

## Cottesbrooke Walking Group - Wednesdays 9am, Cedars Ave

The established walking group has been doing well during the summer weeks, with new walkers and school children enjoying the exercise and company. The organisers - Birmingham Health Exchange are hoping to build on its success by recruiting new volunteers to be Walk Leaders.

If you are able and willing to volunteer a couple of hours of your time each week, then they'd like to hear from you! They will provide Volunteer Walk Leader training and ongoing help and support. You will also become part of the Health Exchange team and they will support and encourage you to take an interest in health and wellbeing that can be passed on to the walkers. They currently have a space for a volunteer on the Cottesbrooke Walking Group, a 1 hour gentle walk that leaves from Cottesbrooke Junior School every Wednesday at 9am and explores the local area. If you would like to apply for this opportunity, or for walks in other areas of Birmingham, please contact Catherine Fletcher on 07792275127 or Catherine.fletcher@healthexchange.org.uk

health  
exchange

walk 4 life

## Communisave - A Credit Union in Acocks Green

Looking for a great way to save or an easy way to borrow? Want to start saving up for Christmas or for a big holiday? Or do you need a low interest loan from 1% a month? - then Communisave - a South Birmingham's Credit Union, is just up your street. It is a not-for-profit organisation owned and run by members with accessible local collection points. We are glad to see the return of the credit union on

**Tuesdays between 1.30 & 2.30pm at Acocks Green Library  
come along at this time to find out more or join the scheme**

You can also contact them on: 0121 486 2035  
email: admin@communisave.co.uk  
or visit their website: www.communisave.co.uk

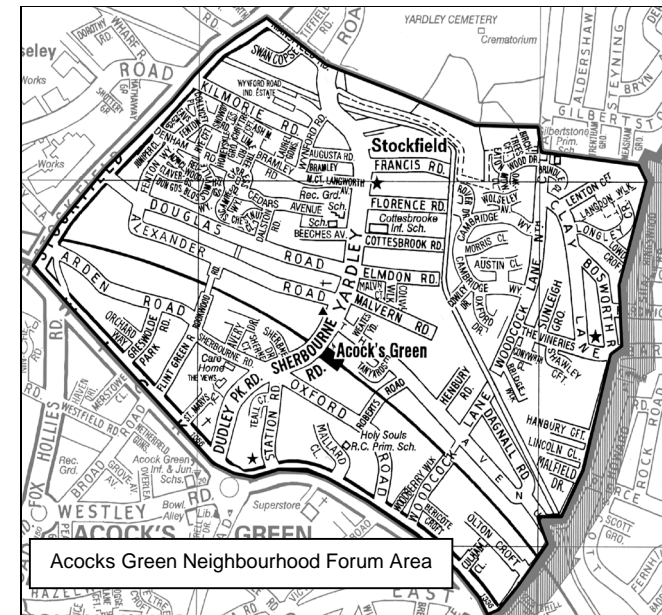
Credit Unions are a great way for everyone to budget. Your savings are also your shares, a constant reminder that you own your financial, community co-operative together with all the other regular savers ensuring money is invested locally with any profits going back to the members by way of a dividend. Just £1.40 to join (renewable annually) with no hidden charges, no penalties for small savers and a fixed interest rate of just 1% per month (12.68% APR) on the reducing balance, regardless of the amount you borrow! Volunteers to help run the scheme are always welcome. Supported by Birmingham City Council.

Check out our website: [www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org](http://www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org)

# Acocks Green Neighbourhood

# FORUM NEWS

September 2011



**Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum** is a community organisation run by local residents. Its aim is to enhance the area that we live in. The Forum holds regular meetings to share and inform the local community. Everyone in the area is welcome to come along to our next Public Meeting:

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Community Hall, Yardley Road (corner of Alexander Rd).**

The style of the meeting this time will be a little less formal. There will be several organisations present that are relevant to our area (see next page). Residents will have the chance to talk to the organisations one to one and chat to other local people whilst having refreshments.

Come along for a cup of tea or coffee and find out what's going on in our area.

**Present at the next Public Meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, who will be around the hall for you to chat to and discuss any queries you have:**

**Jason Bickley** – Highways Steward from Amey, who work in partnership with Birmingham City Council to improve and maintain our roads and pavements.

**John Green**, from the City Council's Environmental & Waste Ward Manager. He has given much support and co-operation with refuse and litter control and is a regular attendee at our public meetings and is always willing to help where possible.

**Suki Bhamra** from Kings Heath & District Neighbourhood Watch. The team was established by Billesley Police Station approximately 3 years ago, to promote public awareness of low-cost security solutions for the external environment, home and personal safety. All products are supported by WM Police and are sold at cost price.

**Melinda Brown** – Town Centre Manager, Acocks Green. Melinda is promoting the village becoming a Business Investment District (BID) – see below for more details.

**Acocks Green Police.** A representative will be present to discuss and note issues or concerns you may have.



### **Acocks Green – A Business Investment District?**

Whilst shopping in the village you may have seen some shops displaying 'We are Saying Yes to Acocks Green BID'. This is a plan for the businesses in the village to invest collectively in improving the trading environment for everyone. Businesses will be asked to vote at the end of September as to whether they support paying a small levy in order to set up the BID. For 70% of these businesses the levy is £500 or less per year. Working together as a business

community, much more can be achieved to help promote the village and shape a focused action plan.

Some areas of Birmingham, such as Kings Heath, have already gained successful BIDs. This year Kings Heath High Street has wonderful floral displays – just one example of how a BID can make a difference by improving the attractiveness of the shopping area. The Forum feels that a BID would be a great boost to the village in these financially constrained times and with growing competition.

### **Amey working with City Council to maintain and improve our highways**

Jason Bickley from Amey will be present at our meeting to discuss and make note of any questions or concerns you may have about our roads and pavements. They have sent us an overview of their planned role working in conjunction with the council:

The Birmingham Highways Maintenance and Management Service is delivered by Amey in partnership with Birmingham City Council. This important partnership will lead to an improvement in the city's highway network. Birmingham's road network is critical to not only the city but also the West Midlands region. By entering into partnership we have taken an important step in improving the city's highway infrastructure for the benefit of all those who live, work and travel in the city.

The partnership is delivering a 25 year programme. The first five years (2010 – 2015) will see the roads brought up to an improved standard and the following 20 years (2015 – 2035) will see that improved standard maintained. The partnership and the investment it has attracted means that for the first time, highways work in Birmingham is being planned further ahead than on an annual basis. This means that we can invest money in improving the highways leading to a more efficient and well-maintained network.

For the very first time, every road in the city has been visually inspected to understand its condition and develop a prioritised programme of work to improve it. This work is being done on a 'worst first' basis – ie the roads are prioritised according to those that are most in need of repair. You can view the programme of works online – [www.birmingham.gov.uk/highways-works-programme](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/highways-works-programme).



### **They Work For You – Find out what's going on in Parliament**

Ever wondered what your MP talks about in Parliament? Here is your opportunity – 'They Work For You' lets you find out what your MP is doing in your name, read debates, written answers, see what's coming up in Parliament, and sign up for email alerts when there's past or future activity on someone or something you're interested in. Just go to: **[www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)** and see for yourself how easy it is to be more in touch with the work of our representatives in Parliament.