

Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter January 2011

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Chairman's Community Awards

In November Cllr. Sarah Bevan, Chairman of B&NES, presented 13 awards to various categories of volunteers. The award for Good Neighbour of the Year was presented to Tony Hurley who lives in Down Lane. Many congratulations to Tony.

Budget and Precept

At the Parish Council meeting on 20 January a budget and precept for the year 2011/12 were agreed. The precept will not change from last year and has been set at £24,000.

Website

The Parish Council is developing a website which should go public within the next month or two. Content will include the newsletter. An earlier idea of distributing the newsletter by e-mail, which only received 6 positive responses, will not now be followed up.

Draft Core Strategy

B&NES have published, for consultation, their Draft Core Strategy. This is a key document setting out their overall intentions for development in the area as far as use of land is concerned e.g. for housing, employment etc.. Together with the Valley Parishes Alliance the Parish Council will be making representations about the draft in areas where we feel it is inadequate. One such area in particular is the minimal coverage in the document of the need to enhance and preserve the Kennet & Avon Canal. (Full details of the Draft Core Strategy are available on the B&NES website.)

Local elections

Local elections will take place on 5 May. All the Parish Councils in B&NES and the B&NES Councillors themselves will be up for election. The new Councils will be in office until May 2015. By then the Government's Localism Bill will almost certainly be law. The exact effects are not yet clear but the new law could potentially result in a significant increase in the powers of Parish Councils.

Tony McCann

Leisure & Amenities

Mike Richards

Jubilee Gardens

The Parish Council has agreed to replace the dead tree and if possible to replace it with a suitable flowering tree. Three estimates were received and a local contractor will be taking down the tree, grinding out the stump and removing all the debris. Following the last Newsletter, a kind and welcome offer has been received from a resident to cover these costs and to plant a replacement tree in memory of his late wife.

Allotments

Once the weather warms up, work can start to prepare the ground for spring planting. As in previous years a skip will be provided to help in removing accumulated rubbish from the site particularly from around the borders. Plot holders are asked to make the most of this opportunity to clean up. At present there are several names on the list waiting for plots to become available.

Playground

The playground equipment is well used and arrangements are in hand for some items to be serviced. It is particularly alarming to hear that dogs are being taken into the fenced play area and left to roam. This is strictly forbidden, especially where the children are playing. Toxocara can cause blindness. This disease is caught from contact with dog mess. All parents whose children use the this area should be concerned.

[Dogs \(Fouling of Land\) Act 1996](#) *People who do not clean up after their dog can be given a £50 on-the-spot fine. If they refuse to pay the fine, they can be prosecuted and may face a court appearance with a maximum penalty of £1,000. (see www.direct.gov.uk)*

Playing Field

Similarly some people have been spotted exercising their dogs on the Playingfield. As it is a public play area it is also out of bounds to dogs and a warning notice to this effect is on display at the entrance. Please observe.

There has been a suggestion to create a boule pitch on the playing field. The game is popular locally as there is an annual tournament in Bath. Should there be enough support, please let any of the Councillors know and the Parish Council would then take the idea further.

Other areas

A bollard will be installed by BaNES in the new financial year, to prevent a recurrence of a vehicle reversing into the new bench on Hantone Hill.

Regrettably a survey by a member of the BaNES Public Transport dept, found that existing bus stop locations were unsuitable to accept bus shelters. However two further proposals are to be considered. Reinforced glass is to be reinstalled in the parish bus shelter on the A36.

Parking

There has been some inconsiderate parking noticed around the Parish, on pavements, opposite other cars and close to junctions, where in slippery conditions the risk of accident is increased to pedestrians and other passing vehicles. A few extra yards walking to a house is good for you!

Planning and Conservation Report

Lin King and Susanne Wing

The George Inn now has its new illuminated signs at the front and rear.

Tarmac Access Road to Bathampton Farm **Planning and Conservation Report**

Lin King and Susanne Wing

The George Inn now has its new illuminated signs at the front and rear.

Permission was given for the revised **Tarmac Access Road** to Bathampton Farm. This means the railway level crossing can be closed. However, the footpath (and gates), which must remain as pedestrian access, will be maintained. The permission given specifically states that it does not convey an acceptance of any future development of the site which could result in increased level of use of Tynning Road.

