

FOUR OAKS ESTATE NEWSLETTER



Issue Number 16 – December 2019

Traffic Mitigation & Potential Gating Update

In the last newsletter we reported that Birmingham City Council had requested a very considerable amount of further information to be able to determine our Certificate of Lawfulness application, to which our legal advice confirms we are entitled to, for the potential installation of gates. This information was assembled very thoroughly and submitted to the council who responded to request yet more information. This is now being assembled in conjunction with the Estate's planning advisers and solicitors and what should be a final submission will be submitted in January. A Gating Steering Group meets regularly and will be meeting with several potential gates suppliers in January so that if the application is approved no time is lost in moving forward with the project. If the application is refused consideration will be immediately be given to the next course of action, which may potentially include an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

AGM – Thursday 23rd April 2020 at 7.30pm

An early date for your diary. The 2020 AGM will be held as usual at the tennis club and there will be a free buffet. The AGM has been extremely well attended for the last few years and hopefully we will see another 'full house'. Full details will be sent out in early April. We will ensure that as much seating as possible is provided in the club lounge and that there is a speaker system to ensure that people in the bar area can hear proceedings clearly. If any resident has any sound equipment to help with this please let us know.

Works to Estate Land

It is very important to remember that no works to Estate land can be carried out without prior consent. This is detailed in the Residents Guide Book (if you like another copy of the guide book please let us know).

Estate land includes:

** Footpaths & Verges * Driveway crossings * Roadways*

If you wish to carry out any work to Estate land please contact us and we will provide an application form so that consent and specification can be formally recorded.

Grounds Maintenance Matters

* The annual leaf clearance exercise has just been completed, following which all roads were fully swept to ensure they are as neat and clear as possible for the festive period. Following some wet and stormy conditions the roads will be fully swept again just before Christmas.

* Damage to grass verges by commercial vehicles is an ongoing problem and recently has been very significant. The most frequent 'offenders' tend to be contractor's vans, building material supply lorries and home-shopping delivery vehicles. This problem is very difficult to deal with, but the damage is repaired as soon as possible depending upon ground and weather conditions.

Footpath & Verge Improvement Plan

* This plan was adopted in 2014 with the objective of gradually improving the condition and appearance of the footpaths & verges on a planned basis, subject to funding constraints (since 2014 around £280,000 has been spent on this plan). The plan has proved successful in meeting this objective, although rather like painting the Forth Bridge when it is completed we will have to start again!

* In January further works under this plan will be carried out in Ladywood Road (between Bracebridge Road and Four Oaks Road) and in the upper stretch of Hartopp Road. These areas were prioritised by Neil Andrews (Chairman of the Grounds Maintenance Committee) and Stuart Tullah who regularly walk the entire Estate to ensure that priority areas are identified and attended to.

Darkness Survey

Our electrical contractors carried out a 'darkness survey' in November to check the condition of every lighting column. Eight were found to be faulty and they have now been repaired and returned to full working order.

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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