

# Bathampton Parish Council

## Newsletter October 2017

### CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

What a great Village Show. Despite the rain we all got to enjoy seeing how creative our neighbours are. There was everything from giant veg to amazing paintings. But the show isn't just one day in September, the Committee work all year to raise funds and plan the show. Included with this newsletter is information on how you can play your part in keeping this event part of our village; you could become a committee member or you could go along and buy some of your presents at the Christmas Fair. Either way you'll have fun and meet some great people and know you are doing good!

The other great revelation for me was the barn dance on Saturday night after the show. The caller involved everyone, found dance partners and kept us spinning and hopping all night. No previous experience of barn dancing is required and you don't even have to bring a partner. It is definitely in my diary for next year.

Other good news in this newsletter is that we have been successful in getting some of the green areas of the village better protected. Thanks to Keith Rossiter for leading this piece of work and to everyone who voted to protect our green spaces.

Less happy news is that there have been a couple of burglaries in the village so we all need to be extra vigilant. We understand from the local police that there are a number of Neighbourhood Watch coordinators in Bathampton. It would be great if you could make yourself known to us via an email to our clerk.

And then there is the village shop which is once again under threat of closure. Whilst many of us love the convenience of a local shop, we have to accept that we live very close to a city that offers many alternatives. This means it is difficult to make the shop viable. Efforts are being made to protect the shop in the longer term. The planners have been clear that the premises are commercial and not residential. The owners are trying to restructure the building to increase the chances of the shop being able to operate profitably and talks are continuing to find someone who could take the shop on, despite its challenges. For now we have to keep our fingers crossed and maybe all resolve to try to support whatever rises out of the ashes. As ever it is use or lose it!

We have a vacancy for two parish councillors – if you are interested please talk to any of the councillors or come to one of our regular meetings at 7.30 on the third Thursday of every month (second Thursday in December).

Bathampton Playgroup have a few spaces left for this term. Details of how to contact them are on their website. With the addition of the new outside area Playgroup really does have a lot to offer to local children.

**Moira Brennan**

## **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 on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/bathamptonpc](http://www.twitter.com/bathamptonpc) to get updates on events and issues affecting the village.

For more detailed information on events and current affairs, check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/bathampton](http://www.facebook.com/bathampton).

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 - events**

You can book the hall by emailing on [bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com) or call 07800 898101. Booking forms are available on the noticeboard in the foyer.

Don't forget the Art Show on 11 November. A perfect chance to come and vote for your favourite piece and eat cake with some of your neighbours. And the Christmas Fair is on 25 November - more information attached.

Another call for help. We need a Chairman (person) for our Village Hall. The role involves chairing four meetings a year, providing support and guidance to our fabulous caretaker and generally making sure the voices of the users of the hall get heard. If you would like to get involved email us on the address above.

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## **Highways Group**

### **Stuart Andrews and Jacqueline Bird**

Community Speedwatch has continued to operate throughout the summer and our thanks go to the volunteers who operate the scheme. Information is passed on to the police who then take appropriate action when and where necessary.

There has been approval for the speed limit along Mill Lane to be reduced from the current 60mph to 30mph.

The 20mph limit along Bathampton Lane had never been 'signed off'; it has now and so becomes enforceable and rumour has it that we might see some mobile speed cameras there.

## **Street Cleaning**

It's a leafy time of year and we do appreciate the efforts made by both the council and individuals to keep pavements clear of leaves. The roads themselves seem to have been more regularly swept although there is ongoing discussions with Highways England about the verge and gutter along the Warminster Road west of the junction with Bathampton Lane.

## **Street Lighting**

The vast majority of the streetlights in the village are owned and maintained by BANES and these have recently been upgraded to LEDs; there are a handful which are the parish council's responsibility and discussions are currently taking place to determine whether these too should be upgraded.

Although the maintenance and running costs would be considerably lower the changeover costs are not inconsiderable.

### **Parking**

As a result of The George's Pay and Display policy there remains pressure on parking throughout the village. Please park responsibly.

### **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.

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### **Leisure and Amenities**

### **Jan Helps**

#### **Allotments**

We now have names on the waiting list again so if your circumstances have changed and you would like to give up your plot, please let me know. There are one or two plots looking very unused and neglected. Now is a good time for people to turn over soil so if you know you are not going to continue, then please get in touch so that we can offer the plot to someone else.

