

AG Neighbourhood Office - new location

Acocks Green Neighbourhood Office has now relocated to within Acocks Green Library. They operate on an appointment-only basis and you can make an appointment by phoning 0121 303 0956. You can also make an appointment from special phone booths within the library.

They offer advice on Birmingham City Council services such as:

Money worries
Benefit claims
Debt problems
Housing issues

Getting a job
Council tax
Education and training
Waste recycling

Acocks Green Library has always been a hub of activity and is now even more lively with the addition of the Neighbourhood Office. The library community room is also booked every day. Here is just a taste of the regular events: -

- Saturdays there is drop-in Stop Smoking advice 11am to 1pm. No appointment necessary.
- A lively and welcoming reading club meets in the library monthly on a Friday.
- Coffee mornings for retired people every Tuesday and Thursday 10-12am
- There is also a Credit Union savings/loan scheme, a Stay & Play for toddlers and lots more, call in to find out more or phone the library on 464 1738



AG Town Centre Manager wants to hear your views

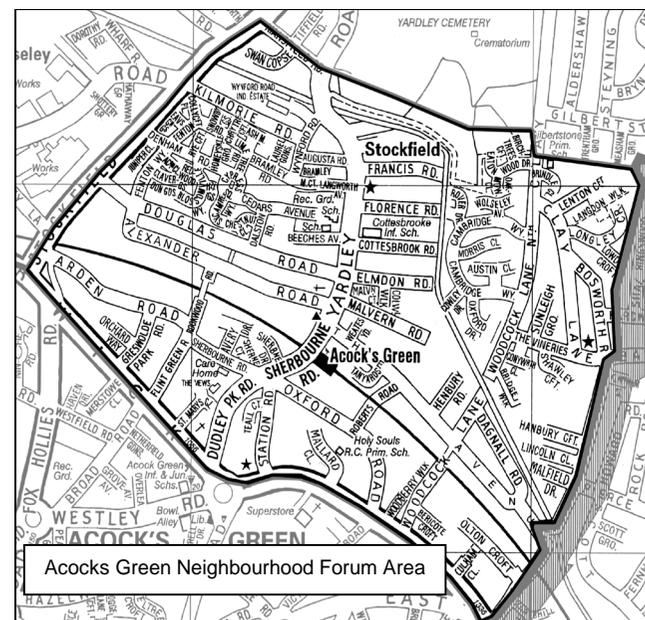
Before & after our public meeting on 10th February **Melinda Brown**, AG's Town Centre Manager, will be looking for local people's views on our village such as what you think about the centre; your likes/dislikes; and ideas to make the village a better place to spend time.

Find out more about what's going on in your local community. Come along to the next **Public Meeting Thursday 10th February 7.30pm**. Check out our website: -

www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org

Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

February 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 Pubic Meeting:

Thursday 10th February, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Community Hall, Yardley Road (corner of Alexander Rd). There will be a guest speaker from Birmingham City Council's planning strategy, presenting a talk about The Core Strategy, which is the City of Birmingham's overall development plan for next 25 years. You will have the opportunity to find out how the strategy might impact and influence Acocks Green as well as Birmingham as a whole.

walk 4 life

Cottesbrooke Walking Group meets every Wednesday at 9am for a healthy walk for up to 1 hour. Everyone is welcome (including pushchairs) meet at the Cedars Avenue school entrance (term time only).

The Health Exchange now supports this walking group. They promote and support walks all over Birmingham and understand how walking groups can improve people's well-being by increasing activity, getting more involved in the local community and making new friends. So why not come along and see how you can benefit from taking part in the walking group.

**health
exchange**

Ten Years of Westley Vale

The Westley Vale Millennium Green celebrated its first decade on 8th January 2011. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Len Gregory, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Gillian Gregory, officiated at the event and they planted a new tree on the site to mark the occasion.

On an amazingly sunny January Saturday afternoon the crowd who attended were treated to a host of activities including a blessing of the site by our local Pagan Society; an age-old wassailing ceremony to encourage the trees on site to flourish; and a candlelit procession around the site.



The Trustees would like to thank The Great Raymondo for entertaining the crowd with his juggling skills and balloon artistry, our local 232 scout group for supplying the refreshment stall and of course our local constabulary for their presence on site and continued support. Jeffries Hardware store also contributed the fireworks that provided a very fitting end to the event.

If anyone is interested in helping the Trustees maintain the site on their quarterly clean-up days please ring 0781 505 1042.

BANF Community Print Shop

This leaflet is brought to you with the help and expertise of our printers - BANF Community Print. They offer a low cost printing service operating from a shop in Nechells. They support voluntary and community groups, for colour as well as black & white newsletters, leaflets, brochures etc. Also they can offer a DIY service to keep costs down, supervised by an experienced printer. For more info phone 0121 359 4224 or email : print@banf.org.uk



Acocks Green Focus Group

Acocks Green Focus Group is a local campaign group concerned with the physical appearance of Acocks Green. They campaign for re-design where they think it is needed (e.g. road layout in the centre of Acocks Green) whilst also trying to help keep attractive local buildings, trees and green spaces.

Current issues on their agenda include:

- The proposed Smart Route on the Warwick Road, that runs through Acocks Green centre. It is likely that the Warwick Road will become single carriageway with more space for parking, pedestrians and, hopefully, trees and plants. The Focus Group will be continuing to support this new look for the Warwick Road as the first stage of the Smart Route scheme.
- Making sure that Acocks Green has input into the new Birmingham 2026 Core Strategy Document. This involves an overall plan for every suburb in Birmingham. Find out more at the Public Meeting or submit your views via the Focus Group's website.
- Local buildings: It is likely that a plan will be submitted to the City Council Planning involving the demolition of the 1920's Arts & Crafts style, Grade-A locally listed, Glynn Edwards Hall on the corner of Yardley and Alexander Road, in order to replace it with a modern building with a large area of plate glass. The Focus Group have serious concerns about the effect this will have on the appearance of the area.

If you would like to know more about these issues and the Focus Group you can check out: www.acocksgreenfocusgroup.org.uk