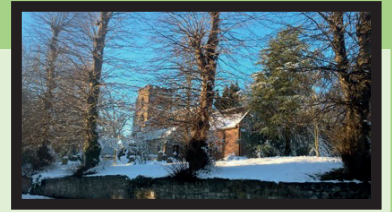


Parish News - February 2022

HELLO AGAIN

Welcome to the February edition of your Parish Council Newsletter! In this issue we tell you all about local planning issues, update you about the Parish Council Precept, Warm Hubs, traffic calming and HS2 and let you know some important dates for your diary... the Great British Spring Clean is back in March and we need you help - *read on for more information!*



PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT – GOOD NEWS!

Residents will be aware that a substantial part of the Councils annual income is by way of a precept collected as part of the Council Tax.

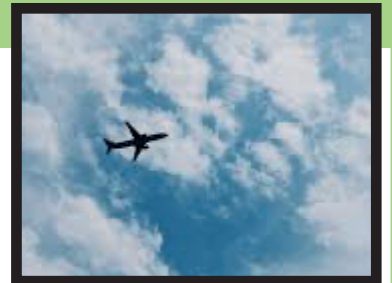
The Parish Council, on 5th January, discussed and approved its budget for the 2022 – 2023 financial year and were pleased to be able to agree that, once again, there should be no increase in the precept which will remain at £31 per annum based on properties in Band D.

AIRCRAFT NOISE

As a result of the recent clearance of vegetation, especially trees, the Parish Council has received reports of increased noise from aircraft taking off from the A45 end of the main runway at the airport. In order to provide documented evidence of this, the Parish Council would like to invite all affected residents to contact the Parish Clerk with details. Councillor Roger Waring is preparing a map to show the before and after effects of these clearances.

Information as to time of day and the perceived level of increase would be helpful.

Please email roger.waring@hamptoninarden.org.uk or write to him via the Clerk at the Fentham Hall office.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT SWITCH – A SUCCESS!

We are delighted to report that the turning on of our Christmas tree lights was a great success. The Village Green hosted Santa and his new improved sleigh from the Meriden Rotary Club, festive carols from the local choir and stalls from the PFTA from George Fentham Endowed School. *Thank you to all who attended and made it a triumph!*



TRAFFIC CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

● Hampton-in-Arden

The interim traffic calming and pedestrian safety plan for Hampton-in-Arden was installed last year. A review is currently underway by Solihull MBC Highways and the Parish Council to examine the effect of these measures on driver behaviour. Results from our Speedwatch checks have shown that traffic speeds have been reduced overall and particularly the top-end speeds. When complete we will then be in a position to recommend any changes or additions.

So far so good but more needs to be done and, with this in mind, we would like to invite any residents who would like to comment to send these comments by email to our Clerk Julie Barnes.

● Catherine-de-Barnes

In Catherine-de-Barnes we have submitted our proposals to Solihull MBC Highways for similar traffic calming measures and await their comments. The proposals include informal crossings on Hampton Lane and Lugtrout Lane, and complement the planned pedestrian crossing for the village centre. When comments are received from Solihull MBC Highways and proposals drawn up, we intend to hold a public event where the plans and proposals will be available to view. *Watch this space!*



Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

PETTY THEFT – STATION PLANTERS

Train travellers will know that there are a number of wall mounted plant troughs at the station. Plants for these are paid for by the Parish Council and are maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers from the village gardening club throughout the year.

Unfortunately, a number of these plants have now been dug up and stolen, presumably to be planted at the thief's own home. *We hope you enjoy them!*



HAMPTON COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Speed Watch sessions have been on hold for some weeks as the Neighbourhood Policing Team have been unable to attend which is necessary for sessions to take place.

When PCSO Aaron Murdoch moved to other duties he was immediately replaced with PCSO Emma Harkin, who also quickly moved on to a new role elsewhere. Emma was

replaced by PCSO Akhtar Ali Shah who, in turn, has now moved to begin training as a regular PC. We still await a replacement as our local PCSO and to take on the Speed Watch role.

Perhaps it has been fortuitous, given the recent weather, that the volunteers have not been called on to attend any sessions as it would have been difficult for them to stand on the side of the road for an hour in wet and cold conditions.

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN - 26th MARCH

The Parish Council are joining forces with the Hampton Wombles and Solihull MBC on the 26th March to take part in the Great British Spring Clean 2022! This national initiative looks to involve local communities in tidying up their local areas and carry out a litter pick.

We would love for as many residents as possible to take part! We will provide all the necessary equipment – all you need to

do is turn up!

