

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter February 2018

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Once again there is a lot going on and it is great to see so many people taking action to protect the village and try to make it an even greater place to live.

As I write this over 100 objections to Network Rail's application to create a maintenance yard and "operational railway" off Tynning Road have been logged on the BANES Planning website. Thanks to everyone who has made their feelings known. According to the website a decision is expected on Valentine's Day. Taking the time to respond is important in helping the BANES officers to understand the impact this application could have.

One other consultation, which appeared quietly on the BANES website, is with regard to the BANES subsidy of the night running of the number 265 bus route. The parish council have made a submission on how important the number 265 is to the village – particularly in the evenings and on Sundays when there is no other service. It is not at all clear what options BANES are considering – but if you feel this service is important make your views known at public_transport@bathnes.gov.uk. The consultation claims to close on 31 January but as BANES have made no effort to publicise it I would suggest submissions after that date should still be considered by officers.

Included in this newsletter is more about the great work being done on making our route to school safer. It is great to know how many children are walking to school – but this could be even more if parents' concerns about road safety around the canal bridge could be addressed. Find out how you can get involved in planning for a footbridge across the canal.

Whilst it is great to comment on the impact people can have by taking action to improve our village life it is also true that the burden often falls on a small number of people. Taking part in village life, whether it is as a school governor, a parish councillor or helping to run our village hall or village show, has many benefits. If you would like to get more involved with your community then there are many opportunities included in this newsletter and the accompanying leaflet from the village show committee.

We really need some new Parish Councillors. We currently only have 7 and we should have 9. A few more would just help us to spread the load. All we ask of a new councillor is that you can come to 11 meetings a year – which each take about 2 hours. You can then choose how much you want to get involved. 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 in the small room at the Village Hall.

We are delighted that the parking charges have been removed from The George car park. Many thanks to Debbie Parry, the new manager. This is on the understanding that non pub users use the lower part of the car park and do not abuse the privilege. Also could I ask that anyone arranging an event where people might use the car park in greater numbers than usual, let Debbie know, and try to avoid the pub's busy times. We are also pleased that Debbie is keen to make The George a welcoming place for locals. See her invite to an open evening below.

Maira 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](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

Bathamton Art Group -Fifty Years of Art

Come and celebrate Bathampton Art Group's 50th Anniversary at a special exhibition to be held at Bathampton Village Hall on Saturday 21st April from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. The Group's exhibitions are well known for their diverse content and high artistic standard. Enjoy browsing the work and vote for your own particular favourite. Refreshments available all day (including delicious home-made cakes and savouries) this is a day not to be missed! For further information see www.bathamtonart.co.uk or email info@bathamtonart.co.uk.

Village Hall

Coming up The Village Show quiz is on 10 March – more info attached

The Soroptomists quiz on 14 April

As well as all our regular groups, the Village Hall hosts around 40 private events a year – including children's and adult parties. Unfortunately our booking secretary has advised us that she will no longer be able to carry on the role after this summer. If we are unable to find a new booking secretary and a Chairman before the summer, the Management Committee have reached the sad but inevitable conclusion that we will no longer be able to host private events from September next year. So the search is on – would you like to be part of the Village Hall team?? The roles are not onerous but you do get to meet lots of people and help them make their events fantastic. If you are interested please contact Moira Brennan on 313503 or use the contact details below.

You can book the hall by emailing on bathamtonvillagehall@outlook.com or call 07800 898101. Booking forms are available on the noticeboard in the foyer.

A message from Deborah Parry, new manager of The George Inn (01225 425079)

I wanted to let the residents of Bathampton know about some changes at the George. We have listened to the residents and made changes to accommodate your requests. One major item was the parking meters in the car park. You will be pleased to know that after a long battle these have now been removed and you can now park any time.

Allowing dogs in the bar - we now welcome your well behaved furry friends.

Drinkers didn't feel welcome - We have made sure there is plenty of room for people who don't want to eat, including a snug area with a fire. Just the right place for a quiet drink or a coffee and a read of the newspaper.

