

SAINTFIELD NEWS UPDATE

Issue 3

Saturday 5th September 2020

A SOURCE OF HELPFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

CHAIR'S VIEWPOINT

Since our last electronic Saintfield News, lockdown has eased and it has been great to see more activity on Saintfield's Main Street. Talking to some of the traders, I hear that business has been picking up well, for new shops as well as established traders. It seems that more people are shopping local, which is just what rural villages and towns need to thrive in the future.

I'm sure that most of you have noticed that, in spite of lockdown, the SDA Green Team has managed to plant and maintain a lot of floral displays. They have also dug and planted a new bed in the Memorial Garden, with plants focused on providing pollen and nectar for pollinating insects. All work was of course completed with social distancing.

Christmas Fair

The SDA Events team and Coordinating Team have very reluctantly decided that the usual Christmas Fair cannot go ahead this year. The predictions for a second phase of the virus during the winter months mean that it would be too risky to have an event that brings over two thousand people together.

We will provide the Christmas tree and Christmas tree lights as usual, with help from local sponsors.



Martyn Todd, Chair of Saintfield Development Association

Putting up the Christmas street lights is usually funded by a Council grant and whether there are Christmas street lights this year will depend on the Council providing their normal funding.

If the pandemic turns out to be less serious than anticipated, SDA will organise a smaller scale Christmas Event, as long as this can be done safely and within regulations.

Windmill Park

The SDA team working on turning the Windmill Field into the Windmill Park have completed the public consultation on the first proposals and the results of this are available

to read on the **discoversaintfield** website:

<http://discoversaintfield.com/?p=13559>

Feedback from over eighty local residents have been taken on board, including concerns raised by boundary neighbours.

The proposed next steps for the Windmill Park project have also been published on the discoversaintfield website:

<http://discoversaintfield.com/?p=13577>

As the windmill and the two other old buildings are designated as a scheduled monument, consent from the Historic Environment Division of the Department of Communities is required for any work within the boundary of the scheduled area. The HED is very pleased that SDA wishes to stabilise the buildings and tell their stories. The first step is to remove the ivy and tree saplings and HED have been asked for permission to do this.

SDA is very grateful to those who have agreed to help Kevin Young raise funds for the development of Windmill Park. Due to the pandemic, most fund-raising activities will have to wait until next year. To discover how you can help, watch Kevin's video here:

<https://youtu.be/MEWyeDgFAu8>

NEW BUS LAYBY AND SHELTER CONFIRMED

A report in the Down Recorder confirms that Translink will be constructing a two-bus layby and shelter before the end of this year.

The area around the old Hocks and Hooves building has been a blight on the main entrance road into

Saintfield and both the SDA and Rowallane councillors have been lobbying Translink for years to do something to clean up the site.

It was hoped that Translink would agree to develop the surrounding area as a park and ride facility,

which would take pressure off the parking in the town's main street.

However, Translink advised that there is not enough space for this and the ground will be offered to the public sector first for development.

WINDMILL PARK



Plans are progressing with the development of the proposed Windmill Park in the field backing on to the Saintfield community centre.

It is a long-term project and will be developed in stages over the next few years. The financing of the project is a major factor in what can be achieved in the park and the project team are currently exploring various options,

including grants from various donor organisations.

The park will eventually provide a place of peace and tranquillity, where residents will be able to relax or stroll in the fresh air and learn about the history of the industries and early residents of the town. Kevin Young is leading the local effort to raise funds from Saintfield residents and

businesses who would be willing to support a worthwhile project in their town. A video detailing this initiative can be seen here:

<https://youtu.be/MEWyeDgFAu8>

If you would like further details as to how you can do your bit to help with the financing of the project, please contact Kevin at:

kevin@in-mynd.com

CAN YOU HELP?

The team developing the proposed Windmill Park project are on the lookout for people willing to get involved on a voluntary basis.

If you have any skills or expertise in project planning, horticulture, garden design or layout, the team would love to have you join them.

You could play your part in making this much needed community facility a reality.

For further information, please contact: editor@discoversaintfield.co.uk

MEMORIAL GARDEN



The Green Team of the SDA has constructed a new bed in the Memorial Garden at the bottom of Comber Street.

It has been planted with a variety of plants to attract pollinating insects. The team have also weeded and cleaned up the area.

DOG FOULING

Dog fouling continues to be a cause for concern, not only in Saintfield but across the district. Our Rowallane councillors are keenly aware of this blight on the area and both the nuisance and health hazard caused.

The councillors have put forward a number of initiatives to NM&D Council to combat and curb the menace, many of which have been put on the back burner due to the COVID – 19 pandemic. One solution being considered is taking

a DNA sample from every dog when it is licenced. Then every offending owner could be traced and dealt with.

To date, two seasonal enforcement officers have been recruited by Council, with the engagement of a further two permanent enforcement officers in the pipeline. There is a definite need for the fixed penalty fine for dog fouling to be increased, coupled to an increased enforcement capability. The lack of effective enforcement is reflected in

the fact that only eight fixed penalty notices were issued in the NM&D Council district for the review period 2019/2020. Compare this with Ards and North Down, where 170 fines were issued!

However, no matter how many enforcement officers, fines or other measures are introduced to deal with the problem, one basic fact remains. People need to respect their environment, their neighbours and behave in a civilised manner.