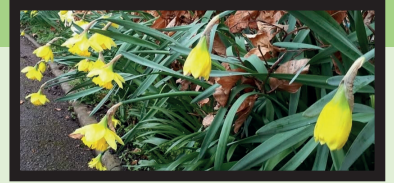


## Parish News - FEBRUARY 2025

### HELLO AGAIN

**A**fter successful Christmas celebrations in both Hampton-in-Arden and Catherine Aude Barnes (where we were pleased to see lots of residents turn out for the Christmas tree light switch on events), we would like to extend our thanks to all involved in supporting these events and making them such a hit!



With spring now upon us we're sure everyone is looking forward to the spring blooms and longer days! In this February edition of the Newsletter we have important updates on the airport night flying policy, parking and community transport scheme, as well as a date for our annual village tidy up. **Read on...**

### PRECEPT – CHANGES FOR 2025

**The Precept is a tax that Solihull Council charges local electors to meet budget requirements. The Parish Council does not receive any direct funding from central government or Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) and relies on the Precept plus any other income generated from services or facilities provided. The Precept is collected as part of Council Tax.**

At the Annual Finance meeting on 14th January 2024, Councillors, after considerable debate, reluctantly approved an increase of 5% in the Precept for the financial year beginning in April. The increase will help fund the continuing increase in costs for the services the Council provides for the benefit of residents.

In money terms the increased Precept means that, for a property in Council Tax Band D, the charge will increase from the current £34.17 per annum to £35.87 an increase of £1.70.

Anyone wanting further information about the Precept should contact Parish Clerk Julie Barnes.

### AIRPORT NEWS – NIGHT FLYING POLICY

**A**s parishioners may be aware, in September 2024 the Airport submitted the proposal which significantly increased the number of night flights and changed the calculation method for flight allowances from a percentage of actual historical air transport movements to a percentage of forecast data.

The Parish Council submitted a detailed written response in October 2024 opposing the proposal. The proposal was heard at a rather noisy planning meeting on 8th January at which the Parish Council spoke in opposition alongside many other Councils, Parish Councils, Societies, and members of public. Unfortunately, after much debate, which at times seemed to uphold many of our concerns, the planning committee members voted 7-2 to **approve** the new proposal in its entirety. The planning committee did agree to set up a sub-group to monitor the airport's compliance, but it is not yet clear how this will operate.

**The result was extremely disappointing, and we feel represents the lack of real negotiating power that the planning-based approval process gives to local representatives.**

In terms of changes, the new policy is **effective immediately** and the annual limit on departures between 11pm and 5am increases by 285 flights (around 32.5%). More importantly, we calculate the total allowable night flight movements (11.30pm to 6am) will increase by around 2,800 flights this year (roughly 64% increase). We expect most of these additional movements will be departures between 5am and 6am and arrivals after 11.30pm.

**The Parish Council continues to attend the airport consultative committee and its noise sub-group and will continue to apply as much pressure as possible on the airport to find ways to reduce and mitigate aircraft noise both day and night.**

### PARKING CONSULTATION – HAVE YOUR SAY


**A**s residents are likely aware, a formal public consultation is to be conducted by Solihull MBC Highways on proposed parking concerns that have been raised around Soho Tavern and the surrounding roads and junctions. The consultation will run from the 17th February for three weeks.

Notices will be attached to lampposts in locations where restrictions are being considered and will be available to view online at the Solihull MBC website. Any homes and/or businesses that are to be directly affected by the proposals will receive a letter. The Parish Council will also ensure that the relevant information is added to our website and social media channels when it becomes available. **Please do take the opportunity to have your say on this issue!**

*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

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 [www.facebook.com/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil)

## COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEMES – YOUR FEEDBACK NEEDED

● **VASA Community Transport Scheme:** The Parish Council is seeking to better understand the current usage of the VASA Community Transport Scheme within the Parish. If you have used this service, we would appreciate hearing your thoughts and experiences – please email [clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk) with your feedback. VASA also needs volunteer drivers and offers full training for those interested, please do get in touch with VASA should you wish to volunteer. For more information please visit this link: <https://hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk/news-issues/>

● **Ring and Ride:** We want to remind residents that the Ring and Ride service operates within the Parish, providing transport to shopping, restaurants, GP and dentist appointments for just £1.30 each way. While they do not cover hospital appointments, the West Midlands Ambulance Patient Transport Service is also available for eligible residents.

