

## Hockley Parish Council News in Brief June 2020

- **Annual report:** All councils were required to cancel the Annual Parish Assemblies; the Annual Report containing a summary of the work of the Parish Council over the past year has been published on our website.



- **Old Fire Station:** Whilst this remains closed to the public, we are arranging to have the downstairs meeting room redecorated ready for when we can open the facilities again for meetings and community events
- **Parish Ranger:** The Council has taken on a new Ranger, Andy, who joined Dave at the beginning of June. If you see them around the village please say hello - from a safe distance of course!
- **Lockdown:** The news that the Government are to relax the lockdown restrictions is welcomed but we must all continue with social distancing to prevent the virus spreading. The District Council are looking at introducing safety measures for our high streets and shopping spaces to enable safe movement within these areas when some of our shops re-open and Spa Road will be a part of this. We have been told by the Government these measures are expected to remain for up to 12 months.
- **Christmas Lights November 2020** The majority of public events have been cancelled due to the current pandemic and the Parish Council has taken the decision to cancel the Street Event in Spa Road. Even though this is upsetting, the Council has a duty to ensure public health and safety in its activities. It is very likely that other local councils in the area will be cancelling their events. The village will be lit up as usual with the Christmas Lights displays and tree. Hopefully, we will be able to move all of our plans to November 2021 so if you would like to get involved, then please do get in touch and join us in putting on this event for our wonderful village next year.
- **Schools:** Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 returned to school from Wednesday 3rd June. Westerings Academy continues to be open for vulnerable children and those of critical workers. The council appreciates and thanks the Head Teachers and staff for the hard work have had to put in to ensure the safety of the children whilst in their care.
- **Hockley Food & Off Licence** at Alderman's Hill has now closed following retirement after some 30 years and we wish the family all the best for the future.
- **Recycling Centres** The recycling centre in Rayleigh has reopened with restricted access. Residents can find more information on recycling arrangements on the RDC website <https://www.rochford.gov.uk/appeal-residents-make-common-se...>



- **Libraries** As part of a phased approach Essex County Council will re-open some libraries from the 6<sup>th</sup> July with social distancing and cleaning measures in place; Rayleigh and Rochford Libraries will be among these.
- **Foodbanks** are still in need of donations and if you have items to spare, they would be gratefully received. You will find local centres at Hawkwell Baptist Church and REC Church Rayleigh. Bramerton Community Church are also collecting items for HARP in Southen