

# Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter February 2019

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The proposed Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is still getting a lot of coverage in the local press. BANES councillors were due to receive a report in December, but as a result of receiving over 8000 responses to the consultation, BANES officers have delayed making any further proposals until they have time to review the responses. It looks likely that we will see an update in March.

The meeting in the village hall on 17 November to discuss the impact of the CAZ on Bathampton was very well attended. Thanks to everyone who came along (and also thanks to the newsletter deliverers who made it possible by delivering an extra mailing to every home in the village so soon after the November newsletter). From comments on the day and people who copied the parish council in on their responses to BANES, it is clear that local people have many different views on the proposed scheme. One theme that was consistent was a concern about the impact of a badly designed scheme on the volume of traffic through the village. BANES are keen to understand what options they should consider to stop people avoiding the charge by travelling through the village. From the responses we have seen it is clear that whilst people see a positive impact on village traffic if part of the village was included in the scheme, the personal impact will depend on whether individuals think they will have a compliant car or not. There is a strong feeling that the lack of public transport options in the village, particularly in the evenings and on Sundays, mean that any extension of the scheme will impact most on people who are unable or unwilling to change their non compliant cars.

It is likely that changes to the proposed scheme will be made as a result of this recent consultation exercise. It is really important that people continue to make their own views known to BANES by taking part in any future consultations.

Another issue which has been exercising the council has been the street lights in the village which are the responsibility of the parish (rather than BANES or Highways England). These have been set up over a number of years in locations where BANES were unwilling to provide lights eg in Dark Lane, the playground etc. They are now noticeably ours as they are the only sodium lights left in the village (apart from the Highways England lights on the A36). We have been advised that the lights all need substantial maintenance and conversion to LEDs ahead of a fast approaching time when replacement lanterns will no longer be available. Replacing the lights is very expensive and so we have taken the opportunity to review which are really needed. We have concluded that we will replace 5 lights, while 2 in Chapel Row will not be renewed. The work on these 5 lights will cost almost £6000. Given that our annual income from the council tax bills is £22000, this is a substantial sum. I am pleased to say that we have funds to cover the cost. The council reviewed our budget for 2019/20, including this cost, in January and concluded that once again we will not need to increase the Bathampton portion of the council tax charge. We have maintained the current charge for the last seven years.

I am also delighted to see our new coffee shop Number 25 (Holcombe Lane) has got off to such a great start. Not only can you enjoy coffee and cakes but they also serve lunch and sell essentials like milk and bread as well as treats.

It is also fast approaching election time. It is hard to believe our current parish council has been in place since 2015. We really need some more councillors. If you would like to stand as a councillor then you need to fill in forms from the BANES website and send them in by 12 April 2019. If there are more than 9 applicants elections will take place on 2 May. If you want to see how the council works then please come along to a meeting in the Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. If you want to get involved before May then speak to any of the councillors.

We are also looking for a cleaner to help out at the village hall. The role is paid – see later in the newsletter.

**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 to get updates on events and issues affecting the village.

For the minutes from our regular Parish Council meetings you can visit [www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## **Village Hall**

You can contact Kate for bookings at [bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com).

**Events coming up.** The Village Show Committee have an event booked for 30 March – so keep an eye out for that.

The spring Art Show will be on 27 April.

## **Highways Group**

## **Stuart Andrews and Jacqueline Bird**

Highways England have added some yellow lines at the top of Down Lane where it meets the A36. We understand BANES are also looking at further yellow lines on Down Lane – to address the dangers of vehicles parking close to the A36 junction and opposite the Devonshire Road junction. We are advised they will consult with residents and the Parish Council – but we have not heard anything yet.

The canal never looks its best at this time of year. There is some 'overflow' from boats on to the towpath and edges. The Canal and River Trust continue to work hard to maintain the environment. If you have concerns you can contact the Trust on 0303 040 4040.

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

## **Leisure and Amenities**

## **Jan Helps**

### **Weeds around the village.**

As plants start to grow, there may be weeds growing along paths in the village. Some residents commented on lack of treatment last year. We will contact BANES and ask them to deal with this. Weed spraying is an annual task they usually do in the Spring. It may be that this is another cost that they are cutting back on. If this is the case, it would be very helpful if residents could manage weeds near their homes where possible. We will monitor the situation.

### **Allotments**

We find ourselves in the unusual position of having some plots free. If you are interested in taking on an allotment, please contact the clerk or Jan Helps. Contact details are at the end of the newsletter. This is also a gentle reminder to allotment holders that they should edge plots and ensure that the corners are marked and the plot number should be clearly visible. Soil is soft at the moment so it is a time when this is easier to do, as is removal of weeds and digging over if your plot requires some attention.

As usual, there have been many applications for extensions and for tree works; significant applications are discussed below.

### **The Shop**

There has been no decision as yet on the application for a rear extension, and to reconfigure the flats upstairs to provide 5 flats leaving the shop part more or less as is. We have contacted BANES to ask what is happening. There are also signs in the shop window which indicate that the whole building is once again for sale.

