

Online Chair's report 4th November 2020

In 2020 we experienced a global Coronavirus pandemic, which meant we had to avoid all but essential trips and meetings for most of the year. This obviously influenced the work the Society was able to do and the events we could run.

The purpose of the AGM is to give a rundown of what the Hampton-In-Arden Society has done over the past year and how we have spent your subscriptions. Due to the pandemic, we have only been able to hold one of our planned events and although unable to meet in person, the Committee has been regularly communicating and holding meetings via email.

Conservation Group:

The Conservation Group started meeting again in September, but the turnout is now down to 6. The pandemic has really brought to attention the importance of open spaces and the hard work involved in maintaining them. The Conservation Group are volunteers who provide an essential service for the village so any help and support would be much appreciated.

Programme of events:

- The only event we held this year was the historical village film show and supper. The film was recently discovered and shows life in the village in 1952. I was unable to attend (having just come back from a Coronavirus hotspot), but I have heard wonderful comments about the night and believe every one enjoyed themselves.

Planning:

The Society continues to scrutinise all planning applications which affect the parish and its environs and where considered necessary a formal response, representing the views of our members, is sent to Solihull Council. Applications for development within the Conservation Area and in the Green Belt receive particular attention. Applications for any work to trees which are subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) or within the Conservation Area are carefully considered and often subject to expert advice.

Armac submitted a planning application to renew its materials recycling license for a further 10 years. The Society worked hard to support residents' opposition to this and although the licence was approved it was subject to conditions addressing some of the concerns of the residents. The Society will continue to monitor this.

The Society are very concerned about the loss of mature broad leaf trees and hedgerows in the village. HS2 enabling works are destroying these within the village and its environs. The Society have made a list of the boundary oaks and other mature trees along Old Station Road and are liaising with the Parish Council and SMBC to get protection for these to preserve the rural aspect and to help counter pollution.

Airport:

The Society has representation on the Airport Consultative Committee, virtually this year, which enables the concerns of residents on matters relating to Birmingham Airport such as departure routes, aircraft noise etc., to be made known at a high level.

HS2:

The committee continued to represent the village at the HS2 Implementation meetings, the next one will be held online on December 17th. Construction work close to Hampton is concentrated around the A452, A45 and M42 around the future interchange station and test piling and surveys continue to be carried out off Diddington Lane and Meriden Road. There are many informative videos and webinars on HS2's youtube channel, it's definitely worth taking a look.

Traffic:

Brilliant news that the Parish Council have successfully applied to the HS2 Road Safety fund for a number of road crossings and speed bumps to be put in on the High Street and Meriden Road. We are now waiting now for the funds to be released.

History Group:

The History Group has continued to meet in a socially distanced manner. They continue to archive village photographs and digitally copy them so there will be a lasting record. Work also continues on a new book on Hampton Doctors. Hopefully, all events arranged for this year can be moved to next year.

Other items:

The suggested minimum donation from households for the Society remains £2.

The Chair thanks members of the Executive Committee for their continued hard work and commitment to maintaining the character of the village and its surroundings.