



Cheswick Green Parish Council

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Cheswick Green Parish Council (CGPC) - Newsletter February 2021

Precept

Every Parish/Town Council in the Borough is responsible for setting its own precept. This charge is added to the Council Tax levied by Solihull MBC. The precept charge reflects the budget set by the Parish Council and is converted into an annual amount payable per property. The amount payable by each household will vary according to which property band your house is placed in. Your tax band is shown on your Council Tax bill. There are 8 property bands which are determined by the Valuation Office Agency. For comparison purposes throughout the country a Band D property is always used.

Details of the annual precept charge over the last few years for Cheswick Green Parish Council are shown below: -

Financial year	Precept	Number of band D equivalent dwellings Source: SMBC	Precept amount for each property in band D	Increase/decrease per property in £ per year	Total year end CGPC expenditure net
2016/17	£50,000	933	£52.74	-	£105,795.41
2017/18	£70,000	934	£73.65	+£20.91	£44,681.24
2018/19	£70,000	1030	£67.96	-£5.69	£74,118.50
2019/20	£70,000	1091	£64.06	-£3.90	£82,956.27
2020/21	£70,000	1170	£59.83	-£4.23	
2021/22	£52,000	1295	£40.15	-£19.68	-

The table above shows: -

1. Residents who lived here prior to 2016 will know that the roof of the Village Hall had to be renewed following structural collapse. In 2017/18 to pay for this the Parish Council was left with no alternative other than to increase the precept from £50,000 - £70,000. The increase of £20,000 raised the precept paid by each Band D property that year by £20.91.
2. Between 2017/18 - 2020/21 the number of properties in the Parish has increased from 934 to 1170, a rise of 236 dwellings. The amount of precept paid during that period reduced by £13.82 because the total amount paid is divided by the number of properties.
3. The Parish Council received an income due to additional houses being built at Cheswick Place, known as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), it has therefore been possible to reduce the precept further. The Parish Council has decided that for 2021/22 to lower the precept from £70,000 to £52,000 a reduction of £18,000.
4. When the precept was raised to £70,000 in 2017/18 each Band D property paid £73.65. During 2021/22 each Band D property will pay £40.15 a reduction of £33.50.
5. During 2021/22 each Band D property will pay £12.59 less than in 2016/17.

The only foreseeable need at present, to raise the precept during the next few years are in relation to Solihull Councils proposed development on Dog Kennel Lane. Further details below.

Proposed development at Dog Kennel lane (Site 12)

As you are aware Solihull Council has proposed the development of land along Dog Kennel Lane and part of the Stratford Road. This matter will be referred to a Government Inspector who will decide whether this development should be given approval or reasons for refusal.

The Parish Council has contacted a company that specialise in planning law and should the Government Inspector approve this development it may be seeking advice concerning whether this decision is worth challenging through the courts and if so, the likely cost involved. We will not make a legal challenge without consulting residents.

Cheswick Green Primary School extension

The Parish Council will shortly submit its opposition to Solihull Councils second round of consultation regarding doubling the number of pupils at the school. You should have seen our flyer regarding this matter, and we urge all residents to make their own objections before/by the closing date of Thursday 25th February.

Creynolds Lane crossroads

Solihull Council plan to undertake improvements to the crossroads by the end of March 2021. The current speed limit on part of Creynolds Lane will be reduced from 40mph to 30mph. Foliage will be cut back to create better sightlines for motorists as they approach the crossroads and provision of a system to highlight the presence of vehicles at the junction for other motorists will be installed.

Signage

The Parish Council recently made a request to Solihull MBC regarding the installation of signs on the grass verges of Cheswick Way, Creynolds Lane, Coppice Walk and Watery Lane, prohibiting parking on verges and footways. It is understood that this is now being progressed.

Broadband

A choice of fast broadband is no longer a luxury, but at present Cheswick Green Village is only served by Virgin Media in this respect. CityFibre have asked residents to register their interest so that they can determine whether to include the village when their network is extended. They provide the infrastructure and have agreements with several service providers which would give a choice. At present, despite our best efforts, Openreach are not including the village in their roll out. Please register your interest via www.cityfibre.com/residential

Cheswick Green Parish Council

There is one vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested please go to the Parish Councils website, click on 'Parish Council' scroll down and click on Statutory Requirements where you will find co-option information and an application form.

Recreation Ground

Work is due to commence on the first phase of refurbishment to the Recreation Ground. The bushes by the swings will be removed shortly, checks will be made to ensure wildlife isn't disturbed.

[Can we please remind dog walkers to please clean up after their dogs.](#)