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

NR have replaced the hedgerow. There has been activity recently on their hardstanding so we are unsure if they have actually permanently reinstated 75% of the field as agreed. In terms of usage they expected to have about 10 instances per year of vehicles delivering 'plant' and were going to be extra careful. They were going to advise of any overnight work and promised to be quiet and to respect local residents. I have not heard of any incidents since the first problems. Please, can you help us by letting us know whether/how Network Rail actually use the site. If you live locally and see any activity, please would you record what you see or hear and let Lin King or the Clerk know. Thank you.

### **Cycle Track**

As expected BANES did the work on the Crack Willows this autumn. BANES are also investigating what needs to be done to the gate onto Mill Lane which has still not been fixed.

### **Bathampton Meadows**

No further news on the possible extension of the Nature Reserve in the Meadows which would see the Meadows protected for the foreseeable future. We remain hopeful for a good outcome.

### **Level Crossing**

I haven't heard any more the delays to 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).

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>.

### **Resurrecting the Women's Institute in Bathampton**

If anyone is interested in getting involved with a new branch (or restarting the former branch) of the Women's Institute in Bathampton, please email Kate Macdonald at [kemacdonald83@gmail.com](mailto:kemacdonald83@gmail.com), or write to her at 72 Warminster Road, BA2 6RU. She has been talking to Pam Hawker (a former Bathampton WI member) about it, and would like to know if anyone in the village or environs would like to be part of this. The Avon Federation of the WI say that we would need 12 interested women or more to set up a new group. They are standing by to help with ideas and resources, if we get that far. If there is enough interest, the first step would be a meeting in the Village Hall in February to talk about what's involved, and what the members would like the new branch to do. You can find out about the WI on their website [www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk).

## **Conker Crossing**

**Fiona Meldrum**

The Conker Crossing is making good progress and the team are hopeful for a Planning decision in the next few weeks. Should we be successful at Planning then the Highways team and Cllr Mark Shelford remain very supportive of the scheme and are prepared in the first instance to fund the next stage of both detailed design and a procurement exercise to get us to be a 'shelf-ready scheme'. We will post news on our website as soon as it is available.

## **Places available at the village Pre-school Playgroup**

Places are available now at Bathampton Pre-school Playgroup for children aged 2 and a half to 5 years old.

The Playgroup has been part of village life for over 50 years now, with strong links to the primary school. Many of our children go on to start school together. Playgroup is a great way for children (and parents!) to get to know each other before they join the Reception class in September.

Our friendly, qualified staff have lots of experience helping children get ready for school and we were pleased to be rated Good by OFSTED at our latest inspection. Playgroup takes place 4 days a week during term time in the village hall on Holcombe Lane. As many of you will know, the hall is a wonderful space which is large and bright with easy access to the garden. There are plenty of craft and play activities for the children to choose from each day and we encourage outdoor play in all weathers. We also take children on regular walks to the Dry Arch community small holding, where we can explore seasonal themes in small groups.

We accept the Early Years government funding for 3 year olds (and for 2 and a half year olds if applicable) and charge a competitive hourly rate for non-funded sessions. Children can be dropped off from 8.30am and can stay until 1pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, until 3pm on Tuesdays and until 12pm on Fridays. There is the option to bring a packed lunch on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

You can find out more about Playgroup on our website [www.bathamptonplaygroup.org](http://www.bathamptonplaygroup.org) or call us on **07716 600 269**. We would be happy to show you and your child around. Just call us first to arrange a time.

## **Cleaner needed**

We are looking for a cleaner to support our caretaker in the Village Hall. The time commitment is around 4 hours per week and we can be flexible on time. The role is paid. If you are interested call Jake on 07904521234.

## 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.

### Quiz Night with Supper and a Cash Bar In Aid of Bath & District Samaritans organised by Soroptimist International of Bath & District

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Time: 7.00 pm                      Cost : £10.00 per

person VENUE: Bathampton Village Hall

For details: Diane Steele on 01249 448793 or email: [sibath.soroptimists@gmail.com](mailto:sibath.soroptimists@gmail.com)

### Dry Arch Growers

Dry Arch Growers is a community allotment which has been established in the village for a number of years. It will appeal to people who

- want a regular supply of local, seasonal vegetables grown on organic principles
- would like to share the sowing, growing and harvesting of produce with like-minded people
- enjoy working and learning with others and like the idea of sharing responsibility, successes and occasional frustrations
- may be new to growing veg or want to get started but don't want to take on the responsibilities of their own allotment

For more information visit us at the end of Holcombe Lane on Sundays from 11am or call Alex on 07793056448 or Jan on 01225 336656

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

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

### What's On in Bathampton February 2019

Organisation	Meets	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups	Monday 1.30pm Monday 6.30pm Thursday 9.00am		
Bathampton Village Show	www.bathamptonvillageshow .co.uk		
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	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 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 7.30 to 9.30pm Thursday 9.30 to 11.30am		
Yoga Village hall	Friday 12. – 13.30		