

# Bathampton Parish Council

## Newsletter May 2021

### Chairman's notes

**Moira Brennan**

Members of the Parish Council have been meeting with BANES councillors and staff to discuss the closure of Cleveland Bridge. Households in the main village have received letters regarding the closure and the plans that BANES have for managing the traffic through Bathampton. The challenge will be to limit the impact of the additional traffic while still allowing residents to get around. The reality however is that there will be disruption as a result of the closure of such a critical river crossing. The first phase will be to create two automatic crossings on Mill Lane plus manually controlled lights on the canal bridge during the school run. The hope is this will be enough of an inconvenience to through traffic to make them look to other options. If this does not keep traffic at a manageable level BANES have proposed measures which can be escalated in a phased approach including a temporary bus gate on London Road East and the closure of Bailbrook Lane. I would urge everyone to keep up to date on the works by following the Council on twitter and visiting the web site [bathnes.gov.uk/clevelandbridge](http://bathnes.gov.uk/clevelandbridge)

BANES are working with #noplaceforlitter to support community groups who want to clean up their local area. They can provide equipment for a day or a weekend and arrange to collect the rubbish. Apparently they have been inundated with groups who want to spruce up their favourite places. We are very indebted to two local volunteer litter pickers who tidy up the central parts of Bathampton most weeks. It would be great if we could find some other volunteers who could cover other areas on a regular basis or groups who would like to arrange a one off litter pick. The Parish Council is open to buying some equipment for use locally if we find there is interest. Please contact Liz Daly our parish clerk if you are interested.

There are a lot of notices up around the village. BANES have asked us to politely remind people that attaching items to their street furniture is illegal and should be removed. But even if it is not on street furniture remember that if you put a notice up you are responsible for taking it down when the event is over and certainly before it starts to degrade.

We are very sorry to say that David Mayo had to resign as a councillor after over 10 years of service when he moved out of the village. Fortunately he has agreed to continue as Chairman of the Village Show but we will miss him and his contribution at Parish Council and in looking after the village footpaths. David Beard has agreed to take on the footpaths role. Katie Lutteroth has also stepped down as a councillor due to work commitments but we are delighted that she has agreed to continue to help out with the project to raise funds to refurbish the playground. This means we are now short of two councillors. We would be keen to recruit anyone who has a particular interest in matters affecting the canal or maybe someone who would like to look into setting up a litter picking volunteer group. Please speak to any of the councillors if you want to know more about the role.

Parish Council meetings are going to be a bit different for at least the next two months. The government introduced legislation last year to allow councils to meet remotely but this runs out on 7 May 2021. At the same time we are unable to safely distance if we meet physically in the village hall while offering public access to meetings. Our intention is to continue to meet remotely but these can not be legal parish council meetings so they will instead be advisory meetings to advise our clerk to whom we have delegated powers. Strange but true! Members of the public will, as always, be welcome to join the remote meetings and details are on the agendas online and in noticeboards.

We hope you like the new format of the newsletter. Due to Covid our volunteer newsletter collators haven't been able to gather and this change removes the need to put the two newsletters together.

### Village Hall

Exercise classes can return to the village hall after the next phase of reopening planned for May. Contact details for the various yoga and pilates teachers are on the Parish Council website in the February 2020 What's On guide in the newsletters section.

## Road safety in Bathampton

Tony Purpuri and Patrick Marsh

Road safety through Bathampton is of continual concern, especially considering increased traffic volumes and speeds.

Over the last few months we have been discussing the issue of road safety through the village and specifically on the A36/Down Lane junction. Of particular concern is the A36 crossing at the top of Down Lane, and bus users crossing Down Lane. A small group has been looking at solutions and developed a proposed improvement plan, on which we would like to consult with local residents. Details of the consultation can be found on our website (<https://bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk/highways-canal/highways-consultation>) and we would welcome feedback, comments and alternate ideas.

Four local volunteers recently stepped forward to revitalise the village's Speedwatch scheme and we will soon have a short period of training provided by the local police force. At the moment, there are just the four of us and we really need a few more people to help us encourage drivers to slow down and behave responsibly. It only amounts to a couple of hours each month and you could help to save someone's life.