● For more details on transport schemes within the Borough please visit: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/adult-social-care/travel-schemes>. The Parish Council is gathering information on demand for these services and encourages residents to share their experiences or inquiries with the Parish Clerk.

## THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN – 29TH MARCH

**The Parish Council are joining forces with the Hampton Wombles and Solihull MBC on the 29th March to take part in the Great British Spring Clean 2025! 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! Complimentary tea and biscuits to follow.**

● **Hampton-in-Arden:** Please meet at the George Fentham Meeting Room (next to Soho Tavern) at 10.30am

● **Catherine-de-Barnes:** Please meet at the Village Hall at 10.00am

## PLANNING NEWS

● **National Planning Policy Framework:** In December 2024 the Government issued a further revision to this document which introduced a number of significant changes. In brief this included:

● a new category of land classification ‘grey belt’ - which relates to low contributing green belt, and scrub land,

● new developments will be expected to comprise 50% affordable housing and

● changes to the standard method of calculating housing need numbers. This in particular significantly affects the housing numbers that SMBC are required to meet. The Council are now expected to deliver **1,323** new homes a year over the next 5 years rather than the **866** calculated under the old method. This situation together with the lack of an identified 5 year land supply will make it more difficult to resist what might be seen as ‘inappropriate development.’

● **Motorway Service Area (MSA):** A Reserved Matters planning application stills needs to be submitted to SMBC . We understand the intention is to submit an application during the Spring 2025, with the hope of getting approval in the Autumn enabling work to commence early 2026. The Parish Council meets with applicant representatives on a monthly basis in order to try and iron out any issues that may arise.

● **A Planning Running Report is available to view under the Planning Section of our website** (<https://hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk/your-parish-council/planning/>).

## CATNEY NEWS

● **Residents Association:** The RA Committee now meets on the **1st Tuesday in the month**. Any member who wishes to raise an issue with the Committee should do so no later than four working days before the said monthly meeting sending the details to [secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk)

● **Catney Craft Fair:** The Catney Craft Group held a very successful Christmas craft fair in the village hall at the end of November and donated the profits of just under £1k to the Village Hall Trust .

● **February Quiz:** A quiz has been organised for the **22nd February** in the Village Hall. At the time of writing only 3 tickets remain unsold!

● **Catney Remembrance Service:** Once again the village hall reverted to a church for the Remembrance service on the 10th November which was followed by complimentary teas and biscuits. **Thanks to all those attended and plans are in place for a service again this year.**

● **Village Hall News:** The kitchen refurbishment was completed in November. The £15k cost was part funded by National Highways £5.7k with the balance being paid on a 50/50 basis by the Residents Association and the Trustees of the Village Hall.

## UPDATES FROM SKANSKA

**The new road A4545 is now open, allowing access between Catherine de Barnes and the airport, rail station and the NEC. However there are a lot of issues that need to be resolved including cones, slip roads and traffic lights. It is planned that all these issues will be resolved by May 2025.**

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING

- **Hampton in Arden:** The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the Average Speed Cameras in the village are now fully operational and active at all times. We can confirm that the combined measures in place have increased pedestrian safety and we are pleased that residents are supportive of the steps that have been taken. We are awaiting data from Solihull Council on the camera installation and will share this with residents via our Facebook page and website once available.
- **Diddington Lane:** The extent of traffic calming measures for Diddington Lane has now been agreed and consists of a realignment of the junction with Meriden Road to provide full pedestrian access and informal crossings at both the northern extent of the village and a mid-point along the lane.
- **Catherine de Barnes:** National Highways funding has been secured and must be drawn down upon by no later than 31/03. We now await Solihull MBC to produce the scheme. A meeting at Catherine de Barnes Village Hall was held on 21/01 where Engineers attended to answer any queries or concerns from residents.

