

# Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter

## August 2020

### CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Moira Brennan

The newsletter that I wrote back in January seems so very long ago. In it I said that BANES were holding a meeting in the village in February and we were expecting some good news – so it is great to start this newsletter with that good news. BANES have confirmed that they intend to transfer the section of Bathampton Meadows that they own to the National Trust so it can be kept safe from development and made available for public use. Lin King provides an update on progress below.

The next bit of good news is that we have our village shop back. The Spar opened on 24 July. I understand they intend to have an event soon to show case some of their products. Lin King and I met the owner on opening day. I was delighted to hear that they are keen to be an asset to the village and want to hear what people would like to see in the shop. They will adapt the offering as they begin to understand more about local needs – so please speak to Tamsin the new manager if you aren't finding what you want. When we met the owner he had already taken steps to reduce the light pollution caused by the shop at night in response to feedback from customers. They have also agreed to look in to noise issues associated with the new equipment on the wall of the shop and to work with their landlord to mask the bins at the side. One concern is the issue of parking outside the row of commercial premises. I know parking is difficult in the area but I would strongly urge people to walk or cycle to the shops and playground if you can. If you do need to park in the vicinity try to avoid using the spaces outside the shops unless you are visiting the surgery, pharmacy, cafe or shop. The Spar are keen to reinstate a post office. If you are missing your local post office you can help by commenting to Post Office about why you want it back at [comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk) quoting the postcode (BA2 6UL).

I want to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported people in the village either informally or through the Bathampton Care Group or 3SG (BANES third sector group). Extra thanks go to Jenny and Katie who masterminded the Bathampton Care Group. I am sure many people were relieved to see their happy sunny leaflet offering support drop through their door back in the dark days of March.

The other people who made such a positive difference to the whole lock down experience are Kay Martin and her team at Cafe Twenty Five. Whether it was phone calls to the isolated, setting up a village store or providing home cooked meal deliveries they were true local heroes. It is so lovely to see the thanks and appreciation being expressed on the Bathampton Community Group Facebook page. We know that Kay is trying to get back to operating her cafe but the continuing restrictions make that challenging so please continue to support the cafe, as well as the new Spar, to help these businesses to thrive.

Thanks to the Village Show Committee, now led by David Mayo, for coming up with plans to engage the community in a fun day despite the current restrictions. My sunflowers are looking like contenders if their head size matches up to their height.

Since March your council have been meeting via Zoom, which has been a positive experience – although we all look forward to seeing each other soon. Meetings are open to the public and details of how to join are on our website in the agenda for the meeting. Our Annual Parish Assembly – which normally takes place in May – could not go ahead for obvious reasons.

I normally end my report by begging for new councillors but this month I am delighted to say, that for the first time any of us can remember, we have our full complement of 9 parish councillors. I am delighted to welcome David Beard and Katie Lutteroth. Both have dived straight in as you will read below.

One positive of this strange time is that many of us have gotten to know our neighbours and our surrounding countryside better than we did before. Hopefully we can maintain this as things return to normal.

### Village Hall

Moira Brennan

The Village Hall reopened for a few Playgroup sessions in early July. We have done all the necessary risk assessments and taken steps to slowly work towards reopening fully. Over the summer we have had one group meeting and we expect more to join them in September. Hirers will have to sign up to additional terms of hire to

help keep everyone safe. Unfortunately for the foreseeable future we will not be taking bookings for parties as it is difficult to see how we can maintain social distancing and the required level of cleanliness.

You will see that there is no What's On in Bathampton section in this newsletter. That is because many groups are working out how and when they will restart. If you normally attend a group it would be worth contacting the leader for information. If you need contact details the February Whats On is still on the parish council website.

If you enjoyed volunteering during the lock down and would like to continue to be a part of village life we are looking for a new Chairman for the village hall. If you would like to test the water you could join as a committee member and find out more about what it takes to keep a successful village hall operating. Please phone Moira Brennan or email [bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com).

### **Bathampton Primary School**

**Lin King**

You may have noticed building work happening at the school over the summer holidays. This is the culmination of two years of planning for improvements to the school entrance and office. In spite of the pandemic, funds were secured from the Multi Academy Trust and will provide a safe central reception and office to welcome visitors into the school as well as the move of the current library/break out room. It will also mean improved traffic flow around the school when children are welcomed back in September.

