

installation and provided with new keys at the appropriate time. The Village Hall has not had any major refurbishment since the building was constructed in 2 phases in 1974 and 1991. The Parish Council proposes to undertake the following works during the next 5 financial years, assuming residents are in favour of this. We would therefore be grateful if you could please answer the following questions and post your replies into the Village Hall letter box by no later than Monday 5th December. A decision will be taken based on the responses received.

Please indicate which of the following you feel should be undertaken. You may tick as many as you feel relevant. Please indicate the order, by numbering the items 1-4 with 1 being the first work that should be carried out and 4 the last.

- Refurbishment of the toilets Upgrading of the kitchen
- Upgrading of the heating system ... Upgrading the security camera system ...
- Or None of the above

Do you have any other suggestions for work that could be carried out to improve our Village Hall, if so please comment below:

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Cheswick Place Development

Phase one of this development is now almost complete and phase 2 is under construction. As the number of houses to be built was increased from the original outline number of 220 to 274, when the final full planning permission was granted, the extra homes are subject to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This means that the Parish Council will eventually receive a proportion of this money paid to Solihull MBC by the developers. This money must be spent within a limited period of time for the benefit of local residents - it cannot be spent on the functions of the Parish Council. It can be spent on things such as traffic calming measures e.g. speed humps or flood alleviation measures. The Parish Council would therefore like to seek residents' views on what you feel this money should be used to develop within the Parish over the next few years. If you have any thoughts on this please comment below by Monday 5 December.

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Newsletter November 2017

Serving the residents of
Cheswick Green and Illshaw Heath



Mrs. Marie Zizzi, Clerk to the Council
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NEW RESIDENTS

The Parish Council would like to welcome all new residents to the Parish and in particular members would like to take this opportunity to mention those who have moved onto the new Cheswick Place development.

Those of you who live in the new houses may be interested to know how the roads names were selected. 'Noble Way': which will eventually run right down to Coppice Walk was named in memory of Mr. Chris Noble, who worked tirelessly for the good of our Village and Parish. Chris was the Chairman of the Parish Council until he very sadly and unexpectedly died in 2015.

'Mount Close': has its name due to being built on farmland known as Mount Dairy Farm, the brook which runs along the lower edge of the development is Mount Brook and there is an historical site within the Village called the Mount.

'Archer Drive': also has its name for historical reasons. The Archer family of Umber-slade were one time Lords of the Manor of the area which now includes Cheswick Green. 'Riverside Close': was a compromise - the Parish Council would have liked a reference to the River Blythe however Solihull MBC could not sanction this, as there is at least one other road in the borough with Blythe in its name.

In the part of the development yet to be completed one of the roads will be named 'Leese Drive'. this is in memory of Dr. Janet Leese who established the Village Surgery in Cheswick Green. She was a popular and well respected figure in the Village.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council represents the area that includes the Cheswick Green Village of Illshaw Heath and also Blythe Valley - please see the map.

The Parish Council is the First tier of local government and members aim to represent the views of local residents in matters such as planning issues; members are currently trying to develop a Neighbourhood Plan in an attempt to influence the future of our Parish. The Parish Council cannot make any planning decisions, but is a statutory consultee which means Solihull MBC must consult the Parish Council about planning applications in the Parish. The Parish Council is also responsible for maintaining several areas of land it owns, including the recreation ground, the Village Green, the two small fields behind Saxon Wood Road and Snowhill Drive and the Mount, which is accessed from Longleat Drive. The Parish Council is also responsible for the lights that are placed on a large tree near the shops at Christmas - more on this later.

At present there are five members on the Parish Council and there are two vacancies. Details of current members can be found on the website. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact our clerk for details or complete and return an application form, also available on the website.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Earlier this year all residents and local businesses were sent a questionnaire asking their views on the future of our Parish. Thank you to all who replied - the results are now available on our website.

Thank you also to those who attended our consultation sessions, comments made at these will also be considered. Members are now using the responses to help to form a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council is also hoping to obtain funding to help members move forward with this process by engaging a professional planning consultant to assist.

