

New Frankley Community News

Edition Three

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SHOULD ALL DOGS BE BANNED FROM PUBLIC PLACES?

Dog mess is dangerous; children and adults have lost their eyesight because irresponsible owners cannot be bothered to clean up after their dogs when they exercise them in public places. Dog fouling is illegal and

owners can be fined up to £1000.

The dogs are not to blame, just the owners.

There are a lot of people who exercise their dogs in Frankley who always pick the mess up, but there are others who are not at all bothered about the mess or where they leave it

I keep bags in my car and have approached people who have not cleaned up after their dog and ask them if they want some poo bags only to be told to go away and mind my own business.

I was recently in Frogmill Walk and a mother went mad at one of her small boys for treading in some mess.

It was not his fault or the dogs fault but the owners.

Poo bags are available free of charge from the Parish Council office which is in the Arden Road Shops between Greggs and the Post Office.

It is open from 8.am to 11.45am five days a week.

Dog poo bags, when used, can be put in any pavement litterbins.

If you cannot be bothered to clean up after your dog then don't take it out in public places because someone else may suffer the consequences.

— — FLY TIPPING HOTSPOTS !!!!

The following are the locations where rubbish is regularly dumped. Those responsible know who you are and if you are one of the people who complain about the eyesore and know who is doing it please tell them to get in touch with the Parish Council on 0121 457 9410.

There is no need for any of it . The Parish Council can help.

1- car park in Oberon Close near end house no 30 + no 59;

2- wall of garage 14 opposite no 39 Brightstone Rd;

3- grass area next to 51 Brightstone Rd / side of no 1 Thorntwaite Close;

4-Ashdown Close 1st lamp post in entrance off Brightstone Rd +Walls of houses rear of Cranbourne Close. Grass verge in between houses in Cranbourne Close.

New Frankley and its Parish Council [Part 2]

In the previous edition of the Community News it was explained how Frankley became the first and only Parish Council in Birmingham, and went on to illustrate how the democratic process of elections works through the ballot box.

The Precept

A Parish Council is empowered to incur expenditure in execution of any works or any thing which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of its statutory powers. To fund this expenditure each year the Parish Council sets a budget the expenditure, of which (the Precept) the City Council is required to collect on the Parish Council's behalf. As previously explained the Council receives part of your Council Tax to fund the Council's activities part of which is the cost of running an office and the employing two paid officers. As part of the Council's activities, the Parish Council contributes towards the cost of providing the Neighbourhood Caretakers Scheme which is operated by the Northfield Constituency. The Neighbourhood Caretakers receive instructions from the Parish Council to remove rubbish that has been dumped on open land or left by the refuse collectors; they also remove articles which, because of their bulk the dustmen will not collect [Pieces of furniture, wood, paint tins, Glass]. This Service is available to all Frankley residents and can be booked by ringing 457 9410 [there is an answering machine out of office hours] or calling into the office located at the Holly Hill Shops.

Grants from the Council

As part of the Council's support for the Community, the Parish Council provides Grants to voluntary organisations in order to fund activities which are of benefit to the Community. A few examples of this support are— Contribution towards the costs of operating the Children's Summer play scheme at the local leisure centre; grants for the Lunch Club Transport for senior citizens; Large Print books at the Frankley Library for those with impaired sight; Camping trips have been part funded for the youth of Frankley; Funding for the Frankley Carnival. These are just a few of the grants given by the residents through the Parish Council.

Residents who would like to know more about this grant fund need to contact the clerk at the parish office for more information and an application form 0121 457 9410.

The Parish Council, Officers, Councillors and Elections

The Parish Council employs two paid officers; the Clerk to the Council and the Responsible Financial Officer whose responsibility is to ensure that the Council acts in a lawful manner. There are twelve elected Councillors, these roles are voluntary and unpaid. Elections for the office of Councillor are held every four years in May at the same time as the City Council elections. The rules of the election are the same as for the Member of Parliament and City Councillors. The twelve candidates with the most votes are elected .

There is some misunderstanding as to the process of an election. If only twelve candidates stand those twelve candidates are elected unopposed. There is no need for a ballot. This has happened twice at Parish Council elections .

The full council meetings of the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council are held on the third Monday of the month at St Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill at 7.30pm and all residents are invited to attend. As with all Council meetings the rules are very strict and the meeting must comply with the law. However there is a section on the agenda where the public may take Raise their concerns about local matters.

The Parish Office is open Monday to Friday from 8.30 to 11.45. The Councillors and staff on duty will do all they can to help residents. It may be you just need help finding out who to contact about your problem.

