



Meriden Parish Council
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**Meriden Parish Council
Newsletter
for
Meriden Mag
Spring 2017**



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The public and press are cordially invited to all parish council meetings at 7.30pm. An opportunity will be given for the public to speak. Look out for the agenda and venue which is posted on the parish notice boards and our website www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk prior to the meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting dates are:

- 20 March 2017 - The Pavilion
- 24 April 2017 - Annual Parish Meeting, The Pavilion
- 22 May 2017 - Annual Parish Council Meeting (Elections & Committee Nominations), The Pavilion

Community Surgeries **11am-12pm**:

- Monday 07 March 2017 – Meriden Library
- Monday 11 April 2017 – The Pavilion
- Monday 09 May 2017 – Meriden Library

Your Parish Councillors are:



Rosie Weaver
BEM
(Chair)



Frances
Lynch-Smith
(Vice Chair)



Bob Kipling



Melanie Lee



Paul Lee



Mandy Haque



Jon Barber



Matthew Nunn



Barbara Bland
The Pavilion
Meriden Sports Park
Main Road
Meriden CV7 7SP

Tel: 01676 522474 (Mondays)

Mobile: 07767 162423

Email: barbarablandmpc@btconnect.com

Web: www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

3% Precept Increase 2017-18

Solihull MBC advised the new tax base of 1,241 Band D equivalent dwellings for 2017-18. This is an increase of 26 Band D equivalent dwellings.

Based on these indicative 2017-18 figures, Meriden Parish Council approved a 3% increase for 2017-18 which is a £1.07 increase per annum per Band D dwelling. This resolution was proposed and approved at Full Council meeting held on 23rd January 2017.

Meriden Parish Council advises this increase is necessary due to Solihull's 44.21% reduction in Precept top up grant, increased staffing costs, and the Parish Council commitment to 'Meriden in Bloom 2017' and Meriden Pool Project.

Meriden's Neighbourhood Plan Update

Over the Christmas period 20 winners were drawn randomly from the Neighbourhood Plan Survey's Prize Draw competition. Amongst the winners were Mr M Bennett, Ms A Walker, Mr R Dickinson, Mrs Wilkinson, Mr Urry, Ms J Marshall, Ms J Priestley, Mr Williams, Mr and Mrs Roxburgh, Mr S Blizard, Mr P Davison, Ms G Jones, Mr A Weatherstone and Mr and Mrs Collier.

Solihull's Draft Local Plan Review consultation closed on 17 February and the parish council's response can be viewed on our website. Based on consultation feedback, we anticipate the revised plan will emerge in Spring 2017.

The next phase of the Neighbourhood Plan is to conduct a survey with local businesses. If you would like to be part of the steering group, contact the Clerk. We meet monthly and the meeting dates can be found on our website.

Meriden in Bloom



Thank you to Mrs Shirley Smithers for volunteering her topiary skills to maintain Meriden Sports Park's topiary signage. Volunteers are needed for Meriden in Bloom 2017. Anyone interested should email the Clerk at barbarablandmpc@btconnect.com.

Meriden's Great British Spring Clean

This year Solihull MBC has decided to adopt the 'Great British Spring Clean'. For a bit more information on this please visit: <http://www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk/home/2684>

The Neighbourhood Activity Programme is promoting this opportunity to numerous groups across the borough offering their support if communities wish to get involved. The support provided is

- Assistance with promotion of the event – including business contacts who may wish to get involved
- Assistance with organising the event
- Loan of equipment – litter pickers, hi-vis vests, branded bags
- Collection of waste bags after the event
- Where possible the Neighbourhood Team will attend the event.



Although the campaign is focused on the weekend of 3rd-5th March, SMBC would be looking for Solihull's litter picks to take part at any point through March and possibly into April, if preferred.

Meriden Parish Council is keen to get involved and seeks volunteers to assist with the "Meriden Great British Spring Clean". Can all interested parties please contact the Clerk.

Taxi Bus and 89 replacement service update

Many of you may already know, the Taxibus service which provides vital transportation to our residents including older and disabled people will cease and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) has introduced the 89 bus service in its place. Unfortunately this change affects a large number of our isolated residents who are now unable to make vital trips to shops, social events, doctor appointments because the 89 bus cannot access where residents live due to the bus being too large to access certain roads and due to homes being too far away from the designated route.

TfWM released a Consultation Questionnaire which allowed residents to choose one of two route options on how they wish the 89 bus service to run as a means of providing a better service for all. The consultation period closed on 10th February with the view that the revised timetable be implemented by 26th March 2017.

In the meantime, Meriden Parish Council is working with residents and neighbouring parishes to try and reinstate the Taxibus or Ring & Ride services to support our residents.

Speed Watch Update

On Saturday 21 January 2017, Councillors Weaver, Barber, M Lee and P Lee conducted a speed watch with WPC Sharon Grant. 558 vehicle movements were recorded within the hour on Hampton Lane. Average speed was 31mph but the 21 offenders we captured were speeding between 38 and 41mph. Volunteers are always needed, so contact the Clerk if you're interested in taking part in a Speed Watch session.



Quarry news (i) – Statement from Harworth Estates

At last month's Quarry Liaison Committee meeting it was agreed that each operator would be responsible for deployment of a road sweeper to run for two hours a day (Mon-Fri) along Cornets End Lane to the roundabout and the internal road at Meriden Quarry (to as far as is passable by road sweeper). This should ensure that the highway is cleansed daily, and avoid operators duplicating efforts on the same day. Each operator is to reassess their on-site processes and controls to ensure that best effort is made to prevent mud even getting on to the highway. In addition, NRS are to continue their daily road sweeping regime from their main site, and as and when they have vehicles running to the Meriden quarry site.



The arrangement will be reviewed quarterly. It may be that the need to sweep the road is reduced in the summer months. Similarly, it may be that cleansing needs to be intensified in accordance with changes in operator activities over the year.

Representatives from all operators were in attendance, and were all proactive to engage in this collaborative strategy.

Quarry news (ii) – biomass plant construction update

Buckingham Construction is making excellent progress with the project and is currently on programme. The Water Treatment hall is complete and steelwork has commenced on the main facility.

Major plant and equipment deliveries will commence in April to allow fit out of the facility. Assembly of the Combustor plus associated internal pipe work, tanks and equipment will progress through May and June. Plant commissioning, including trials and testing, will be undertaken in June and run through to mid-July. Construction will end and the facility will go live in mid-July.

If you have any further queries or concerns, contact Clive Bartlam at Northgate Management Consultancy on 0121 426 3024, or 07973 724 929 or email him at clive@northgatemc.co.uk.