

Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter July 2015

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I was hoping that my first few months as the new Chairman of the Parish Council would be quiet but as you will see from this newsletter there has been a lot going on. I am delighted that we have a great team of councillors representing the residents of Bathampton on issues like the need for consultation on changes to the towpath and objecting to building an electrical substation close to the school. I would like to welcome new councillors, Stuart Andrews, Jan Helps, Liam McMurray and welcome back George Ardrey, Sarah Batterbury, Nick Land, Lin King and David Mayo.

I recently attended the Bath City Conference, and it is clear that B&NES feel that there is a need for a Park and Ride in the Avon Valley and the issue of a link road across the valley has not gone away. Whilst we understand the traffic problems of Bath we are concerned about the potential impact of these plans on the village and its surrounding area. We will continue to talk to our local councillors and to B&NES and provide updates on our website at bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk.

At the City Conference we also learned that B&NES have launched a new scheme to improve the energy efficiency of homes. Find out how to improve your home's energy performance with the B&NES Energy at Home Scheme. You can get free expert advice. Grants of up to £6000 are available for a limited time. Freephone 0800 038 5680 / advice@energyathome.org.uk / www.energyathome.org.uk

Finally, it is great to see the Post Office back in the village stores.

Moira Brennan Village

Hall

There will be a Give and Take event in the Village Hall on Saturday 31 October. B&NES would like to offer any community organisations working in and around Bathampton a chance to publicise what they do free of charge on that day. If you are interested then please email us at bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com.

We are also keen to offer the hall for events that are open to the whole community. If you would like to organise a social event or a fundraiser we have availability on Saturdays and Sundays. Please email us on the address above.

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

Rail Electrification

You will all be aware of the multiple works going on as part of this Network Rail project. In Bathampton this includes the track work itself, the use of a field belonging to NR at the end of Tynning Road as a temporary compound for the equipment required, removal of hedge for access, digging up pavements for new cabling etc.

During the consultation process with the village, it emerged that NR proposed to put a new substation behind the school. Although this would fall within currently accepted safety levels, not everyone is convinced that there are no long-term effects. A concerted effort by the school, governors, parents, parish councilors and BANES councilors meeting with NR has convinced NR to move the proposed substation site further away. NR are now putting together a planning application for the new site.

Later phases of the electrification project will involve safety work on bridges.

46 Devonshire Road

Permission has been given for the erection of a new bungalow in the garden of no.46

University/Bathampton Parish Boundary (beside golf course) – New car park

B&NES has refused permission for the proposed car park as this will have a detrimental impact on Bathampton Camp and will involve a loss of significant part of the green corridor.

New Leaf Farm

Permission was previously given for temporary accommodation for an agricultural worker and various applications have been submitted for permanent accommodation and have been refused. An appeal made against the decision was also refused.

As a result, approval was sought and given for change of use from agricultural barn to three new dwellings (C3) and associated operational development. This means that the applicant will remove his suckling herd.

**Previous M.O.D. Site, Warminster Road – 201 Dwellings (including affordable housing)
- now 206 dwellings**

This application was permitted but as yet nothing seems to be happening on the site.

Jewson's Yard (The Old Timber Yard) 15 New Houses

Final details of layout/design of houses are still awaited, but work on clearing, tracks and landscaping is well under way.

Canal Boat decking

We are still awaiting the B&NES and CRT continued investigation into the unauthorised decking and planting alongside a boat moored on the canal, near to the Raft Café.

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>.

Highways Group

David Mayo and Stuart Andrews

The major works of the spring and early summer have been finished with the completion of the A36 roadworks and resurfacing; the subsequent re-opening of the road was on schedule. The laying of the new cables for the railway electrification, which meant disruption along the Warminster Road and the top of Bathampton Lane, has also been completed. Highways England and Skanska are both appreciative of the forbearance of the Bathampton villagers.

There are new 20mph speed limits in place in the village. The short section of Mill Lane between the George pub and the toll bridge remains at 60 mph and is unlikely to be changed.

The existing Vehicle Activated Sign on Bathampton Lane is old and currently out of action and, when funds allow, will be removed. Again, if funds allow, a replacement one might be installed. As planned a new Vehicle Activated Sign has been installed on the Warminster Road and should be commissioned very shortly. Highways England have agreed to leave the original sign in place.

An improvement to make it easier to cross Bathampton Lane at the Down Lane junction is in the B&NES schedule of works for the coming year.

Canal

There is no further definite news about the proposed upgrading of the towpath however B&NES is holding a public exhibition in Bathampton village hall on Friday 28th August 14:00-20:00 and Saturday 29th August 10:00-17:00 to seek views on the proposals from the local community and users of the towpath and the canal.

