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Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter April 2016

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Over the last few months I have noticed a woman picking litter along the A36 on a Friday afternoon. A few weeks ago I stopped and had a chat with her. I asked if she was employed by BANES. She told me that she lives in the village and she felt it could do with a regular clear up. She had agreed with BANES what she needed to do to stay safe and agreed that they would collect the litter she picks. She told me that it keeps her fit and the village looks better for it. I was very heartened by this conversation, but it also made me think that the quality of our life in Bathampton benefits from the efforts of so many volunteers. There are volunteers who support the school, the churches, the playgroup, people who keep our footpaths well maintained and who are creating a new leisure area at the riverside, those who organise the village show and run the village hall, run youth groups and support our older parishioners through helping hands and the maxi club and so many more. Even this newsletter is delivered by volunteers. This week I attended the national conference for voluntary organisations where I heard that volunteers make an enormous contribution to the wellbeing of the nation – but more than that I learned that the evidence shows that the people who volunteer also see an increase in their own wellbeing. This can come about through being physically active, by having positive social interactions but also by knowing that they have made a difference rather than just sitting at home complaining about whatever they think should be improved. So from my fellow parish councillors (who are also volunteers) and all of us who live in Bathampton, I am taking this opportunity to say thank you to the litter picker and all of the other people who give their time to improve life in our village.

Over the last few months a group of people have come together to form the Bathampton Meadows Alliance (BMA). The Alliance have done an amazing job pulling together information to support BANES councillors to understand the reasons why putting a park and ride on the Meadows is such a bad idea !! We are now waiting for the decision which is expected some time in May.

Annual parish meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on at 7.30 on Monday 23 May in the Village Hall and all are welcome. Your Councillors will report on their activity over the past year and there will be a chance for discussion and questions. After the formal part Mark Evans, Waterway Manager for the Kennet and Avon Canal who also sits on the Bath Riverscape project will talk to us.

As always there will be a chance to have a chat afterwards over a glass of wine and a nibble.

Moira Brennan

Village Hall

Moira Brennan

The Village Hall AGM will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 26 May in the small hall of the Village Hall.

Other upcoming events in the hall include a surgery from our MP, Jacob Rees Mogg on 7 May, and the popular plant sale on 4 June and quiz on 11 June.

We are still looking for a new Chairman for the Village Hall, so if you are interested please contact us

at bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com.

Highways Group

Stuart Andrews and Jacqueline Bird

Canal

The resurfacing of the canal path between The George and Sydney Gardens is well under way. Diversions are in place for path users and there have been no reported problems.

Within the next week or so part of the canal through the village will be declared a Quiet Zone. Signage to this effect is due to be installed. The Canal & River Trust (CRT) has been very helpful and efficient in organising this. CRT is heavily dependent on volunteer wardens to whom we offer thanks.

Roads

Following resurfacing there are some potholes already appearing at the top of Bathampton Lane; these have been reported.

The most important and ongoing problem remains the issue of speeding, on Bathampton Lane, Warminster Road and Mill Lane

There has been much correspondence by phone and email to innumerable officials at BANES and Highways England and there is understandable frustration that matters progress so slowly, if at all.

At our request BANES undertook a speed survey on Bathampton Lane. Their initial conclusion is that current traffic speeds do not support spend on further traffic calming. We have asked for further evaluation of the data by BANES.

Mill Road is also a difficult area with an incongruous 60 mph stretch sandwiched between the Toll Bridge and the much lower limits through the village. At the moment there are no plans to reduce this speed limit, but the Parish Council has asked for a review of this, especially in view of the popularity of the new footpath and cycle track across the meadows which exits on to Mill Lane.

There has been much positive response regarding Community Speedwatch. We have had an initial meeting with the local 'beat officer' and locations for the radar equipment have been identified. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered to take part. If we could find just a few more it would make the running of it so much easier. The commitment would be around 30 minutes per fortnight but there are other ways to help so if you are interested or would like to know more, please contact bathamptonspeedwatch@icloud.com.

Footpaths

David Mayo

With the summer months approaching, we will be undertaking another round of cutting back surface vegetation on the footpaths. If you are interested in giving something back to the community and getting in a bit of gentle exercise with a small but keen group of volunteers, please contact Cllr Mayo. No experience necessary! You should wear comfortable shoes and clothes that will keep out the nettles. We can provide gloves and equipment. Currently, the planned dates are as follows.

Sat 7 May 10:00 – 12:00	Sat 30 Jul 10:00 – 12:00
Thu 12 May 18:00 – 20:00	Thu 4 Aug 18:00 – 20:00
Sat 21 May 10:00 – 12:00	Sat 13 Aug 10:00 – 12:00
Thu 26 May 18:00 – 20:00	Thu 18 Aug 18:00 – 20:00
Sat 4 Jun 10:00 – 12:00	Sat 27 Aug 10:00 – 12:00
Thu 9 Jun 18:00 – 20:00	Thu 1 Sep 18:00 – 20:00

There are five paths that need cutting so this gives us a contingency in case of bad weather or a low turnout one week.

Leisure and Amenities

Jan Helps

Allotments

This is a busy time for growers and I hope the new allotment owners have settled in. There is still a small waiting list of people wishing for an allotment so please contact me if, for any reason, you have a reason to give yours up.

Grass Cutting

We have a new contractor this year who will be maintaining grassed areas between April and October. Areas covered will be the playing field (including the bank at the far end), allotment paths, grass in front of the school and grassed areas at the bottom of Down Lane. Alan the handyman will continue to look after the grass in the enclosed play area.

