

receive. The money received will be used to fund various things such as possibly replacing worn notice boards, enhancing security to the car park by the Village Hall and/or towards refurbishing the toilets in the Village Hall.

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Village Hall Bookings:
Booking Clerk Soraya Burdett, village.hall@hotmail.com
Telephone: 07910 515204

Cheswick Green Residents Association: info@cgra.org.uk

Illshaw Heath Residents Association: illshawheath.wixsite.com

...Finally ...

Members of the Parish Council would like to wish (a little early)
all residents a Happy Christmas.



Newsletter November 2018



Serving the residents of
Cheswick Green and Illshaw Heath

Cheswick Green Parish Council

Mrs. Marie Zizzi, Clerk to the Council
Cheswick Green Village Hall, Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green, Solihull B90 4JA
Tel: 01564 700168 Email: clerk@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk Web: www.cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council would like to welcome all residents to its latest Newsletter and in particular those who are new to the Parish since the previous Newsletter. This is an occasional publication and members would ask that residents consult either our website (address above), local Facebook pages or one of the notice boards for the most up-to-date information. If you find this difficult please drop a note into the postbox in the Village Hall giving your name and address and we will then endeavour to keep you informed. Residents are also welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and raise any issues of concern during "public participation". Meetings usually take place on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

This will be the last Newsletter delivered by hard copy as with the increased number of properties in the Parish the cost of printing and the time involved in delivering will make this no longer a viable option. The Newsletter is always available on our website and members now propose that we set up an email circulation list for those who wish to receive the latest information electronically.

If you wish to take advantage of this please email Councillor Sedgley (cllr.samsedgley@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk). A small number of copies of future Newsletters will be available as hard copy and members will publish on the notice boards when these are available and where they can be collected free of charge.

PARISH COUNCIL

There are currently two vacancies for Parish Councillors. These vacancies will be filled by co-option if suitable candidates come forward. Anyone co-opted now will serve until Thursday 2nd May 2019 (when the 4-year term of office for each existing Councillor expires). It is likely that not all current members will stand for election. Candidates need to be over eighteen years of age and not be disqualified for standing for any reason - details can be found on the application form which is available on the Parish Council website by clicking on the Parish Council drop down option and then Statutory Requirements. Councillors must sign a 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office', which states they agree to abide by the 'Code of Conduct' which is also available on the Parish Council website. Councillors have to complete a pecuniary interest form for SMBC. Councillors are expected to act in the interests of all residents, attend full council meetings (11 per year) and serve on at least one other committee.

They may also be expected to go to training events and attend functions as a representative of the Parish Council for example Remembrance service events. Members feel that it would be beneficial if the new Parish Council to be elected in May had representatives from all parts of the Parish and also from a variety of age groups to enable the community to be fully represented. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact us and one of the current members will be happy to speak to you about what is involved. There will also be a briefing for pre-election prospective Councillors at the Council House, Solihull on Monday 28th January 2019 at 6.30pm. We are also hoping to arrange an "open" event in the New Year.

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining land it owns and responding to planning applications for properties within the Parish, amongst other things. Events such as the annual Christmas tree lights switch-on are also organised by the Parish Council. Currently the Parish Council is also trying, with the help of a few other interested residents, to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to set goals for future development of the Parish. Members work with officers from SMBC when issues affecting residents occur that cannot be resolved by the Parish Council alone for example on measures to try to improve safety at the junction between Creynolds Lane, Watery Lane, Illshaw Heath Road and Vicarage Road. Members have been keeping a close eye as the Cheswick Place development has been built and raised many concerns with the builders and SMBC.

MEMORIAL STONES

Bloor Homes have very generously had the memorial stones which were dedicated to local soldiers who fought in the Boer War that were originally found in a garden on Creynolds Lane cleaned and restored. They are re-erecting these just off Noble Way close to the junction with Coppice Walk and this area will be available for all residents to enjoy and relax by once this is complete. There will be a ceremony to open this area and re-dedicate the stones on Sunday 20th January 2019 and all residents are welcome to attend. Further details will be published as soon as they are available.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members would once again like to thank all those who completed our survey earlier this year. The response was good and it has given us much to work on towards completing a first draft of the Plan. This work is now being undertaken by a Working Party consisting of some Parish Councillors together with a few other residents. Once the Plan is completed it has to go to an examiner after which further revision will almost certainly be needed before it can go to a referendum of residents. The Plan can only be accepted if a majority of residents who vote are in favour of it being accepted. Once the Parish has a Neighbourhood Plan any planning decisions taken by SMBC must take the Neighbourhood Plan into consideration, but the Plan also must be compatible with the Local Plan adopted by SMBC.

BROADBAND

The Parish Council would like to thank all residents who agreed to their address being put into the survey for Openreach. Members are now waiting

for a response from Openreach to see if the cost of bringing fibre to the village is reasonable. The Parish Council is aware that fibre is available all around the area already so hopefully it will not be too big a task. Getting "fibre to the cabinet" would give residents a choice of fast broadband provider since all providers apart from Virgin use this route. The cost of this could be met by using some of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money the Parish Council should receive from the extra houses being built on Cheswick Place. This money must be used to benefit the community and cannot be used for general Parish Council expenditure. When the Parish Council consulted residents about how to spend these funds, this was one of the suggestions received.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Santa will be coming for the annual turning on of the Christmas lights this year, which will take place on Friday 7th December at 6pm approximately in the area outside the shops close to the bus stop. This will be followed by mince pies and carols in the Village Hall.

VILLAGE HALL

Management of the Village Hall is undertaken by a separate Village Hall Management Committee that is working towards improving this facility for all residents to enjoy. However, some of the work needed to bring this facility up to a good standard necessitates expense that cannot be completely met from its funds. Therefore, the Parish Council (as Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall) has agreed to fund some of the more major work. This year the doors have been replaced at Parish Council expense to make the hall more secure and the fire doors easier to keep open.

EXERCISE CLASS

There is a group exercise class in the Village Hall on Mondays from 2-3pm available for people to attend at a cost of £3 per class. Please feel free to go along and join in as extra participants are required.

SOME REMINDERS

We all like to see our Parish looking its best. Please remember to pick up after your dog and dispose of the waste in one of the bins provided. Please use the bins for your litter or take it home to dispose of and please park considerately. Footpaths should be kept clear for pedestrians and overhanging vegetation cut back to avoid accidents. If you are eligible for a flu jab you are encouraged to have this done if you have not already done so.

TESCO BAGS OF HELP

Thank you to all those who voted for the Parish Council's application. Now that voting has finished we are waiting to see how much we will