



HOCKLEY NEWS

Issue No.77

Winter 2019

Hockley Community Library Raid Saturday 12th January!



The community of Hockley, led by local resident Megan Hemmings (above left) and volunteers, exercised their right to use their Library and borrow books at a “Big Borrow” event in January. 7539 books were borrowed clearing the shelves to highlight the need to retain the service following Essex County Council’s proposals to downgrade the library which could lead to its closure. The message to Essex County Council was very clear, that the community cares and needs the library facilities. Hockley Parish Council has written to ECC expressing their concerns and those of our community and will continue to support the campaign to retain the library facilities in Hockley. Well done to all involved.

Precept and Budgets 2019/20

All councils have to finalise their Budgets and Precepts in January for the coming year and are responsible for balancing the needs of the community against available funds. Rochford District Council must provide sufficient funds to cover the budget, which is called the Precept. This money is sourced from the Council Tax which all residents have to pay. Hockley Parish Council has maintained its Precept at its current level for the last 6 years. However, this year we have been asked by the community to acquire land which has become available for an allotment site and take on the management of the public toilets so they are not closed by the District Council. Along with a reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant from Central Government this will inevitably lead to an increase. The Precept requested this year is £267,184 which equates to an additional £8.05pa on the Parish proportion of the Council Tax. A Band D property will pay 67p per month more. Rochford District Council will publish all Council Tax Bands for the coming year shortly.

Independent Bus Services in Hockley



Wyvern Community Transport was established by the Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Service in 2003 and became a Company limited by Guarantee on 14th September 2005. The Company was registered as a Charity (no. 1113449) on 28th March 2006. Services operate from 8.30 am until approximately 4.30 pm daily. Group bookings can be made for evenings and weekends. Members pay £4.00 for any distance up to 3 miles. For journeys over 4 miles in the minibuses a charge of £0.60p per mile is payable and for journeys over 4 miles in their social cars a charge of £0.45p per mile is payable. For further information contact: Rochford - 01268 753513. Castle Point - 01268 754936 Website: <https://www.wyvernct.org/>



NIBS Buses are a local company operating a hail and ride service and can be contacted on 01268 767870. Website <http://www.nibsbuses.com/>

OPEN SPACES ROUND UP

Winter is upon us and inevitably work on the open spaces has slowed down, but this does not mean that the Parish Council’s Environmental Committee members have also gone into hibernation. Far from it, much time continues to be spent reviewing existing work and planning for the future. In Broad Parade the flower beds are to be built up with improved soil, retained by cut-down railway sleepers. Come the spring a new planting scheme will be introduced to ensure that this small patch of green continues as an attractive addition to the neighbourhood.

Plans for the Parish Pavement (outside the Royal Mail Sorting Office) are progressing. Inevitably with public land there are a number of formalities that must be gone through before work can commence but it is hoped that flower troughs will be in place before too long.

In the Marylands Nature Reserve coppicing has commenced in order to ensure a healthy and diverse environment for flora and fauna. (It would greatly help the Environment Committee if members of the public using the Reserve could let the Clerk to the Council know of any problems they come across during their visit).



Each year the Parish Council is required to carry out an inspection of its play equipment at the Laburnum Grove and Plumberow Play Spaces. Inevitably some minor problems were identified during the recent inspection and these will be rectified as a matter of urgency by the council’s Rangers and the equipment manufacturers. It must be stressed that there is no danger to equipment users.

There are a number of other small open spaces in the control of the Parish Council dotted throughout the village and these too will be receiving attention come the spring, particularly the shrubbery at the junction of Plumberow Avenue/Spa Road where the Council’s contractors will be replacing the existing wooden retainers with cut-down sleepers.

Play Spaces are for **children** only, and adults if accompanied by a **child**. There are usually seating areas as well as the play equipment. **Dogs are not allowed in any play space.**



Parish Council Supports Vital Local Centre for Older Residents

The Hockley & Hawkwell Social Centre for the Older Person is an essential facility to help local older residents to counter loneliness and provide nutritious home cooked meals. The Hockley Parish Council have generously supported the Centre over the years and enabled the Centre to continue to provide these essential services.

Most recently, The Parish Council have made a donation towards the Centre's new Mini Bus enabling it to offer clients transport to and from their own homes. A new decal for the Parish Council was kindly designed by a 21 year old local tattoo artist, Lauren Smith,(Instagram @laurensmithtattoos), which now decorates the Mini Bus and is being widely adopted by the Council.



Parish Council Chairman Cllr Roy Martin and Cllr Sue Martin with the Centre's minibus.



The Centre was originally built almost 30 years ago and is based in the heart of Hockley within the Southend Road Car Park behind the library. They are now embarking upon an extensive refurbishment programme to ensure the Centre is fully fit for purpose and can continue to provide an excellent community service for many years to come.

The programme is to be tackled in phases with the aim of completion within the next 18 months. The timescale will be driven by the success of fundraising necessary to implement the plans, as well as the level of voluntary assistance to keep costs to a minimum.

The Centre would welcome any offer of voluntary decorating assistance or fundraising ideas.



The variety of services offered would not be possible without the tireless support of the many volunteers. Additional volunteers are constantly sought to help within the office, kitchen, dining / coffee bar area or on the mini bus.

If you are interested in helping the ongoing operation of the Centre in any way, please contact them on 01702 206208; email hockleydaycentre@gmail.com or better still pop in for a cup coffee.

Chairman's News: Local communities are not always aware of how Town and Parish Councils are able to support them. We are the first level of local government; statutory bodies created and governed by acts of parliament that define their powers and duties. Hockley Parish Council is an apolitical council made up of residents who put themselves forward for election to improve the local environment and make decisions with the community in which they live or work. Parish Council decisions may only be made at a properly called meeting of the Full Council, its committees or sub committees. We are able to work with communities in many ways providing grant funding and supporting local issues where possible and appreciate approaches from our residents and businesses with their views on how to improve the area in which we all live.



We have recently been pleased to welcome two new members of staff. **Kelly Holland** (right) has been appointed as our Clerk, moving from Ashingdon Parish Council and **Margaret Saunders** has joined us from Danbury Parish Council as our Finance Officer. They are based in the Parish Office and are looking forward to working with the local community.

Councillor Roy Martin

HOCKLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Cllr Tim GLEADALL	01702 201 688
Cllr Brian HAZLEWOOD	01702 201 786
Cllr Shirley JAMES	01702 205 050
Cllr Roy MARTIN (Chairman)	01702 202 750
Cllr Sue MARTIN	01702 202 750
Cllr Phil MEACHAM	07005 980 128
Cllr Veronica RANDALL (Vice Chairman)	01702 202 142
Cllr Barbara THOROGOOD	01702 203 748

Hockley East Ward

Cllr Nick BOXALL	01702 204 800
Cllr Mike CARTER	07958 707 070
Cllr Toni CARTER	01702 205 648
Cllr Brian O'SHEA	01702 204 334
Cllr Lesley VINGOE	01702 202 829



If you have any comments or enquiries, please contact Clerk to the Parish Council
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