Playground and Playing field

The swing

As many will have noticed, an inclusive swing, suitable for able bodied as well as disabled children was installed in the playground just before Easter, thanks to a grant from Geoff Ward, councillor for Northavon. Within 3 days it was broken and we are in the process of addressing the problem. We are aware of the frustration caused and it has taken a considerable amount of time, so far, to resolve the situation.....but it will be resolved.

A new playground

Members of the playground working party met recently with a playground designer and supplier. We now await some draft designs and costings. Thank you to all who completed our questionnaire and sent personal letters with ideas and suggestions. This project is ongoing and we will ensure that we liaise with all interested groups as any designs or plans progress. There is no doubt that this is going to be a costly project and will need considerable fund raising. We would welcome anyone interested or experienced in fundraising to join the working party.

Planters in the village

To add to Moira's remarks regarding volunteering, I would like to add a huge thanks to all the volunteers who grow plants and care for the village planters. They add to the character and attractiveness of the village.

Planning and Conservation Report (co-opted)

Lin King and George Ardrey, and Susanne Wing

Batheaston/Bathamton Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge and track.

Bathamton and Batheaston continue to work together on this project, although the day-to-day management is being done by Peter Fear. Many thanks to Peter. The volunteer group has been working hard to clear the ground and to clear and extend the ditch flowing into the river. The grant of up to £5K has been received and has been spent on benches and tables and notice boards. It is expected that these will be installed w/c 25th April. The proposed extension of the track to cross the ditch (via a new wooden bridge) and go under the Toll Bridge and into the grounds of Bathampton Mill will now be phase 2, while we wait to see how the area develops. Anyone who wishes to join the Volunteer group should email Bathampton and Batheaston River and Footpath Friends at babraffs@gmail.com

Land between Miller Walk and Simons Close / 'Leylandii Field'

The application to upgrade the track and add a service channel was refused and the appeal was dismissed; it is now subject to yet another application. The application for 4 self-build houses on the 'leylandii field' was refused and has now been appealed. The PC continues to object to any such development; in the BANES Placemaking Plan the PC has proposed that the field and track form part of the 'open green space' visible from Bathampton Lane; this is currently with the Secretary of State and will be reviewed by an Inspector in due course.

Down House

The application to build a new house in the garden of Down House was refused.

Rail Electrification/Sub-station

Network Rail are still proposing to pull together all the various documents, plans and methodologies required to enable them to submit a new planning application to move the proposed substation site away from the school, but this has not yet been received.

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

Demolition work has now commenced.

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

Work has also started here. The developers Charcombe Homes have put together a detailed plan for construction and deliveries, and this has meant restrictions on parking. At the time of writing it appears to be working well. As it has been agreed that we do not want any intrusive lighting along Tynning Road, there may be some money available which we intend to use as part of the 'Safe Routes to School' project.

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.

Proposed Planning Bill

A new Planning Bill proposes widespread changes to the application and approval process. In our view this will detrimentally affect local consultation and lead to uncontrolled development and we have responded in that vein.

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>.

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.

Thai Chi comes to Bathampton

New classes are taking place in the Scout Hall on Warminster Road on Mondays 8-9pm and Thursday 10-11pm They are both beginners classes which are accessible to all. They will run during term time and begin on 18th April.

Contact Simon Darnton on 07970 022627 or <http://www.simondarnton.com/tai-chi-classes>

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. We are very busy with preparing, sowing and planting and an even an hour of your time would be appreciated. Veg box customers would be especially welcome.

See our blog on <https://bathamptoncsa.wordpress.com> or find us on Facebook

The Parish Council on line

Liam McMurray

www.facebook.com/bathampton.

Twitter @bathamptonpc

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:

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Village Hall Bookings

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Newsletter Editor

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

"What's on in Bathampton"

What's On in Bathampton April 2016

Organisation	Meets	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups	Monday afternoon Monday evening Thursday morning		
Beavers	Wednesday 6.15 to 7.15pm		
Bell ringers	Monday 7.45pm & Sundays 10.00am		
Bridge Club	Monday 1.30 – 4.30 pm Tuesday 1.30 – 4.30pm		
Brownies	Wednesday 6.30 to 8.00 pm		
Cricket Club	Tuesday & Sunday		
Cubs	Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm		
Dance, Ballet and Modern Curtis school of Dance	Friday pm		
Dry Arch Growers. Bathampton community co-operative	Thursday mid morning and pm (while light) Sundays 11 - 3		
Gardeners Association			
Goldies Singing session	Tuesday St Nicholas Court 10.30-11.30		
Guides	Thursday 7.00-8.30pm		
Helping Hands Neighbourly Support Group	Call if you want to help or need help		
Cool to knit – crochet, sewing spinning, cake!	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday each month. Community room, St Nicholas court 2 to 4pm		
Chair Keep Fit Aerobics	Tuesdays 6.20 pm (30 mins) Chair exercises Tuesday 7 – 8pm Wednesday 12.45 to 1.45pm		
Mini Club	Wednesday 9.00 to 11.30 term time		

Maxi Club lunch for retired people		Last Thursday in Month 12 – 1.30 Miller Room		
Pilates Room	Miller	Tues 10.15 to 11.15 6 to 7pm 7 to 8pm		
Hall	village	Thurs 6pm to 7pm Thurs 7.05pm – 7.55pm		
Zumba Dance hall	village			
Playgroup		Mon, Tues, Wed.		
Scouts		Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm		
Scottish Country Dance		Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm		
Senior Table Tennis		Tues mornings 10.30-1.00 Scout HQ		
Table Tennis		Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm Scout HQ.		
Tai Chi		Scout hall Monday 8 - 9pm Thursday 10 – 11pm		
Try Your Hand Craft Sessions		Wednesday afternoons		
Yoga Village hall		Friday 11.30		

