

Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter August 2016

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

There has been a lot going on – changes to our bus service, work on the canal path, an attack on the public footpath in Miller Walk, the threat of the George charging for use of their carpark, Ben Howlett pushing a link road, the continued threat of park and ride. I thought there was a lot going on in Ambridge, but for a while this summer Bathampton made it look sleepy !! So I have to thank your Councillors who have put in so much work on behalf of all of us.

Sadly the threat of Park and Ride is still with us and BANES still seem to be favouring the meadows. There is a suggestion that Site F (the large open field by the new cycle path) is now their preferred site. Last November Tim Warren told the Valley Parish Alliance that the consultation had shown that Site F was very unpopular and he would find it hard to vote for that option. I can only hope he remembers that when it matters !! Tony Clarke (BANES cabinet member for Transport) told cabinet in July that a decision was imminent. You can follow what is going on and pledge to support any legal challenge at bathamptonmeadowsalliance.org.uk or join the debate on Save Bathampton Meadows facebook page.

I am very concerned that the Bath MP is asking people to sign a petition to support a link road without any information on the proposed design or location or even an idea of the impact it is likely to have on traffic. When link roads have been proposed in the past very small changes in location or traffic flow design have had very large impacts on the traffic along the Warminster Road. There is also the threat that any structure will have a serious impact on the village and the valley, not least in terms of noise and visual impact.

Finally, on a lighter note 2017 is the 120th anniversary of the invention of plasticine. The Museum of Bath at Work are planning to mark the occasion and we are talking to them about how we can celebrate right here where it all happened. I hope to bring you more news in October – particularly how people with a link to the Harbutts factory can get involved and tell their stories.

Village Hall - events

Moira Brennan

St. Nicholas Church, Bathampton invites you to a Rock 'N Roll evening on Saturday, 15th October in the Village Hall - 7 to 11 pm. Tickets £10 - supper included. Pay Bar. Rock 'n Roll themed quiz. Proceeds to 'The Bread of Life Society' in Lebanon for an education centre for Syrian refugee children. Tickets available from September onwards - Maureen Rossiter - 01225 426127

Bath Soroptimist Annual Quiz Night, Bathampton Village Hall, Saturday 22nd October 2016 starting at 7pm. Tickets £10 per person - buffet supper included. Proceeds to the Trussel Trust and the Meru Garden Project in Kenya. Tickets available from Diane Steele - 01249 448793 or Diane.steele@talk21

The Parish Council on line

Liam McMurray

www.facebook.com/bathampton

Twitter [@bathamptonpc](https://twitter.com/bathamptonpc)

Highways Group

Stuart Andrews and Jacqueline Bird

The canal path refurbishment has pretty much finished and seems to have been a success. The surface blends in well and, whilst being fine for cyclists, is excellent for other users. The improvements at Jubilee Gardens and above and below Bridge 185 are also pleasing.

The roads in the village have been haphazardly patched. There is some overhanging foliage and vegetation which needs addressing.

Bathampton Community SpeedWatch is nearly up and running thanks to the hard work of the team coordinating this. Volunteers are still required and I would urge you to contact the SpeedWatch team (via me) if you can help. Initial online training is imminent and then after liaising with the police we should be up and running.

Some of you will already know that The George pub is proposing to charge for its car park. This will have a severe impact on the village community and will affect many people including the school (drop-off, pick-up and staff), the church, Canal Terrace, the bargees and the users of the canal path. Whilst appreciating that the pub has a business to run, it does seem a shame that the impact of charging will be so detrimental to so many members of the community. We are especially concerned by safety issues for the school children who are currently safely dropped off and collected by parents using the car park. It will put increasing pressure on the surrounding roads in a village where there is already considerable traffic problems. We are grateful that the pub manager has agreed to delay implementation to allow consultation with groups most likely to be affected by the change. We are also well aware of the negative impact of signage and parking equipment in the Conservation Area.

Finally, we understand that the number 4 bus is to be withdrawn and will be replaced on 4 September with a new service 12 running to Haycombe via Oldfield Park. The service will be run by Wessex and will be every 40 minutes rather than the current 30 minutes. Bus passes will be taken as usual. They are still firming up the details on pricing but BANES have told us the adult fare may be £2 single or £3 return. We are seeking more information on the early evening buses. We will post information on the Parish Council website as it becomes available.

Safer Routes to School

Around mid June some representatives from the primary school, BANES, local parish councils and parents met to discuss safer routes to Bathampton Primary School. There is a concern about the speed of traffic, lack of adequate signage, the narrowness of the pavements and generally the difficulties parents face when walking their children to school. There was concern that the crossing used from the George car park was not sufficiently marked with signage.

