

## **Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter August 2013**

### **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

#### **Annual Flower Show**

This major village event will take place on Saturday September 14 – put it in your diary and start thinking about what you are going to enter! This year, in addition to the usual competitions, refreshments and tombola, there will be several attractions especially for children including the toy carousel, nail painting and temporary tattoos. There will be an interesting variety of books and some delicious home-made cakes on sale and, as a further attraction, Somerset Morris Dancers will be doing two sets, so, an even bigger and better event than usual – don't miss it! (Schedules are available from Bathampton Stores or Judith Book, 20 Holcombe Lane, Tel: 465781)

#### **Affordable housing (see also Planning Report)**

The survey mentioned in the Planning Report will consist of a questionnaire delivered to every household in the village. Please help to make this survey as comprehensive as possible by filling in the questionnaire. The more complete the response, the better idea we will have of the need for affordable housing in the village.

#### **Jewson's Yard**

The owner of Jewson's Yard, Davies Street (Bathampton) Ltd intends to submit a planning application for a residential scheme on Jewson's Yard. In order to gauge local opinion their consultants will be holding a "drop-in event" in the Village Hall on Wed 14 August between 4pm & 7.30pm. Do call in and question the representatives about the proposals.

#### **Tony McCann**

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**Planning and Conservation Report    Lin King, George Ardrey, Susanne Wing (co-opted)**

There have been the usual crop of applications for extensions and improvements, and also for 'tree works' to reduce and maintain the trees in the conservation area or with tree preservation orders.

#### **New Bungalow in Devonshire Road**

Building has now started on the bungalow on the long standing foundations at the rear of 45 Devonshire Road.

## **Relay Mast**

An application was made to replace the stock fencing after the recent ‘incident’; we had no objection and it has been permitted

## **Candywood Leys**

Under the current Government planning “climate” the Local Authority had allowed the owners to reapply for retrospective permission for a temporary agricultural dwelling. This was dependent upon an agricultural business assessment for sustainability and has been refused.

## **Affordable Housing**

A CURO (previously Somer Housing) representative was invited to the Annual Parish Meeting and outlined the process to acquire more affordable housing in Bathampton. This was well received and it was felt that there was a need for this. The Parish Council has agreed that we start on the first steps with CURO which is to do a proper housing needs survey.

**Details of all local planning matters, including our comments and others' can be viewed on <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control>**

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## **Leisure and Amenities**

**Mike Richards**

### **Jubilee Garden.**

According to the local newspaper, Bathampton is being featured in tours arranged by the Kennet & Avon Trust, so there will be more people visiting the village. This would include summer visitors from Australia who will come to view the resting place of Admiral Phillips in the Church. It would be good to improve the area with a better Jubilee Garden and hopefully the Canal and Rivers Trust would agree to help. Doubtless volunteers would be welcome to assist when the time comes

### **Allotments.**

What a transformation in six weeks after the cold and damp conditions of a miserable spring have given way to late, but welcome, sunshine bringing life to the plants. All the favourite vegetables and fruits can be seen bursting forth as well as many flowers. A couple of new tenants have eagerly taken over old plots and most plots are in good shape, although a few need attention to unattended weeds, which causes concern to adjoining plots.

### **Playground and playing fields.**

All the equipment was recently inspected and two items, the aerial runway and the seesaw, require a little maintenance. The regular contractor has been asked to attend to this.

### **General amenities.**

This is the annual call to households with gardens that border onto pavements. Please check whether your plants and bushes are overhanging the pavement. These obstacles prevent the

full use of the pavement area by pedestrians and can be dangerous, particularly along the busy A36 with HGVs rushing by. In severe cases enforcement notices could be issued by the Local Authority.

Four local volunteers have planted summer bedding into the various containers around the village. More planters can be obtained should other volunteers wish to be responsible for their upkeep; the Parish Council would provide the plants.

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### **Highways Group**

**Moira Brennan, David Mayo and Kate Jones**

#### **Highways**

Since our last report we have seen substantial improvements in the road surface on the A36 between Devonshire Road and Down Lane and also on Holcombe Lane.

We continue to talk to the Highways Agency about safety issues on the A36 but as the stretch through Bathampton is the section of the road with the fewest reported accidents of the whole trunk route, the Agency do not see it as a priority.

It would help if local residents tell the Highways Agency about accidents or near misses on the A36. The current planning process for investment in roads only takes account of accidents where someone has been injured or killed. By telling them about other accidents they can build a picture of danger spots which will feed into their future funding requests. The form is available on our website [www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk) in the Report It section. If you need help completing the form please contact any of the parish councillors.

We would also like to remind householders to ensure that hedges and other vegetation are not obstructing footpaths etc.

The Highways Agency are reviewing the issues on the pavement on the north side of the A36 between Bathampton Lane and Devonshire Road where the boundaries of the triangular field are narrowing the pavement.

#### **Footpaths**

##### **Footpaths Guide**

The Footpaths Guide delivered with the Newsletter in May has been very well received. We hope you have used it to find new delights in and around the village! If you do not have a copy some are available in Bathampton Stores.

##### **Footpaths working parties**

There is a small but dedicated team of volunteers cutting back footpaths where the vegetation has been growing. So far we have tackled paths leading to the swing bridge, along the railway line and through the triangular field. We would greatly value more people offering to help out

as it makes the work go much faster! We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 6pm and the fourth Saturday of each month at 10am at Dry Arch Growers at the end of Holcombe Lane. If you are interested in helping out please do speak to Cllr David Mayo.

## Village Hall

We would also remind everyone that the Village Hall is available for events at very competitive rates eg hire for a 3 hour children's party would be £33. If you are interested contact the Booking Secretary, Angela Shearer on 01225 421112.

For anyone interested in volunteering a little bit of time to support the hall, we are currently looking for a new booking secretary. The role is a great way to meet people in the village. If you are interested contact Julie Reed on 01225 481412.

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## Village News and Events

Please let Jan Helps know if you would like anything included in this section

### Scout Hall available for Hire

The excellent facilities at the Scout Hall on Warminster Road are available for hire by all kinds of groups – exercise, arts & crafts etc.

Enquiries about hiring the Scout Hall should be made to Rachel Hill  
e-mail: [RachelHill@dragoncapital.com](mailto:RachelHill@dragoncapital.com)      Tel: 07971 214852

### Dry Arch Growers

Volunteer sessions are Thursdays and Sundays. There's something for everyone: sowing, planting, harvesting, weeding, watering, digging, scything, fencing. Come along and visit us. If you would like more information or are interested in a vegetable box, contact Jan Helps on 01225 336656 or Hannah Isaac on 07795 127786

If you would like to publicise any activities or events of interest to Bathampton Residents please contact Tony McCann or any of the Parish Councillors who will be happy to pass them on for inclusion in the next newsletter.

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[www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk)

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Please let Jan Helps know if there are changes to any of the information in "What's on in Bathampton"

