

**Bathampton Parish Council  
Newsletter May 2013**

**CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

**!!! Annual Parish Meeting !!!**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. This is your opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been doing and to ask questions and have a discussion. After the formal proceedings there will be an address by James Read of Curo (formerly Somer) on Affordable Housing in Bathampton. There will be drinks and nibbles afterwards as usual.

**Footpath Map**

With this newsletter you will have received a guide to the footpaths in the Parish in the hope that more of us will be inspired to use and enjoy them. Cllr. David Mayo masterminded the preparation of this guide and we were helped with some funding from the B&NES Ward Councillors' Initiative.

**Parish Councillors**

Unfortunately, Sue Christley has resigned from the Parish Council because of the increasing pressure of her commitments. We now have 7 parish councillors and our official quota is 9. There are therefore 2 vacancies. If anyone is interested in joining our cheerful group and making a contribution to the community, please ring Tony McCann on 423230.

**Village Hall**

A new ramp has been constructed at the Village Hall vastly improving disabled access. It was partly funded by a grant from the B&NES Ward Councillors' Initiative.

**Tony McCann**

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

**Park & Ride East of Bath**

The Local Authority has twice delayed a promised report which should identify a short list of the potential sites; this is of concern, but is due to urgent revision of The Core Strategy which is now under Public Consultation on <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk>

**New Bungalow in Devonshire Road**

The recent application to build a bungalow on the long standing foundations at the rear of 45 Devonshire Road has been permitted.

**Candywood Leys**

Under the current Government planning "climate" the Local Authority has allowed the owners to reapply for retrospective permission for a temporary agricultural dwelling. This is dependent upon an agricultural business assessment for sustainability; the report is due shortly. The Parish Council continue to oppose any building in the Green Belt without good cause.

## **Affordable Housing**

CURO (previously Somer Housing) have been invited to the Annual Parish Meeting (an open meeting for the whole village) to outline how we may acquire more affordable housing in Bathampton; two possible development sites have been suggested.

This quarter the Parish Council has received twelve Planning Applications and one Application for Tree Work, and 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**

We are still the tenants of this area now belonging to the Canal and Rivers Trust from whom little has been heard since they took over from British Waterways. Outstanding is the question of the future of the 'Lengthmans hut', which requires a new roof and the maintenance of the surrounding wall. Otherwise we continue to maintain this popular area as it is.

### **Allotments**

At last more activity is taking place after the long cold and wet winter by most of the plot holders. Hopefully the arrival of the annual skip will encourage a tidy up of waste material on the site. BaNES have been contracted to cut the pathways whilst the overgrown hedgerow by Down Lane has been cut back.

The allotment tenants, local residents and Bathampton Gardeners Association members using the trading hut have worn down the track to the allotments over the years. Therefore improvements are to be considered by the Parish Council. Several years ago volunteers solved the problem and it would be good to hear from any groups prepared to help again.

### **Playground and Playing fields**

Happily the existing sturdy equipment seems to be satisfying the many users as no fresh ideas have been received for any improvements.

### **General Amenities**

We still await the final decision from BaNES on the positioning of the proposed Bus Shelters.

The plaques to commemorate the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which ends this month, and the 1953 Coronation are ready to install. The current plan is to involve the school and have a short ceremony to fix them to the Parish Memorial Cross some time before the end of May.

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## **Highways Group Kate Jones**

**Moira Brennan, David Mayo and**

### **Highways**

Whilst most roads in the parish are maintained by B&NES, the A36 is managed by the Highways Agency. The maintenance of the A36 is outsourced to Atkins Skanska.

We had a useful meeting, as part of the Valley Parishes Alliance, with Atkins Skanska and the Highways Agency in February. They advised us that we can expect some work on raised and lowered kerbs at the bus stops on the A36 over the next financial year. They have also told us they are aware of the deteriorating state of the road surface between Devonshire Road and Hantone Hill. They are keen to manage our expectations - reduced funding is likely to mean that we will not see substantial renewal work. We will continue to talk to them about the issues on the road.

The Highways Agency have also asked local residents tell them 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). If you need help completing the form please contact any of the parish councillors. Completed forms should be sent to [highways@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:highways@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk)

You can also advise B&NES of any issues on their roads using the new Council Connect service. B&NES have provided the following information.

Report it online at **[www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/reportit)**

You can report a wide variety of things including faulty street lights, potholes and blocked drains. Simply select the appropriate link on the webpage and fill in our user-friendly online form. Each form guides you through all the details we need to action your request faster, so we won't have to come back to you for additional information.

Tweet us via **[@ccbathnes](https://twitter.com/ccbathnes)** or **[www.twitter.com/ccbathnes](http://www.twitter.com/ccbathnes)**

If you've got a Twitter account, it's great way to get quick advice about a council service or report certain problems. Try and provide as much detail as possible in 140 characters. For example 'Pothole on Down Lane Bathampton just past Miller Walk junction'. Photos can also be really useful to help us identify the problem and location.

## **Footpath Working Parties**

Last year the Parish Council took on responsibility for cutting back the vegetation on the footpaths. We assembled a small team and learnt a lot. Over the winter we have teamed up with the Dry Arch Growers to buy scythes and it's nearly time to start the task again this year. We meet at the Dry Arch Growers on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6pm and the 4th Saturday of the month at 10am between May to September. If you're interested in helping out please make a note of the dates and come along! No experience necessary.

## **Footpath improvements**

- B&NES have cleared a tree that was blocking the footpath on the old tram line behind Hantone Hill
- B&NES have also cut back the hedges on the path directly south of the triangular field. Further along that path they have cleared the woodland which had become overgrown. They have replaced some of the steps on this path and also plan to replace the stile at the top of that path.

- We have been speaking with B&NES about improving drainage on some of the paths on the Down and also about adding some more steps on the path between Holcombe Lane and the swing bridge
- B&NES have improved the drainage ditch on the bridleway opposite Down Lane.
- We are in contact with Bath Golf Club about a leaking pipe that is causing an impromptu stream to run down the bridleway

## 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

Look out for our **Midsummer Event on Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>**. We are busy planting and sowing and setting up extra poly tunnels and greenhouses. 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, contact Jan Helps on 01225 336656 or Hannah Isaac on 07795 127786

<p>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.          Contact details:          George Ardrey            424270          Moira Brennan            313503          Kate Jones                422870          Lin King                    460998          David Mayo                466875          Tony McCann              423230          Mike Richards            466757</p> <p><a href="http://www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk">www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Village Hall Bookings          Angela Shearer Tel: 421112  <a href="mailto:angela@shearer.org.uk">angela@shearer.org.uk</a></p> <p>Newsletter Editor          Jan Helps can be contacted on</p> <p>Telephone: 01225 336656          E.mail: <a href="mailto:j.s.helps@talk21.com">j.s.helps@talk21.com</a></p> <p>Please let Jan Helps know if there are changes to any of the information in "What's on in Bathampton"</p>
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