We have other plans in the pipeline to make the George the village pub it used to be. We would welcome any suggestions you may have to help us do this. With this in mind we would like to invite you all to our **Open Evening at the George on Wednesday 21st February from 7.00pm** I am really looking forward to meeting you all and hope that together we can make the George a great community pub supporting local businesses, schools and residents.

Highways Group

Stuart Andrews and Jacqueline Bird

There is imminent work planned along Mill Lane. Not only has the speed limit been lowered to 30 mph but work should soon start on a variety of measures to slow the traffic, to improve/widen the pavement to make it safer for pedestrians and to make the existing 'crossing' from The George to the churchyard clearer.

The Safe Routes to Schools scheme is increasingly active and looking at how the village can provide safer ways for the primary schoolchildren to get to and from school. The above-mentioned crossing from The George is useful for those driving to the village but for the majority of pupils who walk to school navigating the bridge over the canal safely is a real challenge.

Community Speedwatch continues to do sterling work and, as ever, thanks go to all the volunteers who operate the scheme.

The pavements seem to have been cleared of the autumnal leaves; the road surface at the bottom of Bathampton Lane and along the High Street is in a poor state with too much unsatisfactory patching. Most of the street lights throughout the village are now LED which provides cheaper and more controllable lighting. There remain a few which are still under the Parish Council's ownership; discussions are in progress to decide upon the way forward.

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 or telephone 0300 123 5000.

For issues on the other roads within our village contact Council Connect at BANES: Council_Connect@Bathnes.gov.uk or telephone 01225 394041.

Leisure and Amenities

Jan Helps

Allotments

It's that time of year when allotment owners have been asked for rents. If you have forgotten to contact Don Smith, either with rent or notice to give up a plot, please contact him as soon as possible. We have a waiting list and would like to offer plots to people in good time for the new growing season.

Playground

Thanks to a grant from Alison Millar, one of our ward councillors, we will be upgrading the football posts on the playing field.

Village planters for the coming season

Do you have the time and interest to look after a village planter? This not too arduous job helps to provide some colour around the village, especially in the summer months. If you could help please contact me.

Planning and Conservation Report

Lin King and George Ardrey

Network Rail

The only significant Planning Application this quarter is the anticipated one from Network Rail. They acquired the field at the end of Tynning Road to use during the electrification process. When it was clear that this was no longer going ahead, we asked Planning Enforcement to look into whether NR should be winding down their current use of the field. Planning Enforcement agreed but were told that an application was imminent, and so decided that they would wait and respond to the application.

The application, number 17/06128/FUL, is for 'Change of use of the land to operational railway, incorporating creation of a railway maintenance yard and new highway access'. It is unclear exactly what this means, and the application is sketchy about many aspects, most particularly the traffic implications, which we assume will be larger vehicles and increased volume, causing an adverse effect on the village and especially the school.

The Parish Council has objected, and we have encouraged as many others as possible to look at the application and make their feelings clear. At the time of writing there are 110 objections as well as those from the statutory bodies. The closing date for comments has passed, but details of the application and comments can be seen on the BANES website.

Level Crossing

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.

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> .

The Bathampton Conker Crossing - Connecting the community with a cycle and footbridge over the canal

A group of parents from Bathampton Primary has come together to bring forward a planning application for a new bridge that would take pedestrians away from the humpback bridge over the canal. With the support of the school, parish and ward Councillors and King Edward's School, the bridge project is a next step in an 18-month dialogue with the Council and local organisations to establish and mitigate the road safety risks that families face when coming to school by bike and on foot and to promote sustainable travel.

Members of the Safer Routes to School Group, recently nominated for B&NES' 'Best Primary' for its travel planning, have established themselves as a new charitable association, The Bathampton Conker Crossing. They hope to be an early example of the community and council partnership working that B&NES has recently said will be a model going forward. The new cycle and footbridge will be sensitively designed to provide a new route for the whole community to enjoy. The group will hold a consultation event in the next couple of months to share the initial design work. The date will be advertised locally once confirmed.