Also, good news that, in spite of sweeping council cuts, the Conker Crossing has retained its detailed design funding and is being worked on actively by a team at B&NES.

### **Bathampton Meadows Riverside**

**Peter Fear**

I am writing this on a sweltering day at the end of July with lots of people using the river and the riverside space. The grass has just been mown after a short delay which meant the grass had grown to the point where we now have some potentially good hay if anyone wanted to rake it up!

Throughout the lockdown, the very warm weather attracted many people to the river and there was a chance that things could have got out of control with the closure of Warleigh Weir. However, we seem to have been very lucky and although the bins were overflowing, the space remained relatively tidy.

Volunteering has been off the agenda although litter picking remains a compulsion for some and the willow dome has had a haircut and looks a lot tidier. One job that has been on the cards for a number of months is the installation of the 2 benches, donated by B&NES and previously sitting in Queen Square. They have now been rubbed down and painted with wood preservative. Hopefully they will be along the path by Mill Lane very soon.

### **Bathampton Meadows / National Trust**

**Lin King**

The Bathampton Meadows Alliance Working Group (BMAWG) continues to work with BANES on the future of the Meadows. In June Council Leaders repeated their commitment to safeguarding the Meadows and enhancing the natural environment and public benefit they provide.

The BMAWG are focussing on the contribution the Meadows could make to a number of the urgent public policy issues firmly supported by the Council, including:

- dealing with the Climate, Nature & Health Emergencies,
- supporting and encouraging residents and visitors to take-up active travel options in all aspects of their lives - to reduce congestion and pollution and improve public health and well-being and,
- widening the offer to tourists to support economic development especially good quality business opportunities and jobs in response to the current deep recession.

Covid 19 has obviously impacted and delayed the process, but a senior manager at BANES is to allocate time to progressing the work and investment required. We are expecting him to assemble a project board to oversee the process. Meanwhile we've had assurances from the National Trust that they intend to proceed despite the financial challenges they too face as a result of Covid 19.

More specific information will be provided when it becomes available, including we hope, a clear programme of work including community consultation.

## **Toll bridge and River Avon**

**Lin King**

After the recent sad deaths of two young men, and anticipating more good weather, we instigated talks with BANES councillors and officers and other local parish councils and bodies to discuss what could be done to help to prevent more accidents. We decided that there was a need for extra rescue equipment and also more visible signage. A rescue 'ring' funded by ward councillors has already been installed and signage at both the Batheaston and Bathampton ends of the cycle track is in progress. Signage on the Toll Bridge itself will take longer as the bridge is listed. Longer term it is intended that a river rescue cabinet will be installed. BANES have promised some funding, Parish Councils will also provide some and we are asking local businesses to contribute.

## **Parish Website and communications**

**Tony Purpuri**

The parish council website has recently been updated to comply with international standards ensuring accessibility to the website for all. The website address is <http://bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk>.

The Parish council also has an active social media presence. News relevant to the Parish and Bath are regularly posted on Facebook and Twitter. The addresses <https://www.facebook.com/bathampton> and <https://twitter.com/bathamptonpc>. If you do post something on Facebook or Twitter that is relevant to the parish please tag either of these accounts so that we can ensure the post reaches as many people as possible.

## **Climate Emergency**

**Jan Helps and David Beard**

At recent parish council meetings we have discussed the climate emergency. Bathampton Parish Council welcomes and supports the BANES [Council Climate Emergency Declaration](#) passed by all parties in 2019 and we welcome BANES in providing coordination on relevant issues to support local action.

**BANES priorities are: Energy efficiency, Transport emissions, Local renewable energy generation, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Green infrastructure and biodiversity.** If you want to find out more about the B&NES response to the climate emergency, the council website has a wealth of information including area specific studies on emissions and income, car usage, household fuels and aviation.

Members of the parish council are currently attending training events to assist parishes exploring ways to respond to the climate crisis and to create an action plan. In due course we will be sharing information with residents and inviting those interested with enthusiasm, relevant knowledge and expertise to help turn plans into action.

