

Draft Local Plan

(At the time of printing) Solihull Council's Full Cabinet will consider approving the Draft Local Plan at a meeting on 6th October 2020. If approved at this meeting, the Draft Submission Plan will then be published for a statutory period of six weeks. Interested parties will be invited to make representations relating to the soundness and legal compliance of the plan.

These representations will then form the focus of the 'Examination in Public' (EiP) that must take place before a plan can be adopted. The EiP will be overseen by a nominated Inspector appointed on behalf of the Secretary of State.

If the plan is found to be sound and legally compliant, Solihull Council will then be allowed to adopt the plan.

View the Cabinet papers and appendices here <https://bit.ly/2GiLqD1>.

The Draft Local Plan proposes the removal of the green belt in an area on School Road to provide a site for housing development (approximately 90 homes). It also proposes removing the washed over green belt on School Road which may result in two further plots being developed for dwellings in the future. Residents are urged to read the documents and put forward their views during the consultation period.

Hedges and Overhanging Vegetation

Several concerns regarding overhanging vegetation and hedges onto public footpaths have been sent to the Parish Council. Residents are required to ensure the vegetation in their gardens does not provide a hazard to members of the public using footpaths or obscure the ability to use a public footpath.

Complaints received are forwarded to Solihull Council who inspect the hedges/trees to establish if they are hazardous and if so, will request the landowner to take action to prune the vegetation. If action is not taken by the landowner then Solihull Council can undertake the works and invoice the resident. This process can take many months.

Virtual Parish Council Meetings

Due to the restrictions on gatherings, the Parish Council is holding virtual meetings via Zoom video conferencing facilities. Members of the public can attend these meetings and should contact the Clerk to obtain a meeting ID and password; these meetings can also be joined using a telephone.

The next Environment Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 14th October 2020, 1.30pm, and the next Parish Council meeting will be Thursday 22nd October 2020, 7pm.



Hockley Heath Parish Council Newsletter – October 2020

Welcome to this autumn edition of the Hockley Heath Newsletter.

Among other things, we will be looking at:

- Christmas Lights
- COVID-19 Support
- Solihull Council's Draft Local Plan

If you have any questions, contact the Parish Clerk on 07591 954002 or email: hpc2009@hotmail.com or find us on www.facebook.com/hockleyheathpc or on Twitter: twitter.com/hockleyheath_pc

Post Office

The Post Office in Hockley Heath closed on 30th September 2020. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to Mrs Tut for providing this invaluable facility for many years and extend best wishes for the future to the Tut family.

If any businesses would like to consider incorporating a local style branch Post Office which runs alongside an established retail/service shop they can find further information at www.runapostoffice.co.uk. Post Office services can be found in Solihull, Knowle, Lapworth and Cheswick Green. Visit www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder for further information on Post Office locations.

Remembrance Parade

Due to the restrictions on gatherings and distancing the Remembrance parade and service at the War Memorial will not take place this year. Residents are welcome to pay their respects or lay a wreath/cross in the Memorial Garden throughout the day on Sunday 8th November 2020. If you wish to pay your respects, please ensure you socially distance from any members not in your household/support bubble.

The War Memorial has been cleaned and it is looking much improved, with the names of the fallen soldiers more visible.

Bonfire Celebrations

The Hockley Heath Residents' Association has confirmed the bonfire and firework celebrations will not take place this year due to the restrictions on gatherings and the need for social distance. Hopefully, we can all look forward to the bonfire and firework celebrations in November 2021.

Christmas Lights Switch On

With Christmas soon approaching, the Christmas tree lights will be switched on at 4pm on Saturday 28th November 2020. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions on gatherings and the need to maintain social distance there will not be a ceremony around the tree, but the lights will be a bright addition to the village during these difficult times.

The Parish Council has purchased four new Christmas light features for the lampposts to further brighten up the village.

A special thank you is extended to GBS Lighting, Hockley Heath Residents' Association and the Hockley Heath Social Club for offering generous donations to fund the Christmas 2020 light features on the lampposts.

COVID-19 Support – Hands, Face, Space

Attempts to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus are still ongoing and restrictions may continue to change. The virus has impacted family and work life, and residents may now need additional support as we all head towards the winter.

The Parish Council of Hockley Heath has set up a temporary food bank to provide an emergency food parcel for residents that may be struggling to purchase food. The Parish Council will endeavour to provide a food parcel for three days, to enable residents to access further support services. If you need to access the food bank, please email hphc2009@hotmail.com or telephone 07591 954002, in confidence, between the hours of 9am-1pm, Monday to Friday.

There is a wealth of information on support available for businesses and residents on Solihull Council's website, use the link: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/socialservicesandhealth/Coronavirus>.

The Hockley Heath Street Watch volunteers can offer support to residents that are isolating, contact spottedhh@btinternet.com <http://www.facebook.com/hockleyheathsw/> or telephone 07719 672616.

The NHS Volunteer Responder service can also provide assistance to residents that need to isolate, telephone 0808 1963646.