

FOUR OAKS ESTATE NEWSLETTER



Issue Number 26 – June 2022

Review of Security

At the recent AGM the question of general security was raised and widely debated. This subject has also been raised on the residents WhatsApp security group. All residents will know that the gating project cannot proceed at the moment but this does not mean that security as a general matter has been 'put to bed'. The Chairman of the Board, Ron Forrest, has asked his fellow director Farrell Dolan to conduct a review of security and Farrell is underway with this review. It is essential that a review of this nature is fact-based and Farrell is gathering as much crime-related information as is available. In addition, he will shortly commission a survey amongst residents to find out first-hand what residents have experienced and what is of most concern to them. This will be carried out by email and paper copies will be sent to the few residents we do not have email addresses for to ensure all residents 'have their say'. It is clear however that taking personal property-based security measures wherever possible is an important first step in improving security, such as having CCTV to cover one's own house and driveway, a high-quality burglar alarm system and where possible driveway gates.

Full-Fibre Broadband

On behalf of the board Craig Johnson is continuing to progress the project to bring full-fibre broadband to the Estate. In our last newsletter we reported that Craig had identified a private provider, Hyperoptic, who at that time were in advanced stages of putting forward a proposal. We asked residents to register their interest in full-fibre on Hyperoptic's website (<https://hyperoptic.com/>) as a certain level of 'take-up' will be required. Around 180 residents did so and this may be sufficient for the project to proceed, although further registrations of interest will be helpful.

There are still several financial and logistical matters to overcome and Craig and the working group (including Sean Morrough and Mike McCollum) are dealing with these as a matter of priority. We will keep residents advised through this newsletter and by direct emails.

Planning Applications

The Estate reviews all planning applications to houses across the Estate, on the basis of preserving its unique and special character and to protect the Conservation Area. We should be notified about every planning application by Birmingham City Council, as a registered consultee, but frequently are not notified.

If you see a planning application notice or are notified about one please let us have the details so we can be sure it is reviewed. All we need is the house address and planning application number and these should be emailed to stuart.tullah@gmail.com.

Platinum Jubilee Street Party

The Jubilee street party on Sunday 5th June was a huge success with 700 residents and guests attending. Despite heavy rain in the morning the weather cleared just in time for the event to be enjoyed by all. We are grateful to the Tennis Club for co-hosting the event. Particular thanks go to Penny Dewsbery who spent countless hours 'bringing everything together'.

Grounds Maintenance

We have recently completed improvements to a significant number of frontages in Ladywood Road, together with some in Bracebridge Road and Hartopp Road. Later in the year the Grounds Maintenance Committee will 'walk' the entire Estate to identify the frontages to be prioritised under the Footpath & Verge Improvement Plan in financial year 2022/23.

In the next few weeks our bi-annual drains clearing exercise will be carried out and this includes the mechanical 'sucking' of all our drain gulleys. An inglorious but essential exercise! At the moment Edges & Hedges are busy mowing our verges, cutting our hedges and keeping the weeds at bay.

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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