The Spring Clean will take place in both Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine-de-Barnes on the 26th March. Please meet at 10.30am at the Parish Meeting Room (next to the Beeches) for the Hampton event and at the Village Hall for the Catney event. *We hope to see you there!*



PLANNING NEWS

- **Solihull Local Plan Examination in Public:** This was completed at the end of January. The Inspector will now review the evidence presented and will advise Solihull MBC if their Plan is acceptable or needs revision.
- **Application PL/2021/02677 - New dwelling at 21a Meadow Drive:** The Parish Council have made a response to this application which can be viewed on the PC website.
- **Application PL/2021/02862 - Demolition of existing clubhouse and erect a new single storey building:** This application was approved on the 6th January.
- **Motorway Service Area (MSA) at Junction 5a, Solihull Road, Catherine de Barnes – Update:** As many of you will now the appeal closed at the end of November and the Planning Inspector is now reviewing the evidence and likely to come to a decision soon. On the last days of the enquiry the Transport Select Committee issued a report on All Lane Running on Smart Motorways which recommended a number of urgent actions to Parliament, one of which was to halt the further rollout of All Lane Running until 5 years safety data has been established. This MSA project depends on All Lane Running for its successful operation. Following the publishing of the report the Parish Council in conjunction with the Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association has had several meeting/discussions with our Ward Councillors concerning this latest development. Following these meetings, they, and the Parish Council, have written to both the Secretary of States for Transport and Levelling Up, Housing and Communities making them aware of the planning appeal and its relevance to the Select Committee's Report. In addition, a request has been made seeking the appeal be 'recovered' which would mean it would be decided by the Secretary of State following a recommendation from the Planning Inspector rather than the Inspector making the final decision. *We await developments.*

NEW CLUBHOUSE AT THE SPORTS CLUB

Hampton in Arden Sports Club is planning to build a new clubhouse. The existing clubhouse is now over 60 years old and is becoming unsafe.

The Sports Club Board have canvassed the local community and incorporated their feedback into an exciting new design. The new clubhouse will offer home and away changing rooms, a larger bar area overlooking the tennis courts which can be sub divided allowing flexible space, improved access, and larger storage areas whilst maintaining existing village atmosphere that residents wanted.

It is intended that the clubhouse will be open for the whole community to use during the daytime with access to hot and cold drinks machines where the wider community can enjoy the improved inside and outside seating areas.

The clubhouse received planning permission earlier this month and the focus now is on raising the remaining funds required to pay for the construction. Further details on how the village can support will be in the next newsletter.

COMING SOON - WARM HUBS

Warwickshire rural charity WRCC will be bringing our weekly Mobile Warm Hub minibus café to Catherine-de-Barnes Village Hall. Free coffee/tea, biscuits and friendly chat are all on the menu, and everyone's welcome!

Watch this space for more information... Dates will be published on the Parish Council website and Facebook page when we have them.



HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

As many of you will be aware the Draft Solihull Local Plan (SLP) is currently being examined in public. The examination itself finished at the end of January 2022. The findings will then be considered by the Inspector who will then decide whether the Plan is to be adopted or amended.

Any Neighbourhood Plan has to be in conformity with the policies of the SLP. Our Neighbourhood Plan Working Group wanted to be certain that it was not wasting its time developing the new Plan when the draft SLP was being examined and met with Solihull MBC for guidance. It was advised to proceed cautiously and this is what they are doing. Areas of the new plan not specifically relating to policies of the new SLP are being worked on but the version of the Plan for local consultation is therefore not likely to be ready until later in the year.

NEWS FROM CATNEY

- As many of you will have seen, new fencing and a gateway have been erected at the Village Hall and all that remains is to get the new driveway area tarmacked (the funding of which is being worked on).
- Covid regulations permitting **the Residents Association AGM** is planned for **Tuesday 22nd February** in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm which will be followed by wine and nibbles. **Members of the public are welcome to attend (becoming a member of the RA is a requirement in order to attend and this can be carried out on the evening).**
- The Trustees of the Village Hall working with the Parish Council are discussing with the Birmingham Diocese (the custodians of the Hall) ways to facilitate the installation of a childrens' play area at the rear of the Hall - more news on this next time!
- If you thought the noticeboard by Nisa has been stolen- don't worry its only being repaired/refurbished and should be back in position shortly.
- Unfortunately, we regret to announce the death of cyclist Jacqui Sidley who was involved in a fatal accident on Friday Lane at approximately 9.50 am in the morning of the 12th January. At the time this piece was being prepared, the circumstances surrounding the accident are not known, but our sympathy goes out to the family and friends at this difficult time.

NEWS FROM HS2

- Until approximately July 2022, the closest HS2 works to Hampton-in-Arden will be concentrated near the A452, A45 and M42, which surround the site of the future HS2 Interchange Station.
- The direction of travel for road users around Northway Island (over the M42) has now permanently changed, and depending on your direction of travel, you may be redirected from the island, along the B4438, and back.
- Off-peak temporary lane closures will also be installed occasionally in the area and several temporary weekend road closures on and around Northway Island will be carried out before the programme concludes in summer 2022.
- BBV will continue 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 and earthwork preparations for the Bickenhill cutting and for the construction of the A452 link road to the new M42 bridge. Utility diversions on the East Way will also be completed which will involve narrow lanes being in place near the Stonebridge Island.
- Throughout the route ground investigation works will continue to enable construction throughout 2022 and beyond.