BANES are already working on plans to present back to the community, but to supplement our application for funding, it is vital to collect stories of 'near misses' between pedestrians and traffic. Our current case is undermined only by the fact that we (fortunately) haven't had many accidents reported to the Police. Collecting together anecdotes is the next best supporting evidence.

If you have had such an experience from the Toll Bridge and Mill Lane up and through the village as far as the Warminster Road, please contact Fiona Powell (Chair of Safe Routes to School) on SRTS@bathampton.bathnes.sch.uk.

The group will reconvene in the autumn to consider options and put in place proposals ready for the next budget, taking into account any developments with plans for parking charges at the George.

Footpaths

David Mayo

Footpath maintenance is well under way. 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.

Thu 4 Aug 18:00 – 20:00
Sat 13 Aug 10:00 – 12:00
Thu 18 Aug 18:00 – 20:00
Sat 27 Aug 10:00 – 12:00
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

Playground

I am delighted that, at last, the broken swing has been replaced by a new nest swing which had to be custom made to fit the old, small swing frame. It is proving popular with both children and adults and fingers crossed it is robust enough to cope with the 12 stone dads spotted enjoying it.

We are still in the process of acquiring some initial designs for refurbishing the playground. Once they have all been received, the playground working party will be looking at them and working with the chosen designer to develop a scheme to meet the needs of the village. Our intention is to consult with interested parties in order to achieve the optimum design. It is becoming apparent that even a fairly modest refurbishment and updating is still going to cost in the region of £40,000 and this doesn't include the cost of replacing the fencing. This is a very large amount of money for a small village to find and there will be a need for fundraising and grant applications. The working party would love to have more help from anyone who might be interested in being involved (or anyone who has £40,000 to donate!) so please contact me if you think you can help.

Grass Cutting

The contractors are going to include some additional cuts on the allotments which will take place when the playing field is cut.

General Amenities

If your garden has hedges or borders adjacent to road junctions, drives or pathways, please could you check that they are not obscuring visibility for drivers trying to exit roads or driveways or blocking pavements for pedestrians. Many thanks!

Batheaston/Bathampton Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge and track.

Peter Fear is doing a sterling job on the day-to-day management of the track and the surrounding area for Bathampton and Batheaston. The vegetation has grown up and provided a wonderful habitat for all sorts of wildlife. The volunteer group worked hard to clear the ground where the benches and tables and notice boards have since been installed. We do now have the go-ahead for the small wooden bridge across the ditch; the wood has been ordered, and the footings have been laid. A new grass path will lead over the footbridge, under the Toll Bridge and into the car park of Bathampton Mill. The aim is for the Cotswold Wardens to build the footbridge in mid August. 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 appeal against the refusal of the application for 4 self-build houses on the 'leylandii field' took place on July 19th and has been well documented in the Chronicle; the findings are expected at the end of August. As for the access and the footpath, as reported previously, the latest appeal was dismissed only for another application to be made. Meanwhile, the track was vandalised and an illegal gravel track laid on land belonging jointly to the residents of Miller Walk. The PC has urged BANES to respond to this and to insist the track and footpath are returned to their prior state. The PC has proposed in the BANES Placemaking Plan 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. We are also working with residents affected by the leylandii trees to see what can be done to have them removed.

Down House

An appeal has been lodged against the refusal of planning permission for a new house in the garden of Down House.

Woodside, Warminster Road

A hoarding announcing three new homes on the site of Woodside, Warminster Road appeared two months ago. We have recently received the actual application, which is to build two new houses either side of the existing house, together with garages and parking areas.

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.

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

The developers Charlcombe Homes put together a detailed plan for construction and deliveries, which meant restrictions on parking. It was working well, but you may have noticed that construction has stopped; we understand that this is a temporary halt while finances are reassessed (all developers have been badly affected by the vote to leave the EU) but that it should be continued in the autumn.

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>.



COULD YOU BE A LOCAL HERO?

New School Crossing Patrol Rota at Bathampton Primary!

We understand that life is busy, which is why we are setting up a (paid) community rota for our crossing patrol on the canal bridge to make the route to school safer for children. If you, or someone you know, has even one morning or afternoon to offer then we would love to hear from you or them.

Please contact us if you are interested, even if you might take the occasional term-time break – we would rather have you most of the time than not at all!!

Please contact **Beryl Miles** Tel: 01225 394922 Email: Beryl_Miles@bathnes.gov.uk

Or visit the BANES Council website:

www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/jobs/recruitment-spotlight/school-crossing-patrol

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.

Try your hand craft sessions

These take place on Wednesdays and a range of different activities take place. You can enjoy the company of others and learn a new skill. If you would like to know more, please contact Shirley Steadman. Her details are on the “What’s on” page.

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:

Stuart Andrews	425637
George Ardrey	424270
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Moira Brennan	313503
Jan Helps	336656
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David Mayo	466875
Liam McMurray	312412
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www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

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”