**Bathampton Parish Council**

**Newsletter January 2016**

**CHAIRMAN’S NOTES**

Since our last newsletter many of you came along and protested or spoke at the B&NES Council meeting on 12 November. Whether you were there or not you will know that the Council did not agree on a site for the Park and Ride but instead put various review processes in place to look again at the options. We are still a long way from safeguarding the Meadows. By the time you receive this newsletter I hope you will have joined in the various group walks in the Meadows on 31 January - helping to show people who don't live in sight of them, that they are not just fields - they are a very special part of the setting of the City of Bath. At 4pm on 1 February the Bathampton Meadows Alliance are holding a public meeting at Bailbrook House to present evidence to support the various BANES reviews into the options for an East of Bath Park and Ride. We are hoping the meeting will be attended by many of the Councillors involved in the review. Bathampton Parish Council, along with Batheaston and Bathford, has a meeting scheduled with Cllrs Tim Warren and Tony Clarke to discuss the process and to be consulted in accordance with the resolution of the Council. There is also a public meeting from 10- 4.30 on 22 March in the Guildhall described as an "Open Public Scrutiny Day to examine a range of integrated transport solutions." Please go and have your views heard.

If you want to keep up to date or get involved I would recommend the Save Bathampton Meadows Facebook page. For those of you who don't facebook, George Riley writes a monthly update in the Local Look, which is aimed at Batheaston residents but will generally have news on the park and ride process.

In December I went, with members of other Parish Councils from the Valley Parish Alliance to talk to Jacob Rees-Mogg about his views on a link road. It is clear that B&NES are continuing to push forward with the aim of getting an A36 / A46 link included in the next Highways England Route Investment Strategy which will cover the years 2020 to 2025.

Finally I am delighted to welcome Jacqueline Bird as our newest parish councillor. Jacqueline and her family have recently moved to the village, so it is great to have her on the team.

Moira Brennan

**Village Hall Moira Brennan**

We are delighted that Jennie Mayo is our new booking secretary. You can contact Jennie by email on bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com.

The bad news is that Julie Reed and Maureen Miles have decided that they will not stand for re election as Chairman and Secretary at our next AGM on 26 May. We are very grateful to them for many years of service to the hall and for their work to improve the hall. Unfortunately this means we need some new volunteers to help us take the Village Hall forward. The committee are very friendly and meet 4 or 5 times a year, in the evening. If you are interested in getting involved - as Chair, or Secretary or as a member of the Committee please contact Moira Brennan.

**HELP NEEDED!**

**This newsletter is delivered to you 4 times a year by a very reliable and willing group of volunteers. Occasionally, though, someone has to drop out and there are some rounds which are quite large and could usefully be split between two people. If you feel you could help with this, please contact Christine McCann on 423230 or** **tandcmccann@waitrose.com**

**Highways Group David Mayo and Stuart Andrews**

The footpath network is in reasonable health considering the time of year. We are not aware of any planned improvements. Please report any problems with footpaths such as fallen trees to Council Connect and/or Cllr Mayo.

There was minor resurfacing work throughout the village at the end of last year and the start of this.

Speeding remains a problem and, in particular, there have been concerns voiced about the ignoring of the 20mph limit down Bathampton Lane. B&NES had installed monitoring equipment before Christmas; it was faulty but has just been replaced. There is also increasing enthusiasm for a village Speedwatch scheme but more volunteers are required; and, in addition, there is a special request for someone to be involved, for a few hours each week, in the administration of the scheme. Please contact Stuart if you would like to be involved.

The canal tow path was strimmed before Christmas. Faulty signage resulted in many bargees believing there were very generous mooring timings along the canal through the village; these signs are being replaced with the correct ones which show the correct, less generous, timings. A volunteer warden will also be on patrol from next month who should be able to monitor the barges effectively as well as report accurately on the condition of the towpath.

After the recent public consultation the resurfacing was agreed. There was a meeting of BANES and the Canal and River Trust (CRT) last week regarding the refurbishment of the tow path between the city and Bathampton. We expect to see work starting soon, although the final schedule has not been set.

**Help is requested for the primary school crossing patrol.**

Despite advertising in the local shop and village hall, Bathampton primary school has not yet found a new person to help with children crossing the rather dangerous section of road by the canal bridge.

The vacancy is advertised on the B&NES website as being a paid role of up to 5.5 hours per week (8:20 - 9am mornings and 15:05 - 15:35 afternoons). Morning or afternoon shifts will be considered but the school would also gladly take on a small rota of suitable people who would like a couple of days each per week around their other activities.

Call: 01225 394922

Email: transportation@bathnes.gov.uk

www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/streets-and-highway-maintenance/road-safety/school-crossing-patrols

**Leisure and Amenities Jan Helps**

**Allotments**

Some people have given up allotments and we have a handful of new people taking on plots. There is still a waiting list but a shorter one at the moment.

**Playground and Playing field**

The climbing wall at the far end of the field is to be removed. Although it feels safe, the health and safety inspector has declared it a “high risk” because of wood rotting in the base. It will cost as much to repair as to replace so, for now, it will be removed until a decision is made about the whole layout and use of the playground and playing field.

We are still happy to welcome new members to the playground working group, especially anyone with experience of fund raising. Please contact Liam or myself if you would like to help.

**Dog Fouling**

This has been an increasing problem in recent months, especially in the Devonshire road, Down Lane and Holcombe vale area although there are incidents in other areas of the village. Some roads have been issued with notices from B&NES. Large fines can be incurred and we would ask dog owners to be vigilant about checking what their pets are doing when wandering along behind them off the lead.

To report incidents, contact Council Connect.

