

Solihull Council's Local Plan

The Secretary of State appointed two Inspectors to carry out the independent examination of the Local Plan. The Inspectors will determine whether it has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legal requirements and whether it is 'sound' i.e. positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Hearing sessions forming part of the examination will begin on 27th September 2021 at the Solihull Council chamber and the proposed site on School Road is currently expected to be discussed on Wednesday 17th November 2021, 9.30am (this date may be subject to change). The hearings will last for six weeks, and it is intended that sessions can be viewed online. For further information and to view the hearing timetable for site allocations visit <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/EIP>.

Food Bank

As the COVID restrictions have lifted, the Parish Council has taken the decision to close the temporary food bank. All remaining food has been donated to charities. Residents that require food assistance can contact Helping Hands, tel: 0121 7046000, the Kingfisher food bank, tel: 07902 030134 or the Trussell Trust at <https://www.trusselltrust.org/> or tel: 01722 580180.

Recreation Ground

Due to several vehicles not leaving the recreation ground car park by the published closure time, a number of signs have been erected reminding drivers that the car park gates are locked overnight. The car park will remain open to all visitors but please leave by the published closure time and do not block the gates, when locked, as access can be required at any time.

The Parish Council will be making improvements, in September/October, to the recreation ground to improve access for wheelchair users. The kissing gate at the end of Field Way will be modified to allow wheelchair access and a curbed area near the Pavilion will be lowered to enable ease of access. Please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council if you require any further information.

Residents have reported that a small number of children have been entering the privately owned land adjacent to the park by climbing over the ditch areas. Please make your children aware that there is no right of access to neighbouring land from the park and the ditches can be full of water. Accessing privately owned land without a public right of way or permission is trespassing, please respect our neighbours.



Hockley Heath Parish Council Newsletter – September 2021

Welcome to this autumn edition of the Hockley Heath Newsletter.

Among other things, we will be looking at:

- Solihull Council's Local Plan
- Recreation Ground
- Surface Water Flooding

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:twitter.com/hockleyheath_pc](https://twitter.com/hockleyheath_pc)

Planning Applications

Solihull Council consults only the Parish Council and immediate neighbours on planning applications, and places notices at entrances to proposed sites. All planning consultations are placed on the Parish Council monthly meeting agenda and discussed during public meetings.

The Parish Council does not meet in August so any planning applications are placed on both the Parish Council Facebook account and the website for this month.

SMBC does not place resident's comments on their website or provide copies to the Parish Council of resident's personal objections/support so please let the Parish Council know directly if you comment on any applications. Parish Councillors base their decisions on the merits of the application and planning law.

Solihull Council will decide whether to approve or deny a planning application in accordance with their planning policies, irrespective of Hockley Heath Parish Council's comments.

Post Office

The Hockley Heath post office is now held on a Tuesday in the Pavilion hall, from 9.30am until 2.30pm. A full postal service is available.

Upcoming Events

The Christmas light switch on ceremony is scheduled for Saturday 27th November 2021, 4pm. The Parish Council has purchased several new light features for the lampposts. COVID rates allowing, there will be carols around the tree (corner of Stratford Road and Shelfield Close) and the Mayor will start the countdown to the lights being switched on. The King George Memorial Hall will also be hoping to hold the annual bazaar after the light switch on ceremony.

The Residents' Association are considering holding a fireworks display on 7th November 2021. This is currently in the planning stage, but if possible, it would be a smaller outdoor event, in line with Government guidance.

The King George Memorial Hall is planning a Christmas day lunch, with entertainment, for residents that live alone and are over 50 years of age, or for a couple aged 65 or over. This is a free event and interested residents must book a place. For further information or to register, email spottedhh@btinternet.com or tel: 0771 9672616.

The Parish Council meets on the third Thursday in the month (except August) at 7pm in the Pavilion. All members of the public are welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes are posted on the HHPC website and also on the noticeboards.

West Midlands Net Zero Pledge

The Parish Council has signed up to the West Midlands Net Zero Business Pledge which is for businesses aiming to cut carbon emissions. The Parish Council has switched to a green electricity energy supplier for the Pavilion hall. For further information on the Net Zero Pledge search for [West Midlands Net Zero Business Pledge \(wmca.org.uk\)](https://www.wmca.org.uk).

Surface Water Flooding

Following a severe thunderstorm on Friday 25th June 2021, a number of properties in Solihull were inundated with surface rain water. The Parish Council has met with both Severn Trent and Solihull Council regarding this event and requested investigations take place. If you have any photographs or videos of flooding events in Hockley Heath, current or historical (over the past few years), please forward them to the Clerk and the Parish Council will ensure both Severn Trent and Solihull Council are made aware of any ongoing areas of concern.

Residents can view the environment agency maps online that show areas at risk of surface water flooding and also flooding from rivers, search on www.gov.uk.