

At the next Public Meeting we welcome a short presentation from **Focus Birmingham** who are a community care based service offering multi-disciplinary rehabilitation to blind and visually impaired people in Birmingham. Here is their summary of the work they do:



The services and support Focus offer have been provided from the site in Harborne, South West Birmingham since the mid 1800's when it was formerly known as the Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind (BRIB).

Our vision and values is to ensure that no one living in Birmingham and the surrounding areas faces sight loss alone. We want to be their first point of contact and offer professional information, vital support, rehabilitation advice, guidance and the help they need. The main services provided are:

**Low vision Services** Our low vision centre offers a comprehensive range of services enabling people to use their vision to the greatest potential.

**Community Services** The Focus Bham community services team offers a vital source of support, information and advice to people who are experiencing sensory loss, that is to say sight loss, possibly combined with hearing loss. Services include home assessments, benefits advice and more.

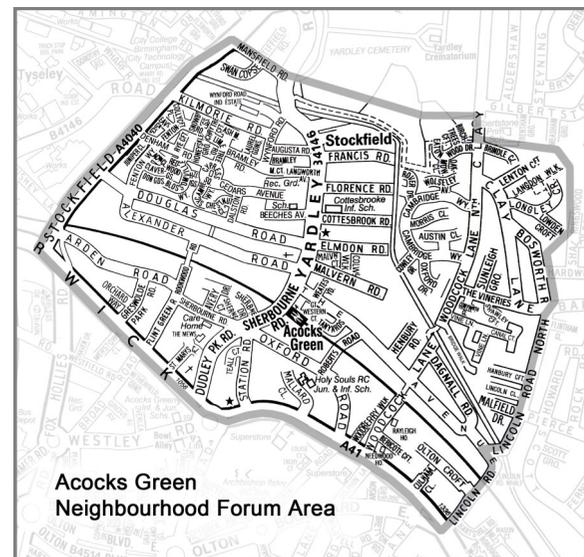
**Day Services** Our day services teams work with adults (19+yrs), with no upper age limit, to deliver stimulating programmes of activities which are tailored to the needs of the individual. We specialise in working with people with visual impairment and other complex needs and providing appropriate support so that each person can achieve their full potential.

**Residential Service/Supported Living Scheme** Focus Bham currently delivers residential care and support services in Erdington (Beech House). The service provides 24-hour care and support to adults who have a visual impairment, learning and physical disabilities and other associated complex needs. Focus Birmingham & partners Bromford Housing also have a supported housing development called Millward Place, Kings Norton. The aim of the 'My Place' model is to raise the aspirations of people with long term health or support needs to help them live independently, reduce dependency and harness opportunities.

**The charity will be on hand to answer any questions at our meeting**

# Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

May 2016



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 17th May 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. At this meeting we have a presentation from the charity **Focus** who support visually impaired people in Birmingham. More details on back page.



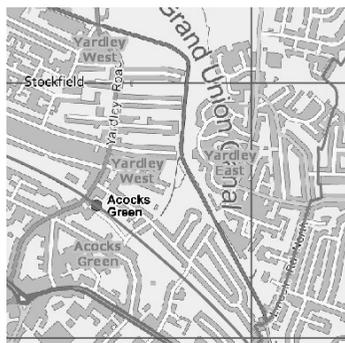
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## Boundary Changes

You may remember in our last newsletter and at the meeting, the hot topic was the controversial Ward Boundary changes. Lots of people and the Neighbourhood Forum objected to the changes of names and areas, and there were concerns over loss of identity of local communities.



It seems there has been some consideration of the people's views. The Boundary Commission are publishing a new map of local government for the whole of Birmingham on 10 May, after the council elections. Local people will be able to give their views on the proposals until 20 June 2016. The Boundary Commission said:

*"We are grateful to the people of Birmingham who provided us with an outstanding quantity and quality of feedback on our proposals a couple of months ago. We have considered every submission and have weighed them against the rules we must follow when we draw up new boundaries. In several parts of the city we propose to change the recommendations in response to local evidence about community ties".*

Well done to everyone who bothered to express their views. Sometimes the people are listened to!

## Tai Chi at Westley Vale

If you haven't already heard - Acocks Green now has free outdoor Tai Chi classes every Thursday at 10am in Westley Vale

Millennium Green which started in April. You can just turn up in comfortable clothes for an hour's gentle exercise, led by an inspiring teacher - Perry. People have been saying how much they've been enjoying it. Whatever your level of fitness (or unfitness), you can benefit

from this ancient form of exercise in the lovely surroundings of our Millennium Green.



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

**Don't forget our Public Meeting on Tuesday 17th May 7.30pm. Church Hall.**

## Smart Route - Final Details & Village in Bloom

In the last month we have seen the final part of the smart route completed with the arrival of large planters containing attractive trees and shrubs along Warwick Road. Also later in the year a unique sculpture in the shape of a tree, bringing together the history of the village and its development, will be installed on the main island. It also makes reference to Village in Bloom's Gold Award. This year the team are hoping to build on their success. They have been working all around the village each week including working at St Mary's Church to develop their grounds with new flowerbeds, helping to brighten up the Warwick Road route into the Green.



**The Nasturtium Project** - The Bloom Team have also been working with **Stockfield Community Association** by delivering free nasturtium seeds to Stockfield residents to encourage more people to think about gardening and perhaps even enter their annual Garden Competition. Nasturtium seeds are easy to grow, edible and great for bees - It is still not too late to sow them. They are hoping to see the Stockfield area ablaze with the glow of orange and reds in the summer!

\*\*\* WHAT'S ON \*\*\* WHAT'S ON \*\*\* WHAT'S ON \*\*\* WHAT'S ON \*\*\*

**Sat 21st May 12 - 4pm** Oaklands Recreation Ground 'Our Oaklands' Community Celebration, Arts activities, stalls and more, everyone welcome .

**Tues 24th May 2pm** Acocks Green Library: 'Things We Didn't Know about Shakespeare'. An enlightening talk from the British Library's Julian Harrison who is curating the Shakespeare Exhibition at the Library of Birmingham on the 400th Anniversary of the Bard's death. Donations at end.

**Wed 25th May 7.30pm** St Marys Church Swansong presents: The Delta Quartet with Kelly Tye, performing a selection of music for all tastes arranged for Clarinet together with songs from the shows. Donations at the end (suggested £10). Everyone Welcome!

**Saturday 11th June 10am - 4pm** Summer Festival at St Mary's Church, displays, stalls and entertainment in this 150th Anniversary Year.

**Saturday 2nd July** Acocks Green Carnival, Recreation Ground, Westley Road. The Community Get Together of the year. You can contact the Carnival Committee at Fox Hollies Forum\* Greenwood Avenue, telephone **0121 706 0652** or email : [acocksgreencarnival@yahoo.com](mailto:acocksgreencarnival@yahoo.com)

**Saturday 9th July** 11am - 4pm Stockfield Funday, Stockfield Park. Family funday, lots of free activities for local residents, organised by Stockfield Community Association.

*\*Fox Hollies Forum also have lots of daytime activities for older people including a lunch club, gardening & dancing. For more information drop in or give them a ring.*