

Cheswick Green Parish Council News December 2019

The last published Newsletter was delivered to residents in November 2018 stating that future issues would be electronic. The Parish Council have undertaken a number of projects over the last 12 months and some are still in progress. Members would welcome any feedback from residents on any aspect of this publication.

The War Memorial

On January 20th 2019 the War Memorial that lies just off Noble Way was dedicated in a ceremony attended by the Mayor of Solihull, members of the armed forces, representatives of Bloor Homes, Parish Councillors and around 200 residents. Thanks must go to Bloor Homes who had arranged to have the stones cleaned and erected on the site and also provided the refreshments on the day. Reverends Julie Humphries and Vicki Atkinson jointly performed the dedication and Jonathon Leese cut the ribbon to open the site. Jonathon grew up on Creynolds Lane in the bungalow in whose garden the memorial was discovered. Thanks also go to John Pettinger who realised the significance of the stones and spent much time researching their history and writing it up so that everyone can be informed. His history can be found on the Parish Council website in the document archive section. Wreaths were laid on Remembrance Sunday this year by the Parish Council and a member of the armed forces with a small group of residents in attendance.

Summer Fete

The fete held last August Bank holiday was mainly organised by The Saxon. However, both the Parish Council and the Residents Association contributed to what was a successful afternoon that raised upwards of £1000 for charity.

75th Anniversary of VE Day and 50th Anniversary of Cheswick Green Village

Planning is currently taking place led by the Parish Council, but involving many other groups from the village including the Residents Association, U3A, the Brownies and the Youth Group to hold a major celebration on the early May Bank Holiday next year (Friday May 8th 2020) to celebrate the above milestones. More details will be released on this event as and when they become available.

Planning matters

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications made within the Parish and members always aim to respond to these in such a way that will bring the greatest possible benefit to residents. In addition a major response was made earlier this year to the review of the Solihull Local Plan especially focusing on the proposal to build around 1000 new homes in the area to the south of Dog Kennel Lane. A planning consultant was engaged to help with our objections to this proposal on many grounds, not least the loss of Green Belt, the lack of infrastructure and the likely increased risk of flooding downstream of this (i.e. affecting the current village).

In conjunction with this work is continuing to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish and it is hoped this will be near completion soon. Members and those assisting in this work would like to thank all those residents who have responded to the questionnaire and surveys that have been carried out in order to assist with this process.

Highways

The Parish Council is very much aware of several traffic problems and accident hazards within the Parish and members are endeavouring to work with Solihull MBCs Highways Department to get some improvements.

The junction of Creynolds Lane with the Stratford Road was altered without any consultation with the Parish Council. Members are trying to get the issues of long waits to access the Stratford Road and the dangers on this junction to both motorists and pedestrians improved. To this end a meeting has been held with the Head of Highways for Solihull MBC and various ideas have been suggested. A survey to assess residents views has also been created (see link below).

The junction at the other end of Creynolds Lane with Watery Lane, Vicarage Road and Illshaw Heath Road is also a major problem and several quite serious accidents have occurred here recently. Again members are working with Solihull MBC to try to get improvements to the safety of this junction and have asked residents for their views on this. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9S76THR>

Elsewhere within the Parish and particularly on some roads within the village speeding is an issue as is inconsiderate parking. In order to monitor speeds and also to encourage motorists to think carefully about their driving members are looking into the possibility of purchasing a mobile flashing speed indicator which would be located at different points within the Parish for a few weeks at a time. Members have asked for suggested locations for this in the above survey.

Bus Services

The Parish Council is aware that many residents are not happy with the changes to our bus services which took place at the beginning of September both in terms of the current route of the A7/A8 which no longer goes through the village and also the timings. Access to the stops on Creynolds Lane in particular is of great concern as this road is quite dangerous and one stop is round a blind corner. The current situation makes it extremely difficult for the elderly, disabled and those with small children to access this service. Timings mean there are long waits for a service and those wishing to get to college in the mornings have to go extremely early or risk arriving late. Much time and effort has already been spent on residents' behalf to try to resolve this and members will continue to work on this until some sort of satisfactory result is achieved. A survey has been devised to gain residents views on this <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/56H7WYX>

Broadband

During the summer of 2018 the Parish Council asked residents if they were interested in having a greater choice of fast broadband provider (at present only available from Virgin) by getting Openreach to provide fibre to the cabinets within Cheswick Green Village. All other broadband providers use the Openreach network. When the survey was completed for Openreach a price for this was expected to be given to the Parish Council well before the end of 2018. Members are still waiting for this despite numerous emails and phone calls including to the CEO of Openreach. Hopefully this will happen eventually as the current situation is far from satisfactory. Efforts are continuing to get these improvements.

Area around the shops and other problems with litter

The Parish Council is well aware that the area in front of the shops is still not being kept in a satisfactory state and members are very grateful to those residents who spend time removing litter in order to try to improve the situation. The Parish Council has been in contact with the managing agent for this land on several occasions but has not, so far reached any satisfactory outcome. Efforts are also continuing here. Members would like to thank all those residents who regularly clear litter from around the village.

Members are also concerned about fly tipping and, although they are aware that some residents on Cheswick Place have not yet received their bins, would like to remind everyone that rubbish should only be placed in the designated collection areas and preferably as near to the collection day as possible (Friday).

Village Hall Toilets

The Parish Council is pleased to inform residents that work on renewing these is now in progress and should be completed soon.

The Recreation Ground

Earlier this year a new safety surface was laid in the toddler play area and the seats and chains on the toddler swings were replaced. The seats and chains were paid for using money from the Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme that had been awarded to the Parish Council. The bench close to the Village Hall was also replaced.

It is hoped that further improvements to the Recreation Ground will take place in the near future. Members of the Parish Council have been liaising with The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to set up a project that will reduce the flooding risk by creating new areas for floodwater to use and also replanting in some areas to encourage more wildlife.

“Cheswick Green the first Forty Years”

Local resident John Pettinger has spent much time researching the history of the local area and has written a book on Cheswick Green which has just been published. The Parish Council has been honoured to be asked to support this publication which gives a fascinating insight into the history of our village. Copies can be purchased for £9.95 from the Parish Council (cllr.margaretgosling@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk) or direct from John (johnw.pettinger@btopenworld.com).

Finally Members of the Parish Council would like to wish all residents a Happy Christmas.