## FENTHAM TRUST NEWS

- The Trust organises and funds a **club for pensioners in the village every Wednesday**. There are opportunities to socialise, exercise and entertainment is often provided. Every other week a full lunch is served, funded by the Trust followed by a pudding which is made by volunteers from the village. The Trustees would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Deborah Jones who for many years has organised the provision of food including puddings and cakes for the lunch club and has recently stepped down from the role. We are very grateful to Catherine McElholm and Claire Bowie for taking on this role from Deborah. **If any readers would be interested in volunteering their baking skills to make a pudding or to make cakes or scones for the club, please contact the clerk below for more information.**
- At Christmas, we provide our lunch club with a Christmas meal including a visit from Santa and his elves, and entertainment after lunch from a singing group. This year's event was a huge success, and **we would like to thank Eve and all the volunteers** for their hard work for this event and over the year.
- The Trust pays a **monthly grant to many pensioners in the village who require the additional income**. At Christmas, we provide these pensioners with a hamper of Christmas treats. Hampers are delivered directly to residents by the Trustees and are very well received!
- The Trust was established to support the residents of Hampton-in-Arden village. **The Trust may be able to provide financial and/or practical support to any village resident who finds themselves in hardship.** Applications for assistance must be made in writing and sent to the Clerk either by post to George Fentham Meeting Room, Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull B92 0AH or by email [clerk@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk](mailto:clerk@georgefenthamtrust.org.uk)



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

**The Hampton Society is looking forward to organising events throughout 2025 and into 2026 which bring us together as a community and showcase the village's history and ecology. We welcome any suggestions for events or activities which you feel residents would enjoy. More details will be made available closer the time but currently in the offing are:**

- a film evening on **8th April** revealing by-gone life in Hampton in Arden with commentary by our local history group;
- the usual guided walk around the village environs on **5th May**;
- an Autumn Fair on the evening of **24th September** in the Fentham Hall where local clubs and societies will be invited to share details of their activities; and

- the AGM will be held on **6th November** in the Fentham Hall as usual. We would welcome anyone who is interested in giving a short presentation about some aspect of village life (or their life in the village) to contact the Society at [info@hamptoninardensociety.org](mailto:info@hamptoninardensociety.org)

- a quiz night in **January 2026**.

***Just a gentle reminder that we rely on your donations to in order to enable us to continue functioning as a residents association. Full details of how to donate can be found in our annual programme of events pack which will be coming through your letterbox very soon or you can donate via our website at [www.hamptoninardensociety.org](http://www.hamptoninardensociety.org)***



## PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**The Parish Council has been faced with yet another setback in obtaining approval to our updated Neighbourhood Plan to replace the one adopted in 2017. In December last year, the Government published a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which has increased mandatory new housing targets for local councils to support their national target of 370,000 a year and created the concept of Grey Belt to utilise parts of the Green Belt to find the room. Solihull's housing target has been increased by 52% and they will need to identify additional development sites to meet it. They have begun work on a new Local Plan which may result in further sites being identified within our Parish.**

Since our Neighbourhood Plan must align to both a **current** Local Plan and the **latest** NPPF **we have commenced another review.** We think there may be a few potential development plots within the Parish which could well meet the criteria for redesignation to Grey Belt and will need to take a view on these as we work on the update. **We will keep you posted!**