Further information is available at

<https://www.nowbath.co.uk/news/consultation-to-go-ahead-on-local-towpath-upgrade-62818/>

Footpaths

We completed the first round of cutting back the footpaths at the start of June and the second cut is due to start at the end of July. We now have this process down to a fine art, but we could always do with more volunteers! If you are interested in getting involved in giving something back to the community, meeting new people and learning a new skill in scything, get in touch with Cllr Mayo for more details.

New footpaths

Many residents have complained to us about the footpath on the southern edge of Holcombe Vale which has now been closed for over a year due to building works. This is not classified as a public right of way which means there is nothing that can be done to re-open it, so we have started the process of claiming this path, along with several on Bathampton Down, as public rights of way, to assure their use for years to come.

We already have some experience in this area having applied to make the Bathampton swing bridge a public right of way in 2012. We were very pleased to hear that it had been officially

adopted as part of the “Definitive Map & Statement” of public footpaths in April 2015. The process does take a long time but it protects everyone’s rights to use long-established paths.

Benches

A new bench has been installed on Bathampton Down overlooking the valley on the very popular Skyline route. This was paid for from the proceeds of the Walks Around Bathampton book, copies of which are still available for sale in Bathampton Stores.

Leisure and Amenities

Jan Helps and Nick Land

Introducing your new councillors

Jan and Nick have taken over responsibility for the village amenities. Mike Richards has done a splendid job but please be patient with the newcomers as they get to grips with the role. They can be contacted using the contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Jubilee Garden Lengthman’s hut

After further discussions with the CRT, it has been decided that the trust will retain ownership of the hut and, therefore, responsibility for maintenance.

Allotments

The allotments are looking very productive and bountiful. One or two are looking less well tended than others. If anyone is having second thoughts about renting an allotment, please let Jan know as there is now a waiting list.

Playground and Playing field

Discussions regarding an update to the playground continues. The group of interested parents have been continuing with a plan to update the playground equipment. There is likely to be a questionnaire circulated locally in order to gain ideas before applying for available grants and sponsorship. Should any residents like to take part or have any suggestions please contact Alison Clark at ali-clark@hotmail.co.uk.

General Amenities

Many communal areas and boundaries have recently been tended by B&NES. However, if your garden has hedges or borders adjacent to road junctions or drives, please could you check that they are not obscuring visibility for drivers trying to exit roads or driveways. This often happens at this time of year, especially with recent heavy rain which encourages further growth.

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 425085.

Dry Arch Growers

The pigs are rooting, the courgettes are abundant and the trees are groaning with fruit this year. If you don't have an allotment and want to "grow your own", why not come along and visit on Thursdays or Sundays. You don't have to be an expert and there is something for everyone. Come and meet other people in the village who like growing and eating local produce.

See our blog on <https://bathamtoncsa.wordpress.com> or find us on Facebook

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
Sarah Batterbury	07802 727244
Moira Brennan	313503
Jan Helps	336656
Lin King	460998
Nick Land	443925
David Mayo	466875
Liam McMurray	312412
Don Smith secretary	332497

www.bathamtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Village Hall Bookings
Mary Feddery Tel: 425085
bathamtonvillagehall@outlook.com

Newsletter Editor
Jan Helps can be contacted on

Telephone: 01225 336656
E.mail: j.s.helps@talk21.com

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 July 2015

Organisation	Meets	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups	Monday afternoon Monday evening Thursday morning		
Beavers	Wednesday 6.15 to 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 to 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	Wednesday am Thursday pm (while light) Sundays 10.30 - 3		
Gardeners Association			
Goldies Singing session	Tuesday St Nicholas Court 10.30-11.30		
Guides	Thursday 7.00-8.30pm		
Helping Hands Neighbourly Support Group	Call if you want to help or need help		
Chair Keep Fit Aerobics	Tuesdays 6.20 pm (30 mins) Chair exercises Tuesday 7 – 8pm Wednesday 12.45 to 1.45pm		
Mini Club	Wednesday 9.00 to 11.30 term time		
Maxi Club lunch for retired people	Last Thursday in Month 12 – 1.30 Miller Room		
Pilates Room	Miller Mondays 6.30pm to 7.30pm Tues 10.15 to 11.15 and 6.30pm to 7.30pm		

Hall	village	Thurs 5.55pm to 6.55pm		
Zumba Dance	village	Thurs 7.05pm – 7.55pm		
hall				
Playgroup		Mon, Tues, Wed.		
Scouts		Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm		
Scottish Country Dance		Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm		
Senior Table Tennis		Tues mornings 10.30-1.00 Scout HQ		
Table Tennis		Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm Scout HQ.		
Try Your Hand Craft Sessions		Wednesday afternoons		