to take the decision not to go ahead with a scaled down festival in September. We will instead be working on plans for Festival

2022 which we hope everyone will continue to support.

In the meantime, the committee is always looking for new members to help organise the event. Therefore, if any residents would like to be involved please let Julie, our Parish Clerk, have your contact details and she will ensure one of the existing committee members gets in touch.

HAMPTON WOMBLES

The Hampton Wombles, organised by Alison Rolf (our very own Solihull Ward Councillor), are back in action! The Wombles do an amazing job litter picking in and around the village. They meet once a month and are always looking for people to take part.

The next wombles meet up is to be held on the 7th August. Please meet at the White Lion Car Park at 11am.

Dates going forward for the rest of 2021 are 11th September, 9th October, 13th November and 11th December.

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

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.