

Picnic Area

The parish council have been working to develop the woodlands area at the recreation ground in the village. Work started early in 2014 with the clearing of dead trees and the overgrowth of the holly in the woodlands.

The Hockley Heath Summer Fayre Committees had been raising money and used this to develop a children's dirt track in the woods. This is a great way for our younger residents to burn off energy and get more proficient at cycling. There are a couple of small jumps and banked edges on the turns to make the area fun.

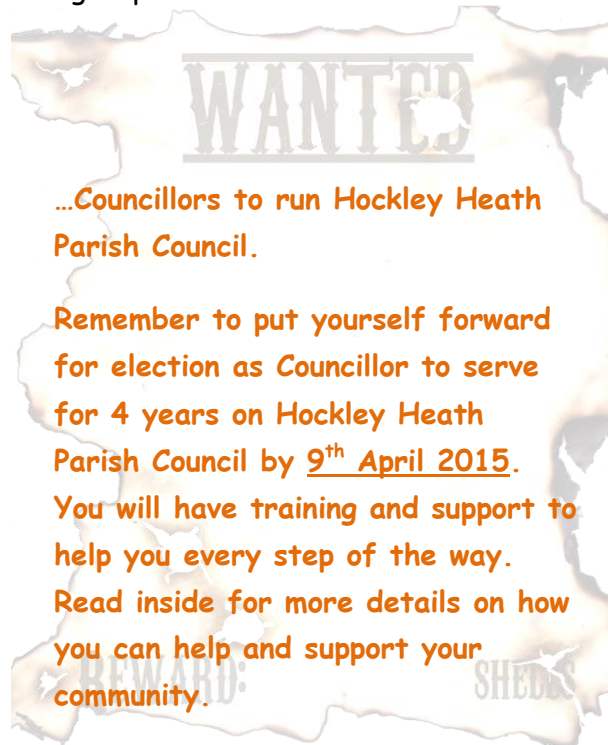
Finally the year finished with the scouts bringing in a new storage unit and a grassy picnic area with tables and benches being created.



Hopefully we will get a lovely summer and we will see the picnic area well used with local families.

The picnic tables give a good view of the children's play area and the council is already looking at replacing the equipment and making it more adventurous for the children and fencing it in to prevent dog access.

The council have also decided to relocate the football target from the field to the tarmac play area. This will ensure that the recreation ground can be let out to local groups.



Hockley Heath Parish Council Newsletter - January/February 2015

Welcome to this edition of the Hockley Heath Newsletter.

Among other things, we will be looking at:

- The new picnic area
- Local Elections

If you have any questions, contact the Parish Clerk on 07703 647 883 or email: hhpc2009@hotmail.com

Parish Council Elections

Thursday 7th May 2015 is a big day for local councils. It is your chance to elect those people you want to represent your views at Solihull Council and in the Parish Council. The term of office for newly elected councillors runs for 4 years.

The Parish Councillors have a varied and interesting role to play in developing Hockley Heath. All councillors can attend training courses to help them gain knowledge of local council bureaucracy and meet other people in the same situation. It is important that the parish council represents the people of the village and the 5 councillor's posts are all open for election.

To qualify as a local councillor you will need to **meet at least one of the four following criteria**:

- Be on the electoral register for the parish.
- Occupy land or premises as owner / tenant for a whole 12 months before the nomination day.
- Have your principal or only place of work within the parish for the last 12 months.

- Have lived within the parish or within 3 miles of it during the whole 12 months prior to nomination.

What is involved in being a Councillor?

For really detailed information about being a Councillor, please go to the following website: <http://www.nalc.gov.uk> and look for the Good Councillors Guide 4th Edition. As a quick summary though you must: attend the monthly council meetings and fully consider the agenda beforehand; take part in the meetings and consider all relevant facts; take part in voting; properly manage the pavilion and recreation ground; represent the whole electorate and not just those who voted for you.

As a councillor you will share collective responsibility for financial management of the council. The Council's finances are administered by the Responsible Financial Officer who in Hockley is also the Clerk.

What is a Parish Council?

A council must do what the law requires it to do; what the law says it must do; cannot do anything unless permitted by legislation. The parish council has a set of

Standing Orders which are the overarching procedures for the council.

If you are beginning to think that there are too many rules, remember that they protect people's rights (including yours) and give confidence that the council is properly run.

How do you put yourself forward?

To stand for election a nomination form must be completed by the person wishing to stand for election and be with SMBC by **9th April 2015**. These forms are made available from end of March 2015 from SMBC:

The Returning Officer
Solihull Council
Returning Officer,
Electoral Services,
Council House,
Manor Square,
Solihull,
B91 3QB

If you have any questions or want to talk through parish council related matters please contact the Parish Clerk on 07703 647 883 or email hhpc2009@hotmail.com