

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter November 2019

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

A massive thank you to the Village Show Committee and all the volunteers who delivered a fantastic show this year. It was all helped by great weather on the day. I continue to be amazed by the quality of the exhibits – from baking, growing flowers and vegetables to incredible crafts and the children's vegetable sculptures.

Since our last newsletter we have had two Clean Air Zone (CAZ) consultation events in the village as well as lots of information about the proposed scheme on the BANES Breathe web page. Hopefully everyone has now had a chance to have their say. While we await the final feedback from the consultation, it has been good to see the promised annual traffic monitoring taking place in the village. Once that data is published we will be better able to understand how the traffic flows are changing and more importantly to see any unexpected changes when a CAZ scheme is introduced.

We are hearing interesting rumours about a possible purchase of the premises including the village stores on Holcombe Lane. We are hopeful that a new owner will bring the downstairs into a commercial use that will benefit the village.

I am delighted to welcome Liz Daly as the new Bathampton Parish Clerk. Liz is contactable on bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com or on 07980 627391.

I also thank David Beard for agreeing to be Bathampton's Local Flood Representative. There is a report from David about flood concerns on the High Street. We have also asked BANES Drainage and Flooding Team to look into the problems that occur on the Warminster Road during heavy rain. This has been particularly bad during the recent storms even though the gullies were cleared in September.

We are expecting work on the street lights that are maintained by the Parish Council over the coming months. Two lights in Chapel Row will be removed, the light on the footpath from Devonshire Road will be replaced with a more easily maintained lamp post and the others will be converted to LED.

There are still 2 positions vacant on the council. If you are interested come along to our next meeting on 21 November in the village hall. Also a reminder for anyone who wants to attend the December meeting that it will be on 12 December rather than the third Thursday due to Christmas.

Our local Police representative PCSO Rich Riley will be holding a Beat Surgery in Cafe Twenty Five on Thursday 14 November and 12 December. If you have any concerns about local policing matters call into see him – or he can be contacted by calling 101 and asking for PCSO 6358.

I am delighted to say that Councillor Tony Purpuri is tweeting local news between newsletters @bathamptonpc. If you are arranging local events please put them on Bathampton Community Facebook page @bathampton.

For the minutes from our regular Parish Council meetings and contact details for all our councillors you can visit www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

Moira Brennan

Village Hall news

You can contact Kate for village hall bookings at bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com.

The ever popular Art Show will be on Saturday 16 November and the Village Show Committee are hosting a quiz on 30 November.

The Village Hall is having a clear out and we are offering the small electric organ (currently in the small hall) free of charge to a good home. Email bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com if you are interested.

Safe Routes to School

Fiona Powell

Bathampton Primary is part of the B&NES sponsored national Modeshift Stars Travel Planning scheme and previously won their Silver Award. Now more congratulations are in order as last month the school was delighted to receive the scheme's highest level accreditation for its focus on active travel. The Gold Award is the first of its kind to be awarded in the West of England and recognises the work put in by families to reduce their car use for the school run, the school's work on campaigning for investment in safer streets and a school-wide understanding of the benefits of active travel. Well done to everyone involved.

Conker Crossing

The related Conker Crossing project to provide a safe alternative to the existing canal bridge had a boost in October. The team met with B&NES officers responsible for developing the scheme through to detailed design and preparing a bid for capital funding. They were informed that this is now a live project being worked on by the council, which is excellent news. They will keep people updated on progress via this newsletter.

Bathampton Meadows

In the Summer the Bathampton Meadows Alliance (BMA) Working Group resumed discussions with the Council and the National Trust to look at ways of securing long term protection for the meadows. The Group comprises volunteers from the three villages surrounding the Meadows including the Parish Councils. Following the Council's decision not to proceed with a 1400 space Park & Ride site, all the main political parties made pledges to safeguard the future of the Meadows from development. The pledge made by the Liberal Democrats was to 'instruct council Officers to negotiate with the National Trust for the transfer to them of all council-owned land on the Meadows'.

The BMA Working Group is now offering skills and volunteer time to facilitate the next steps. The Group worked through the summer to produce draft proposals to enable it to engage with, and support, the Council and National Trust. (Please see the website <http://bathamptonmeadowsalliance.org.uk>).

A productive meeting was held in early October with the Council's Deputy Leader and the local General Manager of the National Trust, and further meetings are planned. We will continue to report progress.

Highways Group

Stuart Andrews

Following a consultation we expect to see new double yellow lines at the top of and in the middle of Down Lane.

