

FOUR OAKS ESTATE NEWSLETTER



Issue Number 14 – June 2019

2019 AGM – Dr Ved Budh-Raja

The AGM on 25th April was very well attended and three new directors were elected – Vivek Chadha, Farrell Dolan and Craig Johnson. At the meeting Dr Ved Budh-Raja retired from the board after many years' service and we would like to record our thanks to him for his long and valued contribution to the Estate.

Drain Gulley Clearing

The drain gulleys across the Estate are mechanically cleared twice a year. The next clearance exercise will be carried out around the end of this month.

Edges & Hedges

A six month trial is underway (April to September) of an 'enhanced contract' with Edges & Hedges. This has allowed them to increase staffing hours and improve the overall standard of grounds maintenance. In particular the roads are being swept at least monthly and response times to 'cleaning up' after stormy weather and repairs to verges damaged by vehicles is faster and more thorough. If the improvements continue and appear 'value for money' the enhanced service will become permanent from October.

Traffic Mitigation Update

A detailed briefing on the potential installation of gates was circulated prior to the AGM where there was considerable debate and weighty support for gating to proceed in a phased manner. Since then a consultation exercise has been undertaken and every resident has been invited to submit any objections they may have. Of the 20 households that registered objections or comments only 7 (under 3%) opposed all gating on principle, including those aimed at resolving traffic issues. 11 others supported traffic control but opposed a fully gated Estate. A steering group has been formed to consider the next steps. An application for a Certificate of Lawfulness to install gates was submitted to the Council and the response received has been a request for further information and two additional months to determine the application. The additional information is now being assembled.

Parking in Sutton Park

In the March newsletter we reported that Birmingham City Council was about to commence a consultation exercise into its plan to introduce '365 day' parking charges in Sutton Park. We have been informed that this exercise has been delayed and has not yet commenced. When it does commence we will make sure residents are advised about how to take part and express their views.

Tree Survey

Every two years a full survey of the Estate's trees is undertaken to ensure their long term health – there are almost 400! The survey was carried out earlier this month by an arboriculturalist and a report itemising the condition of every tree is produced. This recommends what works are necessary (sometimes including fellings) and is sent to the Council's Tree Officer for approval. It will be uploaded to the website for residents to view.

Contractor & Development Parking

One of the most common complaints and source of nuisance and inconvenience to residents is parking by contractors in connection with major building projects. We work closely with residents and their project managers to minimise the inconvenience as much as is possible and in most cases this proves successful. Some parking is of course inevitable when major projects are undertaken, but if you are inconvenienced to any notable extent please report this by email to the Secretary, preferably with photographs, and we will do everything possible to eliminate the problem.

Circulation Information

This newsletter will be sent in a format that allows easy reading on a mobile device/ tablet. A PDF version will be uploaded to the website and is available by email.

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