To meet planning costs, the association has approached local organisations for financial contributions and is also crowdfunding. So far, the association has had offers of support including pro-bono work, reduced rates or funding from Format Engineers, LPC Trull Planning Consultants, Charlcombe Homes, Evolve Strategy, Entran Ltd and Bathampton Farm resident Mac Mckillop. Thanks to these contributions the maximum funds to be raised have been reduced to £27k, and we hope to reduce this further through discussion with other local organisations.

This 'community contribution' would help support the progress of the project. B&NES Highways team has indicated it would work with the community to explore available grants for the majority of the project cost. The project will require various consents to be secured, including Planning. In the event of a successful planning application and attracting funding, the parents group would look to work with the Parish Council and B&NES to deliver the new bridge.

If you would like to contribute financially towards the planning phase of the project please donate at <https://www.goldengiving.com/charity/the-bathamptonconker-crossing>. For further information about the project, please contact Fiona Powell (fionameldrum2004@yahoo.co.uk; 07775 913884) or Cheryl Cook (cheryl.w.-cook@gmail.com; 07903 183679).

Bathampton Down – A hill divided

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. We are advised the book has been reprinted as the first print run all sold out.

Price £10, it can be purchased at Batheaston newsagents or from Gill Huggins - phone 460047.

Dry Arch Growers

Dry Arch Growers is a community allotment. 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 336656

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.

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
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www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

Newsletter Editor

Jan Helps can be contacted on

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E.mail: 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 January 2018

Organisation	Meets	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups	Monday 1.30pm Monday 6.30pm Thursday 9.00am	Judy King	311046
Bathampton Village Show		Judith Book	465781
Beavers	Wednesday 6.15 - 7.15pm	Louise Madden	427682
Bell ringers	Monday 7.45pm & Sundays 10.00am	Candy McCabe	465564
Bridge Club	Monday 1.30 – 4.30 pm Tuesday 1.30 – 4.30pm	Ken Jefferies	460800
Brownies	Wednesday 6.30 - 8.00 pm	Christine Vine	834700
Crickets Club	Tuesday & Sunday	Stephen Dalley Smith	460395
Cubs	Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm	Louise Madden	427682
Dance, Ballet and Modern Curtis school of Dance	Friday pm	Deborah Curtis	01761 437004
Dry Arch Growers. Bathampton community co- operative	Thursday mid morning and pm (while light) Sundays 11 - 3	Alex Robertson	07793056448
Goldies Singing session	2 nd Tuesday of month. Methodist Church 11.00- 12.00	Jackie Smith	01761 470006
Guides	Thursday 7.00-8.30pm	Christine Vine	834700
Chair Keep Fit	Wednesday 3.15 – 3.45pm	Jackie Brangwyn	840850
Body workout	Tuesday 6.40 to 7.40pm Wednesday 2 – 3pm		
Mini Club	Wednesday 9.00 to 11.00 term time Miller Room	Louisa Smith	07790 007917
Maxi Club lunch for retired people	Last Thursday in Month 12 – 1.30 Miller Room	Sara Fudge	460196
Pilates Miller Room	Tues 10.15 to 11.15 6 to 7pm 7 to 8pm	Lesley Batten	421206
village Hall	Thurs 6pm to 7pm		
Zumba Dance village hall	Thurs 7.05pm – 7.55pm		
Playgroup bathamptonplaygroup@ yahoo.co.uk	Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday	Lisa Nash	07716 600269
Scouts	Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm	Simon Crowden	07968 484766
Scottish Country Dance	Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm	Jane Hammond	833411
Senior Table Tennis	Tues mornings 10.00-12.00 Scout HQ	David Plumbridge George Malcolm	429979 07789 961848
Table Tennis	Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm Scout HQ.	Ray Bennett	866880
Tai Chi	Scout hall Monday 8 - 9pm Thursday 10 – 11am	Simon Darnton	07970022627 simondarnton.com
Yoga Village hall	Friday 12. – 13.30	Suzy Lovegrove	07980008672 suzy.lovegrove@lovegrove.com