Most residents will have received a letter from Highways England (HE) about the upcoming road closure. I am meeting with HE via the Valley Parish Alliance and hope to learn more about the closure and to see how we can minimise the inconvenience to villagers.

If you have an issue concerning the streets of the village your first port of call should be the FixMyStreet part of the council website <https://fix.bathnes.gov.uk/>. If your issue is with the A36 they should pass the information on to Highways England.

High Street Flooding issues

David Beard, Local Flood Representative

For some time, the High Street has been prone to flooding during periods of heavy rainfall. In August, the road flooded to a depth of 3 inches within the space of 10 minutes, threatening low-lying properties and disrupting traffic. The problem seems to be caused by inadequate drainage and the Victorian infrastructure which is struggling to cope with heavy downpours.

A BANES Drainage Engineer carried out a site visit during October and outlined the Council's 3-step approach to addressing the issue:

1. Conduct a CCTV survey of current gullies and drains during November-December 2019 to identify problems
2. Complete any repairs/new construction of gullies and drains during January-March 2020
3. Resurface the High Street during the new financial year, from April 2020 onwards

The repair and reconstruction work will also apply to Bathampton Lane to prevent overspill from this catchment area flowing into the High Street.

Leisure and Amenities

Jan Helps

Letters will soon be sent out requesting rent for next year's allotments. This is the time of the year when people give up plots so if you are interested in having an allotment, please contact me or the clerk so we can put you on the waiting list.

Cafe Twenty Five is almost a year old!

Over the last year we have served over 6000 hot drinks and 3500 toasted sandwiches, we have had to enlarge our kitchen and have finally got a post office up and running.

Our customers are predominantly from the village; some visit daily, many visit weekly and others when the need arises or the mood takes them (or they have just missed the bus and need somewhere warm and dry to stay). Thank you to all our regulars, we enjoy your company, banter and smiles.

We are introducing chocolate workshops for children. Come along on a Saturday and make a chocolate hollow shape, a chocolate bar and a marshmallow treat. Workshops start on the hour between 11 and 3. As this is a new venture this may be subject to change so please call in advance if you want to be sure of a slot.

We are recruiting! We are looking to hire an apprentice. If you think you can work in a busy little shop, would like to learn to bake, serve and cook food then please do get in touch.

Finally we wondered if anyone would be willing to put themselves forward as back up staff. Sometimes we find ourselves caught out because of illness or holidays and on those days it would be useful to have a bank of people we could call up even if only for a few hours.

Thank you Bathampton for making us so welcome !

Maxi Club

This is a club for retirees held on the last Thursday of the month in the Miller Room at St. Nicholas church.

We don't meet in December or July. We provide a warm welcome and a two course lunch for a donation of £3. Transport can usually be arranged if needed. For further details ring Sara on 460196 or Jane on 466455.

Brains of Bathampton fun quiz night

The Quiz Night will be on Saturday 30th November in the Village Hall, Holcombe Lane, Bathampton BA2 6UL. Doors open at 7.00pm (7.30 start). Tickets cost £10 per person. The price includes a 2 course meal (hot main and a pudding) and there will be a licensed bar and raffle. All money raised will support next year's Show and there will be a prize for the winning team.

If you are interested in entering a team please email bathampton.show@gmail.com or text 07780860922; tickets are also available from Cafe Twenty Five or from Gill on 07534 245555 or 01225 335088.

Bathampton Women's Institute

The Bathampton WI holds meetings at the Methodist Church, on the first Tuesday of each month at 19.30. All women are welcome, and for our Public Meetings, everyone is welcome, including accompanied children.

5 November: speaker from Guide Dogs for the Blind (with a puppy, we hope). Public Meeting for all

3 December: our Christmas party!

7 January: how to knit recycled materials.

4 February: talk and chocolate tasting from Sarah's Chocolates of Bristol.

The WI now own a smart blue gazebo suitable for garden use. When the weather improves you might want to borrow this for a party or barbecue: please contact bathamptonwi@gmail.com to enquire about our very modest rates.

<p>Stuart Andrews George Ardrey Moira Brennan Jan Helps Lin King David Mayo Tony Purpuri</p>	<p>Parish Clerk: 07980 627391 bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com</p> <p>Contact Kate for village hall bookings at bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com.</p> <p>Newsletter Editor Jan Helps can be contacted on</p> <p>Telephone: 01225 336656</p> <p>E.mail: j.s.helps@btinternet.com</p>
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