

**Bathampton Parish Council
Newsletter October 2011**

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Park & Ride east of Bath

At last some pretty good news. The new B&NES administration have submitted their "best & final" bid to the Department for Transport for funding for the Bath Transportation Package. It does not include a Park & Ride on the Meadows. At a recent Valley Parishes Alliance meeting Cllr. Paul Crossley, leader of B&NES Council, said that he did not believe there would be a Park & Ride on the Meadows during this administration. This Council will not renew the Planning Permission for the Park & Ride.

Lollipop

Like many schools in the area our school has not had a lollipop lady or man for many years. B&NES is seeking to recruit more such people. There is no age limit although some checks e.g. re eyesight are required. It does not have to be one person but can be a team working a rota. It involves, of course, one morning and one afternoon session. Some pay is on offer – but not much! Anyone interested should contact B&NES Traffic & Safety Team on 394256.

New Parish Councillor

As mentioned in the last newsletter we still have one vacancy on the Parish Council. The duties are not onerous and it is an enjoyable way to contribute something to the community. Anyone who would like to know more about it and might consider joining should call Tony McCann on 423230.

Bathampton Flower Show

As usual, the Gardeners Association good fairy produced fine weather, at least for the afternoon. Although a strange growing season had affected the flower and vegetable entries, overall there was plenty to see. Our thanks, once again, to the BGA for a fine show.

Finally, although it seems stupidly early, since there will not be another newsletter until next year, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tony McCann

Jubilee Garden

The corner remains fenced off to prevent access to the broken roof of the fitters' hut below, while British waterways decide on its fate as well as the type of fencing to be erected. The hut in the wall was where originally dockets were issued for the passing of narrow boats with their cargoes, along this section. So a question to local canal and history enthusiasts is, should the hut be removed or feature as a reminder of the past commercial nature of the canal? Answers to a member of the Paris Council.

Allotments

The majority of the cultivated plots have had a reasonable harvest of most crops despite the variable weather this year, whilst there is still a marvellous show of flowers from those that grow them. Most plots are in good order with signs of regular use and cultivation; just a few need a bit more care and attention particularly when uncontrolled weeds spread and affect adjacent plots. Besides the perennial horticultural pests, there have been several sightings of rats. Measures are being taken to eradicate or at least discourage them. Despite some awkward places along the Down Lane border, the contractors continue to cut the grass where they can but occasionally dislodged marker posts make this difficult for the works to be completed. An idea to provide additional parking space off the lower entrance is being considered but initial groundwork costs are higher than anticipated, so further talks are necessary. Meanwhile, there have been new names added to the waiting list and a couple of changes made.

Playground and playing field

More surveys with contractors have taken place with regard to the playground. The agreed priority is to ensure that what we have is properly maintained and to consider later the replacement of less popular equipment after consultations with the regular users.

Other areas

We are fortunate with the frequency that BaNES continue to cut all our open grass areas, and it would be helpful if more residents kept the immediate areas around their pavements clear of weeds and overgrown shrubs.

A volunteer living near the Holcombe Lane / Holcombe Close junction is required to look after the local flower planter. An occasional watering and weeding when needed, that's all!

Raft Café

In the last newsletter we reported that some decking had been put down and is being used by the Raft Café. They are also hiring out boats, and an 'A' board has appeared. This was in contravention of the planning permission that had been granted, and the enforcement officers were alerted. We discussed the matter with the owners and now understand that British Waterways will be submitting another application to cover the extra permission required. No-one objects to the development but it does need to be formalised.

Telecomms cabinets

Openreach, the telecommunication installation company for BT, have now installed new cabinets to improve Broad Band access to the village. There is a new cabinet, at the junction of Down Lane with Bathampton Lane, and a replacement cabinet at the bottom of Down Lane.

Mobile home

A mobile home has been sited on the parcel of land by the canal at the bottom of Meadow Lane. This is the parcel of land where planning permission was sought and refused and the appeal was turned down. We understand that the mobile home is now the sole home of the occupier and that the land will shortly be turned into a smallholding. Retrospective planning permission will be applied for. The timescale given for the application is Oct 13th, 2011.