We will do our best to help

by Councillor Eric Carter

Services Provided by New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council,

As previously reported, the Parish Council contributes towards the costs of Birmingham City Council's provision of 2 operatives and a 3 ton truck on a daily basis (The Frankley Caretakers) in order to collect bulky household rubbish in those cases where the City's Refuse Collection Department has been unable to assist or when rubbish has been fly tipped. You may have seen this truck going around the parish. To request a collection or to report fly tipped rubbish please call the parish office on 457 9410 or, alternatively, why not call in? The office is open from 8am to 11.45am Monday to Friday (there is an answer phone at other times) and the Council will be pleased to assist where ever possible. However, residents are advised that the Caretakers are not able to take away any bags containing general household waste or garden waste.

Please remember you pay for this service through your Parish Council Tax so there is no need to dump rubbish on the roads or car parks etc. The Council is just a phone call away. The Council have arranged for the Caretakers to make 1,250 calls to residents' homes to collect rubbish or pick up fly tipped rubbish in the first 4 months of 2013 – proof that the service is being well used by residents.

Important Advice

The Parish Council has been advised by Birmingham City Council that it will **NOT** be providing Black or Green sacks to residents as from 1st April 2013. However, the Council has been advised that residents can use any bags for the disposal of general household waste but those bags containing garden waste must be left open so that the contents can be inspected by the refuse collectors.

Street Cleaning Service

Many Frankley residents feel that they do not get much help from the City Council street cleaning teams, but residents need to remember that the services provided by the City Council have been subjected to cuts in funding as a result of the reduction in Central Government funding.

Beat Sweepers

The Government's spending cuts also means that Frankley has lost its Beat Sweepers – these were the men with yellow barrows that litter picked Frankley's Roads, Pavements and Paths. However the Parish Council has come to an agreement with Birmingham City Council Street Cleansing Department for the provision of just one Beat Sweeper for the whole of Frankley – this means that he has to cover the whole of Frankley so each road will only get one litter pick each week. However, there is a problem with certain parts of the community in that parts of the community the residents are untidy and appear to have no pride in their neighbourhood – plastic bottles, fast food take away trays and packaging, food wrappings and even disposable nappies are left for someone else to pick up. The Parish Council urges all residents, young and old, to take pride in their neighbourhood and to dispose of their rubbish in the available bins or take it home with them and dispose of it at home.

Together we can make our community a place where everyone wants to live.

HEDGE CUTTING PROGRAMME

The Parish Council is running a second hedge cutting service paid for by BCC .

If you are elderly, disabled, or in any way physically impaired from cutting your hedge or bushes then contact the Parish Council on 0121 457 9410 . We will arrange a visit, take photos and get the team who are doing the work to make sure the job can be done and arrange a date to carry out the work .

This service is free and open to council tenants and homeowners.

Deep in the heart of New Frankley you may well come across that rare creature, the Frankley Street Champion. Not easy to identify, they may appear as parish councillor, carnival organiser, Friend of Balaam's Wood, Waterside Carer or many other things. The give-away is the litter picker and rubbish bag. You'll find them scurrying in the undergrowth of Frogmill Walk, lurking in Balaam's Wood or splashing around in the River Rea. They can be identified most easily by their droppings, bags full of rubbish, road cones, trolleys, and general trash kindly put out for them by fly tippers and litter louts. This is a relatively new colony of Street Champion, established only two years ago by BCC and Parish Councillor Ian Bruckshaw. Many BCC staff have gone beyond the call of duty in encouraging the colony; recently Waterside Care has added its support to the group's efforts on the banks of the Rea. If you want to see a display of the Street Champion in action, there is a display most Wednesdays. Come along and watch their dexterity at litter picking, scything, lopping and grappling as they clear 40 years of rubbish. A warning though, Street Champions may be spreading. For more details contact frankleycockhillhb@outlook.com

This year the Frankley Carnival will be held on Saturday 14th of September next to Frankley Health Centre.

We need the good people to turn out and support your own Carnival and make it an even bigger success than it was in 2012.

We also need volunteers on the day to help set-up and/or dismantle the event, and any help with running the stalls would be much appreciated.

Please tell your friends and neighbours to come along and join in the fun and games for children and grown ups of all ages.

If you want to know more than contact Bruce Pitt on 07779497263 or Linda Coates on 07925233738.

Balaam's Wood Orchard

As you will have noticed the land for our new community orchard, on the corner of Arden Road, has been cleared.

We have already held a litter pick to remove the bulk of the rubbish and will be doing further work over the summer. This will include seeding with grass and wildflowers ready for planting the fruit trees in the autumn.

On Thursday 30th May we will be joined by the young people from the Safe Haven project; who will be helping with dead hedging and preparing the ground for the seed.

We welcome all volunteers and are very happy to hear from interested residents.

Tel: 07902903558

Email: balaams.wood@btinternet.com

www: www.balaamswoodlnr.btck.co.uk

[@balaaamswood](https://twitter.com/balaaamswood)

Contributions for the next Edition of the New Frankley Community News should be sent to