

# Bathampton Parish Council

## Newsletter February 2020

### CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

BANES are holding a public meeting, called the Bathavon North Area Forum at 5.30pm on Monday 17 February in the Methodist Church on Holcombe Lane. We are advised that one of the agenda items will be an update from the Council on their plans to protect Bathampton Meadows. We are led to believe that this is likely to be good news! If you would like to come along to hear what they have to say I would recommend keeping an eye on the BANES website (google Bathavon North Area Forum) as the final agenda is only published a week before the meeting.

The rest of the news in this newsletter seems to feature issues about our environment and what action individuals can take. There is information on how we can all help to reduce flooding in the High Street, the impact of the planned weight limit on the Cleveland Bridge on traffic on the A36, and ideas for how we can all help to address the Climate Emergency.

At our meeting in November the Council considered a report from Friends of the Earth on things town and parish councils could consider to address the climate emergency. Whilst Bathampton Parish Council have limited areas of responsibility the areas in which we felt we could make some impact were encouraging tree planting and improving energy efficiency in community buildings. We have already got plans in place to change our street lights to LED but we are also talking to the village hall management committee about how they could make that building more energy efficient. Anyone who has expertise in this area would be very welcome to help out or make suggestions. Just email on [bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com).

Several councillors also attended a Bathavon North Area Forum in January where BANES officers told us a bit more about the council's stated intention to make BANES carbon neutral by 2030. The slides and links are available on the Bathavon Area Forum website. What was very eye opening were some of the statistics around CO2 produced as a result of all of us who live in BANES. This splits into two main types – Location Based CO2 (ie that actually produced here) and Consumption Based (ie that produced elsewhere to provide the goods and services people in BANES consume). Location Based CO2 is approximately 0.75 million tonnes per year. Of that 38% is produced in domestic homes and 28% is from road transport. This means that over half of the CO2 produced here is down to how we heat our homes and travel day to day. Which also means we can do something about it. We should all look at improving the energy efficiency of our homes – start with insulation. Advice is available from the Energy at Home Advice Service online and on 0800 038 5680. We also need to think about alternatives to driving; could you walk or cycle or take the bus sometimes? However the Consumption Based CO2 emissions are even bigger; around 1.25 million tonnes per year. On their website BANES ask us to avoid food waste – buy local and seasonal when you can, avoid palm oil and buy less stuff – reduce, reuse, recycle.

The scale of the change needed is immense and much of it will need action and leadership from local and central government – but we can all also do our bit. Hopefully the rest of this newsletter will give you some ideas of what you can do. If this is an area you care about then there are 2 spaces available on the Parish Council. Speak to one of the Councillors about how you can get involved.

Mobile library routes are changing from 24 February. Look on our noticeboards for information.

Finally a massive thanks to the Village Hall Show Committee for organising such a magnificent Burn's night dinner and ceilidh.

**Moira Brennan**

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

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

## Highways Group

Stuart Andrews

The works taking place along the Warminster Road and other parts of the village are to replace old gas pipes with new plastic ones. Temporary traffic lights will be occasionally in use up to the end of March.

From February 3rd there will be a temporary 18-ton weight limit on the Cleveland Bridge so there should be a reduction in HGV traffic along the Warminster Road for some time until funds are found to repair the bridge.

Two of the BANES councillors (Sarah Warren and Joanna Wright) very kindly walked around the village a couple of weeks ago to try to understand the difficult traffic issues we have. They successfully avoided being squashed by the thundering HGVs as they focused especially on the 'severance' of the village (the north-south divide) caused by the A36. There are more than 160 houses to the south of the village which are effectively cut off from all the village facilities; there is only one (inadequate) crossing between Dry Arch and Trossachs Drive. The Councillors are keen to understand more about what could be done to help, possibly by providing more crossings. Any proposals would be subject to Highways England approval. The best place to site a crossing is difficult though and discussions are taking place to look at various options.

**If you have an issue concerning the streets of the village your first port of call should be the FixMyStreet part of the council website <https://fix.bathnes.gov.uk/>. If your issue is with the A36 they should pass the information on to Highways England.**

## Flooding issues

David Beard, Local Flood Representative

Floods and Drainage: Update and Community Action

During January 2020, BANES started the improvement works in Bathampton in an effort to prevent flooding due to heavy rainfall and surface run-off from Bathampton Down. Street gullies in Down Lane have been rebuilt to a larger capacity and, over the next few months, further works are planned for Bathampton Lane and the High Street. However, threat of flooding to local properties remains; torrential rainfall may temporarily overwhelm street gullies and cause local flooding, as occurred in Bathampton High Street on Monday January 13th. Despite unpredictable rainfall, there is a lot that homeowners/householders can do to minimise flood risks. Some examples include:

1. Remove fallen leaves in gardens to prevent them being washed into street gullies
2. Prevent gravel from driveways being washed into street gullies
3. Ensure rubbish/recycling waste does not block water courses
4. Maximise cultivated areas of garden and plant lawns to absorb rainfall (and CO<sub>2</sub>); minimise the size of paved areas which collect rainwater and channel it into drainage systems
5. "Adopt"/monitor your nearest street drain or gully and report blockages to Council Connect (telephone 01225 394041) or online, to Fix My Street ([www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)). If possible, remove fallen leaves or other debris which might be blocking the grills
6. Report burst water mains to Wessex Water (telephone 0345 6004600)

We have also seen some activity from Highways England to address the flooding issues on the Warminster Road. If you see flooding on the A36 contact them on [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk) or on 0300 123 5000.