Mobile Home on land west of Meadow Lane – the appeal hearing against refusal of the application has been held but there are complications and it will be some time before a decision will be made.

Vodafone mast on Warminster Road. We have heard that there may be an appeal against the refused planning application but we have heard nothing yet.

Avonstone, on Bathampton Lane, wishes to rebuild the front wall and reorganise the area to the front of the property and have submitted various proposals, which are still being considered.

Bathampton School B&NES have now formally submitted the planning application for permanent

classrooms to replace the extra temporary ones at the rear of. This will include an open learning area for music, orchestra etc.

As ever, there have also been various applications for extensions and tree works. We have also received an application for a 'destination board' to be erected at the side of the canal with details of local attractions – we were quite surprised by this, as originally this was mooted as part of the K & A 200 celebrations, which British Waterways then decided not to take any further – it will be interesting to see what happens.

Any of these applications and our comments, along with others' comments, can be seen on the B&NES Planning website by following the link at <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES>

Highways Group

Sue Christley, Kate Jones and Keith Rossiter

Parking Restrictions

B&NES has confirmed that new parking restrictions will come into force on 1st May, 2011.

Tyning Road & Church Close 4 hours parking/no return within 4 hours – 0600 to 1800 – 7 days per week. This will apply to the western side of Church Close and the south side of Tyning Road alongside the grass bank (opposite the school).

4 permit only parking spaces. Three outside the School and one in Church Close. These will be managed by the School and Church respectively.

Double yellow lines – no waiting at any time. This will apply to the remainder of Tyning Road and Church Close.

Holcombe Lane Single yellow line – 3 car spaces length – no waiting 0800 to 1800 – Monday to Saturday. This is intended to create a safe 'passing space' during periods of busy traffic in Holcombe Lane.

Next steps

Between now and 1st May, B&NES will repair sections of the tarmac surface in Tyning road and erect the various posts and signs in their correct location. When weather permits, they will put down all the necessary road markings.

Winter Maintenance

We are pressing the Highways Agency (A36) and B&NES (local roads) to repair numerous potholes that have arisen or worsened during the freezing conditions.

We have formally requested four additional grit bins. B&NES is considering this request. Unfortunately, they have a request for over 600 extra grit bins and a budget for an additional 40! We expect a decision during January.

At the parish council's request the 'gritting route' was extended to include the High Street and Canal Bridge as far as the raised crossing between the Church and George car park.

B&NES will carry out a further review at the end of this winter and the parish council welcomes any further suggestions on how winter maintenance can be improved.

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

Bathampton Community supported Agriculture

Jan Helps

This scheme has now been formally incorporated as a cooperative industrial provident society: Bathampton Community Co-operative Limited will operate under the name of “Dry Arch Growers”. To date there are 20 active community members involved in the project, more than 100 people are on the group’s mailing list, having offered help or expressed an interest in supporting the scheme, and over 250 people have visited the site.

Planning is now underway for a public event in the village towards the end of March to launch the co-operative formally and recruit members. Please look for posters and leaflets coming soon!

Please visit these websites to find out more about Community Supported Agriculture and the Bathampton Dry Arch Scheme at <http://bathamptoncsa.wordpress.com/> or <http://www.transitionbath.org/bathampton-csa-news> There are many ways to be involved, so pay a visit to the site or contact **Jamie Colston on 01225 851377 or Jan Helps on 01225 336656**

<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><tr><td>Sue Christley</td><td>338116</td></tr><tr><td>Kate Jones</td><td>422870</td></tr><tr><td>Helen Horler</td><td>07968 825624</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><tr><td>Keith Rossiter</td><td>426127</td></tr><tr><td>Susanne Wing</td><td>465359</td></tr></table>	Sue Christley	338116	Kate Jones	422870	Helen Horler	07968 825624	Lin King	460998	David Mayo	466875	Tony McCann	423230	Mike Richards	466757	Keith Rossiter	426127	Susanne Wing	465359	<p>Village Hall Bookings Sarah Fudge Tel: 460196</p> <p>Newsletter Editor Jan Helps can be contacted on</p> <p>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>
Sue Christley	338116																		
Kate Jones	422870																		
Helen Horler	07968 825624																		
Lin King	460998																		
David Mayo	466875																		
Tony McCann	423230																		
Mike Richards	466757																		
Keith Rossiter	426127																		
Susanne Wing	465359																		