

Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter November 2018

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I am sure you have all heard about BANES' intention to introduce a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in late 2020. BANES have put forward a preferred option which will see daily charges including £9 for non compliant cars to drive into the zone. BANES estimate that approximately 25% of private cars will be caught by the charges. It varies by manufacturer however, as a guide, if your car is diesel registered before 2015 or petrol registered before 2006 you need to be aware of the proposals as you may be subject to charges. The proposed zone means that someone driving from Bathampton will be charged either by crossing the Cleveland Bridge or by driving past the bottom of Bathwick Hill on the A36.

There is information on the BANES website and they are holding consultation events in the city. This is being driven by a directive from central government and it will happen – so if you have concerns you need to make them heard before the consultation ends on 26 November.

Apart from the personal impact on car drivers, we also have to consider the consequences the scheme could have for the village. At the various consultation events BANES officers have offered little or no information about the impact the charges may have on vehicles using the toll bridge to avoid the £9 charge. BANES have suggested that they expect no more than 10 additional cars per hour at peak times to use the toll bridge (and hence drive through the village) and they don't seem to have done any modelling at non peak times. This seems totally at odds with the behaviour we would expect given the large difference in pricing. To date BANES have been unable to explain the basis of their calculation but they do seem to have made an assumption that the toll bridge is in some way self limiting. We know that when Bath traffic is particularly bad many people divert through the village. Our belief is that, unless BANES take some action, we are likely to see substantially more traffic using our village as a way of avoiding the charges. It is also likely that this will continue at high volumes all day – rather than the start and end of day peaks we see now. These vehicles will be the most polluting vehicles, so Bath will clean up its air by passing the problem on to Bathampton. If this concerns you then please go to consultation events, seek one to ones with BANES officers through the surgeries available on their website, submit your views in the consultation, preferably in writing, speak to your MP or ward councillors and keep asking them what they will do to make sure that Bathampton's air quality is not adversely affected by this scheme.

I also wanted to say thank you to everyone who made this year's village show such a success. I know a lot of work goes into it so thanks to the committee and all the volunteers.

On a lighter note, many of you came to the quiz in the George in August in support of the Conker Crossing. Later in this newsletter are details of the next event, an auction and raffle – so if last time was anything to go by I would advise booking your table early.

I am delighted to say that we have now appointed a new clerk. Ali Taylor has taken up the role. You can contact her on clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk. I have to say a very big thank you to Don Smith for 22 years of service to Bathampton Parish Council. We shall miss you.

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

We really need some new Parish Councillors. We currently only have 7 and we should have 9. 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 in the month in the small room at the Village Hall (2nd Thursday in December).

The Parish Council on line

Follow @bathamtonpc on Twitter to get updates on events and issues affecting the village. For the minutes from our regular Parish Council meetings you can visit www.bathamtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Village Hall

I am delighted to say the village hall has a new booking secretary. This means we can continue to host parties and events. Thank you to Kate Macdonald for taking on the role. You can contact Kate for party bookings at bathamtonvillagehall@outlook.com.

We are currently looking at replacing some of the curtains in the village hall. We like to use local suppliers – so if you would be interested in giving us a quote to make new curtains please contact Penny on 01225 420973.

Moira Brennan

Highways Group

Stuart Andrews and Jacqueline Bird

By the time you read this we should have a new bus service – number 11. It is good to see First back in the village as the ability to use joined up ticketing is a big improvement for people who want to travel on more than one bus. We understand the service has been agreed until next September and will then be reviewed. If you want Bathampton to continue to have a bus service please use it as that will help make sure it gets continued.

The itinerant traveller who was parked at several locations in the village has left.

Some yards of double yellow lines have appeared in at least two places in the village (by the school and at the top of Down Lane) and we are trying to establish why, as we don't believe there was any consultation.

We are monitoring BANES road sweeping, especially along the Warminster Road, to ensure it is being done.

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

I have received expressions of concern regarding weed growth on some paths in the village. Those residents who have contacted BANES have been told that it is the responsibility of the parish council. This has never been the case and BANES have been contacted although no response has been forthcoming. The BANES website says that weed killing is completed in the spring. As a council we will remind them, but it is helpful if individuals could also add their weight.

It may be that residents are also happy to do their own weed management when they are tending their paths and driveways.

Hedges

The summer may have been dry but hedges and trees have a lot of growth on them. If your property has a hedge alongside a path or junction, please could you ensure that it is not overgrown and restricting the space for pedestrians and push chairs. As ever, there are junctions that are challenging for vehicles to exit from. In order to avoid accidents please check and deal with any shrubs and hedges that may be restricting visibility.

Allotments

This is the last newsletter before rents are requested for next year. If you intend to give up your plot, please use this time to clear your plot, cut down any growth, edge the plot and make sure the number is in place and leave it tidy.

There is a need for the management of some trees and we are going to be getting quotes for the work. There are some hedges which could be managed by a working party with the right tools. If you would be interested in helping to tidy the hedgerow around the site over the winter, please contact the clerk or Jan Helps so that we can devise a plan.

