

## Hockley Parish Council News in Brief July 2020

Things are looking a bit brighter on the COVID-19 front but with plenty of challenges before us. Your Parish Council continues to look at ways where it can help the village as best it can and there is a wide range of information and links on our website. The indoor Village Market at the Old Fire Station is not able to return just yet but we are pleased to say Paul our Butcher and Louise our Knife Sharpener will be outside the Old Fire Station on the 2nd Saturday of each month until the situation changes. Social Distancing measures will be in place. Details of times will be posted on our website.



**Safe Re-opening of High Streets:** Now that businesses are gradually re-opening, you will see social distancing notices in our shopping areas. We encourage you to support our local shops, many of whom have diversified and offer more variety, but please think of others when shopping and respect the guidelines to keep everyone safe. The Bull Inn finally re-opens on 6<sup>th</sup> July following restoration after the terrible fire in 2018 and the we wish the team every success.

**Libraries:** ECC have announced that Rayleigh & Rochford libraries are to re-open on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and it is expected that Hockley & Hullbridge libraries will follow on the 13<sup>th</sup> July.

**Open Spaces:** Hockley has some lovely open spaces and walks and the parish council are pleased to see residents using these for exercise and recreation. However, the volume of rubbish and dog mess has increased with more footfall. Our Rangers regularly litter pick and Rochford District Council clear bins. The local volunteers who have been out and about collecting rubbish have shown amazing community spirit and their help is very much appreciated. Let's make a difference and take your rubbish home to help keep public spaces clean and safe for everyone. If you see any full bins let the Parish Council or RDC know and clearance will be arranged.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Point Southend Road:** Rochford District Council have published news of a new charging point in the Southend Road Car Park. As the Parish Council installed the power there for the Bust Unit, residents will be pleased to hear that we have an agreement with Rochford District Council to give the Bust Unit priority for power when it returns to Hockley.



**Southend Road Toilets:** It is anticipated that Rochford District Council will start the agreed refurbishment shortly. In the meantime, they have informed us the toilets will remain closed.

**Heritage Scheme:** During lockdown the Council's Heritage Scheme Group, comprising councillors and local historians, took the opportunity to work on additional plaques for the village Heritage Scheme. We are gradually installing green plaques at various sites of historical interest in Hockley and already have 5 plaques which you will see as you walk around the village. 4 new plaques will be added soon. More details can be found on the Heritage Scheme Page of our website. We are very grateful to the location owners for allowing us to erect the plaques.

*If you wish to comment or draw something to our attention then please contact the Parish Clerk.*