

# FOUR OAKS ESTATE NEWSLETTER



Issue Number 17 – March 2020

## Traffic Mitigation & Potential Gating Update

In the last two newsletters 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 for the potential installation of gates. We have submitted everything that has been requested and are still awaiting a decision. We have been informed that the council has received over two hundred letters of objection, thought to be mainly from residents of neighboring roads, and this may be contributing to the delay. In case a decision is not forthcoming in a reasonable period, we have researched the option and potential costs of submitting an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. This matter is being followed closely by our planning advisors and we will keep residents advised. The Gating Steering Group has met on several occasions and has identified a 'preferred contractor' who is now working on design and logistics details for us.

## Footpath & Verge Improvement Plan

In January works under this plan, which commenced in 2014, started in Ladywood Road (between Bracebridge Road and Four Oaks Road) and in the upper stretch of Hartopp Road. The works were due to be completed by the end of February, but have been delayed due to the adverse weather we have experienced. New grass verges have been installed on Luttrell Road, outside the Tennis Club, and hardwood posts have been placed strategically to prevent vehicles parking on the verges and destroying them.

## 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

\* Following storm Ciara over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> February, Edges & Hedges deployed their team from Monday morning onwards for a few days to 'clear up' as a very considerable amount of debris fell onto footpaths, verges and roadways.

\* We continue to suffer from vehicle damage to grass verges and very sadly this is a far too regular occurrence. The most frequent 'offenders' tend to be contractor's vans, building material supply lorries and home-shopping delivery vehicles. If you have any contractors visiting your home, or are expecting any home deliveries, please ask the drivers to respect the grass verges.

## Openreach Ultrafast Broadband

You may have noticed a number of Openreach staff and vehicles around the Estate over the last couple of months. This is part of an Estate-wide survey that Openreach is carrying out to determine if it is feasible to install ultrafast broadband across the Estate. Ultrafast broadband uses fibre direct to the premises, eliminating the need to route the service through a cabinet, and leading to considerably faster broadband speeds of up to 1Gbps from a range of suppliers. We understand the importance of the best possible broadband service and will assist Openreach as far as possible. We expect to hear further from Openreach in the next month or so and hopefully ultrafast broadband will become a reality around the end of this year.

## Drainage Matters

Drainage isn't the most exciting topic, but it is essential that we ensure that our storm water drain gullies are kept clear and effective. Recently we completed the bi-annual drains clearance exercise and in addition we have just replaced twenty six gulley covers/grates that had become damaged or excessively worn.

## 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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