## PARISH CLUBS - GET INVOLVED!

- **Hampton Sports Club** - Contact [committee@hamptonsportsclub.org.uk](mailto:committee@hamptonsportsclub.org.uk). For more details on the individual sections, Pétanque, Cricket, Hockey, Tennis, Squash, and Pickleball, go to the website <https://hamptonsportsclub.org.uk>
- **Hampton Health & Fitness Club** - Contact Gareth Thomas [gareth@thehampton.co.uk](mailto:gareth@thehampton.co.uk)
- **Hampton Badminton Club** - Contact Mary Daymond - [randmdaymond@hotmail.com](mailto:randmdaymond@hotmail.com)
- **Hampton Bowls Club** - Contact [peter.j.green@live.co.uk](mailto:peter.j.green@live.co.uk)
- **Hampton Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides** - Contact Fiona Bubb [fiona@bubb.net](mailto:fiona@bubb.net)
- **Catherine de Barnes Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, and Rangers** - Contact Rachel Hughes [rachel0512@aol.com](mailto:rachel0512@aol.com) or 07875 058177
- **Hampton Gardening Club** - Contact Alison Dymes [alisonjdimes@outlook.com](mailto:alisonjdimes@outlook.com)
- **Hampton Conservation Group** - Contact Alan Seal [alanseal@hotmail.com](mailto:alanseal@hotmail.com)
- **Hampton Beekeeping Group** - Contact Sarah Rickard [sarahmrickard@icloud.com](mailto:sarahmrickard@icloud.com)
- **Catney Craft Club** - Contact Lesley Cuthbert [cuthbertlm@me.com](mailto:cuthbertlm@me.com)
- **Hampton Singers** - Contact [www.hamptonsingers.co.uk](http://www.hamptonsingers.co.uk)
- **Hampton Wine Society** - Contact Margaret Elsy at [hamptonwinesoc@gmail.com](mailto:hamptonwinesoc@gmail.com)
- **Solihull Scale Model Club** - Contact Alexander Clayson [a-clayson@hotmail.com](mailto:a-clayson@hotmail.com) or visit their Facebook site.
- **Hampton Probus Club** - Contact [peter.j.green@live.co.uk](mailto:peter.j.green@live.co.uk)
- **Local History Group** - Contact [info@hamptoninardenhistory.org](mailto:info@hamptoninardenhistory.org)
- **Hampton Walking** - Contact Evan Grant [hampton.walking@gmail.com](mailto:hampton.walking@gmail.com)

## HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN LIBRARY

**Opening Hours: Tuesday 2pm – 5pm, Thursday 2pm – 5pm, Friday 2pm – 5pm.**

- **A Warm Welcome:** As part of offering a warm welcome to everybody who comes through our door, Hampton Library are providing both warm and cold drinks to library customers. There is no charge for this, but donations are welcome if you wish.
- **Stories & Painting for Under 5s:** Every **Tuesday at 2:15pm**, we read a fun story and do some painting or colouring to go with it! Suitable for under 5s. Warm water to wash hands is provided, but we recommend wearing clothes that can get messy. Continues during school holidays.
- **Half-Term Crafts:** Drop into the library this half term to make some fun creations at our children's craft table. We will have crafts suitable for all ages of children: Tuesday 18th, Thursday 20th and Friday 21st February, during library opening hours.
- **Easter Crafts:** Whether you like getting things egg-sactly right or you go hopping mad with wild creativity, we'll have a craft for you this Easter at the library. We will have crafts suitable for all ages of children: Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th April, during library opening hours.
- **Readers Group:** Join us for a hot drink and a chat about any books we've read each month. We have a monthly theme to kick off conversation but talk about any books are welcome. We meet every month on a Friday at 2:15pm. Dates and themes: Friday 14th February (Crime novels by lesser-known authors), Friday 14th March (History) and Friday 11th April (Families)
- **Local History Presentations:** The Local History Group have recently had a large proportion of the archive digitised. They are now pleased to be able to offer presentations on our local history here at the library from **2:15pm to 4pm** on the following dates: Tuesday 11th February, Friday 14th March and Thursday 10th April.  
All information here is accurate at the time of writing. 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **4th February:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **8th February:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **4th March:** Catherine-de-Barnes Residents Association (RA) Committee Meeting
- **19th March:** Parish Council Meeting (7.30pm at Catney Village Hall)
- **29th March:** **Great British Spring Clean** - Hampton: Meet at 10.30am at George Fentham Meeting Room, next to Soho Tavern - Catherine-de-Barnes: Meet at 10am at Catney Village Hall
- **1st April:** Catherine-de-Barnes RA Committee Meeting
- **26th April:** Hampton Wombles Litter Pick (meet at 11am in White Lion car park)
- **29th April:** **Parish Council Village Meeting** - Wine and nibbles from 7.30pm at Fentham Hall.
- **Residents Association Committee Meetings:** Any changes to the date will be notified on social media /and our website. Meetings take place at 7.30pm. Any resident wishing to raise an issue with the Committee can do so, at least 48 hours before the meeting, by contacting [secretary@catney.co.uk](mailto:secretary@catney.co.uk). Any items of importance discussed at the meetings or decisions made, are communicated to members via Catney News, which is distributed to members only.

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

**D**on't forget to check out our website ([www.hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk](http://www.hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/pg/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/pg/HamptonInArdenParishCouncil)) for up to date information between Newsletters.