

RAVENSHEAD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Corona Virus – Covid 19 – Vaccinations

The Covid 19 vaccination programme continues apace and the 'Over 45's' are now being invited to book their appointments for their first dose. I would urge all those eligible in this age bracket and those who may have, for whatever reason, missed their original opportunity for a jab in an older age bracket, to book an appointment. The fact that the UK now has the lowest number of new reported cases and covid related deaths in Europe is not by chance, it is because of the effectiveness of the UK rollout of the vaccine. As I write today, the number of recorded deaths within 28 x days of being diagnosed with covid stands at four compared with figures in the high eight and nine hundreds only a few months ago. The figures speak for themselves.

Ravenshead Leisure Centre – Re-Opening

Re-opening of our facilities continues apace, in line with the Government road map guiding the lifting of restrictions and we now have our staff back on site and our facilities, both internal and external, broadly open. There are still things we are not allowed to do yet, particularly internally, with indoor sport restricted to under eighteens and adult single households, but the rules are changing and the restrictions lifting every few weeks and we have been able to welcome back several of our regular customers. It was particularly pleasing to see AJ School of Dancing back on the premises and the dancers able to pick up on their activities, a bit like seeing a daffodil and knowing that spring was arriving after a bad winter, the dancers arriving herald the beginning of normality and, hopefully, a glorious summer. If you want to use the facilities and are unsure as to what you can legally do, then please as always contact our booking office staff Christine or Amanda on 01623 491522 or the parish clerks on 01623 490035 or at emma@ravensheadpc.org.uk or Belinda@ravensheadpc.org.uk.

Whilst mentioning our staff, who have been brilliant during a very difficult time for us all, I sadly have to report that we are losing one of our Parish Clerks Emma Callow, who is moving on to fresh pastures. Not because she has fallen out with us I hasten to add, but owing to a significant change in her personal circumstances and a home move out of the area. Emma had been with us for nine years and will have become a familiar face to many of our customers and contractors alike and we will all miss her presence in the office and her clerking of our Parish Council meetings. We wish her well in her new home and surroundings and she leaves with our gratitude for a job well done.

We are therefore looking to re-organise our staffing which will create a vacancy for one in the short term and possibly two in the longer, Reception/Booking Office Staff.

The successful applicant will be part of a team, working up to 15 x hours a week primarily from Monday - Friday but with some Saturdays from 9.00 am -1.00 pm and will also be required to cover holiday leave. Due to the current government covid regulations, some flexibility to accommodate bookings is essential during the Leisure Centre opening times of 9.00am - 8.15pm. The current hourly wage, paid monthly, is £9.36 per hour.

The Council will be looking for honesty, reliability and excellent customer service skills. Computer literacy with an understanding of excel is desirable and training will be

provided. Applications are invited by providing a current CV with covering letter including two references.

The closing date for applications for the position is 17th May 2021. Applicants are welcome to seek further details by calling or visiting the Leisure Centre and talking to Parish Clerk - Belinda Kalka. Depending on the number of applicants, a short list of three will be interviewed before an appointment offer is made, for commencement in early June 2021.

Ravenshead Litter Force

We had a fantastic response from residents for the two community litter pick days in April (1st and 17th) with between 15 and 20 volunteers attending on each occasion and over the two days we collected approximately sixty bags of rubbish from the Leisure Centre site, Longdale Lane, Nottingham Road, Blidworth Waye, Kirkby Road, Ricketts Lane, Main Road and Calverton Road. Whilst this activity shouldn't and wouldn't be necessary if people were more responsible, it is very gratifying to be a part of the clean-up team and to see the massive improvement after a morning of volunteer activity. We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you want to join us then please register your interest with the Parish Clerks and we will add you to our mailing list, where you can do as much or as little as your availability allows. It was great to see so many new faces in April, so my personal thank-you to one and all, new and old faces alike. Our next days of activity will be timed to coincide with the National 'Keep Britain Tidy' Litter Initiative scheduled for late May/early June. Details to be confirmed.

The Ravenshead Leisure Centre Playing Fields

Unfortunately, anti-social behaviour continues apace within the village with further complaints from residents surrounding the actions of some of our young people within the Milton Court precinct, by the front of the library, on Vernon Crescent, Gorse Hill and of course the Leisure Centre site and Trumpers Wood, adjacent to the playing fields. We have had reports of fires being lit within the wood necessitating Fire Service attendance and the littering of the leisure centre site includes numerous smashed bottles particularly on the skate park and football pitches, together with burnt patches on the Arena Pitch where barbecues have been held. I cannot emphasise enough the potential harm that smashed glass and discarded crown bottle tops on our pitches could do to some of our football players, young and old alike. Any player will know that a leg or knee coming into contact with broken glass or a sharp-edged bottle top whilst perhaps completing a sliding tackle could cause severe injury.

In Newsletter article after article, I have repeatedly raised the issue of anti-social behaviour within the village with pleas to both parents and young people alike and frankly don't know what else to do. We have always encouraged young people to make full use of the leisure centre site rather than to gather in the precinct or elsewhere in the village. We provided a youth shelter and have always recognised the need for youngsters to congregate and mix socially, we are happy for them to do so sensibly on the site, but some of the activities taking place now have the potential to cause serious harm or injury to other users as well as damage to the facilities. Please, please act responsibly, enjoy the facilities and the open space, but think about the potential harm your actions could cause to others. Thank-you.

Chris Barnfather
Chair of Ravenshead Parish Council