## Leisure and Amenities

Jan Helps

### Allotments

Thank you to those allotment holders who have paid their rents promptly or have been in touch to let us know if they are giving up. We have a waiting list and will be in touch soon to offer the free plots. By the time the next newsletter is due I am sure there will be much preparation of plots for the coming growing season. Please could I ask everyone to ensure that plots are edged, corners are marked and plots are numbered. Many plots have been allowed to get smaller as paths get wider so please reclaim your plot. The smaller our paths the less we have to spend on grass cutting. As ever, it has been challenging to find contractors for cutting the allotment paths. This year we will be using BANES to provide the same frequency of cutting that Bath allotments receive. Plots will be cut regularly but only 8 times between March and October which is every three to four weeks.

## Gritting and Bin Collections

While Highways England and BANES continue to grit roads when ice is expected the BANES website says that gritting of pavements is restricted to urban areas where there is high pedestrian usage. Sadly this doesn't seem to include Bathampton. Our handyman Alan generally grits the two sets of steps leading down from the Warminster Road. BANES do however fill grit bins around the village at the beginning of each winter. This grit is available to apply to public pavements when needed and we would encourage you to make use of it.

We have not had bin collection timetables delivered to homes this year and it is quite tricky to keep track of when black bins are due to be collected. Fortunately there is a handy bin collection day finder on the BANES website. Put in your post code and it tells you when your next collection is due.

## Trees

Can you help identify council or private land where trees might be planted? There might be a great opportunity to plant a significant number of trees on some of the 'fallow' land. Some of this is private and maybe the landowners would be keen to help this project.

## More Trees for Bath and North East Somerset (MT4B)

**Adam Gretton**

This is a local charity established 10 years ago. We are a small group of volunteers with the simple aim to plant more trees in our area. In this time of the climate emergency, we need trees more than ever, to sequester carbon, increase biodiversity, protect from flooding and provide edible crops.

So far we have planted over 6000 trees on various sites around Bath. We have recently developed a tree nursery at Dry Arch Growers in Bathampton, where we grow trees from local seed ready for planting out when they are mature. We have about 600 trees there at the moment of all different native species. We are also getting several hundred fruit tree rootstock, which we will be grafting on to in Spring (look out for our grafting workshop coming up in March) with various apple, pear and plum.

If you are interested in getting involved at one of our planting days, or know of land available for planting; get in touch by emailing [moretreesbanes@gmail.com](mailto:moretreesbanes@gmail.com) or visiting our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/more-treesbanes/>

**The tree grafting workshop will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm.** To find out more or book a place contact Hamish Evans on 07708006001 or [hamishevans@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hamishevans@hotmail.co.uk)

## Celebrating 10 years of Dry Arch Growers

**Jan Helps**

This year will be the ten year anniversary of when Transition Bath enabled a piece of land owned by the Hughes family to become productive once again, after decades of lying fallow since the market garden was closed down. Dry Arch Growers (officially Bathampton Community Co-operative) has gradually evolved over this time and hosts many different projects, events and groups of visitors. We are currently home to the community allotment, Orchardshare (who manage a number of orchards in the Bath area and produce apple juice and cider), More Trees 4 Bath and other small scale growing activities. Bathampton school, Forest School and the Playgroup are all regular visitors and we hope this helps to educate future generations about the benefits of growing locally. Members are usually around from late mornings on Thursdays and Sundays. If you are interested in any of the projects or activities you are welcome to visit. It is best to email or call ahead ...so that we can make sure we have someone to meet you.....use the following contacts: [info@dryarchgrowers.co.uk](mailto:info@dryarchgrowers.co.uk), the allotment Alex 07793056448 and for Orchardshare Tim 07886248147 (please text)

Stuart Andrews	425637	<b>Parish Clerk: Liz Daly 07980 627391</b> <b><a href="mailto:bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com">bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com</a></b>  <b>Contact Kate for village hall bookings at</b> <b><a href="mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com">bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com</a></b>  Newsletter Editor Jan Helps can be contacted on  Telephone: 01225 336656  E.mail: <a href="mailto:j.s.helps@btinternet.com">j.s.helps@btinternet.com</a>
George Ardrey	424270	
Moira Brennan	313503	
Jan Helps	336656	
Lin King	460998	
David Mayo	466875	
Tony Purpuri	335978	