

PCSOs - Acocks Green's Community Support Officers

As our Public Services continue to feel the bite of funding cutbacks, our local PCSOs have been in danger of redundancy. **PCSO Kevin Large** and **PCSO Amanda Conlon** are familiar and friendly faces around Acocks Green. With their experience and local knowledge, they offer reassurance within the community. Due to funding changes in light of the serious security risks faced across the UK, their positions are safe for the time being. The Neighbourhood Forum hopes that this important part of Neighbourhood Policing continues well into the future.

Adopt a Stretch of Canal – Come along and Join In!

The aim of the Adopt Group is to keep our local waterway tidy and accessible with the backing and support of the Canals and Rivers Trust. The next working session is **Sunday 7th February**. Meet at 10am on Vineries Bridge (Woodcock Lane). All equipment and gloves are supplied. There will be tidying, sowing and other improvement work to do. Let us know if you would like to be on the mailing list - even if you can only spare an hour. Or you can just turn up on the day.



**Canal &
River Trust**

Keeping people, nature & history connected

New Canal Towpaths

Thanks to Birmingham Cycle Revolution funding, the towpaths on the Grand Union Canal have been resurfaced and widened, all the way up to the border of Birmingham (Woodcock Lane Bridge). This makes the surface in our area so much better for walking and cycling. The aim to encourage more use of the towpath as a sustainable transport option. You can find out more about Birmingham Cycle Revolution at the website below and sign up for their update emails:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/birminghamcyclerevolution

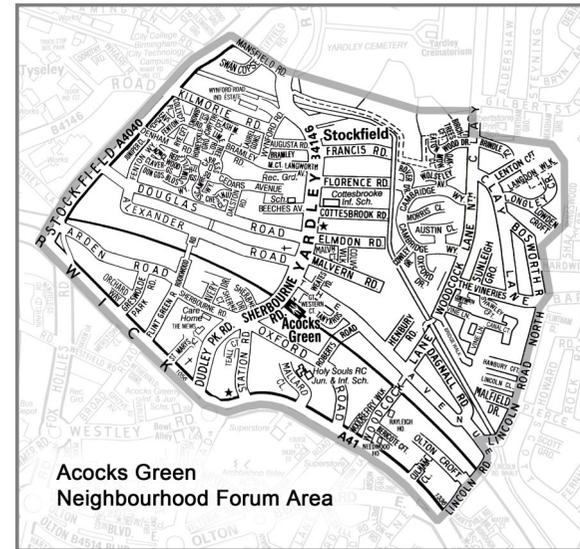


Acocks Green Neighbourhood

FORUM NEWS

January 2016

Happy New Year from Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum.



We are a long-established community group covering around 4,000 households within Acocks Green. We work with the council and other groups to improve our area and support other organisations for the good of Acocks Green.

We also aim to inform local people about what is happening in the area and encourage involvement in life within our community.

We hold regular Public Meetings and warmly welcome local people to come along and find out more about local issues and what is going on in our neighbourhood.

The next public meeting is on **Tuesday 26th January at 7.30pm** at the Glynn Edwards Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Road (corner of Alexander Road). There will be refreshments, as well as an opportunity to raise concerns and listen to informative guest speakers including Cynthia Morrison, Acocks Green Ward Place Manager.

There will also be information and discussions on the proposed Ward Boundary Changes that will affect many of our residents.



Supported by



Guest Speaker - Cynthia Morrison Acocks Green Ward Place Manager. Cynthia works for Birmingham City Council and she will be joining us at the next public meeting to outline her role in the Acocks Green Ward. She works to fulfil the Ward Plan and the Cleaner, Greener Safer Neighbourhoods Agenda. Come along and find out more.

There will be other representatives at the meeting including the local councillors and police. A discussion & presentation on the proposed **Boundary Changes** to our area will also take place.

Proposed Boundary Changes

The boundaries and names of Birmingham's wards could be changing and you have the chance to have your say. A public consultation is running until 8th Feb 2016 so residents can comment.

The draft recommendations propose that the council should have 101 city councillors in future, 19 fewer than today. These councillors would represent smaller areas with 77 wards in all, instead of the current 40. 53 wards would have a single council member and 24 wards would have two. The idea behind this new plan is better electoral equality for city voters with each city councillor representing a similar number of people so that everyone's vote in council elections would be worth roughly the same, wherever you live.

However there is concern that people may lose their sense of identity and belonging to a historical area. For example residents who are now in **Acocks Green Ward**, under the new proposal may find themselves in **Yardley West Ward**. The boundary line previously followed the canal, however the new proposal uses the railway instead. People living on roads off Yardley Road, north of the railway line could find themselves in the new Ward of Yardley West instead of Acocks Green. This includes The Avenue, Alexander Road, Douglas Road and Malvern Road to mention just a few. Check out your road on the map and if you are concerned about the changes now is the time to let the Boundary Commission know. Google '*Birmingham Ward Boundary Changes*' or come along to the Public Meeting to find out more.



Bloomin' Good Night Out!
Saturday 27th February 7.30pm Westley Hotel.
Tickets £10 in advance

After achieving a Gold Award for the first time last summer, the hard working Acocks Green Village in Bloom Team have decided to organise a fund raising celebration night that welcomes everyone to come along and have a good time.

There will be **Live Music** from local band Canoe, playing popular tunes including rock n roll, beat folk and current hits. There will be a **Prize Raffle** and a fun **Quiz**, with some locally-themed rounds, as well as a light **Buffet**. Come and be part of this great community event.

All proceeds will go to the ongoing Village in Bloom project. Tickets in advance only available from **Jeffries Hardware** and **Swan Trio** as well as directly from bloom organiser Fran Lee: 0121 706 0076 email: fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk. If you would like to lend a hand with the Bloom Project by gardening or in any other way then contact Fran.

WHATS ON ::: WHATS ON ::: WHATS ON ::: WHATS ON ::: WHATS ON

"Oh Yes it Is! " A Pantomime in Acocks Green

No need for expensive trips to Birmingham's Theatres, we have our very own Pantomime in Acocks Green. Stage 27 presents the classic tale of **Aladdin** at the Methodist Church Hall, Shirley Road. 29th & 30th January. Tickets £6 or £19 Family ticket. All the info at www.stage27.co.uk. or telephone : 0751 212 6954

Are you feeling Creative? **Creative Writing Group** - a writers group starting at Acocks Green Library on **Saturday 13th February** 10am to 12 and will be held on the second Saturday of each month thereafter.

Also at the library. **Computer Club for Beginners** 9.30-10.30
Thursdays (Term Time) Ask staff for details.

Check out the What's On Page at our website for lots more up to date information: www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org

'You either have to be part of the solution or you're going to be part of the problem' - Eldridge Cleaver

