

Aston Lodge Residents Association

Newsletter – April 2022

ALRA Annual General Meeting

Will be held on: **Tuesday 10th May***, starting at 6:45pm. This will be an outdoor meeting, in the main park, so please bring a chair.

- In case of wet weather, please visit: alra.org.uk on Monday 9th May, for alternative arrangements.
- This will be a 45-minute meeting, followed by a Q&A session.
- Committee officers seeking re-election are: Robert Townsend, Helen Townsend, Lee Mountford and Qamar Siddiqi.
- Nigel Holmes, is seeking election for the first time. Nigel has lived on Mercer Avenue for 18 years and was a founding member of the Aston Lodge Residents Flood Association 'ALRFA'. Nigel will bring a fresh perspective, as well as a bunch of IT skills to the team... He is also very good with a hedge cutter and disco decks.

Picnic in the Park 2022

You are warmly invited to the second ALRA Picnic in the Park. This will be held on: **Saturday 2nd July***, from 12 noon.

- It's a fun, family event, for the Aston Lodge community. Bring your picnic, blanket and chairs.
- Saddles & Sip will be providing their Horsebox Bar, offering us G&T, wines, Prosecco, beer and hot drinks.
- And if you fancy an ice cream, Brian's Ices will be there too.
- There will be garden games for the kids, a family quiz, plus a tombola with prizes!
- We will have bring-and-buy stalls, for: 'Cake & Bake' and also 'Gardening & Plants'.

This event is free to enter, but it's also a fundraiser for ALRA, so, if possible, please bring sweet or savoury bakes, plants and seedlings, etc. for the stalls.

There's no need to book... just turn up and bring the sunshine with you!

ALRA Volunteers

You may have noticed that the ALRA gardening volunteers have been busy doing a tremendous job, around the estate, keeping it neat and tidy. They are always keen to meet new volunteers.

- There's zero commitment.
- It's fun, friendly and good exercise.

Interested in joining in with this activity? Visit: alra.org.uk/volunteer to find out more.

*** Remember to save these dates!**

Playground Project

ALRA is in discussion with Stafford Borough Council, and other stakeholders, to establish what can be done to upgrade and improve the Playground areas on Aston Lodge.

Blackies Lane




There are no major developments to report regarding the grassy patch site, that we fought so hard to save from development, but there is an update. In a recent conversation with Stafford Borough Council, they confirmed the following:

- They continue to require a developer to have an agreement in place with a housing association, as part of any new planning application for homes built outside the settlement boundary, that use the C5 Rural Exception Policy.
- This places contractual restrictions on any development, as well as a potentially lower yield for the developer.
- To date, no housing provider has agreed to partner developments on another similar site, which uses C5 to support the application.
- The lower sections of the grassy patch site are now classed as a flood risk area, and so cannot be built upon. This reduces the developable area.

Stay Informed

Did you know that we now have an active website? Visit us at: alra.org.uk, for news, information and more, including a stunning 'Nature' section, which features the photography and ecological information, provided by resident naturalist, Dave Emley.

You can also...

- Join our active residents Facebook group: facebook.alra.org.uk 
- And if you're interested in gardening, you might like to join our gardening Facebook group: gardening.alra.org.uk 
- If you would like to receive ALRA news via email, then please contact: secretary@alra.org.uk , to register your interest.

Kind regards from the ALRA committee (*Robert, Helen, Lee and Qamar*)



Picnic in the Park - 2019