

Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter August 2017

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I don't think I need to tell anyone that the plan for the park and ride on Bathampton Meadows has been scrapped. This proves that we can take a stand when something just isn't right. Thanks to everyone who donated funds, attended council meetings, waved placards and generally made themselves heard. Our biggest thanks go to the members of Bathampton Meadows Alliance who put in so much effort to achieve this result. I am pleased to say that the Alliance are not giving up yet. They are determined to continue to work to put the Meadows beyond threat of future development for ever. I think this is something we can all get behind – we certainly don't want to go through it again!! Follow the campaign at bathamptonmeadowsalliance.org.uk. They also plan to celebrate with a community party on the Meadows on the evening of 30 September. Keep the date and look on their website and on parish noticeboards nearer the time.

At our July parish council meeting we decided to start the process to create a Neighbourhood Plan. There are currently grants available to support the process so we want to move quickly. This plan will allow our community to define what matters to us in a way that has real legal force for future planning decisions about the Meadows and will be one element of the plan to protect the Meadows as green space for ever. To develop a plan we need to consult with you and for it to succeed we need to gain more than 50% of the votes in a local referendum. So if you do nothing else, get involved in consultation events and vote in the referendum. Keep an eye on our social media and local noticeboards.

The first consultation is now live. We have asked for the parish of Bathampton to be designated as a Neighbourhood Planning area. The consultation is open and you have until 5pm on 8 September 2017 to make any comments. You can comment on the BANES Neighbourhood planning website, by email (neighbourhood_planning@bathnes.gov.uk) or by writing to Planning Policy (Neighbourhood Planning), PO Box 5006, Bath, BA1 1JG.

If you want to be more involved, then we would love you to be part of a team who will deliver the plan. We need people who can organise and plan, who know about our local history, who can write reports, present material in interesting and accessible ways, help with social media or who just like working as part of a team. If you want to get involved speak to a councillor or drop an email to policy@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk.

We have a vacancy for a parish councillor – if you are interested please talk to any of the councillors or come to one of our regular meetings (7.30 on the third Thursday of every month except August).

Thanks to everyone who was involved in organising Harbutts Day in June. The event was great fun, from kids making plasticine models to the more mature taking a trip down memory lane with the old photos and historical displays. And all that cake and hot dog eating generated well deserved funds for the Village Show Committee and Playgroup.

Included with this newsletter you will find news from the Village Show committee and also exciting news on a new book about Bathampton Downs.

The Village Show is on 9 September and the next Art Show is on 11 November.

Moira Brennan

The Parish Council on line

Liam McMurray

Follow @bathamptonpc on Twitter at www.twitter.com/bathamptonpc to get updates on events and issues affecting the village.

For more detailed information on events and current affairs, check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bathampton.

For official announcements, updates on important issues such as the Neighbourhood Plan and the minutes from our regular Parish Council meetings you can visit www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

Highways Group

Stuart Andrews and Jacqueline Bird

Community Speed Watch (CSW)

We now have approval for a new site on the Warminster Road at the bus stop (at the Bathampton Lane junction). This site is proving to be more effective as during one session in June CSW officers recorded 37 vehicles who were above the speed threshold, with top speeds of 42. As a result Avon & Somerset police sent out 32 letters.

On Bathampton Lane 26 vehicles were above the speed threshold with top speeds of 36; 21 letters went out.

One other new development is that the South Somerset CSW network as of 1st July have moved to using a single central system called SWAN.

This means for the first time we have all 7 CSW networks processing their data through a single central system which enables Avon & Somerset Police to monitor activity across the whole force area.

In theory, a driver observed speeding by CSW in Thornbury today and then in Yeovil the following week will now appear in the system as a repeat speeder.

We are always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to support us, even one hour per month would make a huge difference. We also need help with administrative duties such as checking result sheets and entering data onto spreadsheets. Please email on bathamptonsspeedwatch@icloud.co.uk.

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.

Allotments

We now have names on the waiting list again so if your circumstances have changed and you would like to give up your plot, please let me know. Most people are minded to give up their allotments when they are asked for rent in the new year. Occasionally, circumstances dictate that people are unable to continue working their plot during the summer, so do please get in touch if you find yourself in this situation.

Playground

After some initial teething problems, the new fencing and gates have been installed. We will continue to explore ways to make improvements to the playground as and when funds become available. We now have a priority list created from our consultations with the village and school so are able to make use of this as and when we have the money to replace or install new equipment.

Hedges

The sunshine and rain have encouraged shrubs and hedges to grow rapidly and it is the time of year when we need to cut back foliage from street signs and notices. If you have a property adjacent to a road junction, please will you continue to keep hedges and shrubs trimmed to enable people to see as they emerge from them. Down Lane and Warminster Road seem to present the most problems.

Planning and Conservation Report

Lin King and George Ardrey

Batheaston/Bathamton Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge and track.

'Friends of Bathampton Meadows Riverside' FOFBMR have secured regular donations sufficient to cover the grass cutting. The volunteer group is continuing with ongoing maintenance and the wildlife is thriving. A new bin has been provided just over the little bridge in the Bathampton Mill car park and is emptied by Bathampton Mill. Projects for the coming years are being planned. In the autumn the crack willows will need attention; they are the responsibility of BANES and as this will be expensive we are pressing BANES for help with the cost. FOFBMR details are on notice boards at either end of the track.

