

Community Newsletter

Dear Neighbours

At Halesowen College, we are very conscious of the impact we have, not only on the young people and adults who come to us to learn and improve their skills, but also on the surrounding area.

Contained within this newsletter you will read about:

- Campus developments
- Our Environmental Group, and what our student community are doing to tackle climate change
- College coaches
- Our Partnership with Halesowen BID
- Upcoming Community events
- How and who to contact if you have any questions.

The next newsletter will be circulated in the New Year.



Here for you.

Campus Developments

Halesowen College is proud to be a successful college, which continues to be a popular choice for young people, adults and businesses from across the region. In order to create motivational and modern learning environments we need to acquire additional space. Around 20 years ago the College purchased Shenstone House at the bottom of Mucklow Hill, and we have now managed to secure government funding to refurbish it to a high standard as a centre of excellence for education and training in Health and Care. This will give students access to specialist facilities and will make a real contribution to addressing the current Health and Care skills shortage in our region.

This project will begin in 2023/24 and, when it does, a temporary home will be needed for the work we do there. We are therefore in the process of acquiring the East wing of Trinity Point in the town centre, which will house the Health and Care departments from Shenstone until it reopens.

In the longer term, a full refurbishment of the Trinity Point space will allow us to reduce demands on the Whittingham Road site by relocating a number of courses there. This will enable the creation of high quality learning and social spaces on both sites. There is no expectation of further growth in student numbers.

In the meantime, we are also awaiting the outcome of a bid by Dudley MBC to the government's Levelling-Up Fund, which could see community-facing departments like Catering and Hair & Beauty, as well as some adult education, move into the heart of the town.



Our Environmental Group, and what our student community are doing to tackle climate change

In partnership with Keep Halesowen Beautiful, the Halesowen College community contributes to ensure our surroundings are maintained. At college we have an Environmental Group with a core purpose to champion sustainability, reduce waste, and encourage all to be environmentally responsible. Recently, we have introduced a new rooftop garden. Our Estates staff continue to review how we as an institution can improve campus year on year. We are linking with HSG Limited to:

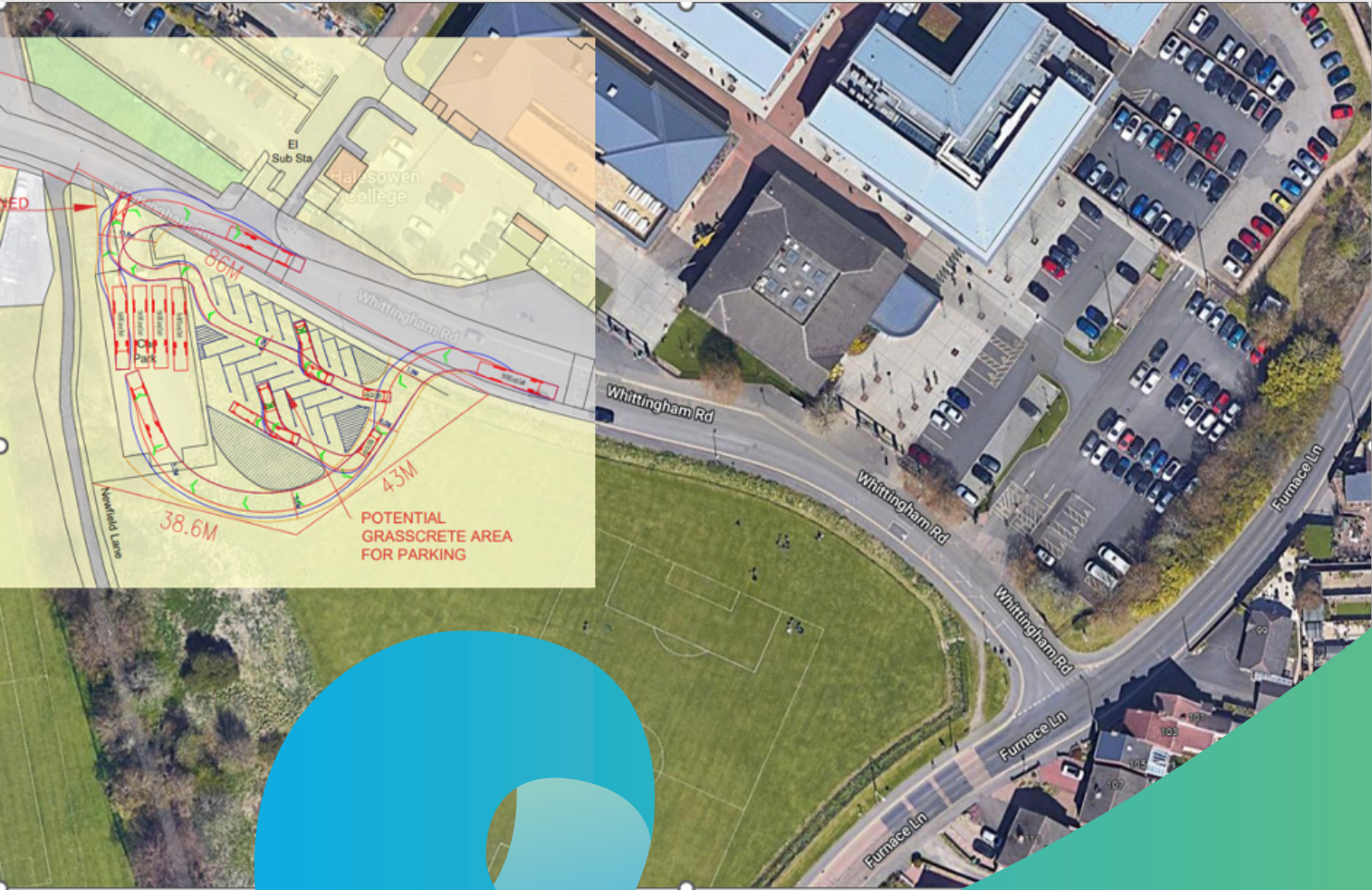
- reduce water consumption over three years by 10,875,540 litres
- reduce CO2 equal to 11.44 tonnes.
- install new water fountains
- eradicate single use plastic bottles, where possible.

