

# Bathampton Parish Council

## Newsletter August 2018

### CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

It was great to see so many of you at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. We heard about the positive impact on our health of staying active. Even small increases in activity can have enormous benefits for our health. We are very lucky as a village that we have so many footpaths on our doorstep but we also have access to lots of really sociable exercise classes right here in Bathampton. Check out the What's On section and see what you might like to take up in September.

We also heard about the plans for the Conker Crossing. There is more later in the newsletter about their progress. You can support them and have fun by taking part in a pub quiz on Monday 20 August in The George. Keep your eye on the noticeboards for more information.

Since the last newsletter, the Parish Council has responded to the consultation on the schemes for a Clean Air Zone in Bath. Our major concern has been the potential impact on numbers of vehicles travelling through the village to avoid any charges. The more people who respond to the consultation the better and it is not too late to respond.

You can email them your views on [environmental\\_monitor@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:environmental_monitor@bathnes.gov.uk) or <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-breathes-2021/get-involved>

This newsletter also has information about an exciting new business that is coming to the village and which will hopefully fill some of the gap left by the closure of the shop.

At our June meeting, Don, clerk to the Parish Council, dropped the bomb shell that he is planning to retire after many years service. We need to recruit a new clerk. The role is part time (around 10 hours per week) but is paid. Check out our noticeboards for more information. If you would like to apply please speak to any of the councillors or drop an email to [clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk).

As usual I have a plea for people to step forward to fill some key roles in the village. We really need some new Parish Councillors. We currently only have 7 and we should have 9. If you are interested please talk to one of the councillors (numbers are at the end of the newsletter) or come along to a meeting at 7.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except August) in the small room at the Village Hall.

Finally, this newsletter comes to you by a number of volunteers who deliver to every home in the village. We need someone to coordinate this work. The role involves collecting the newsletters from the printer, folding them (often in association with other contributors) and delivering bundles to the various people who deliver. It is a few hours work, four times a year, but makes it possible for us to continue to communicate with the whole parish via this newsletter. Please get in touch with me or Jan Helps if you think you could help.

#### **The Parish Council on line**

We are currently without a communications lead. If you would like to be the social media voice of Bathampton please get in touch with any of the councillors.

Follow [@bathamptonpc](https://twitter.com/bathamptonpc) on Twitter to get updates on events and issues affecting the village.

For official announcements, updates on important issues and the minutes from our regular Parish Council meetings you can visit [www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## **Village Hall**

We still need a Chairman and a Booking Secretary to help us to keep the Village Hall functioning as a key part of village life. The roles are not onerous but you do get to meet lots of people and help them make their events fantastic. If we don't get a new booking secretary in the next few months then the Village Hall management committee will have to stop taking bookings for parties at the hall. If you are interested please contact Moira Brennan on 313503 or email [bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com).

There is a new Iyengar yoga class starting in the hall on Wednesday 12 September at 7.30pm. See the What's On section for more information.

**Moira Brennan**

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## **Highways Group**

**Stuart Andrews and Jacqueline Bird**

Early this summer the changes to Mill Lane took place and seem to have been well received. Verges along the Warminster Road have been trimmed and this should have helped both pedestrians and the traffic; there has also been repair work on various pavements in the village. The Council is concerned about the proposed Clean Air Zone and its impact on both through traffic which might be tempted to use the toll bridge, and village residents wishing to leave Bath along the London Road. Please follow the various consultation events in the local press and in the city.

### **Generally**

If you spot any Highways related issue which needs to be addressed, we would encourage residents to contact the relevant bodies. Issues on the Warminster Road should be directed to Highways England - contact [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk) or telephone 0300 123 5000.

For issues on the other roads within our village contact Council Connect at BANES:  
[Council\\_Connect@Bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Council_Connect@Bathnes.gov.uk) or telephone 01225 394041.

## **Bathampton Conker Crossing Update - Public Consultation results plus fundraising event at the George Pub 20<sup>th</sup> August**

**Fiona Meldrum**

A big thank you to everyone who took time to give us your views and suggestions about our proposals to create a new safer foot and cycle bridge for the community between Tynning Road opposite Bathampton Primary school and King Edward's School playing fields. We had announced the consultation in the May 2018 Parish Council Newsletter and had concurrently submitted the same materials to both the Council and Canal & River Trust.

Our results below are supported by two more detailed tables that can be viewed on our website that set out both the responses from the Public to the proposals and the Conker Crossing team's response to any questions, views or suggestions provided during the Consultation. Please see these at [www.bathamptonconkercrossing.com/proposals/](http://www.bathamptonconkercrossing.com/proposals/).

We received 61 pieces of written feedback as part of the consultation.