Placemaking Plan / Land between Miller Walk and Simons Close ('Leylandii Field') and adjoining land to Bathampton Lane / Triangular Field

The Inspector has reported back on the BANES Placemaking Plan. We are very pleased that the two plots of land have now been officially designated as 'Local Green Spaces' which will give them protection in future. There is now a short period in which BANES could be challenged for not carrying out the process properly (unlikely) after which the Placemaking Plan will be formally adopted.

Woodside, Warminster Road

This application to build two new houses either side of the existing house, together with garages and parking areas has been permitted (subject to conditions).

Bathamton Primary School

The school has been given temporary permission for a bike shelter and covered bike stands and also its temporary classrooms have now been given permanent planning permission.

Level Crossing

It came to our attention that the new track through Jewson's Yard is not yet open. This was going to take traffic to Bathampton Farm and allow the level crossing to be closed to traffic (but still open for pedestrians). We understand that the protracted negotiations are now nearly complete, so we hope that they can be concluded soon and the track opened.

Tree Works

Where possible we would appreciate that any trees removed are replaced by similar (or sometimes smaller) trees to preserve the lovely aspect of the village.

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 George

Lin King

There have been changes; the manager has been moved to another pub and the area manager we were liaising with has left. I met with the new manager (Debbie Parry) and explained the background. She was keen to help, although she wasn't sure what she would be allowed to do, so I left it with her and will follow up. It would help if any parishioners using the pub (or passing) could add their voice to ask for Greene King to remove the Pay & Display.

Even if Greene King change their mind, it is obvious that we have a parking problem in the village. It has been on hold during purdah for the election, but we are expecting to meet with BANES and other interested parties in the near future to look for potential solutions.

Bathampton Down - A Hill Divided. A new book for everyone interested in the parish.

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.

Price £10. It can be purchased at the Village Shop, from Gill Huggins (01225 460047), or at the Village Show on Sept 9th. For more details of the book's contents see the enclosed flyer.

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.

Village Hall

The village hall is a great venue for one off events and is very reasonably priced. You can book the hall by emailing on bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com or contact the booking secretary on 01225 444752 or 07800 898101

Jackie (07780662098) is offering free taster sessions at her exercise classes in the village hall. Total Body Workout for the over 50's on Tuesdays at 6.40 pm and Wednesdays at 1 pm or Chair Exercises for the more mature exerciser at 6 pm on Tuesdays.

Dry Arch Growers

Find us at the end of Holcombe Lane. We have set up a community allotment. It is ideal for people who want to grow their own veg but don't want to have their own allotment. Share the sowing, growing and harvesting! To find out more, why not call in on Sundays or call Alex on 07793056448 or Jan on 01225 336656 WE ALSO SOME EXCESS PRODUCE TO PURCHASE

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
Liam McMurray	312412
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www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

Village Hall Bookings

Maya on 07800 898101 or 01225 444752
bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com

Newsletter Editor

Jan Helps can be contacted on

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Please let Jan Helps know if there are changes to any of the information in "What's on in Bathampton"

What's On in Bathampton August 2017

Organisation	Meets	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups	Monday 1.30pm Monday 6.30pm Thursday 9am		
Bathampton Village Show			
Beavers	Wednesday 6.15 - 7.15pm		
Bell ringers	Monday 7.45pm & Sundays 10.00am		
Bridge Club	Monday 1.30 – 4.30 pm Tuesday 1.30 – 4.30pm		
Brownies	Wednesday 6.30 - 8.00 pm		
Cricket Club	Tuesday & Sunday		
Cubs	Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm		
Dance, Ballet and Modern Curtis School of Dance	Friday pm		
Dry Arch Growers. Bathampton community co- operative	Thursday mid morning and pm (while light) Sundays 11 - 3		
Goldies Singing session	Tuesday Methodist Church 10.30-11.30		
Guides	Thursday 7.00-8.30pm		
Cool to knit – crochet, sewing, spinning, cake!	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday each month. Community room, St Nicholas court 2 to 4pm		
Chair Keep Fit	Tuesdays 6 pm (30 mins) Chair exercises		
Body workout	Tuesday 6.40 to 7.40pm Wednesday 1-2pm		
Mini Club	Wednesday 9.00 to 11.00 term time Miller Room		
Maxi Club lunch for retired people	Last Thursday in Month 12 – 1.30 Miller Room		
Pilates	Miller Room Tues 10.15 to 11.15 6 to 7pm 7 to 8pm		
Zumba Dance	village Hall village hall Thurs 6pm to 7pm Thurs 7.05pm – 7.55pm		
Playgroup bathamptonplaygroup@ yahoo.co.uk	Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday		
Scouts	Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm		
Scottish Country Dance	Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm		
Senior Table Tennis	Tues mornings 10.00-12.00 Scout HQ		
Table Tennis	Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm Scout HQ.		
Tai Chi	Scout hall Monday 8 - 9pm Thursday 10 – 11am		
Yoga Village hall	Friday 12. – 13.30		