

The Precept - an explanation

What is the Precept? The Precept is the Parish Councils share of the Council Tax. Parish Councils set their own level of Precept based on estimated running costs and projects expected over the year.

How much does the Parish Council receive?

This has varied over the years dependent on planned projects and establishing itself. In 2009/10 the precept was around £74k, in 2010/11 it was around £48k and for 2012/2013 will be around £36k.

Where does my money go? The main spend for the Parish is for grounds maintenance for the recreation ground (23%). Other large expenses have been the tree work (19%) and grants to local groups (18%), and maintenance and upkeep of the Pavilion (12%).

Dog Fouling in the village

You might have spotted our younger residents in the news recently, pleading with dog owners to act responsibly. Under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005, if you are responsible for a dog, you must remove faeces unless exempt. The

Parish Council will be taking steps to see that this is enforced in the village.



Notice Boards

In order to publicise the work of the Parish Council, we rely on two notice boards and the web site plus the quarterly newsletter. The Parish Council are currently considering putting up new notice boards around the village. May be they should go at local bus stops, at the entrances to the village, along Aylesbury Road? Where do you think they should go? Let us know by sending an email or calling the Parish Clerk.

Speeding in the Village!

You may have noticed new warning signs up in informing motorists that we are now in a Police Speed Check Area.



Please observe the speed limit for your own and others safety.



Hockley Heath Parish Council

Newsletter - March 2012

Welcome to this Spring edition of the Hockley Heath Newsletter.

This edition will, among other things...

- Dog Fouling in the village
- A year in the Parish Council
- The Precept - an explanation!
- Notice Boards

If you have any questions, contact the Parish Clerk on 07703 647 883 or email hGPC2009@hotmail.com

Parish Council Meetings

With the evenings staying lighter for longer, the Parish Council will again hold its meetings at the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground, rather than the Memorial Hall. The meetings will start at 8.00pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month except for August. Future meeting dates are:

April 19 th	May 17 th
June 21 st	July 19 th
September 20 th	October 18 th
November 15 th	December 20 th

All are welcome. If you are unable to attend the meetings but still wish to raise a matter, please contact the Parish Clerk on 07703 647 883 or via email at hhpc2009@hotmail.com or by writing to :

Hockley Heath Parish Council
PO Box 16443
Sutton Coldfield
B73 9WA

Alternatively you may wish to visit the Parish Council pages on the local web site: www.hockleyheath.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you. Or follow us on Facebook.

A Year in the life of the Parish Council

The year started with supporting the Gardening Club in the village, who use Parish Council funding to secure match funding from Solihull Council. This money is used to buy all the plants that fill the boxes, tubs and borders throughout the village, giving a real splash of colour.

Security at the Recreation Ground was tackled with a firm brought in to open and close the gates each day, and check the woods and pavilion. This was requested from the local residents who until then, had voluntarily opened and closed the gates every day of the year.

In May we welcomed our new Council - 3 new Councillors and 2 from the previous Council.

Planning applications were discussed throughout the year, with the key ones sparking considerable interest being the Aylesbury House possible use as a Drugs Rehabilitation Clinic and the Nags Head site possible redevelopment to retirement properties. Also this year has been the launch of the consultation for Solihull Local Development Framework. This document

raised local concern with potential development on Green Belt land along School Road.

The trees at the Recreation Ground have undergone major work and are now safer and healthier for this.

New gates onto the Recreation Ground field means that access will be easier for grounds maintenance and for all vehicles supporting the major village events such as the Summer Fayre and bonfire night.

The Village Plan has taken a leap forward with questionnaires being delivered to every household. Stratford Council is currently examining the returns and hopefully the Parish Council will hear the findings at Aprils meeting. Thanks to all for their hard work with this.

The Parish Council again funded the Christmas Lights along the Stratford Road, and hopes to add to them for next year.

What a Year!

