

Help with Energy Costs

Householders in Solihull who live in energy inefficient properties may be able to benefit from a grant of up to £10,000 to cover the cost of installing a range of energy efficiency improvements to their home. Several criteria must be met, one of which is household income below £30,000. Further information on this and many other related topics, including in some cases assistance to service, repair or replacing broken boilers and heating systems can be found at: <https://bit.ly/act-on-energy>.

Solihull Council's Local Plan

Solihull Council submitted the Solihull Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate on 13 May 2021 for an independent examination. Public hearings on the Plan have been taking place and will continue until the end of January 2022. The proposed housing allocation site on School Road for approximately 80-90 dwellings was discussed in November 2021. A date for a decision, on whether the Local Plan will be approved and adopted, is not yet known as the hearings are still taking place and the examiner can request further information.

Solihull Council has published video recordings of all the Local Plan hearings to date, and they can be viewed at: <https://www.bit.ly/smbc-videos>.

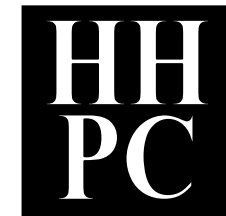
Neighbourhood Plan

The Hockley Heath Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee is currently looking for volunteers to help develop the Neighbourhood Plan. The group will aim to meet once a month, if you are interested in joining, please contact the Clerk for further information.

Hockley Heath Parish Council

Hockley Heath Parish Council has a maximum of five Councillor seats. Your elected Parish Councillors are Cllr Rayson (Chair), Cllr Batchelor, Cllr Cooper, Cllr McDougall and Cllr Quinton. All Councillors were elected in May 2019 and their term of office is for four years. New elections will take place in May 2023. If you are interested in standing as a Councillor and representing your community, please contact the Clerk for further information.

Public Parish Council meetings are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Pavilion (except in August when there is not a meeting). The law currently prevents Parish Council resolutions from being held remotely so all Councillors must hold Parish meetings in a face-to-face setting to vote on items. Agendas and minutes are posted on the Parish Council website and on the noticeboard outside the dental practice.



Hockley Heath Parish Council Newsletter – Winter 2022

Warm winter greetings from the Parish Council. Welcome to the first edition of the Hockley Heath Newsletter in 2022.

This edition includes:

- 2022-2023 Hockley Heath Precept
- Request for Cricket Play
- Your Parish Council

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

Precept for 2022-2023

Following thorough consideration of the April 2022 - March 2023 budget, Hockley Heath Parish Council will not be increasing the precept for the forthcoming financial year. The past year has continued to be challenging for many residents and the Parish Council did not feel it was appropriate to increase the precept. This is the third year that the precept charge is £72.94 for an average band D property. The shortfall between 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. Annual account audit information is also published on the Parish Council website.

The precept paid by residents within the Parish pays for the maintenance and running costs of the recreation ground, play areas, car park and the Pavilion. The precept also pays for staff/contractors and for some areas and activities within the village, such as the War Memorial and the Christmas lights.

The Parish Council is currently in discussions with Solihull Council to also fund village flower planters and replacement benches as Solihull Council is currently unable to fund any village furniture.

Average Speed Cameras

Solihull Council has published an updated report on the average speed cameras along the A3400. Between 8 August 2016 and 31 March 2021 there was 18,619 activations in Hockley Heath, with 3,061 activations referred to the Police's Central Ticketing Office.

Further information on the report can be found on Solihull Council's website at: <https://bit.ly/hhpc-speed>.

Energy Efficiency – Gas Usage

Octopus Energy are running a scheme this winter to help us cut our bills and carbon emissions whilst still staying cosy.

One example from their site is the temperature of your boiler, these temperatures are usually too high. This doesn't make your home warmer, but it can add massively to your bills and emissions.

If you have a combi boiler, they recommend setting your flow temperature to 50c for hot water and 55c for heating – it'll take a little longer to heat up, but the gas and CO2 savings make it more than worthwhile!

The complete list of energy efficiency measures can be found at: <https://bit.ly/hhpc-gas>.

Cricket in the Recreation Ground

The Parish Council has been approached by a cricket club requesting to play Saturday cricket in the recreation ground for children's, ladies', and league three matches as there is currently a shortage of cricket pitches in the area. Initially, one artificial cricket wicket was requested, but the cricket club has been keen to explore whether additional grass cricket wickets would also be possible in place of the adult football pitches on the field furthest away from the Pavilion. The cricket club would fund all costs for an artificial wicket and additional grass wickets.

Following information published on social media, HHPC has received several objections to cricket being played in the park, and a few letters of support, but is aware that not all residents have had an opportunity to voice their opinion. The Parish Council has not entered into any agreements so cannot confirm whether there could be one or several cricket wickets. As a result, the Parish Council is keen to hear whether you are favourable or not to cricket returning to the park. Please contact the Clerk to HHPC before 6th February 2022 with any views you have on this matter, please state your address as HHPC wishes to hear from residents that reside within the Parish.