There are going to be some free plots next year so please contact the clerk if you are interested in having a plot for next year.

Planning and Conservation Report

Lin King and George Ardrey

As usual, there have been many applications for extensions and for tree works; significant applications are discussed below.

The Shop

Many of you will have seen activity in the shop and upstairs. We did try to find out who the new owners were and to speak to them, but to no avail. We have just received an application for a rear extension, and to reconfigure the flats upstairs to provide 5 flats; the shop part was left more or less as is, with no proposals for changes. We have responded by saying how disappointed we were that there was no consultation and that there seems to be no attempt to use the premises as any kind of shop, and that we would resist any attempt to use that too for accommodation. We also disputed the proposed parking arrangements.

The Hair Salon

Meanwhile, we now have an application to turn the Hair Salon into a Village Shop and Cafe. This we have supported, and work has already begun on the transformation.

Conker Crossing

You all had the opportunity to consult on the proposals for a new bridge to take pedestrians/cyclists across the canal avoiding the old bridge, which has now become dangerous to navigate due to increased traffic. Comments were taken into account and modifications made, and the detailed application has now been submitted. The Parish Council has given their full support to this. The planning is live and individuals can comment on line.

Network Rail (NR)

We need your help to monitor whether NR are keeping to the agreement over their use of the site at the end of Tynning Lane. They are supposed to have reinstated around 75% of the field and taken out a gate, replaced hedgerows and re-seeded over the Site of Special Scientific Interest. If any of this has not been done then do please let us know. In terms of usage they expected to have about 10 instances per year of vehicles delivering 'plant' and were going to be extra careful. They were going to advise of any overnight work and promised to be quiet and to respect local residents. We do know that they failed on the very first of these. We complained and they apologised, saying it would not happen again. I have not heard of any further incidents, or whether NR managed to keep their promises.

Please, can you help us by letting us know whether/how NR actually use the site? If you live locally and see any activity, please would you record what you see or hear and let us know? Thank you.

Cycle Track

All looking good and volunteers continue to make improvements to the site. Unfortunately the gate from Mill Lane has not yet been fixed, but the River Rescue cabinets have now been commissioned, and we expect BANES to do the work on the Crack Willows this autumn.

Bathampton Meadows

No further news on the possible extension of the Nature Reserve in the Meadows which would see the Meadows protected for the foreseeable future. We remain hopeful for a good outcome.

Encroachment above Dry Arch

BANES are now investigating the trailer and habitable wooden building which has been erected beside the trailer just south of Dry Arch on the ancient trackway in the woods up to the old quarry.

Level Crossing

Negotiations 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) seem to be nearing completion. We remain hopeful 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>.

Conker Crossing fundraiser

Following on from the successful Quiz at the George, the Conker Crossing team are holding a fundraising social evening on 23rd November at the George from 8pm.

There will be a raffle and an opportunity to buy prints (great Christmas gifts ?!) and have a nice community evening. The main event will be an auction of the original Jane Riley oil painting (see the image of it on the A5 insert).

Given the success of the quiz, if people can reserve a table online at <https://www.chefandbrewer.com/book/> mentioning the event in the 'special requests' section we can get an idea of numbers.

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.

<p>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.</p> <p>Contact details:</p> <table><tr><td>Stuart Andrews</td><td>425637</td></tr><tr><td>George Ardrey</td><td>424270</td></tr><tr><td>Jacqueline Bird</td><td>312621</td></tr><tr><td>Moira Brennan</td><td>313503</td></tr><tr><td>Jan Helps</td><td>336656</td></tr><tr><td>Lin King</td><td>460998</td></tr><tr><td>David Mayo</td><td>466875</td></tr><tr><td>Don Smith clerk</td><td>744472</td></tr></table> <p>www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk</p>	Stuart Andrews	425637	George Ardrey	424270	Jacqueline Bird	312621	Moira Brennan	313503	Jan Helps	336656	Lin King	460998	David Mayo	466875	Don Smith clerk	744472	<p>Parish Clerk: Ali Taylor clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk or on 01225 466137</p> <p>Newsletter Editor</p> <p>Jan Helps can be contacted on Telephone: 01225 336656 E.mail: j.s.helps@btinternet.com</p> <p>Please let Jan know if there are changes to any of the information in "What's on in Bathampton"</p>
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What's On in Bathampton November 2018

Organisation	Meets	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups	Monday 1.30pm Monday 6.30pm Thursday 9.00am		
Bathampton Village Show	www.bathamptonvillageshow.co.uk		
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 5.45 - 7.10 pm		
Cricket Club	Tuesday & Sunday		
Cubs	Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm		
Chair Keep Fit	Wednesday 3.15 – 3.45pm		
Body workout	Tuesday 6.40 to 7.40pm Wednesday 2 – 3pm		
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		
Guides	Thursday 7.00-8.30pm		
Iyengar Yoga village hall	Wednesday 7.30- 8.45pm		
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		
village Hall	Thurs 6pm to 7pm		
Zumba Dance village hall	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		