

The Role of PCSOs in our Community - by Inspector Richard Agar

“Dedicated teams of Police Officers and Police Community Support officers (PCSOs) are committed to providing a quality, responsive police service in your neighbourhood. Our vision is to provide a safe environment for all members of our community in which they can live, work and relax. The force’s vision, to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer, is at the heart of our work.

Our focus will be placed upon offences which blight our neighbourhoods, such as graffiti, littering and alcohol abuse which can lead to anti social behaviour. This can make people feel unsafe in their neighbourhood. We intend to deal with these issues of anti social and criminal behaviour, which are perpetrated against our communities by a minority of individuals, by working in partnership with our citizens, focus groups, the local authority and the business community.

Officers are committed to identifying and dealing with the issues that really matter to you by providing a sustainable solution. It is therefore vital that you tell us what issues are affecting your neighbourhood the most. Neighbourhood meetings are arranged to enable this exchange and recognise the importance community members can play in shaping our policing priorities.

By working together we can make a difference.”

Village Update

The city council has recently confirmed funding for Our Town Centre Manager **Melinda Brown** for the next two years, which is great news for the Village. You can contact Melinda c/o Acocks Green Library or on 0121 4640106 or 07823 534935.

Local community groups have also given their ideas to improve car parking, traffic flow and the overall Village environment. Feedback is now being incorporated into plans that will go to public consultation later in the year.

Spring flowers for Acocks Green

The planting project *‘Putting the Green Back into Acocks Green’* goes from strength to strength thanks to a number of local people volunteering their time. To get involved simply turn up outside **Acocks Green Library** at **10am** on one of the following **Sundays** - 17th May, 31st May, 14th June , 28th June. You don't need to know anything about gardening and you can come on your own or as a group. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Fancy a Coffee (or Tea?)

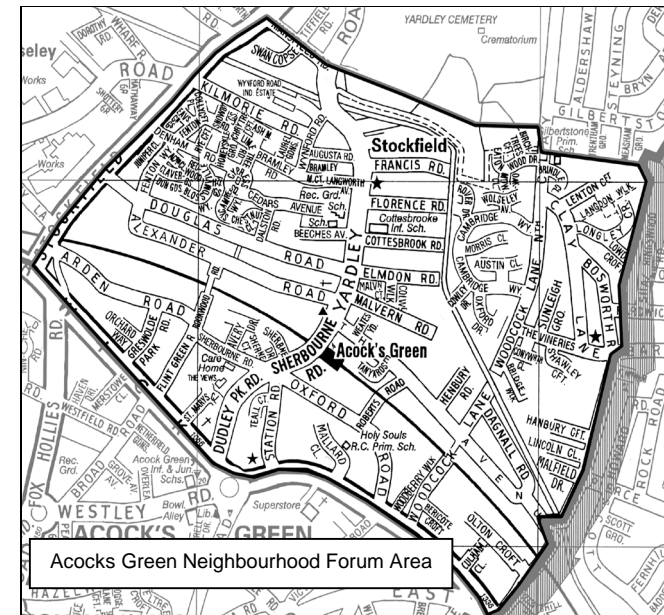
How about a refreshing drink and a chat when you’re out and about? The church hall on Yardley Road has a newly refurbished café, that is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am til 12pm. Pop in and check it out!



Come along to our next public meeting to find out more about the Forum or take a look at our new website: www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

May 09



Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum has been in existence for over 10 years. It is organised and run by local people and welcomes everyone in the area. It provides the opportunity to share experiences and discuss issues of common concern such as community safety, environmental issues, health, transport and much more. Our next public meeting is on:

Thurs 14th May, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Rd.
Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

This meeting will be our AGM, whereby the committee is elected to continue the work of the Forum. We will also welcome guest speakers from **Acocks Green Focus Group** who will be giving a presentation on a proposed **conservation area** for parts of The Green. Come along and find out more about what’s going on in your neighbourhood.

The Police Community Support Officers will also be on hand to represent the local Police and offer advice. (See the back page for more information on the role of PCSOs in our area).

Cottesbrooke Wednesday Walkers

Since January, Stockfield has had a new walking group encouraging local people to enjoy exercise, fresh air and become more familiar with their area. It's also a good opportunity to meet new people. Anyone who fancies a walk can meet at:

Cottesbrooke Junior School on Cedars Avenue at 9am every Wednesday
(term time only at the moment).

Walks are between an hour and an hour and a half in length. Pushchairs and all levels of fitness are welcome, and it's FREE! All you need is a pair of comfortable shoes. If you would like more information phone Ged at Cottesbrooke Junior School on 464 3178 or just turn up!

Acocks Green Carnival - Saturday 4th July 2009

Now in its 36th Year, Acocks Green Carnival is a celebration by local organisations of all that is good in the Acocks Green area. There will be displays, stages, stalls and a 5-a-side football tournament in the morning.



There will also be a parade of vehicles and walkers with the theme **'Children's Books from Around the World'**. If you or your group would like to take part in the parade, have a stall, perform on the Youth Stage or generally get involved in the Carnival then the Acocks Green Carnival Committee would love to hear from you. For more information phone Fox Hollies Forum on 706 0652.

Also don't forget **Stockfield Funday** is the following Saturday. Lots more free family fun and games at Stockfield Park Saturday 11th July 09. Local people of all ages are always required to help. How about you?
Contact Jon on: 0800 0234 807

One Hundred Years Old!

Another date for your diary - Acocks Green Police Station celebrates its Centenary this year. There will be celebrations and an Open Day on **Saturday 18th July.**

Old Vineries Bridge Update

British Waterways have been working on the towpath. There has been some repair work and cleaning to the bridge. The bollards will be replaced soon. There will also be a cast iron plaque put in place with the name and date of the bridge.



A Big Thank You to Grassroots Grants

The Neighbourhood Forum is very grateful to Birmingham Community Foundation who have funded publication and distribution of our newsletters. Grassroots funding offers grants to community projects and activities, to help build stronger communities.



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector

If you know a struggling charity or community organisation, or have ideas of projects that would benefit from funding, then check out this great opportunity. www.bhamfoundation.co.uk

Replacement of Water Mains: Yardley Road - Phase 2

As from 25th July for 6 weeks (until first week in September) there will be another closure of the Yardley Road. The work will be completed in phases starting at the Francis Road junction and progressing as far as The Avenue.

Again, detours will be in operation and signposted via Stockfield Road and the Warwick Road. The No. 11 Bus Service will also be redirected along Stockfield Road. We have been assured that vehicle access will be maintained for residents to gain entry to their properties and that footpaths will be accessible.



Are you affected by this essential work? Do you have views on how Phase 1 of the Yardley Road closure was carried out? Local concerns can be voiced at our Public Meetings.