In summary:

- 57 of 61 responses (93%) supported the project to build a new bridge. Three people didn't answer this question and one didn't support the project
  - 41 responses (67%) wrote that they fully supported the design in the comments box while 9 responses (15%) provided no comments, including on the design
  - There were 22 (36%) responses that offered suggestions, questions or challenged elements of the proposal. Of these, 4 (7%) suggested alternative materials, 2 (3%) preferred an alternative location,
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(3%) felt it was out of keeping and 3 (5%) raised concerns about how cyclists would safely share the space with pedestrians.

The next task of trustees, design & planning team is to pull together the public responses and the pre planning advice from both the Council and Canal & River Trust to develop the full planning proposals.

We have made great progress against our target of £10k and thank you if you have contributed. We only have £4,500 left to raise! Should you support the proposals, please consider giving a donation. Click "donate" at [www.bathamptonconkercrossing.com](http://www.bathamptonconkercrossing.com).

One way to help us raise funds is by taking part in a **PUB QUIZ** in the George Pub on Monday 20th August 19:00 for a 19:30 start. You are welcome to come along with or without an arranged team. £1 entry per person. If you are coming with a group of friends, please book ahead using <https://www.chefandbrewer.com/book/>.

### **Creating a village-wide travel plan**

Building on the success of the Primary School's Travel Plan, which helped secure investment to widen the pavements on Mill Lane, we are looking to create a Travel Plan for Bathampton that takes into account the views of residents. This would be used to prioritise improvements in discussion with B&NES council. Please get involved by sending the top three locations in the village that concern you in terms of traffic management and/or where safety could be improved for pedestrians or cyclists.

Please send your responses to [highways@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:highways@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk) by 14<sup>th</sup> September.

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### **Leisure and Amenities**

### **Jan Helps**

With the incredibly dry and hot weather, grass cutting around the village has been reduced, including the allotments and playing field. The current weather may have changed by the time you receive this newsletter but we will continue to liaise with contractors regarding cutting schedules.

Even though the grass has stopped growing, trees, hedges and shrubs haven't so a big thank you to residents in anticipation of continued efforts to keep footpaths and junctions clear. Down Lane and Devonshire Road are a particular challenge for drivers trying to exit these roads when sight lines are affected by vegetation.

### **Allotments**

if you are unable to maintain your allotment or intend to give up at the end of the year, please keep the plot cut down in order to reduce the impact of weeds on neighbouring plots. If you intend to give up your plot at the end of the year, please inform us so that we can let people on the waiting list know.

### **Playground**

A cradle swing has been replaced as the previous one had worn links in various places.

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### **Activities and support in the B&NES community**

There are a number of organisations and support groups with useful information and activities to support people of all ages and stages.

**Age UK Bath and North East Somerset** [www.ageuk.org.uk/bathandnortheastsomerset](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/bathandnortheastsomerset) - this is a local charity providing many types of support, clubs and activities. They also provide a "leaving hospital" service. They are always keen to have new volunteers, fund raisers and donations.

**St Johns Foundation** [www.stjohnsbath.org.uk/activities/](http://www.stjohnsbath.org.uk/activities/) - another organisation providing support and activities for the local community – particularly to older adults who are dealing with isolation.

**1Big database** [www.bathnes1bd.org.uk](http://www.bathnes1bd.org.uk) Provides information about organisations and events in B&NES offering support for a range of family issues, childcare, parenting support, benefits, school and much, much more

<http://www.wellbeingoptions.co.uk/> Wellbeing Options support adults in B&NES to live full and independent lives. The website provides information and links to organisations and resources about care services and providers, activities, advocacy, health, legal matters and independent living.

### **Bathscape Walking Festival**

A number of walks are planned for September to appeal to all interests and levels of fitness. Check the website for more details <http://www.bathscapewalkingfestival.co.uk/>

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### **Planning and Conservation Report**

**Lin King and George Ardrey**

As usual, we have reviewed many applications for extensions and for tree works. The only significant application is for a new small bungalow to the north of 46 Devonshire Road.

### **Network Rail (NR)**

A meeting was held at the school on April 30th between NR and interested parties, at which the feelings of the school and community towards NR were made very clear. The NR team were adamant that they did have the legal rights to do what they wanted but agreed to go away and consider what we had said and to provide answers to our questions. They answered some but not all, and said 'We have agreed to reduce the size of the hardstanding and remove one of the entry points to our land on Tynning Road' and 'The access point will mainly be used by vans (as it has been over many years).

However, we anticipate that approximately 10 times a year, a low loader will bring in road-rail vehicles which will be dropped off on the hard standing meaning the lane will not be blocked to other road users. We will aim to keep all of our vehicle movements outside of school drop off and collection times'.

Since then BANES has decided not to enforce against NR to compel them to return the site to its original green state. We are not happy with this and continue to work with the interested parties to try to get it reviewed. We don't currently believe this implies permission for any further development. Meanwhile NR have now reinstated around 75% of the field and taken out a gate, replaced hedgerow and re-seeded over the Site of Special Scientific Interest.

