# Bathampton Parish Council
# Newsletter March 2011

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

## *** ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ***

## Thursday 14 April 2011

## 7.30pm Village Hall

Come and find out what your Parish Council has been doing during the past year. There will be ample opportunity for questions and discussion. As usual, a glass of wine and some nibbles will be on offer after the meeting. As well as the usual reports from the Groups, topics which will be raised include:

- transition of British Waterways into a Trust
- the Localism Bill
- parking restrictions
- Valley Parishes Alliance

**Local elections 5 May 2011**

The elections cover District Councillors (for B&NES), Parish Councils, and a referendum on the Alternative Vote system. Nominations for the Parish Council open on 22 March and close on 4 April. Anyone seeking further information about nominations should contact Tony McCann on 423230

**Tony McCann**

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## Leisure & Amenities — Mike Richards

**Jubilee Garden**

The dead *Prunus* tree has been replaced and hopefully will take root and survive. This was funded by a kind offer from a local resident in memory of his late wife, who much enjoyed this place. It was noticed at the time, that the hidden corner closest to the George pub required attention, as it was overgrown with creepers, rampant C*ordylines* and litter.

The Parish Council wondered whether a group or individual would like to consider making this patch into a pleasant shrubbery or small garden?

**Allotments**

Preparation work is now evident as plots are being prepared for various plants and seeds. A skip will be provided before Easter for the removal of rubbish items and material that cannot be composted. Plot holders are asked to make the most of this opportunity to clean up, particularly around the edges of the allotment area.

The 'waiting list' has had new names added as demand increases to *'grow your own'*.

**Playground and playing field**

The Parish Council would welcome ideas for improvements from local parents, especially as all the existing equipment is well used.

Contracts for cutting the grass are being examined which would include more attention to the embankment area.

There has been no progress on the boule pitch suggestion as a suitable location has not been found and no additional support has been received. Please let any of the Councillors know should there be an interest and the Parish Council could then take the idea further.

**Other areas**

After another visit by the a member of the BaNES Public Transport dept, the pavement by the Methodist chapel on Holcombe Lane was found to be was wide enough to take a bus shelter. This awaits clarification with the bus company and the availability of a shelter.

The aperture in the Parish bus shelter on Warminster Road has been fixed by Alan Saunders using some spare plastic sheeting.

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## Planning and Conservation Report Lin King and Susanne Wing

**The Tarmac Access Road to Bathampton Farm**

This included closing the railway level crossing but retaining the footpath and is now under construction.

**Mobile home Meadow Lane**

The decision in the appeal hearing against refusal of the application for a mobile home on land west of Meadow Lane has now been made – the appeal, and therefore planning permission, has been refused.

**Avonstone, Bathampton Lane**

Approval was given for the final proposal for the rebuilding of the front wall and gates for and work has started.

**Bathampton School**

Planning permission has been approved for permanent classrooms to replace the extra temporary ones at the rear of the school**.** This will include an open learning area for music, orchestra etc.

**Triangular Field Appeal**

An informal appeal hearing was held in Queen's Square on March 8th, and was very well supported by Bathampton residents. The hearing lasted all day and the Inspector considered various aspects, -

- The effect on the open space
- The Conservation Area
- Listed buildings
- Trees: how they would be affected by the actual building work and how they would impact the dwellings.

BANES officers had obviously done a lot of preparation and presented a thorough case for keeping this green space, green. A site visit was made the following day. We expect a decision from the inspector in 6-8 weeks.

**Tree preservation orders**

The tree preservation officers at BANES have now put in an application to have Tree preservation orders put on 15 trees in the triangular field, owing to the fact that they 'make a significant contribution to the local amenity and the landscape of the area'. This order is in force on a temporary basis for 6 months from 25th January 2011 while consideration is given to making it permanent.

As ever, there have also been various applications for extensions and tree works, and now

with Spring in the air, for decking. Any of these applications and our comments, along with others' comments, can be seen on the B&NES Planning website by following the link at http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES

## Highways Group Sue Christley, Kate Jones and Keith Rossiter

**Winter Maintenance Review**
Following the cold weather in December, B&NES is proposing a number of changes in winter maintenance arrangements for Winter 2011/2012:-

- Existing grit bins will continue to be filled. No new bins will be allocated to Bathampton.
- Parish Councils may buy additional bins, but B&NES will **not** fill them.
- For winter 2011/2012, in addition to filling existing bins, B&NES will also deliver to parishes palletised bags of salt. The Parish is expected to allocate a '*snow warden'* to store, control and use this salt as appropriate.
- Parishes have been told that they run little risk of being sued for negligence in deciding to clear public areas, e.g. in front of the shops/health centre. B&NES will investigate the bulk purchase of mechanical salt spreaders and offer these to parishes for purchase.
- Existing gritting routes will be maintained. We have asked B&NES to add Devonshire Road to its gritting route. However, parishes have been told that B&NES equipment and manpower are at maximum capacity and there are no plans to invest in additional capacity for winter 2011/2012.

**Safe Route to School**

B&NES has finally agreed to provide a '*safer route'* to Bathampton Primary School. Although not as comprehensive as our preferred plan, money is available for early completion. We need to be pragmatic and accept that in current circumstances this is the best we can do. It does not prevent us, at some future date, asking for further improvements. Changes will include:-

- A clearly marked passage across the Canal Bridge, marked at either end by bollards.
- Clearly marked 'crossing points' in Tyning Road and across Church Close.
- Improved warning signs and road markings at the bridge entrance points.

We have been assured by B&NES that money is allocated to these works. These changes, together with the introduction of parking restrictions in Tyning Road and Church Close, should provide a safer environment for children and parents on their journey to and from school.

**Parking Restrictions – Tyning Road, Church Close & Holcombe Lane**

All signage is now up and correctly positioned. Ahead of the '*traffic regulation order'* implementation date (1st May), we now await improvement to the tarmac surface in Tyning Road and then marking of the various lines on all three roads.

# Village News and Events

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

## Bathampton Village Hall — Janet George

The Bathampton Village Hall management committee AGM will take place on **Thursday 12th May 2011 in the small hall at 7.30** Every one is welcome - come along and find out more about your Village Hall

## Bathampton Community supported Agriculture — Jan Helps

## Seed growers wanted!!

There are posters and leaflets around the village advertising the launch of **Dry Arch Growers**. We hope lots of people will become involved in this community project in some small way. Our launch event is in the village hall at 7.30pm on March 31st. Come along and see what is going on and how you could get involved. Alternatively, visit the site on Thursday or Sunday mornings. Have you got a spare window sill or space in your green house? We need people to help grow seeds. Materials, seeds and instructions are provided! Please visit these websites to find out more about Community Supported Agriculture and the Bathampton Dry Arch Scheme at http://bathamptoncsa.wordpress.com/ or http://www.transitionbath.org/bathampton-csa-news

There are many ways to be involved, so pay a visit to the site or contact **Jamie Colston on 01225 851377 or Jan Helps on 01225 336656**

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| **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.**<br>Contact details:<br>Sue Christley 338116<br>Kate Jones 422870<br>Helen Horler 07968 825624<br>Lin King 460998<br>David Mayo 466875<br>Tony McCann 423230<br>Mike Richards 466757<br>Keith Rossiter 426127<br>Susanne Wing 465359 | Village Hall Bookings<br>Sarah Fudge Tel: 460196<br><br>Newsletter Editor<br>Jan Helps can be contacted on<br><br>Telephone: 01225 336656<br>E.mail: j.s.helps@talk21.com<br><br>Please let Jan Helps know if there are changes to any of the information in "**What's on in Bathampton"** |