Dying tree

T15 (Oak) of the Tree Preservation Order titled Bath and North East Somerset Council (Bathampton Lane, Bathampton No.15) Tree Preservation Order 2011 is dying and the owner has been advised to fell the tree for safety reasons. The tree is opposite Druids Garth on the parcel of land which was subject to a recent planning application so it's removal may cause concern to residents who are not aware of it's condition. The owner has been advised that there is a standard duty to replant

BANES Core Strategy

BANES has published its proposals re the Core Strategy for future housing developments. These can be found at www.bathnes.gov.uk/corestrategy. It states that 'particular importance is placed on the protection of our valued Green Belt and the Council is confident the area's future need for development can be met without using Green Belt'.

As ever, there have also been various applications and some re-submissions for extensions. 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

Safe Route to School

B&NES has now completed planned changes to road markings at the Canal Bridge.

The creation of a pseudo footpath on the southern (non-pavement) side of the Canal Bridge. Protected at either end by bollards.

Renewal of five anti-skid points - in Mill Lane (2), Church Close (1), Tynning Road (1) and High Street (1).

We need to monitor these changes and would welcome feedback from parents who use this as part of their route to school.

Leylandii Trees

The Parish Council has supported a group of local residents concerned at the increasing impact on Bathampton Village and the conservation area, caused by the leylandii plantation adjacent to Miller Walk.

Representations have been made to B&NES and Jacob Rees-Mogg, MP.

Canal

The Waterways Minister - Richard Benyon – has confirmed the government's intention to move British Waterways in England & Wales into a New Waterways Charity (as yet to be named). The Parish Council and Valley Parishes Alliance took part in the formal consultation process. The new Act should come into force in the early part of 2012.

There are many concerns about this change; not least the question of finance for the New Waterways Charity. The Kennet & Avon Canal will have its own management unit, which will work closely with a local K&A Partnership Board representing local communities, enthusiasts, donors and volunteers.

The VPA is working hard to ensure that it has a seat on this Partnership Board and that the views of the nine VPA parishes (Bathampton included) are represented when a local strategy for the K&A is developed.

Village News and Events

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

Bathampton Cricket Club

In addition to their summer activities the Cricket Club are now members of the Bath Indoor Cricket League. This is a six-a-side league which plays fortnightly on Sunday evenings. Anyone interested should contact Stephen Dalley-Smith (see What's On).

Maxi lunch club

Bathampton's lunch club for the older villagers would like to remind people that we meet on the last Thursday of the month, for a fresh cooked meal, in the Miller Room at St. Nicholas's Church- 12 for 12.30. We accept a donation of £2.00 towards costs. Why not join us on October 27th. for a chicken bake with an apple and cinnamon pudding to follow.

St. Nicholas Church Fund – Garage Sale

Maureen Rossiter and granddaughter Jessica will be holding a garage sale to raise money for St. Nicholas Church Fund. 100% of proceeds go to the Church Fund. Saturday, 22nd October – 10.00 am to 4.30 pm. Big selection of Christmas and other items. All welcome.

Dry Arch Growers

A huge "thank you" to everyone who came along to help with our apple harvest. We collected over a tonne of apples and we await the reward for all the hard work in the form of delicious bottled juice. It was a lovely community day with lots of fun, hard work, a great bonfire and lots of lovely food donated by everyone who came. Since September, the Dry Arch Growers have been regularly distributing shares of vegetables, grown at the site in Holcombe Lane. The produce, which is organically grown, is harvested every Thursday morning and is available to collect in the afternoon from the Dry Arch site. If you would like to become a member, and receive a regular supply of vegetables, please contact Hannah Isaac on 07766 876918 or email hanzibar1@hotmail.co.uk. Please come and visit, help with our poly tunnel installation or volunteer. You don't have to be a gardener. There are lots of different ways to be involved. Contact Jan Helps for more information

Calling all Bathampton footpath users!

Do you use a particular path on a regular basis? Would you be prepared to report any issues that require attention? Maybe on occasions you could spare some time to help us keep the footpaths pleasant and accessible for everyone.

If you use any of the footpaths regularly -
or you think this is the perfect excuse to get out there - then please
contact **Cllr David Mayo (466875 / council@davidmayo.co.uk)**.

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:

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Please let Jan Helps know if
there are changes to any of the
information in

“What’s on in Bathampton”