

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter April 2014

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Bathampton Housing Needs Survey

With this newsletter you will have received, as mentioned in the last newsletter, a questionnaire about housing. The survey is sponsored by Curo, the Housing Association, and is being carried out by the West of England Rural Network (WERN) in conjunction with the Parish Council. The questionnaire is in two parts and every household in the Parish is asked to complete Part One. This will allow WERN to assess opinion in the Parish about affordable housing as well as giving up-to-date information about the housing stock. Part Two concerns those who have connections with the Parish and wish to move into or within the Parish.

When you have completed the questionnaire, please either:

- hand it to a member of the Parish Council
- or put it in the collecting box at the shop
- or bring it to the "drop-in" consultation session at the Village Hall
on Sat 10 May from 10am to 12 noon.

At the consultation session there will be representatives of WERN, Curo and B&NES present to answer your questions about the survey and about affordable housing. The closing date for receipt of questionnaires is Saturday 17 May.

B&NES have advised that any rented homes delivered through any future affordable housing development for Bathampton will be allocated through the Council's Homeseach Register and in accordance with local occupancy clauses which will prioritise lettings to local people. For more information on Homeseach, and to apply for a place on the Homeseach Register please visit www.homeseachbathnes.org.uk. If you may be interested in an affordable home in the Parish, you MUST be on the Register.

!!! Annual Parish Meeting !!!

The Annual Parish meeting will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 8 May at 7.30pm. This is your opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been up to, ask any questions and have a discussion about any of the topics raised.

We are pleased to announce that after the formal proceedings Julian Blades of the American Museum at Claverton will give a short talk and answer your questions. After his talk drinks and nibbles will, as usual, be available.

Tony McCann

Planning and Conservation Report Lin King and George Ardrey, and Susanne Wing (co-opted)

Jewsons Yard (The Old Timber Yard) 15 New Houses

No further news about the main application for 15 new houses, but the application to carry out the roadwork upgrade along Tynning Lane in advance of this decision on the housing development has been permitted. The reason given for this was to enable the railway crossing to be closed to vehicles (which was applied for and permitted some years ago) and will mean that vehicles will use the underpass a little farther down the track. Pedestrians will still be able to use the original crossing.

New Leaf Farm (Green Belt) New Agricultural Workers House

Re-submitted applications have been made for a revised covered yard and for a permanent house at New Leaf Farm (farm entrance off Mill Lane) to replace the permitted temporary dwelling for an agricultural worker needed for reasons of security and efficiency. The Parish Council has again supported this application.

Dental Practice, Tasburgh Hotel, illuminated sign

After raising this with the planners an application has been made and the sign has been permitted.

Bathampton Mill

We also received an application (which we had no objection to) for reinstatement work after the flood damage to Bathampton Mill. The Mill is now re-opened.

Canal Boat decking

We have asked both BANES and CRT to investigate the unauthorised decking which has appeared alongside a boat moored on the canal, near to the Raft Café.

4 Down Lane Extension and Raised Bus Stop

The Parish Council has expressed reservations over the extension proposal being somewhat out of sympathy with neighbouring properties. A problem has arisen with a proposal to raise the kerb at the adjoining bus stop at the very time when the application includes provision for a carparking forecourt which includes a dropped kerb.

Batheaston/Bathampton Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge

Work continues on the bridge and new route from Batheaston over the River Avon, skirting Bathampton Meadows and exiting onto Mill Lane at New Leaf Farm entrance.

Park and Ride East of Bath

A short list remains to be decided upon, awaiting revision of the Core Strategy under public consultation at <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk> .

This quarter the Parish Council have also received other applications; details of all planning matters, including our comments and others', can be found at <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk> .

Highways

In our last newsletter we incorrectly said that we had contacted householders on the Warminster Road about the issue of parking on the pavement. We should have said that we had received a number of complaints regarding the pavement parking issue. We know that the legality of parking on this particular pavement is complicated, and we know that homeowners often have no other options. We would just ask people who have to park on the pavement, to make sure that pedestrians can pass safely along the pavement and in particular that people with buggies are not forced out onto the A36 carriageway.

We have had several updates of forthcoming work from the Highways Agency.

- in May we can expect to see work on the bus stops on the A36
- this summer the vehicle activated sign will be moved to a position west of Down Lane and made permanent
- there is a major resurfacing of the A36 planned, from Hampton House to Hantone Hill, including works on the problematic drains. This is currently scheduled for night time working in December 2014 - but it could be rescheduled to coincide with the A36 road closure.
- the closure of the A36 to carry out geotechnical works is now likely to start in January 2015. The road will be closed from Hantone Hill to Brassknocker Hill and the work will take around 12 weeks.

Several people have also contacted us about the quality of the recent pavement works. The Highways Agency and Skanska (the maintenance contractor) have confirmed that the work has not been signed off due to defective workmanship and they will continue to manage the issue until they are satisfied. So we can expect to see further works on the pavement.