College Coaches

One of the most pressing issues is traffic and we have been working for almost two years to develop a plan to alleviate the effect on the neighbourhood of the coaches which bring the majority of our students to college. We can now share the outline of that plan with you.

Our proposal is to use the area of rough ground opposite the college site, at the edge of the sports field, to create a coach turning area. This would mean the coaches would no longer need to come through the residential roads, as they could both enter and leave Whittingham Road via the Furnace Lane end. To alleviate parking pressures in the local area, the space may also be used for football teams car parking at weekends. For this to happen, a number of steps are needed:

Key Step	Progress to date
Reach agreement with the Earls High School for use of that piece of land	We have an agreement in place
Earls High School to gain approval from the Secretary of State for Education	The application has been submitted to the Secretary of State, which can be a lengthy process, but we are hopeful that timely approval will be received.
Work with Dudley MBC on any necessary alterations to the Whittingham Road/Furnace Lane junction	A specification for the Highways work is being developed.
Formal planning application and consent	Once the first three steps are completed, we will make the application for planning, which will be subject to the usual consultations.
Appoint contractors to complete the work	



Our Partnership with Halesowen BID

Over the last few years the relationship with Halesowen College and the town centre has blossomed. The college has actively worked with Halesowen BID to deliver countless projects that have helped to develop what is now a thriving and not just surviving town centre and a growing local economy.

The Halesowen BID team meet with Halesowen College and Black Country Chambers of Commerce monthly to host a successful business network breakfast event for local businesses. The event connects businesses and promotes how great it is to do business in Halesowen. This brings business owners from across the Black Country and Birmingham to our town.

The college students were involved in a project at Rowley Regis Train Station aimed at putting Halesowen on the rail map! Students delivered an outstanding arts project to showcase the local area through heritage, community and the here and now. This has improved seamless travel to Halesowen town centre bringing greater footfall to the town centre for the wider region.

Halesowen BID are looking forward to the college students hosting their annual Christmas Youth Market, a fantastic opportunity for young entrepreneurs to test their sales skills by selling handmade seasonal gifts. This is now a regular event on our festive calendar and is complimented by the music department who support the schools carol service on the same day.

Upcoming Community Events

On 9th December, our students will be selling home-made gifts at the Christmas Youth Market in Somers Square from 10am – 3pm. This will be a great event for Christmas shopping with a lovely festive feel.

Our students are collecting food and toys to donate to local charities including Black Country Toy Appeal and Lifecentral Church.

Our Environmental Group will be litter picking around the local area and along with local WI members will be planting 210 wildlife saplings on campus as part of the Queens Green Canopy scheme.

We will be hosting a Christmas Craft Session on 25th November at our Bistro@B63. More craft sessions will be running next year. Visit our website for more information.

Community events happening in 2023 will be listed in the next issue of this newsletter.



How and who to contact if you have any questions

To find out more about our community engagement, or to share your thoughts on our plans, please email: Communitygroup@halesowen.ac.uk