

Lickey & Blackwell Parish Council News

Newsletter Spring 2018

A VERY WARM WELCOME to Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council's first news page in The Village! Our popular quarterly newsletters, delivered to every home in the parish, will continue and can be found on our website, www.lickeyandblackwellpc.org, but we are delighted to share news with a wider audience through this page. We shall now publish three local newsletters and three pages in The Village per year and we hope they will be of interest to you.

NEWS FROM LBPC GROUPS

Judging of the annual Best Front Garden Competition will take place between May 1 and 15. The prize giving will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Lickey on Saturday June 2 at 3pm.

TRAFFIC SPEEDS

Following success in reducing the speed limit outside Hunters Hill College, Spirehouse Lane to 30mph, the parish council is supporting residents in their push to reduce speeds on problem roads in the parish. WCC is collecting traffic data on Mearse Lane and other roads to consider measures that may need to be put into place.

GRIT BINS

The parish council has agreed to purchase a green grit bin for use on



the pavement on St Catherine's Road. This came following reports from residents of falls outside the school in recent icy weather. WCC is also reconsidering a request from the PC for a yellow grit bin to be provided at the railway bridge on Linthurst Newtown in Blackwell, which has been impassable or dangerous in the snow since it was rebuilt. Many thanks to residents who helped to clear the bridge and keep this important access to the village open.

FINANCE REPORT

Following no increase in the precept for 2017-18, the parish council has agreed to increase it for 2018-19 by £1,000 to £45,000.

PLANNING REPORT

During 2016-17, 66 planning applications were made in the parish, none for large scale development. Tree Preservation Orders were made on trees of significant value to wildlife where felling had begun.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Residents and councillors witnessed the première of the PC's film about the Neighbourhood Development Plan and enjoyed an informative talk from Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager at Bromsgrove District Council. Councillors Forknell and Eales talked about current issues in the parish and ranger Steve Hinton kept us up to date with events in the Lickey Hills.

Many planning and environmental matters were discussed on the evening and residents had the opportunity to ask questions about the future of our parish. Many thanks to all who attended and made the evening such a success.

AROUND THE PARISH

- The woodland opposite Blackwell First School, used for Forest School, has suffered from vandalism in recent weeks. Sian Cain, the school's Forest School leader, has written an article on the problem, which is available to read on our website.
- Blackwell's 39th Craft Fair will take place at Blackwell Methodist Church Hall, Greenhill on Sunday June 3, 10am-4pm. 50p entry includes Fair-trade refreshments.
- Viking Party in The Park: Come and bring a picnic from 12 noon on Saturday June 16 at the Playing Field, St Catherine's Road. Why not dress up, bring along your longboat/gazebo and bake a themed cake for the Best Cake competition?
- Lickey Festival is also on June 16 at Lickey Hills Primary School, 1-4pm. If anyone would like to get involved, please contact our executive officer (details below).

CONTACT US

The parish council office at the Trinity Centre, 411 Old Birmingham Road, Lickey is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.30am-3.30pm. Lisa Winterbourn, our executive officer, may be contacted on eo@lickeyandblackwellpc.org or 07513 865011. Much more council and NDP information may be found at www.lickeyandblackwellpc.org or www.facebook.com/lickeyandblackwellcouncil

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Steady progress has been made on the Lickey and Blackwell and Cofton Hackett NDP, which is nearing its final draft stage. A well-attended residents' forum was held at The Wheel on Saturday March 24, during which residents' questions to NDP Chair Nick Forknell were filmed.

The questions were wide-ranging and covered some of the policies intended to be included in the NDP, plus the process we need to follow in order to get it passed at referendum, and so available for planners



Pic/ Keith Woolford

to use in future development in the two parishes.

Our intention is to get the NDP finalised this summer and available for referendum in the autumn. Please look out for future advertising and events - we want all residents to vote 'Yes' to our NDP.