

RAVENSHEAD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Corona Virus – Covid 19 – Vaccinations

The Covid 19 vaccination programme continues apace and the 'Over 50's' are now being invited to book their appointments for their first dose. As I have said before, I booked my own appointment via the 'swift-queue' website, which took only a couple of minutes and by choice I attended Kings Mill Hospital. I was in and out within 25 x minutes (including the mandatory post jab 15 x minute sit down) and the whole process was quick and efficient.

There are of course numerous other options to choose from locally, the main point is that if you are over 50 and you haven't already done so, then please get booked in at any of the many centres open around the City and County, including locally, Kings Mill Hospital, the Ashfield Health Centre (Kirkby in Ashfield) or the former Wickes store site on Chesterfield Road, Mansfield.

Ravenshead Leisure Centre – Re-Opening

Now that the government has issued its 'Road Map' out of lockdown we are all very excited at the prospect of being able to open up our facilities at the Leisure Centre. In accordance with the government guidance, outside activities for 'organised sport' will re-open from 29th March 2021, including tennis, petanque, netball and of course our 3G and grassed football pitches. Please ensure that any bookings are made through our parish clerks on 01623 490035 or at emma@ravensheadpc.org.uk or Belinda@ravensheadpc.org.uk.

With effect from 12th April 2021 some indoor facilities will also re-open and in the first instance we would ask our regular users to again contact Emma or Belinda, to confirm their regular booking slots and their own re-commencement dates.

Our booking office staff will commence a phased return from furlough during the week commencing 12th April 2021 and we will then hope to resume normal booking arrangements through the booking office staff Christine and Amanda on 01623 491522.

Golf & The Ravenshead Leisure Centre Playing Fields

We have recently received reports of people using the leisure centre playing fields as a 'Golf Driving Range'. Regrettably, this practice is not allowed, not only does it pose a significant health and safety risk to other users (particularly if you are as wayward as I am with a golf club in hand), but it also damages the playing surfaces, with divots presenting a trip hazard to our young footballers. So, I would ask you to respect the rules and the facilities and use one of the many recognised driving ranges locally.

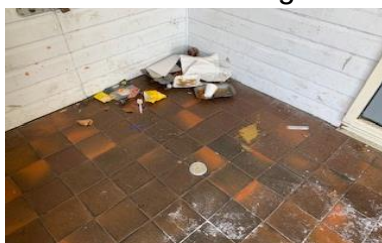
National Census 2021

Every ten years the government carries out a national census, which is designed to give an accurate picture of all the people and households in England and Wales to better understand the services that we need locally and nationally, including transport, education and healthcare. Each household must complete the census by law and failure to do so could result in a fine of up to £1,000.00. The census is a snapshot of each household on a particular day every ten years, on this occasion the date being

21st March 2021. So, if you haven't already done so, go to www.census.gov.uk and complete your return, it only takes a few minutes to do.

Ravenshead Litter Force

Now that the restrictions on meeting in public are being lifted somewhat, we are looking to get out and about and having a clear-up of some of the litter that has accumulated on our roadside verges during the winter months. Not only the roadside of course, this is the usual state of the library entrance on a weekend morning after our young people have again used it as a refuse site for their takeaway food remains. So, to this end we have decided on two dates in April, Thursday 1st and Saturday 17th (weather permitting) to meet up (suitably socially distanced of course). We will meet at 9.30 am in the Hutt Car Park, issue equipment and then split up into smaller groups to litter pick around the parish for an hour or two. So, if you are willing and able, please feel free to join us on the day. It would be helpful if you could let Emma or Belinda know beforehand if you are likely to join us, so that we make sure that we have enough equipment to hand and if you already have your own please bring it with you. We look forward to seeing some of you on 1st April.



Dropped Kerbs & Tactile Paving

Over the years we have been quite successful in lobbying Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) to install dropped kerbs at most of our road junctions and main crossing points. Only this month, following a request from a mobility scooter using resident, I was able to get NCC Highways, through their VIA highways subsidiary, to install a new dropped kerb at the junction of The Birches and Main Road.



However, during my travels around the village, I have occasionally noted vehicles parked on or alongside these dropped kerbs, most notably this dropped kerb and tactile paving between the Post Office and the Library at the junction of Milton Crescent and Milton Drive. This is the main access point to the shopping precinct and when you park alongside it, you effectively strand mobility scooter users in the middle of the road. Equally, when you park on it, as can be seen, you cause damage to the tactile paving which actually serves two purposes, one to ensure that the surface is not slippery and a road safety hazard for users and secondly because the bubble surface is an indicator for the partially or non-sighted, that this is considered to be a safe crossing point. So please be aware when parking and try to avoid parking on or adjacent to any dropped kerbs. Thank-you.

Brian Needham

I sadly have to report on the loss of Brian Needham, who many of you will remember as our long serving handyman at the Leisure Centre site. Brian passed away recently after a short illness and our thoughts and prayers are with Brian's family at this difficult time.

Chris Barnfather
Chair of Ravenshead Parish Council