#### **Playground**

Some repairs have taken place recently to the zip wire and the toddler swings. We are hoping to add something new for the youngest children to replace a rocker. Funding permitting we are looking at improving the football goals.

#### **Grass cutting**

A final cut is taking place at the end of October. The contractors have been asked to ensure a good cut to offset the mild weather and continued growth.

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### **Planning and Conservation Report**

### **Lin King and George Ardrey**

#### **Batheaston/Bathampton Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge and track.**

BANES have agreed to place two additional rescue cabinets along the track, one at Batheaston car park and one half way along; there is already one at Bathampton Mill. BANES will also arrange for the crack willows to be cut back in the autumn after leaf fall.

Friends of Bathampton Meadows Riverside details are on notice boards at either end of the track.

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

Network Rail acquired the field along Tying Road to use during the electrification process. They did not need Planning Permission, but were allowed a period (not specified) to cover this. We have heard that NR may seek planning permission to make the site a permanent depot, which we will strongly oppose if it happens. Meanwhile, as electrification is not going ahead, we have asked Planning

Enforcement to look into whether NR should be winding down their current use of the field.

### **Level Crossing**

There is no further 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 hope that negotiations will be concluded soon and the track opened.

### **Tree Works**

This is the season for tree works and we have had many applications for removal and cutting back. We would appreciate that where possible any trees removed are replaced by similar (or sometimes smaller) trees to preserve the lovely aspect of the village.

### **The George**

Arrangements have been made for both the school staff and church helpers. They have provided a list of registration numbers and the parking wardens will now allow these to park. Many thanks to the new manager (Debbie Parry). She has also made more tables available for locals who want to have a drink rather than a meal, and is hopefully going to do more to welcome locals. She is on holiday until the end of October but I will catch up with her in November.

We are still hoping to have a meeting with BANES and other interested parties to see if we can find another suitable place in Bathampton, longer-term, for parking cars.

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>.

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### **Placemaking**

**Keith Rossiter**

On 13th July 2017, a Full Council meeting adopted the Bath & North East Somerset Council Placemaking Plan. No objections were received during the following six week period when any person aggrieved by the Placemaking Plan was able to challenge the decision in the High Court. Therefore, the adoption of the Placemaking Plan as part of the B&NES statutory Development Plan has been confirmed.

Within the Placemaking Plan, Bathampton Parish Council included four fields which now have special protection as green spaces of particular importance to the local community. These are the three fields between Miller Walk and Bathampton Lane, each of which is traversed by a public footpath; and the 'triangular field' at the junction of the A36 and Bathampton Lane.

Designating sites as 'Local Green Spaces' will rule out development other than in 'very special circumstances'.

The Parish Council would like to thank all the people who worked so hard over many years to achieve this successful outcome. We would particularly like to thank all those Bathampton residents who supported the Parish Council by taking part in the Village consultation, which took place in January, 2016.

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**Bathampton Down - A Hill Divided. A new book for everyone interested in the parish.**

Have you ever climbed the steep slopes to the summit of the beautiful hill which rises above the village? If you would like to learn more about its fascinating history, from mediaeval times to the present day, you will find all you need to know in this book, produced by Bathampton Local History Research Group.

Price £10, it can be purchased at the Village Shop, from Gill Huggins - phone 460047.

**Village News and Events**

Please let Jan Helps know if you would like anything included in this section, including any changes to the What's on section.

**Village Hall**

The village hall is a great venue for one off events and is very reasonably priced. You can book the hall by emailing on [bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com) or contact the booking secretary, Maya on 01225 444752 or 07800 898101

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

[www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Newsletter Editor  
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Please let Jan know if there are changes to any of the information in "What's on in Bathampton"

### What's On in Bathampton November 2017

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 6.30 - 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		
Goldies Singing session	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month. Methodist Church 11.00- 112.00		
Guides	Thursday 7.00-8.30pm		
Cool to knit – crochet, sewing, spinning, cake!	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month. Community room, St Nicholas court 2 to 4pm		
Chair Keep Fit	Tuesdays 6 pm (30 mins) Chair exercises		
Body workout	Tuesday 6.40 to 7.40pm Wednesday 1-2pm		
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 Thurs		
Zumba Dance village hall	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		