

**Bathampton Parish Council
Newsletter October 2014**

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Shop and Post Office – Good News

At the beginning of August we got the shock of learning that the shop and post office were to close. Sarah Batterbury and Kevin Humphries arranged a village meeting for 6 September to generate ideas and discuss possibilities. At the meeting, which was very well attended, a Mr Haque, who currently runs a restaurant in Corsham, came forward to announce that he was in negotiation with the doctors' partnership who own the property. He hoped to agree a lease arrangement with them and to reopen the shop as soon as possible.

The good news is that Mr Haque tells me that he intends to reopen the shop at 12noon on Thursday 6 November. Opening hours will be 7am to 8pm. Because it is a long-winded procedure, it may be some time before the post office can be reopened.

Bathampton Housing Needs Survey

A meeting took place on 8 October between Curo, West of England Rural Network (WERN) and representatives of the Parish Council. The results of the survey were discussed and the next step is for Curo to speak informally to B&NES to see whether the survey results justify proceeding with the project.

Bath Transport Strategy

On Thursday 9 October I attended a workshop led by Mott McDonald, consultants to B&NES. The objective was to identify options for improving access to Bath from the east of the city. It was an open-ended discussion and all the familiar topics were covered – Park & Ride, Park & Rail, link road, A350 etc. No new information emerged as to B&NES intentions for siting a Park & Ride east of the city or for the Park & Rail scheme.

Parish Council

We have, for some time, had only 8 Parish Councillors against our official quota of 9. Anyone who wants to join a cheerful bunch of people making a contribution to the community should give me a ring on 423230.

Tony McCann

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

Jewsons Yard (The Old Timber Yard) 15 New Houses

Final details of layout/design are still awaited.

Candywood Leys

The PC was opposed to the retrospective application for various outbuildings but this has been approved by BANES.

Previous M.O.D. Site, Warminster Road

Although not in Bathampton we were asked for our comments on the plans for the erection of 189 dwellings plus ancillary work. Revised plans have now been received. Our response suggested that the western blocks were set further back from the road to allow more trees for screening and this has been done. Also the three blocks of town houses at the eastern end which we said did not fit in with the streetscape have been replaced by blocks of flats which from Warminster Road look like Hampton Hall and so are more in keeping. This has raised the number of dwellings from 189 to 201, and includes a number for affordable housing. Our main objection however was that the proposed site boundary will encroach onto the strip of green belt which divides Bathwick from Bathampton and which we insist must be maintained. This has not been addressed and so we have again objected. We have also reiterated our concerns over the single access onto/from Warminster Road.

Canal Boat decking

BANES and CRT continue to investigate the unauthorised decking and planting alongside a boat moored on the canal, near to the Raft Café.

Carisbrooke Bathampton Lane (overlooking the canal) – Rebuild in contemporary style

In principle, the Parish Council do not object, but have made suggestions on positioning, colour and roof foliage. A decision is awaited.

St Nicholas House Bathampton Lane – Garden Outbuilding

The Parish Council noted that this will be a substantial free standing building with several rooms, but BANES have permitted it.

Batheaston/Bathampton Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge and track.

Bathampton and Batheaston are intending to work together to agree with BANES what can be done to improve the site and where responsibility will lie. We will also discuss planting of hedging and trees and possible placing of benches; signage remains to be added at the exit onto Mill Lane.

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> .

Highways

The Highways Agency have given us new dates for various pieces of work on the A36. The improvements to bus stops are now expected to happen in November and moving the vehicle activated sign has been delayed until January. The planned three month closure of the A36 from Bathampton to Limpley Stoke is now planned to start in March 2015. The resurfacing in Bathampton is still planned to go ahead but timing is likely to be linked to the road closure.

Canal

We are pleased to see an improvement of the management of the BIFFA bins by the canal bridge. The Canal and River Trust (CRT) manage the contract with BIFFA and they are ensuring that the bins are emptied three times a week.

