

Pavilion Hall Coffee Session

The Parish Council is looking for volunteers to start a coffee session in the Pavilion, open to all residents free of charge, on Fridays from 11.00am – 1.00pm. The cost of refreshments and activities will be funded by the Parish Council. If you are interested in volunteering to run this session, please contact the Clerk.

Christmas Lights Donation

The Christmas lights are funded by the Parish Council and this year's costs rose to £5,894.00 for the lights and the ceremony. The Parish Council would like to thank the Hockley Heath Social Club for a generous donation towards the light features.

South Warwickshire Local Plan Call for Sites

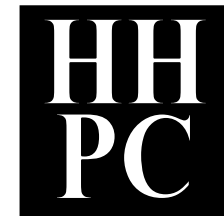
Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Councils are developing a South Warwickshire Local Plan and have undertaken a second call for sites. Landowners have put forward numerous sites to be considered for housing development, with many green belt sites surrounding Hockley Heath suggested. All sites put forward must be assessed to ascertain if they are appropriate for development. There is a consultation on planning for the future of South Warwickshire until 6 March 2023, for information visit bit.ly/3KazsKd.

Parish Council Elections

The Parish Council elections on 4th May 2023 are fast approaching. There are 5 Councillor seats in Hockley Heath and in order to stand for election you must be at least 18 years old and a British citizen, Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the EU. You must also meet at least one of the following qualifications:

- You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector in the Parish
- You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the Parish area during the last 12 months
- Your main or only place of work during the last 12 months is in the Parish area
- You have lived in the Parish, or within three miles of it, during the whole of the previous 12 months

There are also a number of disqualifications from standing for election as a Councillor, for further information on Parish Council elections please visit bit.ly/3YIMWRN. Parish Councillors perform an essential role in representing the views of the community and can help shape the future of the village, along with determining how the precept is spent. The term of office is four years. To learn more about the varied role of being a Parish Councillor visit bit.ly/3XDQIEc or contact the Clerk.



Hockley Heath Parish Council Newsletter – Winter 2023

Warm winter greetings from the Parish Council. Welcome to the first edition of the Hockley Heath Newsletter in 2023.

This edition includes:

- 2023-2024 Hockley Heath Precept
- Parish Council Elections in May 2023
- South Warwickshire 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:twitter.com/hockleyheath_pc](https://twitter.com/hockleyheath_pc)

Precept for 2023-2024

Following a thorough consideration of the April 2023 - March 2024 budget, Hockley Heath Parish Council resolved to increase the precept by 5%. For a band D property, this will equate to £76.59 annually, an extra £3.65 a year. This is the first precept rise in three years and it was deemed necessary due to rising costs/inflation over the past three years. The shortfall between income and expenditure will continue to be taken from the Parish Council's general reserve. The accounts are discussed monthly at Parish Council meetings so please attend a meeting to find out further information. Annual account audit information is also published on the Parish Council website.

The precept 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 activities within the village, such as the War Memorial and the Christmas lights.

Report Overhanging Vegetation

It is the responsibility of landowners to ensure vegetation overhanging the public highway is not hazardous. If you need to report dangerous hedges, contact Solihull Council at www.solihull.gov.uk/report or telephone 0121 704 8000.

Elections – Photographic ID Required

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at the local elections on 4 May 2023. If you do not have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate before 25 April 2023. For details of the photo ID accepted, or to apply for the Voter Authority Certificate, visit bit.ly/3KwMdiz or contact a Solihull Council Connect centre.

Painted Utility Boxes

Several utility boxes have been painted in Shirley and the Parish Council is seeking your views on whether this would be a beneficial use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds in Hockley Heath, if permission was given by the utility companies. It costs approximately £1,000 to paint one box. Contact the Clerk if you have any views on brightening up the village.

Food Bank Donations

Residents who wish to donate non-perishable food items can use the food bank donation box at the entrance to the Pavilion, on Tuesdays between 9.30am and 2.30pm. The donated produce is distributed to the food banks in Solihull. If you need to access a food bank, please contact Helping Hands on 0121 7048001 or Kingfisher food bank on 07902 030134.

New Play Equipment

The Parish Council has invested nearly £7,000 into providing additional play equipment in the young children's play area. New swings and play panels have been provided to improve inclusion and enjoyment for all children and offer a more extensive range of swings and equipment.

Split Brown Recycle Bins

Residents with split brown recycle bins can report them to Solihull Council at www.solihull.gov.uk/Rubbish-and-recycling/Split-brown-bin and order a replacement bin free of charge.

Hockley Heath Environment Meeting

The Parish Council holds a quarterly environment meeting to discuss any issues of concern or improvements within the village. The next meeting will be held in the Pavilion at 1.30pm on Wednesday 15 March 2023. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Help with Energy Costs

Solihull Council has a range of practical suggestions on how to keep warm, along with the support available for residents' struggling with rising fuel costs, visit www.solihull.gov.uk/here2help/help-with-fuel for more information.