**Please come and join us – we need your help! Contact Patrick for more details**

## Flooding and Drainage

David Beard

There have been three new developments since the last newsletter. Firstly, Highways England are developing plans for a long-term solution to flooding on the A36; this can be particularly bad following heavy rainfall on the section between Devonshire Road and Bathampton Lane. The work planned for this year has been incorporated into major drainage work between Bathampton and Monkton Combe, probably requiring temporary road closure. The work is likely to start in Summer 2022. Secondly, plans by BANES for drainage upgrades on Bathampton Lane have been postponed due to the temporary closure of Cleveland Bridge; no new date has yet been announced. Thirdly, BANES is adopting a new planned maintenance strategy for road gullies and drains to reduce cases of failing infrastructure that cause local flooding.

## Footpaths

David Beard

An audit of the parish footpaths (all 11 miles) was completed during March-April 2021; details of damaged gates, fencing and signage were passed onto BANES, with a request for repair. Six of the parish footpaths are not officially registered in their entirety and we are collecting evidence of continuous use over 20 years as part of a legal process of registration before the national deadline of 2026. If you have been a regular local footpath user and would like to support the case for registration, please look at the information on Bathampton Parish Council website.

## Cotswold Warden update

Bob Ford

We wardens have been quite busy in the last few months even though hindered by the lockdown. I have helped on initial assessment of trees (Holcombe Lane playground and park, trackway below Dry Arch, and Meadow Lane), and cleared some smaller fallen and failing trees on various footpaths in and around the parish. We have just completed an upgrade to the steps on the steep footpath that goes up the hill off the A36 just west of Devonshire Rd. We have repaired the existing steps and handrail and added 7 metres more. We also cleared a short section of stream way just above the Wessex Water pumping station (a section the B&NES council couldn't readily get to with their machine – they asked for our help) . I'll keep an eye on that stream! The next period will be to keep footpaths clear of those annoying brambles, and also to look out for any hazardous ash die-back.

In the longer term, in my new additional role as a National Trust volunteer (Skyline ranger), I hope to be able to contribute to the development of Bathampton Meadows. The Wardens and the National Trust often work together. I was fortunate to have a chance to talk with Tom Bowden, general manager of the National Trust Bath portfolio and we talked exclusively about the Meadows.

Finally, if Covid lockdown has made you think that you want to get out there more, there is usually room for more volunteers (both women and men) – guided walk leaders, dry-stone walling, work parties. For me, the Cotswold Wardens has been so very beneficial during lockdown. If you want to find out more, visit [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lookingafter/volunteering](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/lookingafter/volunteering) and you can contact me at [cotswolds@bobford.uk](mailto:cotswolds@bobford.uk).

## **Climate and Ecology Emergency**

**Jan Helps**

**What are the carbon emissions of a village like Bathampton?** During the past year the Centre for sustainable energy and the University of Exeter have produced an online tool which enables parishes and small communities to gain an idea about their carbon emissions. It is possible to compare with other communities and can be a starting point for considering and discussing the carbon foot print and considering what measures could be taken to reduce it. It is in development stage and improvements continue to be made but it provides some interesting information.

For anyone interested, it can be found at <https://impact-tool.org.uk> and we would be happy to hear from anyone who might be interested in discussing the outcomes when circumstances allow.

## **Reduce your food miles at Middle Ground growers**

Bathampton is blessed with many opportunities to grow and eat locally. We have allotments, a community allotment, many large gardens and enthusiastic gardeners. If you prefer someone else to grow your vegetables you may be interested in Middle Ground growers who operate at the Dry Arch Growers site. The first market stall will be selling veg on 26th May from 3-6pm at Dry Arch at the end of Holcombe Lane. If you are interested in having a regular box delivered by electric bike contact Hamish on **07708 006 001** or by email [middlegroundgrowers@outlook.com](mailto:middlegroundgrowers@outlook.com) or check their website [www.middlegroundgrowers.com](http://www.middlegroundgrowers.com)

## **Playground**

**Jan Helps, Tony Purpuri and Liz Daly**

We are pleased to report that following the receipt of a generous donation of £1,000 from a member of the community and using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money, works to repair the Aerial Runway have now been instructed. We await a date for its repair but this is expected to be around mid June. The single gate to enter the playground will also be replaced with a new and improved heavy duty version to ensure that it closes properly.

