

FOUR OAKS ESTATE NEWSLETTER



Issue Number 15 – September 2019

Traffic Mitigation & Potential Gating Update

In the last newsletter we reported that an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness to install gates had been submitted to Birmingham City Council. The Council did not determine the application, but instead asked for further information to be provided, including additional plans, photographs, historical detail and statutory declarations. These have been assembled and have now been submitted. A decision is expected around the end of this month. It has been widely publicised that Little Aston Park made an application to Lichfield District Council to install three sets of gates and that this has been refused. It is important to note that this was a full planning application, whereas our application is for a Lawful Development Certificate establishing our legal rights and meaning that standard planning considerations should not apply. We will report further as soon as a response from Birmingham City Council has been received.

Winter Road Gritting

We have a contract with a gritting company who are 'on call' should adverse winter weather strike and the roads require gritting. It is very difficult to budget for the costs of this service, as over the last four years we have spent between zero and over £6,000 on gritting. Hopefully this winter will be nearer zero!

Road Frontage Charge

The Road Frontage Charge for 2019/20 has been set by the board at £19.25 per yard frontage. This is an increase of 75p (4.05%) over last year. Demands will be issued around 1st October.

Gate across the Fordrough Footpath

Many residents have contacted us about the gate that has been erected across the footpath from Hartopp Road to the Park. The Estate did not erect this gate and share residents' concerns that it should not be locked or deny anyone's pedestrian access to the park. The Estate has in the past maintained this right of way and will use every endeavour to ensure that it does not become locked.

Leaf Collection Exercise

Collecting leaves may not sound like a particularly difficult task. Imagine though having to collect around 250 tonnes of them! This year we have already seen the start of the 'leaf fall' period and collection of them is on an ongoing basis so they do not build up and choke the drain gulleys. They are taken to a recycling facility where they are used in the production of compost.

Every year a few residents tend to sweep leaves from their own gardens onto the footpath and this makes the exercise far more difficult to manage and plan for. Please ensure therefore that you dispose of your own leaves.

Edges & Hedges

The six month trial of an 'enhanced contract' with Edges & Hedges has proved successful and will be extended for a twelve month period from 1st October. This service has led to improvements in the standard of grounds maintenance, especially after stormy weather where the 'clear-up' has been swifter and more thorough. In addition the roads are being swept on at least a monthly basis and damage to verges, usually caused by inconsiderate parking, is being repaired more quickly and more frequently.

Tree Survey

The bi-annual Tree Survey was carried out in June and its recommendations included the felling of fifteen trees, together with the pruning of eighty nine and the re-planting of fifteen young trees which had been adversely affected by last year's unusually hot summer. The replacement of the felled trees and the re-plantings will be carried out shortly. The full survey is available to view and download at www.fouroaksestate.com.

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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