

# Balsall Parish Council



## *Judy's Jottings*

*I cannot believe that I am writing for the last time on Balsall Parish Council matters for 2018. Where has the year gone?*

*The wonderful summer we have experienced this year and the magnificent floral displays in the village centre have been quite remarkable. We have had many compliments, and it has certainly been Balsall in Bloom.*

*The council has continued its work for the village. A meeting took place recently in the library car park with officers from SMBC Highways department to explore the possibility of finding extra car parking spaces. As the village grows, parking becomes more of an issue. We have suffered the disruption of Virgin media, but no doubt much more will come with HS2 development on our doorstep.*

*This is to be my last contribution as I am moving away from the village in the next couple of months. I have tried to bring a little levity over the years to sometimes rather mundane details.*

*Judy Lea, Vice-Chair*

## COUNCIL BUSINESS

In July and August the Parish Council held 2 Planning Committees, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Facilities Committee, Staffing and Communications Committee, Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee and a full Parish Council Meeting.

Decisions from all the meetings are contained in the minutes on our website [balsallparishcouncil@gov.uk](mailto:balsallparishcouncil@gov.uk).

A key decision of Council was the agreement for a programme of improvements to Willow Park. Willow Park had a good summer with no incidents of poor behaviour reported during the school holidays. It is hope that continued and increased use of the park will help all year round.

Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended adoption of a new set of Standing Orders, Facilities Committee was established and welcomed a member representing Friends of Willow Park as a co-opted member.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee resolved to undertake a Character Assessment of the neighbourhoods in Balsall parish to add to the evidence base for the NDP. Survey and photographs produced by Councillors will be created for the draft Plan. A revised timetable for the Plan anticipates that a first draft of Plan policies will be produced after the conclusion of the Governance Review for Balsall and Berkswell parishes by Solihull Council.

# The Messenger

## Balsall Parish Council



On behalf of Balsall parishioners, Councillors Mark Tattum, Christina O'Sullivan and Marie-Louise Marsden attended the HS2 drop in at the Jubilee Centre on 20th September. Balsall Parish Council has been pressing HS2 Ltd and Solihull Borough Council for a continuous haul route to eliminate the need for construction traffic to travel through Balsall Common village. (A haul route is a roadway dedicated to take the majority of construction traffic).

The HS2 construction site is completely within Berkswell Parish and practically all planning applications associated with the HS2 construction site in our area will be commented on by Berkswell Parish Council. Councillor Richard Lloyd will be chairing a working party of Berkswell Parish Council for HS2 matters. We have asked Councillor Lloyd, who also sits on Balsall Parish Council, to bring to our attention any matters that may directly affect the parishioners of Balsall Parish.

HS2 Ltd is currently creating the alternative Greenway pathway across fields between Berkswell Station and Burton Green. The section of the Greenway between Berkswell Station and Waste Lane will be used as a haul route.

The first real signs of construction activity within Berkswell Parish will be the establishment of the two compounds at Park Lane and Waste Lane. This is expected to be from July 2019.

The main sub-contractor Balfour Beatty Vinci have made a proposal for construction traffic to use Hall Meadow Road and then for a road to be constructed from the end of Hall Meadow Road in fields behind the Berkswell British Legion to connect to the Greenway haul route. This will ensure that most construction traffic will not need to travel through the village of Balsall Common. Parking at the station will be part of the solution as the speed humps on Hall Meadow will be removed and parking restrictions could be introduced. Planning permission for this proposal from Balfour Beatty Vinci will require consent from Solihull Borough Council

Two significant construction projects in Berkswell parish are the construction of the viaduct adjacent to Berkswell mainline railway station and the Carol Green west coast mainline crossing where the HS2 line will need to cross. These significant construction projects will commence in early 2020 and be completed in 2022.

Once the viaduct and the Carol Green mainline crossing are complete the line of the HS2 track will be used as a continuous haul route ensuring that construction traffic does not need to use the Kenilworth Road through Balsall Common.

Please join the Balsall Parish Council Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BalsallParishCouncil/> which we will use to post updates such as details of road closure notices for the HS2 construction project.

### WWI Centenary of Armistice Day 1918

Balsall Parish Council will be remembering those who served in the First World War by joining with St Mary's Church and Lady Katherine Leveson's school children in Temple Balsall Cemetery on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00am.

If you or your family had members who made a contribution during the war, or would just like to remember and would like to join us in the Cemetery and afterwards for refreshments in the Old Hall, Temple Balsall, you would be very welcome.

[balsallparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:balsallparishcouncil@gmail.com)

**Ever considered becoming a parish councillor?**

Balsall Parish Council needs a new member to join until a full election in May 2019

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BalsallParishCouncil/>