

Acocks Greener is a new community group that aims to reduce our local carbon footprint as part of Birmingham's 'Route to Zero (R20)' project by 2030.



Part of Fox Hollies Community Association CIO  
Registered Charity No 1174330

Acocks Greener has been adopted as part of Fox Hollies Community Association; winner of the Queen's Award earlier this year. Their ambitions include:

- To become self sufficient in energy-related technologies
- To enable local residents (and then other areas) to access affordable energy and contribute to the community and economic development of Birmingham
- To re-green our local environment
- To contribute in any way to initiatives that tackle the Climate Emergency

Ideas that are currently being considered include:

1. Working with youth groups and Yr 6 pupils to build home environmental monitoring stations so they learn about the environment, electronics and programming. These will be installed in their homes to gather data that can be used to measure the impact of any changes.
2. Making an inventory of the buildings in the ward, indicating suitability for retrofitting energy-conserving changes. This will help in quickly selecting homes to approach whenever funding becomes available.
3. Helping building owners to retrofit energy-conserving changes including improved insulation, ventilation, solar panels, batteries, smart controls, etc. by pointing towards relevant funding, contractors and resources.
4. Set up an e-car club offering a cheap alternative to car ownership (and therefore reduced on-street parking) and promoting use of low carbon vehicles. The first car has just been launched in our area with a discount for local people to join the scheme. Go to [www.enterprisecarclub.co.uk](http://www.enterprisecarclub.co.uk). Customers pay a specially discounted annual subscription- £10 instead of £60, (use promo code : ACOCKS10) and use an app to hire a car by the hour. The first vehicle is based on Hazelwood Road, and it is hoped to have more available within an easy walk from anywhere in Acocks Green.

Acocks Greener covers the 2 wards : Acocks Green and Tyseley & Hay Mills. They are working with Tyseley Energy Park [www.tyseleyenergy.co.uk](http://www.tyseleyenergy.co.uk), an Energy Innovation Zone, helping new energy companies to set up and work together. We want to make Acocks Greener the pilot area for climate change initiatives in Birmingham, to try out new ideas and cooperate with the City Council and the Universities.

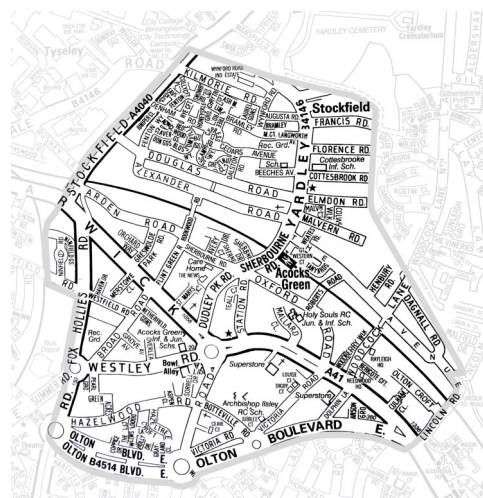
If you would like to get involved, please email : [info@AcocksGreenER.com](mailto:info@AcocksGreenER.com) letting us know your contact details; what talents you bring; and what has interested you about Acocks Greener.

*"You either have to be part of the solution or you're going to be part of the problem"*

Eldridge Cleaver (American political activist, 1935-1998)

# ACOCKS GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM NEWS

October 2020



We are a long-established community group covering 4,000 households within Acocks Green. We work with the Council and other groups to improve the area and support organisations for the good of Acocks Green.

We aim to inform local people about what is happening in the area and encourage involvement in activities that benefit our community. We usually hold regular public meetings and welcome locals to come along and find out more about relevant issues and what is going on in our neighbourhood. Whilst lockdown continues find out more on our website - details below and our facebook page.

Hello and Greetings, we trust you are all keeping well in these uncertain times and managing the Covid-19 disruptions. As you may appreciate, this has also prevented us from holding a public meeting with the opportunity of meeting up with many of you to share issues and also celebrate who we are and where we live, in our bit of Acocks Green.

However, the Forum team has been able to hold regular online meetings to uphold our functions and administrative duties adapted to current conditions. Together with the other excellent local community groups, we look forward to continuing to support your best interests and the common needs of our place and neighbourhood.

There is much to recommend having good and positive neighbourhood connections, which can only enhance and protect our rights and interests. The citizens need to be able to challenge the system which governs and is accountable to us, in these challenging times.

