

Cottesbrooke Walking Group - Wednesdays 9am, Cedars Avenue

health
exchange

Health Exchange delivers a number of regular health walks in various areas of Birmingham. All of these walks are designed to be accessible to all, regardless of age or ability and are led by trained walk leaders and supported by Health Exchange.

Every Wednesday morning at 9am the Cottesbrooke Walking Group leaves from Cottesbrooke Junior School on Cedars Avenue in Acocks Green for their local health walk. The group has built up a variety of routes around the local area, which includes plenty of quiet, off road and green areas.

Everyone is welcome to come along to join in, there is no need to book a place, and it is completely free. They are also looking for volunteers to help to lead this walk, for which Health Exchange can provide the necessary training and support. More information is available on their website www.healthexchange.org.uk or you can contact 0800 1583535 or email info@healthexchange.org.uk.



A Smart Route for Acocks Green?

Proposals for funding a new 'Smart Route' road layout through Acocks Green looks likely to get the go-ahead this July.

The new scheme, which is being championed by Acocks Green Focus Group, would aim to help the movement of buses through the centre of the village and bring more parking spaces, more smoothly moving traffic, trees, shrubs, plants and benches making a more pleasant environment.

The 'Smart Route' scheme, which was first discussed with traders and residents in 2009, would aim to bring some radical changes to the present street layout especially the complicated arrangement of roads, turnings and pavements around Sainsburys. Under the new proposals the dual carriageway would become a single carriageway to help reduce speeding cars (Research has shown that slowing down traffic flow in busy centres can help to even out traffic flow, whilst making little difference in overall arrival times).

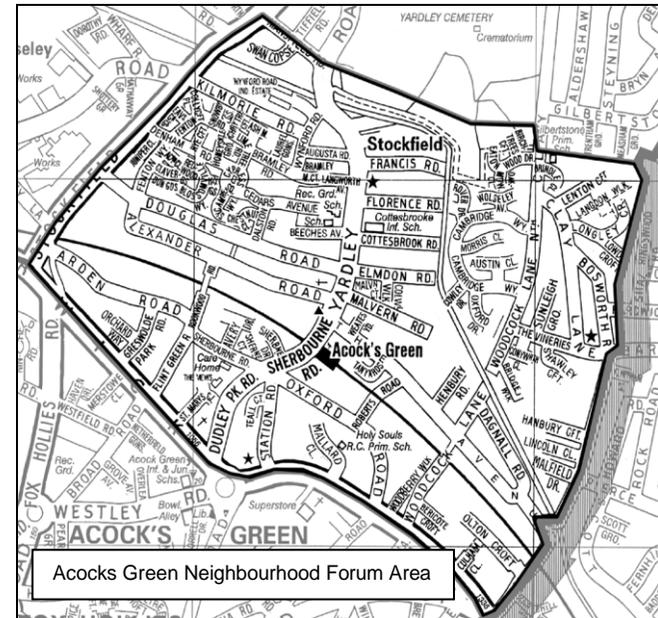
The scheme would also remove some railings and barriers making it easier for pedestrians to move around (again in towns where railings have been removed it has brought reductions in accident rates because railings have been shown to encourage speeding).

If the bid for funding does win, then work is set to be completed by 2014. However, there will be more consultation with residents and traders on the details of the new design before any work is started.

Watch out for more information. Meanwhile a report on the most recent consultation on this scheme in 2010 can be seen at: <http://bit.ly/SmartRouteAG>

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

April 2012



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 24th April, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Community Hall, Yardley Road (corner of Alexander Rd).

The meeting will have an informal layout to give more opportunity for discussion. There will be several organisations on hand that are relevant to issues in our area (see next page). Residents will have the chance to talk to the organisations one to one and chat with other local people whilst having refreshments.

Why not come along for a cup of tea or coffee and find out what's going on in our area?

Check out our website: www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org

Present at our next Public Meeting on Tuesday 24th April will be:

Acocks Green Police

The local police will be on hand to discuss any updates and note any issues or concerns you may have.

Hannah Worth from The Chamberlain Forum

The Chamberlain Forum is a community forum that grew into a think-and-do tank. They help public services and communities work together for better places to live. The Forum is served by Chamberlain Forum Ltd. - a non-profit company which provides practical support to community and voluntary groups - for example they help groups develop strategic plans, policies, communications and raise resources

There will be an opportunity to talk directly to these people as well as other local representatives and to chat to local residents over a cuppa.

Princes Trust in Acocks Green

The Police were recently joined by Birmingham City footballers **Curtis Davies** and **David Murphy** and the Princes Trust to celebrate the achievements of local young people. The players attended an awards event at Acocks Green Baptist Church at the end of March, to honour the successes of young people on a course run by the Prince's Trust youth charity. The young people who had benefited from the programme spoke about their key achievements and personal stories.

The Prince's Trust Team programme is a 12 week course for 16 to 25 year-olds, which offers work experience, practical skills, and community projects and includes a week-long residential visit. The course helps young people to discover their hidden talents and develop CV and interview skills.

During the 12 weeks the young people honoured at the event had taken on many local projects including renovation of Fox Hollies Forum and activities that supported senior citizen groups and young children. Four of the young people on the course have already secured work or education.



Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust Team programme in Birmingham is supported by West Midlands Police and Solihull College. The programme, based at Acocks Green Police Station, is led by PC Stuart Toogood and PCSO Fae Palmer.

Anyone who is interested in joining the next team, starting on the 21st of May, should contact Stuart or Fae on 07767 749 684

A recent success of the Neighbourhood Forum

Rubbish has now been removed from a driveway on the Yardley Road between the empty garage and Smithy's cafe as well as other rubbish dumped on Malvern Rd. The Forum brought this to the attention of Virginia Yates, our Ward Officer, and she passed it on to Fleet and Waste Management. If you have a similar local concern you would like us to take up, come along to the meeting and let us know.

To the Polls

Who are you going to vote for in the local council elections on 3rd May? How well would our local candidates be able to look after Acocks Green? AG Focus Group are putting questions to four of our candidates and will be publishing the responses on their website: www.acocksgreenfocusgroup.org.uk

This year, for the first time, the citizens of Birmingham are also being asked to vote whether we would like an **Elected Mayor** for our city, like they have in other cities such as London and Leicester. The current ceremonial role of Lord Mayor will continue, playing a part in civic functions, but a new Elected Mayor would be different and would have the individual power to make decisions shaping Birmingham.

Do you think this would be good for Birmingham? The Elected Mayor would replace the Leader of the Council who is currently elected by the councillors. If we chose to have an Elected Mayor, there will be another public vote for the people to select the candidate that they would like to have these new powers. The city council have published a leaflet explaining the new role and have a helpline: 0121 303 2731.



The Westley Vale Millennium Green Trust have been awarded over 200 free trees by the Woodland Trust some of which were planted at the clear up day on 31st March. They have also been lucky enough to get a special oak sapling from one of the **Royal Household Estates**.

This is to mark the Queen's Jubilee year and the official planting of this special sapling will take place later on in the year. The Westley Vale Millennium Green will then be recognised on the Woodland Trust website as being one of the locations of the UK Jubilee Woods sites.

Swansong Concerts - Change of Venue

The delightful series of Swansong Concerts, usually at AG Library will this time take place at St Marys Church on Wed 13th June at 7.30pm because of anticipated building work at the library. **The Giocoso Quartet** are a group of four saxes and vocals, free entry with a collection at the end of concert. Tickets are available from the Library.