In assessing what to do next, we need to monitor whether/how NR actually use the site. They have not revealed how often they intend to use the site or at what times of the day/night. If you live locally and see regular usage of the site, please would you record what you see or hear and let Lin King know.

### **Cycle Track**

Back in June we had a problem along the Cycle Track when a group of young people drove their cars onto the site and set up camp. B&NES Environmental Protection were brought in to deal with this but the people moved on after a day or so, leaving the site relatively clean. Another group did the same in July, this time only staying for a few hours, but leaving the gatepost broken. We want to encourage visitors but not cars or camping, and so work is needed on the access gate to allow access for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles but not unauthorized vehicles. B&NES are leading on finding funding to achieve this.

### **Bathamton Meadows**

On May 15th Bathampton and Batheaston PC representatives met with B&NES Ward councillors, the National Trust and Avon Wildlife Trust to discuss the possible extension of the Nature Reserve in the Meadows. It was a very positive meeting and all were keen to see the Meadows protected for the foreseeable future. Detailed discussions are ongoing and we remain hopeful for good news.

### Encroachment above Dry Arch

Parishioners have remarked on a trailer being sited and lived in just south of Dry Arch on the ancient trackway in the woods up to the old quarry. A habitable wooden building has been erected beside the trailer. B&NES have been alerted by the Parish Council and enforcement action is being considered.

### Level Crossing

No news regarding the new track through Jewson's Yard to take traffic to Bathampton Farm and allow the level crossing to be closed to traffic (but still open for pedestrians). We remain hopeful that negotiations will be concluded soon and the track opened.

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 Shop and Cafe.

**Kay Martin**

By the time you read this the planning application will be in to change the use of the Salon in Holcombe Lane to a village shop and cafe. Building work will take place in September and we hope (fingers crossed) to be able to open at the end of October.

When I purchased the building it was my intention to open a cafe. Subsequent conversations with people in the village have made me decide to make the building a village shop too. We are still at the early stages of deciding what is needed and would appreciate any feedback from the village regarding this. My initial thoughts are to sell basic foodstuffs as well as more special items and I have been visiting all the local community shops and farm shops for ideas. It will evolve over time to meet the needs of the community.

There have been requests for a post office but this is a long process taking up to a year, so in the short term I hope to sell stamps and have a facility to post parcels and this will then be reviewed once we are more established.

In order for the shop to work I really need your support. I hope that some of you may consider volunteering a couple of hours a week in order to give me some time to organise and purchase the stock, we can provide as much tea and cake as you can eat in return! I am also looking for any local knitters or crochet experts who would be willing to knit a tea cosy or two as well as anyone who may have some old china cups, saucers and tea pots.

I will keep you up to date by putting notices in the window. I look forward to meeting you all in the future. You can contact me at [kaymaverick@outlook.com](mailto:kaymaverick@outlook.com) or call on 01225 466069.

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If you would like to publicise any activities or events of interest to Bathampton Residents please contact any of the Parish Councillors who will be happy to pass them on for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Contact details:

Stuart Andrews	425637
George Ardrey	424270
Jacqueline Bird	312621
Moira Brennan	313503
Jan Helps	336656
Lin King	460998
David Mayo	466875
Don Smith secretary	744472

Newsletter Editor

Jan Helps can be contacted on

Telephone: 01225 336656

E.mail: [j.s.helps@btinternet.com](mailto:j.s.helps@btinternet.com)

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

"What's on in Bathampton"

### What's On in Bathampton August 2018

Organisation	Meets	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups	Monday 1.30pm Monday 6.30pm Thursday 9.00am		
Bathampton Village Show			
Beavers	Wednesday 6.15 - 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 5.45 - 7.10 pm		
Cricket Club	Tuesday & Sunday		
Cubs	Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm		
Chair Keep Fit	Wednesday 3.15 – 3.45pm		
Body workout	Tuesday 6.40 to 7.40pm Wednesday 2 – 3pm		
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		
Guides	Thursday 7.00-8.30pm		
Iyengar Yoga village hall	Wednesday 7.30- 8.45pm		
Mini Club	Wednesday 9.00 to 11.00 term time Miller Room		
Maxi Club lunch for retired people	Last Thursday in Month 12 – 1.30 Miller Room		
Pilates Miller Room	Tues 10.15 to 11.15 6 to 7pm 7 to 8pm		
village Hall	Thurs 6pm to 7pm		
Zumba Dance village hall	Thurs 7.05pm – 7.55pm		
Playgroup bathamptonplaygroup@ yahoo.co.uk	Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday		
Scouts	Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm		
Scottish Country Dance	Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm		
Senior Table Tennis	Tues mornings 10.00-12.00 Scout HQ		
Table Tennis	Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm Scout HQ.		
Tai Chi	Scout hall Monday 8 - 9pm Thursday 10 – 11am		
Yoga Village hall	Friday 12. – 13.30		