

## Smart Route

We have been told that work will be starting on the Smart Route in October/November. The changes include the dual carriageway at the top of the village being made into a single carriageway with wider pavements, better access to car parks and a boulevard of trees. The contractors are hoping to keep all disruption to a minimum and the work should be completed by the early summer.

## Post Box repaints!

Readers may have noticed our local post boxes have recently been brightened up with a new coat of Pillar Box Red. Thanks to combined pressure on Royal Mail from Acocks Green Focus Group and the Neighbourhood Forum ten boxes in the area have been rejuvenated. Some of these boxes are well over a hundred years old. By looking at the ciphers on the front (Royal initials of the reigning monarch), you can find out approximately how old the post box is. So have a closer look next time you post a letter!

There is one exception - the mysterious box in Alexander Road is missing the cipher. This could mean it pre-dates the ciphers which were introduced in the 1870s.

## What's On

**Sunday 26th October** - 10am til 1pm Westley Vale Millennium Green Clean Up. Come along and help your local community. Rubbish bags supplied. Free refreshments to all volunteers.

**Wednesday 29th October** - 7pm Acocks Green Baptist Church Ward Committee Meeting. Public Meeting, everyone welcome. Chance to meet your Councillors and hear what is happening in our ward. Representatives from the Post Office will be attending to discuss the proposed changes to the main Post Office in the village.

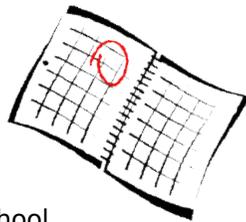
**Tuesday 18th November** - 7.30pm St Marys Church, Acocks Green *Swansong presents : The Night Watch*. A light-hearted concert of early music from around the time of Shakespeare. Everyone welcome, there will be a collection at the end of the evening.

**Saturday 22nd November** - Acocks Green Village Christmas Lights Switch On

**Friday 5th December** - 5.30-7.30pm Stockfield Christmas Carols in Cypress Square

**Wednesday 17th December** - 7pm Oaklands Primary School Ward Committee Meeting. Public Meeting, everyone welcome. Chance to meet your Councillors and hear what is happening in the ward.

[www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org](http://www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum.org)



# Acocks Green Neighbourhood FORUM NEWS

October 2014



The next Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum Public Meeting will be on **Tuesday 21st October, 7.30pm** at the Glynn Edwards Baptist Church Hall, Yardley Road (on the corner of Alexander Road). Everyone is welcome to come along, discuss local issues and share their views.

There will be a presentation from **West Midlands Police Firearms Division** to talk about the work of their highly-trained officers. This should prove an interesting opportunity to learn about a section of the police force that few of us know about.

Other local representatives will be attending and there is the opportunity to raise your concerns and talk to like-minded locals. Refreshments are available. Please come along and help make Acocks Green better for everyone.



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## Wheelie Bins arriving in Acocks Green

The new wheelie bins are arriving this month in Acocks Green. Each household (apart from blocks of flats and shared residencies) will be receiving two wheelie bins, one for all the recycling and the other for household rubbish. It is important that residents don't start using the bins until the start date of the collections, which will be in November.

All the information about the start dates and collection days - which will probably be a different day to your current collections - will be attached to your new bins. The important thing to do is put your house number on the bin and make it your own. The council have told us that wheelie bins may take time to get used to, but generally people do prefer them in the long run. They improve recycling and reduce litter on our streets.

## Some Local Terminology and Representatives explained:

**BCC** - Birmingham City Council

**BID** - Business Improvement District. This is a defined area within which businesses pay an additional tax or levy in order to fund local projects to help improve the area and promote the businesses. Each BID has a Manager, Acocks Green Village BID Manager is Sandy Gianni.

**AGVP** - Acocks Green Village Partnership, an umbrella organisation that brings together different organisations to discuss and share matters concerning Acocks Green.

**Acocks Green Focus Group** - An active local campaign group that campaigns for the fixed physical environment of Acocks Green, both to conserve what is good and to improve what is not so good. Their concerns include buildings, trees, street layout, street furniture and green open spaces.

**Constituency** - Birmingham is divided into ten constituencies for representation in parliament. Each constituency has one MP who we vote for at the General Election. Our constituency is Yardley and our current MP is John Hemming (Lib Dem).

**Ward** - Birmingham is divided into 40 electoral wards which are used to elect local councillors. Each ward has 3 councillors who represent the area to the City Council. Our ward is Acocks Green.

**Councillors** - A Councillor's role is to represent their constituents in matters of local concern, they are voted for by the public at the council elections. Councillors may give confidential advice and support to resolve matters, especially where BCC is responsible for the delivery of a service. Our Councillors are: Roger Harmer, John O'Shea and Stewart Stacey.

## Village in Bloom 2014 - Silver Gilt Award

The Bloom team were delighted to receive a **Silver Gilt Award** for the work they have put into the village over the last year. This includes new planting on the corner of Woodcock Lane, repainting signs and cable boxes, major improvements to the War Memorial and the library, and involvement from the local schools.

The team want to build on their success and are always looking for more support from businesses and residents. You can be part of this worthwhile project. Find us in the village on Sunday mornings or contact Bloom Co-ordinator Fran Lee : [fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fran.lee47@yahoo.co.uk)



## Acocks Green Post Office - Consultation on the Planned Move

There is currently a consultation, running until 5th November, on the proposed move of Acocks Green Post Office on Warwick Road to a location inside a new shop where 'Spot On' currently is on the opposite side. The Neighbourhood Forum, Acocks Green Focus Group and the local Councillors all have concerns about this change. A petition has been drafted for people who share these concerns to sign. Please come along to the Public Meeting on 21st to find out more.

There will also be **Public Consultation** about the move at Acocks Green Library on **Wednesday 22 October, 4 - 7.30 pm**

The information about the change is also displayed in the window of the Post Office. Our reasons for objecting to this move are as follows:

- Fewer serving hatches
- A significantly narrower pavement and, unlike the current location, no canopy above the pavement for when customers have to queue outside.
- Viability of the new host company and its store, and therefore the long term security of the branch.



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