Yours truly  
David Treadwell -Chair  
Acocks Green Neighbourhood Forum

Subscribe to : [www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum-org](http://www.acocks-green-neighbourhood-forum-org)  
for more updates.



Supported by



## Good News for The Vale

The Trustees of Westley Vale Millennium Green are delighted to report a successful funding bid. They applied to 'You Matter Community Fund' offered by McLaughlin & Harvey Construction Ltd. They received £400.00 for equipment and seeds for their wildflower meadow.

The meadow was created 3 years ago with assistance from the **Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust** who also helped with the annual cutting back to rejuvenate the meadow, best done with a scythe. Due to lack of funding they weren't able to help cut back last year. However this summer the Trustees were fortunate to be introduced to a young man called Adam who kindly offered to scythe the meadow for free. They enjoyed a very successful hay-making day on an extremely hot Saturday in early August with the help of a hardy group of volunteers to aid Adam's expert scything and collect the cuttings. Several volunteers learnt the scything technique and helped out with the cutting. The new funding will be used purchase two scythes and a quantity of wildflower seeds that will be sown this autumn. Hopefully this will produce a wonderful display on the meadow in late Spring so be sure to look out when walking around this wonderful conservation site in 2021.



## Two ways to make your area a better place to live

**1 - Join Neighbourhood Watch.** Neighbourhood Watch is not just about crime awareness, it's about supporting communities and tackling issues within them. By becoming a member you will have taken the first step to making the area that you live a stronger and safer place to be. We encourage you to connect with your neighbours and others within your community who also share your desire to help others. The effects on our communities caused by youth isolation; loneliness and vulnerability are evident. Making you aware of these issues will enable you to be proactive in your community to help others that need support.

Go to **[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)** click on "Join Us" at the top of the page and follow the on screen instructions. Once you are a member you can join an existing Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or start one yourself. A scheme is a group of members, usually in the same road or area, which has a coordinator to manage the scheme and ensure that members are kept up to date with local issues.



**2 Start a WhatsApp group for your road.** This is a great way to share information with your neighbours, build community, help one another, and reduce crime. Once you have downloaded WhatsApp onto your smartphone and set up the group, you can begin inviting your neighbours to join.

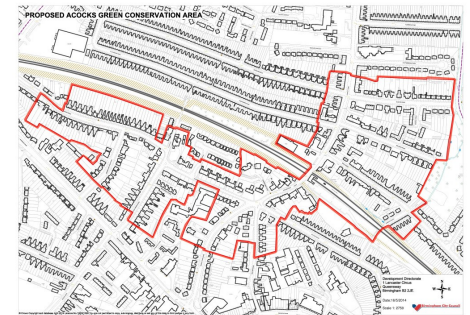
## Acocks Green Conservation Area

As we all know Acocks Green has some lovely, interesting and special buildings. Behind each one there are interesting stories to tell of the jewellers, silversmiths, gunsmiths and later architects and solicitors who came to live in Acocks Green in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They travelled here by train : we had the first station on the line out of Birmingham from Hockley (The Jewellery Quarter) and, later on, Snow Hill. They had high standards and wanted good stained glass, special tiles and ornamental details on the properties. We still have many of these buildings, often built by local firms like Williams & Boddy who were based in Station Road.

The plan for a Conservation Area to protect these buildings was supported as a project by council officials and local councillors and we were led to believe that if we put in the work ourselves the proposal would finally be accepted. After local people had spent many thousands of hours on the project we were told in March that the proposal had been refused following a final viewing by a senior conservation officer. No clear reason has been given.

Acocks Green Focus Group have raised a petition to appeal this decision and ask Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council, to reconsider.

Please sign the petition at:  
<https://www.change.org/AGConsArea>



## Acocks Green Calendar 2021

Did you get one of the desirable calendars this year full of scenic pictures around the Green? Have you got a lovely landscape image that would be perfect for next year's Acocks Green Village Partnership Calendar? We are looking for pictures to feature in 2021's calendar. The photos have to be identifiable as Acocks Green, **landscape** and high quality - at least 8 megapixels (3000 pixels wide & 2000 pixels high). It is always good to see the different seasons and interesting aspects of our area.

Email your photos to **[AGNForum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:AGNForum@hotmail.co.uk)**

Closing date for submissions is 31st Oct. You can submit as many photos as you like. Have a look through your photo files or get snapping !

We look forward to seeing your images.

Portrait



Landscape

