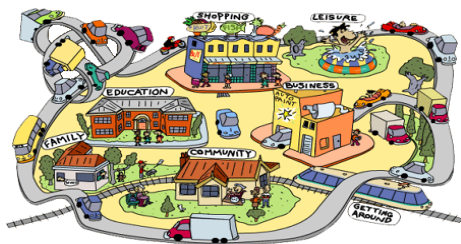


Neighbourhood Plan

Work temporarily halted on progressing with the Neighbourhood Plan due to COVID-19. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee members will be resuming work on the Plan in March 2021. The views of business owners and residents have been captured on the future of Hockley Heath. If you would like to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee, please contact the Clerk for more information.



Christmas Lights

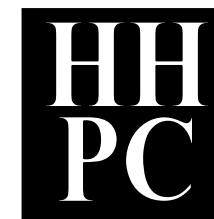
The Parish Council would like to thank GBS Lighting, Hockley Heath Social Club and the Hockley Heath Residents' Association for generously offering to donate towards the Christmas light features. The Parish Council had purchased some additional lights in 2020 (snowmen and Christmas trees) to further brighten up the village and will continue adding new lights annually.

Hockley Heath Litter Collections

The village clean-up events have not been organised in the usual manner during the past year due to periods of lockdown and social distancing rules. If you would like to regularly collect litter independently within your area, please contact the Clerk who can arrange for the SMBC Love Solihull team to provide you with all the necessary equipment.

Parish Council Meetings

As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, legislation was introduced to permit Parish Councils to hold public meetings remotely. All Parish Council meetings are currently held via Zoom conferencing facilities and any member of the public can join these meetings by either downloading a free version of Zoom or via a telephone. The Parish Council agendas feature the Zoom joining details, these can be located on the Parish Council website or the noticeboards in the village. The virtual meeting legislation is due to end in May 2021, and if it is not extended, the Parish Council must revert to public meetings in the Pavilion. Parish Councils meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm (except in August when there is not a meeting).



Hockley Heath Parish Council Newsletter – Winter 2021

Warm winter greetings from the Parish Council. Welcome to the first edition of the Hockley Heath Newsletter in 2021.

This edition includes:

- 2021-2022 Hockley Heath Precept
- Post Office Services
- Parish Council Meetings

If you have any questions, contact the Parish Clerk on 07591 954002 or email:

hhpc2009@hotmail.com or find us on
www.facebook.com/hockleyheathpc or on
twitter: twitter.com/hockleyheath_pc

Solihull Council's Local Plan

In October 2019, Solihull Council published a final version of the Local Plan which was the last chance for residents to make representations before the plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination. The Parish Council objected to the proposal of a housing development on School Road and the removal of the greenbelt in this area. The representations received will be the focus of an independent examination, overseen by a nominated Inspector appointed on behalf of the Secretary of State. If the Inspector approves the Local Plan it will be adopted by Solihull Council. Any future planning applications for development in Hockley Heath will still need to be approved by Solihull Council and members of the public can comment on any planning applications.

Post Office

Following discussions between the Post Office and the Parish Council, an outreach Post Office will be available one day a week in Hockley Heath. This service will commence on Tuesday 2nd March 2021, from 9.30am – 2.30pm in the Pavilion hall, recreation ground, and will include a full range of post office services.

Precept for 2021-2022

Following thorough consideration of the April 2021 - March 2022 budget, Hockley Heath Parish Council will not be increasing the precept for the forthcoming financial year. The past year has been very challenging for many residents and the Parish Council did not feel it was appropriate to increase the precept. The shortfall between expected income and expenditure will be taken from the Parish Council's general reserve. The accounts are discussed monthly in the Parish Council meeting so please attend a meeting to find out further information.

Food Bank

In response to COVID-19 job losses and reduced furlough income, the Parish Council set up a temporary food bank in April 2020 to help residents of Hockley Heath that were struggling to purchase food. The food bank is still available, and the assistance provided is confidential. If you require any assistance from the food bank please contact the Parish Clerk.

Food assistance within Solihull is also available from charities including Helping Hands, tel: 0121 7046000, and the Kingfisher food bank, tel: 07902 030134.

Census 2021

The 10 yearly census which provides an accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales will take place on Sunday 21st March 2021. Households will receive information in early March, along with a code to complete the survey online. A paper copy of the census can be requested if needed. For further information visit <https://census.gov.uk>.

Within Solihull, the library service can offer support to residents to help them complete their census form if they do not have computer access. This service will run from March 1st 2021 to May 4th 2021, contact 2021Census@solihull.gov.uk or telephone 0121 7056005.

Environment Meetings

The Parish Council holds quarterly environment meetings with SMBC partners, the Residents' Association, and the Gardening Club to discuss any aspect of the Hockley Heath environment. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings which are currently held remotely. The next meeting is on Wednesday 14th April 2021, 1.30pm via Zoom. Agendas and minutes are published on the Parish Council website.