You can subscribe for HS2 news updates in Solihull at <https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list/> to find out more about all of HS2's works in Solihull including traffic measures and virtual HS2 information events.

You can also access a user-friendly interactive map of current and upcoming works at: 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 if you have any enquiries.

HS2 News - Diddington Lane

The Parish Council have now received an update from HS2 regarding the detailed design for Diddington Lane which we had hoped could be closed to through traffic as part of the HS2 works. A number of residents had reported that site clearance was underway in the area and were asking if this related to the proposed diversion of the lane.

*We can report that the site clearance is related to the diversion as the lane is to **remain open after HS2 construction** - not what we were hoping for! Detailed design will be complete in November 2022 and a Stage 2 highway safety audit will then be undertaken as one of the final activities of the detail design. **We will continue to lobby for closure of this road.** The results of this audit will then be shared with Solihull MBC and the Parish Council. **We will keep you posted.***

HAMPTON IN ARDEN LIBRARY IS OPEN!

● **Hampton in Arden Library is now fully open for our new opening hours: Tuesday (2pm – 5pm), Thursday (2pm – 5pm) and Friday (2pm – 5pm).** You can come in to browse the books, use our public PC and Wi-Fi, make reservations, print, and photocopy. ***We've been thrilled to welcome back regulars and meet new faces coming to the library, and we hope to see even more people coming through our doors in February!***

● **Free for All:** Solihull Libraries have removed overdue fines for library members of all ages, so it's easier than ever to use the library – it's still important to bring books back on time though! We have completely free reservations from any Solihull Library too, so you can read the latest bestsellers without paying a penny. ***If you aren't already a member of the library, now is the perfect time to join. All you need is proof of your name and address, like a driving license or an official letter, and you can access all our books and our digital collections for free.***

● **eBooks, Audiobooks, eMagazines, and eNewspapers:**

Through one portal you can access eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and eNewspapers. You can access Overdrive in your web browser at [solihulluk.overdrive.com](https://www.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 an additional collection of over 1,000 eAudiobooks from Borrowbox, available through their app or at [solihull.borrowbox.com/](https://www.solihull.borrowbox.com/).

See www.solihull.gov.uk/libraries and www.facebook.com/hamptoninardenlibrary for the latest updates as the local and national situation changes.



CONSERVATION GROUP – A CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Conservation Group comprises a number of volunteers who meet regularly to help maintain the Spinney and Recreation Ground. The group, led by David Grimshaw is affiliated to the Hampton-in-Arden Society with occasional financial support for equipment from the Parish Council.

Time has taken its toll and the number of volunteers has decreased substantially over the past couple of years. There is now an urgent need for more, and preferably some younger, volunteers to join the Group and anyone interested is asked to contact Parish Clerk Julie Barnes for more information.

NEWS FROM HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SOCIETY - LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN – WHAT'S ON IN HAMPTON

On March 2nd, 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Fentham Hall, the Society will be holding another Fresher's Fair event to showcase everything Hampton has to offer. We hope to remind you there is 'Life After Lockdown', so come along and see what new hobbies you can take up or groups you can join.

This event will be subject to current Covid-19 guidelines at the time, so please refer to our website <https://www.hamptoninardensociety.org/> or our Facebook page. If you wish to have a table to showcase your group or business (we are asking for a small donation from businesses) please contact secretary@hamptoninardensociety.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **7th February:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **12th February:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **22nd February:** Catherine-de-Barnes RA AGM - to be held at Catney Village Hall at 7.30pm (with wine and nibbles afterwards). All members of the RA are welcome to attend. Should you wish to become a member of the RA on the evening, you can join the RA at this event.
- **7th March:** Catherine-de-Barnes RA Committee Meeting
- **9th March:** Parish Council Meeting
- **26th March:** Great British Spring Clean - Meet at 10.30am at the Parish Council Meeting Rooms (by the Beeches)
- **4th April:** Catherine-de-Barnes RA Committee Meeting
- **23rd April:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **27th April:** Parish Council Village Annual Meeting - **Details of whether this will be held online or at Fentham Hall will be confirmed closer to the event**
- **Parish Council Meetings:** Take place at 7.30pm online 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:** Take place at 7.30pm online via Zoom. Members of the Residents Association are encouraged to attend. Members can request to speak at the start of the meeting and/or if they want to raise a query/question please contact the secretary@catney.co.uk three working days prior to the meeting.

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.