Canal

We continue to work with the Canal and River Trust regarding the state of the Biffa Bins and fly-tipping on the canal at Tynings Road. We are also trying to ensure that rubbish is cleared from the field alongside The George.

Footpaths

The bridleway leading from the Scouts Hut up to Bathampton Down is having its drainage improved. A trench was dug to insert a drainage pipe and filled back in with gravel but the work is still in progress.

The hedgerow alongside Dry Arch Growers was cut back to widen the footpath leading from the end of Holcombe Lane down to the swing bridge.

Our footpaths working parties have been scheduled for this year to cut back overgrowing footpaths. If you would like to join our small group of volunteers please get in touch with Cllr Mayo. It is a great way to meet new people, get some gentle exercise and give something back to the community!

Leisure and Amenities

Mike Richards

Jubilee Garden

As previously reported, the Canal and Rivers trust are keen to have the lengthman's hut renovated and are now seeking 4 - 5 local residents to volunteer to assist in the work under CRT supervision. Would those interested please let a Parish Councillor have your details by Thursday 17th April and further information will be given. As a community project this is an ideal opportunity to make good this attractive and busy area in our village. Its use and safekeeping would remain with the Parish Council.

Allotments

This year several plots became available and the good news is that most have been taken and fresh names have joined the waiting list. The improved conditions have seen some tenants emerging from hibernation and methodically preparing their plots for the season ahead and hopefully making use of the annual skip for keeping the area neat and tidy. Chitted potatoes are being sown and the onions will be following whilst other seeds are no doubt being propagated ready for planting in their allocated and prepared beds.

Playground and playing field

Our handyman Alan Saunders was able to replace the rubber bushes on the Seesaw, which had worn due to fair wear and tear, at a cost far below that of a complete replacement unit.

The height of the travelling seat on the zip wire is due to be adjusted by the contractor who last repaired it as a few parents have noticed that some children are unable to clear the ground and drag their feet thus spoiling the experience.

General amenities

.After additional plans from B&NES we are still awaiting the introduction of bus shelters at Holcombe Lane and St Georges Hill. It is understood that talks with Curo have resulted in an agreement of a bus shelter being sited along Holcombe Vale. The heightened kerbs, which B&NES investigated some months ago, have mostly been completed although work on the Down Lane positions remains questionable.

Curo have agreed to clear the area behind the garages in Holcombe Close.

At the risk of repeating a message given to all residents, it is extremely helpful to let B&NES, your local council, know of any works outstanding such as pot holes, dangerous trees, blocked drains or even areas where road or pavement cleaning is required. They cannot have inspectors in every place all of the time. Please contact 01225 394041 for Council Connect to explain the problem.

Village Hall

Moira Brennan

We are planning some work to update the kitchen and bathrooms at the Village Hall. We would really like to use plumbers, tilers, floorlayers etc who live in the village so if you would like to be considered drop us an email on bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com.

The Village Hall AGM will be held on Thursday 29 May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome.

Village News and Events

Please let Jan Helps know if you would like anything included in this section

Keeping our footpaths clear

The ancient art of scything is a wonderfully effective and satisfying way of controlling grass and scrubby areas and has proved successful in maintaining the local footpaths. The first date arranged to meet is Saturday 3rd May at 10am. Subsequent dates include Wednesdays or Thursdays at 6pm as well as regular Saturday morning slots. David Mayo is the person to contact for more details. Why not give it a go? Once you have learned the technique it is surprisingly easy to do from children to the "less sprightly".

Dry Arch Growers

With a very busy growing season getting into full swing, Dry Arch Growers are seeking to employ a part time, trainee/grower for the summer months. All work would take place under supervision alongside members of the co-operative. For further information contact Jan Helps on 01225 336656 or 07972564641.

Visit Dry Arch on Thursdays and Sundays and contact Jan if you are interested in a veg box or apple juice

<p>If you would like to publicise any activities or events of interest to Bathampton Residents please contact Tony McCann or any of the Parish Councillors who will be happy to pass them on for inclusion in the next newsletter.</p> <p>Contact details:</p> <table><tbody><tr><td>George Ardrey</td><td>424270</td></tr><tr><td>Sarah Batterbury</td><td>07802 727244</td></tr><tr><td>Moira Brennan</td><td>313503</td></tr><tr><td>Kate Jones</td><td>422870</td></tr><tr><td>Lin King</td><td>460998</td></tr><tr><td>David Mayo</td><td>466875</td></tr><tr><td>Tony McCann</td><td>423230</td></tr><tr><td>Mike Richards</td><td>466757</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk</p>	George Ardrey	424270	Sarah Batterbury	07802 727244	Moira Brennan	313503	Kate Jones	422870	Lin King	460998	David Mayo	466875	Tony McCann	423230	Mike Richards	466757	<p>Village Hall Bookings Mary Feddery Tel: 425085 bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor Jan Helps can be contacted on Telephone: 01225 336656 E.mail: j.s.helps@talk21.com</p> <p>Please let Jan Helps know if there are changes to any of the information in "What's on in Bathampton"</p>
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