

Newsletter for residents of Monkspath - Blythe Ward

# OPENING ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY GARDEN

■ The Armed Forces Community Garden was officially opened on Friday 20th May by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands. Also in attendance was the Mayor of Solihull and many members from the military, both serving and veterans.

The event was extremely emotional, with veterans helping 'cut the ribbon', pupils from Monkspath School sang WW1 & WW2 songs + 'Sing' by Gary Barlow and the Chandos Choir performed 'The Mansions of the Lord' from the film 'We were Soldiers'.

**Ken said;** "I know residents from Monkspath are proud of their garden and will treasure it for many years to come. I am especially pleased that the Royal British Legion chose our park for this wonderful garden for us all to share".

The garden has also won the judges award by the Institute of Civil Engineers with Hillfield Park retaining its prestigious Green Flag Award this year.

**Ken commented;** "It just goes to show that organisations outside of Solihull also appreciate and recognise what a wonderful space both the garden and the park truly are."



## QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

■ Solihull is proud to be a destination for several events being held for the Commonwealth Games this year. We have the privilege of hosting the Queen's Baton Relay for a whole day, on Tuesday 26th July ahead of the Games.

The baton route comes very close to Monkspath taking in Blythe Valley Park, Cheswick Green and Dickens Heath before moving on to Shirley and then the grand finale in Solihull Town Centre.

The plan for the route is shown, with the precise details of the day to be published closer to the event.

### QUEEN'S BATON RELAY

26 JULY 2022



## AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS - STRATFORD ROAD

Cllr Ken Hawkins, cabinet member for environment and infrastructure, supported the recommendation by officers to expand the average speed cameras (ASC) to include the A34 Stratford Road between the M42 motorway junction and Marshall Lake Road at a recent decision session.

This is welcome news which mean the old, defunct Gatsco cameras will be replaced by the more effective cameras that measure the average speed of vehicles.

This will have the benefit of reducing speed along this stretch of the Stratford Road, thus helping to make the road safer. In addition, it will address the incredible nuisance we have experienced from 'boy racers' and gatherings of people intent on using our roads for anti-social means.

*Ken said; "I am pleased to now push forward with average speed cameras for this stretch of the Stratford Road. There has been a slight delay due to procurement issues but this has now been resolved with installation due June/July. The new cameras will make the highway safer and tackle the anti-social behaviour of the car cruisers and boy racers."*



*Cllr Jim Butler and Cllr Ken Hawkins are pleased action is being taken to make this road safer.*

Work with West Midlands Police continues, which could potentially see the expansion of the use of average speed cameras on other roads.

**PLANS FOR MSA REJECTED:** Residents will be delighted to learn that after a hard fought campaign the proposals for a Motorway Service Area (MSA) on land off Gate Lane near Junction 4 of the M42 **HAVE BEEN REJECTED**.

The Planning Inspectorate did not agree with us on the highway impact but thankfully they fully supported the negative impact due to environmental concerns which means the site is totally inappropriate for an MSA as proposed.

### YOUR CONSERVATIVE ACTION TEAM FOR BLYTHE



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Pictured: Ken, James and Richard

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