Footpaths

Benches have been installed right next to Sham Castle and on the grass patch between the tow path and Tying Road. These benches were paid for through the profits from the Walks Around Bathampton book produced by the now-disbanded Bathampton Footpaths Association.

The path running underneath Grosvenor Bridge has been resurfaced by B&NES and should be much more passable in the winter months. We have spoken to B&NES about the unfinished improvement work to the bridleway on Bathampton Down and we have been assured the job will be completed soon.

Village Hall**Moira Brennan**

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 425085.

We are very sad that the Bathampton Carpet Bowls Club will no longer meet on Friday afternoons. The Club has met in the village hall for over 15 years. Declining numbers mean that the Club has had to call it a day. Sara Fudge wanted to pass on her thanks to **everyone** who was associated with the Club over those happy years.

Leisure and Amenities**Mike Richards****Jubilee Garden.**

Having repaired the masonry of the 'lengthman's hut, the Canal & River Trust, with Heritage volunteers, await the delivery of tiles to finish off the work in early November. Hopefully the Trust will include an information board to illustrate the original commercial use of the canal. Have a look at this inspirational video:

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/features/canal-heritage>.

Once the hut is complete we can look at the space in the Jubilee Gardens to see if some plants would enhance the area further. Perhaps the Bathampton Gardeners Association would have some ideas.

Allotments

With the end of another growing season the allotments look quite depressing, as most crops have been harvested. It's time for digging and clearing the plots in readiness for the weather to do its best to reinvigorate the soil, and for the tenants to consider the layout and what to plant for next year. If you would like your name put onto the waiting list for allotment spaces, please let a Parish Councillor know.

Playground and playing field

It's good to see this area being used so often by the children and it would appear to satisfy local needs. However if any parents wish to be involved in considering additional or alternative equipment please let a Parish Councillor know. A scheme to upgrade the area is possible once a plan has been created and we can then apply for a grant as a community project.

Another reminder: Dogs are not allowed in this area or on the playing field.

General amenities

Advice from B&NES is that the Holcombe Lane Bus Shelter should be up by Christmas.

Plans for the village Christmas tree are in hand and, hopefully this year, will involve our local Scout group.

Trees, hedges and shrubs - wonderful to have them for their beauty, screening and boundaries but...they grow, and grow large. There comes a time when cutting back is required to let in more light for self as well as neighbours. They can cause obstructions to views and overhang roads, pathways and pavements, so please check your boundaries.

The few planters in the village always have a pretty show of flowers complementing some of the gardens that are visible to the passer by. The Parish Council would fund more especially in significant locations like the approaches to the village and Down Lane, provided there were enthusiastic volunteers to care for them. If you are keen, let a Councillor know and arrangements will be made

Village News and Events

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

Village Hall

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Dry Arch Growers

Visit Dry Arch on Thursdays and Sundays and contact Jan if you are interested in a veg box or apple juice.

<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:</p> <table><tr><td>George Ardrey</td><td>424270</td></tr><tr><td>Sarah Batterbury</td><td>07802 727244</td></tr><tr><td>Moira Brennan</td><td>313503</td></tr><tr><td>Kate Jones</td><td>422870</td></tr><tr><td>Lin King</td><td>460998</td></tr><tr><td>David Mayo</td><td>466875</td></tr><tr><td>Tony McCann</td><td>423230</td></tr><tr><td>Mike Richards</td><td>466757</td></tr></table> <p>www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk</p>	George Ardrey	424270	Sarah Batterbury	07802 727244	Moira Brennan	313503	Kate Jones	422870	Lin King	460998	David Mayo	466875	Tony McCann	423230	Mike Richards	466757	<p>Village Hall Bookings Mary Feddery Tel: 425085 bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor Jan Helps can be contacted on Telephone: 01225 336656 E.mail: j.s.helps@talk21.com</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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