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

**Batheaston/Bathampton Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge and track**

Bathampton and Batheaston continue to work together on this project. There is now an expanding volunteer group who will cover the clearing and ongoing maintenance work. A grant of £5K has been agreed for initial setup and for benches etc. We have proposed an extension to cross the ditch (via a new wooden bridge) and go under the Toll Bridge and into the grounds of Bathampton Mill, which is currently being finalised. The benches, tables and notice boards are being ordered and should be installed in the spring. The Dog Warden has also visited and put up notices to help prevent Dog Fouling. The project has inspired Batheaston who are taking the opportunity to revitalise their car park area and river frontage.

**Land between Miller Walk and Simons Close / ‘Leylandii Field’**

The application to upgrade the track and add a service channel has been refused and is now subject to an appeal. The application for 4 self-build houses on the ‘leylandii field’ has been refused. The PC continues to object to any such development and in the BANES Placemaking Plan currently under consultation has proposed that the field forms part of the ‘open green space’ visible from Bathampton Lane.

**Down House**

An application has been received to build a new house in the garden of Down House. The PC has objected to the size of the proposed building.

**Rail Electrification**

The paperwork for the planning application to move the proposed substation site away from the school is still being prepared. The Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) was received and was favourable in relation to the relocation to the Tyning Road site. Network Rail are now in the process of pulling together all the various documents , plans and methodologies required to enable them to submit a new planning application in March 2016.

Later phases of the electrification project will involve safety work on bridges.

**Previous M.O.D. Site**, Warminster Road– 206 Dwellings (including affordable housing)

This application was permitted but still nothing seems to be happening on the site.

**Jewson’s Yard** (The Old Timber Yard) 15 New Houses (including 5 affordable houses)

Formal approval has now been given for the Jewson’s Yard development.

**Canal Boat decking**

We are still awaiting the promised CRT ‘clean up’ which we are assured will address the unauthorised decking and planting alongside a boat moored on the canal, near to the Raft Café.

This quarter the Parish Council has also received other applications; details of all planning matters, including our comments and others’, can be found at [http://www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/) .

**Placemaking – January 2016**

As part of B&NES Placemaking Plan, Bathampton PC have proposed two ‘Local Green Spaces’, which means these will be protected from future development. These are the ‘Triangular Field’ and the group of three fields to the west of Miller Walk. B&NES have accepted the proposed sites into the Draft Plan, which is now under consultation. To prove the level of support from the parish, a leaflet was delivered to all households with a request that it was signed and returned if the proposal was supported. Subject to final verification of numbers more than a third of households returned the form to show support. These will now be submitted with the final paperwork to B&NES early in February.

**Village News and Events**

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

**Village Hall**

The village hall is a great venue for one off events and is very reasonably priced. If you would like to use the hall please contact the booking secretary on 01225 466875.

**It’s cool to knit – a new club in the village - see What's On for details**

This is an opportunity for knitters to get together and knit, chat, drink tea, eat cake, and exchange skills and ideas. We will help beginners, and try to assist if you have a difficulty or a project you can't get on with, or a technique you can't get your head around, including the maths of knitting.
Wendy is an experienced knitter/designer. Some text books may be available.
You are also welcome to bring crochet, sewing, spinning, and needle felting.

**Maxi Club**

A warm welcome awaits at Saint Nicholas Maxi Lunch Club held on the last Thursday in the month in the Millar Room. For more information ring Sara on 460196 or for transport ring Jane on 466455. We look forward to seeing you.

**Dry Arch Growers**

If you don’t have an allotment and want to “grow your own”, why not come along and visit on Thursdays or Sundays. You don’t have to be an expert and there is something for everyone . Come and meet other people in the village who like growing and eating local produce.

See our blog on [https://bathamptoncsa.wordpress.com](https://bathamptoncsa.wordpress.com/) or find us on Facebook

**The Village Shop and Post Office**

Opening times: Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm

Saturday 8am to 4pm

Sunday 8am to 12noon

Many local people find the shop and Post Office convenient and it is an important asset for the village. It is easy to by-pass the Village Shop in favour of supermarkets but without support the shop may be at risk. Haque, the owner of the shop, welcomes any new suggestions for items to appear on the shelves. The shop currently stocks all the normal convenience store items including newspapers and magazines, cards, stationery, eggs, milk, frozen and tinned foods, some fresh vegetables, cakes and bread as well as wines and spirits.

**Tasburgh House Hotel**

Susan Keeling, the proprietor of the hotel, is offering Bathampton residents a 10% discount on rooms. So if you sometimes need accommodation for visiting friends and family, please contact her to discuss your needs. Sue is very happy for you to call in and see the hotel. She can be contacted on 01225 425096 or stay@tasburghhouse.co.uk

**The Parish Council on line** **Liam McMurray**

[**www.facebook.com/bathampton**](http://www.facebook.com/bathampton)**.**

**Twitter @bathamptonpc**

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| If you would like to publicise any activities or events of interest to Bathampton Residents please contact Moira Brennan or any of the Parish Councillors who will be happy to pass them on for inclusion in the next newsletter.Contact details:Stuart Andrews 425637George Ardrey 424270Jacqueline Bird 312621Moira Brennan 313503Jan Helps 336656Lin King 460998David Mayo 466875Liam McMurray 312412Don Smith secretary 332497[www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk/)  | Village Hall BookingsJennie Mayo Tel: 466875bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.comNewsletter EditorJan Helps can be contacted onTelephone: 01225 336656E.mail: j.s.helps@talk21.comPlease let Jan Helps know if there are changes to any of the information in “What’s on in Bathampton” |