



Meriden Parish Council
the centre of england

**Meriden Parish Council
Newsletter
for
Meriden Mag
Winter 2016/17**



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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:

- 12 December 2016 - The Pavilion
- 23 January 2017 - The Pavilion
- 20 February 2017 - The Pavilion

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

- Monday 05 December 2016 – Meriden Library
- Monday 09 January 2017 – The Pavilion
- Monday 06 February 2017 – Meriden Library

Police Beat Surgeries at the Library **11am-12pm**

- Monday 12 December 2016

Should you wish to contact the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk or drop into the Parish Council office on Monday mornings where you may access information or have a private chat with the Clerk to address local community issues.



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

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Mobile: 07767 162423

Email: barbarablandmpc@btconnect.com

Web: www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

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

Frederick John Stanley (Stan) Grundy

The Parish Council would like to offer sincere condolence to Stan's family and friends. Stan who passed away at the age of 95 was a long serving parish councillor up until 2007.

Fillongley Road Pedestrian Crossing Petition

Further to the recent petition for a pedestrian crossing on Fillongley Road, this was considered by the Cabinet Member & Portfolio Holder for SMBC at his decision-session on 6th October 2016 and the outcome is given as follows: *"It is recommended that the traffic conditions observed in Fillongley Road do not justify the provision of a formal pedestrian crossing on Fillongley Road, near Main Road. It is further recommended that to help manage service demand the situation on Fillongley Road should not be reviewed again for at least 3 years, unless there is a material change in traffic conditions in the area."*

The full report and its appendices can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/2erYlyj>. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact Davinder Chohan on 0121 704 6432 or email him at dchohan@solihull.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Plan public meeting – ‘call for sites’ straw poll results

On the day, 123 residents took part in the poll and the results showed 44% were in favour of development at the old caravan and garage site on Birmingham Road and 29% were against development on land south of Strawberry Fields. You can view the full results at: <http://bit.ly/2f6WgvU>. At the time of going to print, Solihull Council were recommending in their Draft Local Plan that Meriden should be allocated no more than 50 houses at the Birmingham Road caravan/old garage site and surrounding land adjacent to it and north of The Firs.

Blooming marvellous...another successful year!

We are delighted that Meriden Parish Council's Bloomers have been awarded Runner's Up in the Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2016 Village Category. Bloomers Chris Dean, Candice Kavanagh, Barbara Bland and Cllr Frances Lynch-Smith attended the Neighbourhoods in Bloom Presentation evening on 3rd October to collect the award. Other Meriden Winners were John Douglas who received 1st prize for his baskets at Fen John; and the Queen's Head's Caroline O'Neill, who received 2nd prize for commercial/retail frontage. **CONGRATULATIONS** to our wonderful team of contractors including Brian & Elaine Ball, Dovetail Group and Advanced Maintenance Services, and our resident and business supporters.

Possible relocation of Bickenhill Household Waste Recycling Centre to Meriden

Parish council representatives met with Caroline Spelman MP on 10th September 2016 to highlight their concerns and the impact on Meriden should the re-siting of the Bickenhill Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) be relocated to the quarry site known as Area G, Meriden. Parish council representatives had also attended the House of Lords Select Committee to petition for mitigation against HS2 construction impact and relocation of Bickenhill Household Waste Recycling Centre to Meriden. A subsequent meeting was held in October with Meriden Ward Councillors and SMBC's lead advisor on HS2 Walter Bailey to discuss the matter further.

Cllr Diccico advised that the matter had been discussed at Cabinet and Meriden was one site of 6/7 identified being assessed for suitability. The site proposed by HS2 Limited (HS2L) is to the south of the A45 and in principle identified as a probability due to the fact that HS2L will be funding the site relocation construction works. Any alternative site identified by SMBC is not in their interest to take forward as SMBC would have to fund relocation.

HS2L pursued options to relocate the HWRC and added a provision to the Hybrid Bill to relocate the site approx. 200-300m east of the existing facility, immediately south of the A45. SMBC considered this site will deliver on all criteria, including impact on journey times, and it is the site being pursued by HS2L. Any alternative relocation site proposals will need to go before SMBC planning committee meaning that public consultation, and prior engagement, would apply. There is good access to the A45 site via the established feeder/service road. SMBC's HS2 Implementation Advisory Group continues to review the alternative sites.

Taxi Bus and 89 replacement service update

We received complaints during August that without consultation and any notice period for taxi-bus users the service was to cease on 3rd September 2016 to be replaced by the 89 bus service operated by IGO. An invitation was extended to Mr Andrew Harding, Transport for West Midlands, together with Mr David Stirling of IGO, to provide an explanation for the cessation of the taxi-bus service which has served our vulnerable and disabled residents in the rural community of Meriden since 1999. The reason given for removal of the taxi-bus service is that it is no longer viable. Forty two residents who regularly use the taxi-bus attended the meeting all of whom talked about the loss of their lifeline, independence, social isolation, clubs and friendship groups that they can no longer access. The replacement 89 service does not meet their need given it cannot provide a door to door pick up due to accessibility, timetable, and zone routing.

A further consultation event was held in October with Messrs Harding and Stirling and twenty four residents attended who represented the wider disabled community who were unable to attend due to transport and mobility issues. The new 89 service commenced on 5th September and after a month of transition, user opinions had not changed in terms of meeting the need of disabled, vulnerable and senior residents. Meriden Parish Council has therefore challenged Transport for West Midlands decision to remove the taxi-bus service under the Equality Act 2010 and challenged the reasoning behind Meriden's exclusion from the Ring and Ride service. The Clerk will be contacting the Equality Commission to ask for their assistance in getting an answer from Transport for West Midlands.

82 Bus Service

We recently wrote to Diamond Buses and Transport for West Midlands to share the results of our survey with 82 bus users which we conducted face to face at local bus stops, businesses and homes.

The majority of responses came from residents who were either unemployed, retired and/or pensioners, some of whom have disabilities. The most concerning results were the number of times the 82 passengers had been waiting for over an hour for their bus to arrive and the fact that several people, including those with disabilities, had to stand on their bus journey. This clearly shows there is a frequency and capacity issue. Although half of the respondents believed the service to be unreliable, the majority thought the frequency of buses should be increased.

The purpose of our letter and its supporting data highlights the need for improved transport links between the residents of Meriden and Millison's Wood with the surrounding areas. Thanks to all residents who completed the 82 bus survey. You can view the results of the survey at Meriden Library.

900 Bus Service

From 4th December 2016 the 900 becomes the X1.

Meriden Pool

The Parish Council has met with SMBC and an external consultant for the purpose of long term planning a programme of maintenance and remedial works of Meriden Pool; the Pool is a much valued community asset and historical feature of Meriden's rural landscape. Red Kite Consultants have been engaged to provide a management programme. The Parish Council is working in partnership with SMBC and will apply for environmental funding to improve the Pool including design, water quality, levels and accessibility; carry out maintenance and protect its future as a site of historical interest. For any residents interested in supporting the Parish Council with this project or have historical documentation regarding drainage, water flow, pipe network or other information, please contact the Clerk.