## **High Street drainage and resurfacing**

**David Beard**

The High Street has experienced flooding in recent years during periods of heavy rainfall and a number of low-lying properties have narrowly escaped flood disasters. A major contributory factor is the antiquated street drainage system. A recent CCTV survey by the BANES Highways Drainage team found that the 70-year old system is only working at half capacity. Reasons include broken pipes caused by tree roots and blocked gullies caused by debris from gardens and gravel driveways. As a result, BANES will undertake a major engineering project over the summer to replace gullies and drains between Down Lane and Dark Lane. This will require temporary closure of the High Street for four weeks in August, but with limited vehicular access for local residents. After drainage upgrades, BANES Highways will then resurface the road from Down Lane to the George car park, taking the opportunity to remove two speed bumps outside Harbutts that cause problems for local residents.

We recognise that this will cause inconvenience to many but the work has to be done and we have worked with BANES and local residents, the school etc to chose a time that minimises disruption

## Playground

Katie Lutteroth

Hello parents and carers! Bathampton Parish Council are looking to improve the Bathampton Village Playground in readiness for the playground's 50th birthday in 2021! We would love to know which aspects of the playground you and your children like and what you would like to be improved. If you could spare a few minutes to complete this short survey before 14th August that will help us to make a more informed decision on how best to improve the playground for the wider community. We'd love to hear your ideas and welcome feedback on all aspects of the playground including surfacing, equipment and seating areas.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GC6XW3N>

## Footpaths

We have been advised that the public footpath over the level crossing at the end of Tynning Road will be closed from time to time from the 5th June for six months. If the pathway is closed, there is a short underpass to reach the other side of the tracks, which can be reached by walking on the new road to the right (parallel with the railway line) and passes the newly built properties at Tynning Meadows.

Bathampton Home Farm, the owner of the land has kindly given temporary permission for people to use that path but entirely at their own risk, as the path is designed for vehicles with no footpath.

## Cafe Twenty Five

Kay Martin

Thank you to all the village for their support throughout lockdown, we really appreciate it. Although things have eased and we are now back open as a cafe we continue to provide a home delivery service to those who need it as well as stocking a range of fresh groceries in our shop.

It is so lovely to welcome back customers into our cafe. Our full range of toasties, panninis, sandwiches and meals are back on the menu and we now have our selection of cakes to eat in or take away. Bacon sandwiches are probably still our most popular item and everything is made freshly to order. Thank you for your conversation and banter! We also offer scoop ice cream and milkshakes made with our range of Marshfield Ice Cream. We stock a wide range of ice cream and sorbets including plant based salted caramel and Doggy Ice Cream (which my dogs absolutely love!).

Over the next few weeks you will see some changes to the food stocked by Twenty Five. Although we plan to continue selling our fresh bread, eggs and our organic milk, we will be expanding our range to include Ivy House Milk, Cream and Cheese as well as locally sourced honey, jams, pickles, fruit and vegetables. Big virtual hugs everyone!

## The middle ground at Dry Arch Growers

Do you like your veg with zero food miles, zero packaging and zero emissions? Hamish Evans, a member of Dry Arch Growers, is growing seasonal veg and fruit which can be purchased as a weekly veg box or for sale at a stall operating from the site at the end of Holcombe Lane. The stall is open from 3-6pm on Wednesdays and boxes can be delivered. Visit the stall or contact Hamish [middlegroundgrowers@outlook.com](mailto:middlegroundgrowers@outlook.com) or 07708006001.

Stuart Andrews	425637	<b>Parish Clerk: Liz Daly</b> <b>07980 627391</b> <b><a href="mailto:bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com">bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com</a></b>  Newsletter Editor Jan Helps can be contacted on  Telephone: 01225 336656  E.mail: <a href="mailto:j.s.helps@btinternet.com">j.s.helps@btinternet.com</a>
George Ardrey	424270	
David Beard	336722	
Moira Brennan	313503	
Jan Helps	336656	
Lin King	460998	
Katie Lutteroth	07460069307	
David Mayo	466875	
Tony Purpuri	335978	