2021 marks 50 years since the village playground first opened. The Parish Council are keen to make some much needed improvements to replace equipment nearing the end of its natural life and install new equipment that more closely meets the needs of the community. We are continuing to work through grant opportunities, but unfortunately a couple of these have been unsuccessful due to high volumes of applications received by the trusts as communities look to improve their outdoor spaces. We will however keep you up to date on our progress and our plans for undertaking improvements.

Additionally, as part of our fundraising activity and in view of Covid-19 constraints we have set up a GoFundMe page to help raise additional funds from within the community.

**If you would like to contribute to our Playground Project please visit: <https://gofund.me/6ebf4603>**

**You can also donate directly to avoid the small platform charge. Please contact the Clerk on [bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com) or on 07980627391.**

To date we have raised £1,690. We would like to take the opportunity to thank those that have donated and to those who are looking to contribute. Every £1 received will help us to get closer to our target and enable the playground which is loved by so many within the community to be updated and enjoyed for many years to come.

## **Dogs on the playground and playing field – a continuing challenge**

Yet again we have been made aware of dogs being allowed to run around the playing field and in the playground. There are notices posted both at the entrance to the playing field and playground stating that no dogs are allowed except assistance dogs.

Toxocariasis is an infection caused by roundworm parasites that are commonly found in the faeces of dogs, cats and foxes and usually affect young children. The parasites can live in soil for years and children can come into contact with contaminated soil when they play and put their hands in their mouths. This is why it is common practice for dogs to be banned from public playgrounds.

## Allotments

## Jan Helps

The fencing on the south side of the allotments has been repaired and raised in order to deter deer. We hope this will be effective and that plot owners can enjoy a productive growing season.

We are grateful to the residents of Holcombe Lane who allowed us to use the path at the back of their properties to access the boundary. It made the job much quicker and cheaper.

This is also a reminder that the path is private property and should not be used by the general public. We understand a new gate has been installed to that end.

## Trees

We have organised an inspection of the trees on the playing field in order to establish their species, age and condition. A very small number require management which will be done during the coming year. Should any require removal, they will be replaced with younger suitable trees.

## Planning - Dog walking Paddock

Many of you will be aware of the recent planning application (21/01163/FUL) to turn part of the field behind the Scout Hut into a Dog Walking Paddock. Whilst we understand from dog owners that there is a need for such facilities, we have objected to this application. We are concerned about the use of the bridleway by users' cars and the access onto the A36; about the impact on neighbours from cars, noise, hygiene and on their privacy; and that it will not be possible to effectively manage the site and respond to any issues remotely. For full details of the application, of the PC response and other responses please see the BANES Planning website and use the application number above.

## The Meadows

## Lin King

I am sure you were as delighted as we were to hear that BANES had completed the transfer of ownership of the meadows to the National Trust. This will become part of the 'Bath River Line' stretching from Newbridge to Batheaston, a green infrastructure project to enhance the River Avon corridor for both people and wildlife. The precise route of the cycling and walking paths to the east of Bath is yet to be determined, BANES and the National Trust are in discussion with other landowners to finalise this. If you have any thoughts about how this area can be used we would love to hear them.

Lots of new saplings have been planted in the grassy areas along the cycle track and we look forward to seeing them thrive.

The 'temporary' river rescue cabinet will shortly be replaced by a more suitable permanent one, funded by local councillors, donations and a contribution from Bathampton Parish Council. Some intrepid wild swimmers have been using the river even in the cold weather, so we are pleased that the rescue equipment will be in place for the warmer weather. But please only use the river if you are a competent swimmer and do not jump from the bridge.

George Ardrey	424270	<b>Parish Clerk (Liz Daly): 07980 627391</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com">bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com</a></u></b>  Newsletter Editor and What's On Jan Helps can be contacted on  Telephone: 01225 336656  E.mail: <u><a href="mailto:j.s.helps@btinternet.com">j.s.helps@btinternet.com</a></u>
David Beard	336722	
Moira Brennan	313503	
Jan Helps	336656	
Lin King	460998	
Patrick Marsh	975826	
Tony Purpuri	335978	

Website [bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk) You can also find us on Facebook (Bathampton Community) and Twitter (Bathamptonpc)