RECREATION GROUND

Last year the Parish Council was successful in obtaining £10,000 worth of funding from the Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme, which enabled us to upgrade much of the play equipment, this included replacing the gate to the children's play area, purchasing new seats and chains for the large swings, installing a new safety surface under these swings and to acquire a concrete table tennis table. The finishing touch for this area, which should be completed soon, is the replacement of the football goalposts and nets.



DOG BINS

The Parish Council is responsible for the two dog bins on the recreation ground and the one on Saxon Wood Road. Members would like to remind all dog owners that it is a criminal offence not to clean up after their dog. Quite a large amount of mess has been left around the village and this is not only a nuisance, it can also cause disease. Not cleaning up also gives all dog owners a bad name.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

On Friday 1st December 2017 the Christmas tree lights will be turned on at 6.30pm. Shirley Round Tables Santa will be visiting from 6pm, so please do come down and join in with the event which will move to the Village Hall for free refreshments after.

ACCESS TO CHESWICK PLACE

You may be aware that Bloor Homes wrote to the Parish Council on Monday 16th October, to notify members that they were intending to use Coppice Walk, as access for construction traffic from Monday 30th October.

Since then the Parish Council has spent a considerable amount of time trying to get this decision reversed. Initially contacting various officers at Solihull MBC, the Borough Councillors for Blythe Ward and the Chairman of Solihull MBCs planning committee as well as responding to Bloor Homes expressing objections to this - especially on

health and safety grounds.

When very little response was forthcoming this was quickly followed by several telephone calls to Solihull MBC and to one of our Borough Councillors. Members of the Parish Council also spent a lot of time searching Solihull MBCs website, to try to find out whether any restrictions had been put on the access at the time planning consent was granted.

By the end of the last week in October the Parish Council had still not received any satisfactory answers from Solihull MBC and no reply had been forthcoming from Bloor Homes. Therefore, an email was sent to the Chief Executive of Solihull MBC expressing serious concerns at the lack of response. On Tuesday 31st October the Parish Council finally received a reply from Bloor Homes and it included a letter sent to Solihull MBC by Bloor Homes dated 13th September 2017, indicating that the Coppice Walk access was going to be used.

Due to the nature of the reply from Bloor Homes and the information provided in the letter, further correspondence was sent to the Chief Executive of Solihull MBC and a telephone call was made to his PA. This resulted in Solihull MBCs Head of Planning contacting the Chairman of the Parish Council to inform her that Solihull MBC is not happy with this decision either. Solihull MBC has now contacted Bloor Homes asking it to rethink this choice. Solihull MBC has told the Parish Council that it cannot stop this happening on planning grounds. Contact with the Head of Planning is ongoing and the Parish Council will inform residents if there is any change.

OTHER RECENT ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Solihull MBC has supplied the Parish Council with 1250 spring bulbs some of which will be planted by the Boys Brigade as part of their activities. Solihull MBC has also donated a tree for the Boys Brigade to plant. The Parish Council has signed up to the Woodland Trust Tree Charter, through this scheme a tree has been obtained which has replaced one that has died in the Jubilee Garden.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Tree Charter please go to: TreeCharter@woodlandtrust.org.uk

The wall to part of the car park which was knocked over a few weeks ago has now been repaired, only sadly to be damaged again on the same day as the repair.

VILLAGE HALL UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Cheswick Green Residents Association no longer have an active role in the management of the Village Hall. The new Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC), comprising of 7 interested local residents was formed in July 2017, manages the property on behalf of the Parish Council.

THE VILLAGE HALL

Residents may be aware that major repairs to the Village Hall roof had to be undertaken last year at the Parish Council's expense. Since then it has been considered that the hall was getting rather tired and in need of further refurbishment.

VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

The Parish Council is considering replacing the existing Village Hall front and gable end doors, hopefully before the end of this financial year, because the VHMC feel that this is necessary to improve security. Hirers of the hall will be informed of the date of