

## Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter August 2021

### **Chairman's notes**

I am delighted to say that if things continue as we expect, the Parish Council should finally be able to meet in person in the village hall on 16 September after an 18 month break. Despite this, Councillors have been really busy representing the views of Bathampton residents on so many aspects of life in our village. I think this newsletter is a great example of the many things we get involved in beyond the statutory responsibilities of a Parish Council. Tony Purpuri has been working with BANES officers and councillors trying to mitigate some of the traffic issues caused by the closure of Cleveland Bridge, I have met with the new Canal and River Trust (CRT) ranger to understand his plans, David Beard has been walking our footpaths and making sure any issues are brought to BANES attention and sorted out, Lin King has met with the National Trust to understand more about what is happening on the Meadows, Jan Helps has been working with BANES to survey the trees on the recreation area and to understand what work is needed to keep them safe.

All this made me think about what people believe that Parish Councils do. Sometimes we are criticised for not doing things which are actually the responsibilities of agencies like Highways England, BANES or CRT. As a Parish Council we provide amenities such as the allotments, playground and playing field and our handyman maintains these areas as well as some areas that none of the other agencies recognise as their responsibility. We also use funds raised as part of the council tax to support local groups to maintain the graveyard and cut the grass on the Bathampton Meadows Riverside. We pay for and maintain 8 street lights in the village which are in areas that BANES would not consider to be in need of lighting eg on paths like Holcombe Close and Dark Lane and in the Play area. Almost all of our other roles are about working to influence how other agencies and home/ land owners carry out their responsibilities in the village. We actually have no authority regarding deciding planning applications, parking restrictions or enforcement, repairing or maintaining the Highways. In truth we have very little more official influence than individual parishioners in getting work done but by developing working relationships in the agencies and showing them that we can make suggestions that help them provide more effective services we develop some leverage.

As ever we are keen to recruit new councillors as we currently have three vacancies. That means all of the work is currently being carried out by 6 Councillors – all of whom are volunteers. If you would like to get involved in any aspects of the work I describe above then come to our September meeting or talk to any of our councillors.

We haven't been able to hold our annual parish meeting for the last two years where we would normally tell local people how we have spent the money we raise through the council tax. We have therefore published a report on the Notices section of the Bathampton Parish Council website explaining our income and expenditure for the last two years.

So that just leaves me to say that I look forward to seeing you on 11 September. Get your tiny tomatoes, fabulous craft work and delightful dahlias prepared. Bathampton Village Show is back !!  
**Moira Brennan**

**Post Office** Hopefully you will now be aware that we have Post Office services back in the Spar shop on Holcombe Lane. Well done to the Spar team for all their hard work to get the service back.

**What's On In Bathampton** We used to provide a copy of What's on in Bathampton in each newsletter. Since the lockdown it now needs to be updated. Instead of printing it as part of the newsletter we intend to put the most recent version on our website so you can access it when you need it. We will also provide a copy on noticeboards going forward.

**Mobile Library** The mobile library service has resumed. The library visits 2 sites in the village – Holcombe Lane 1.30 to 2.30 pm and The George car park (in school term) 2.40 to 3.40pm. The upcoming dates are Thursday August 12 and 26, September 9 and 23, October 7 and 21 and November 4 and 18. Residents can use any BANES library membership card on the mobile library and can also enrol on the vehicle.

**Ragwort** There is a lot of ragwort in the village and in neighbouring verges etc. We are reminded by a concerned parishioner that it can be fatally toxic to livestock. If a bright yellow plant has appeared in your garden have a look online to check it out. It is a perennial weed so the only way to get rid of it permanently is to dig it out. At the very least please cut it down before it sets seed to stop it blowing into surrounding gardens and farmland.

## Highways

**Tony Purpuri**

**Cleveland Bridge Closure** Cleveland bridge closed at the end of June and you will have noticed the significant increase in traffic and heavy goods vehicles coming through the village. We have been in close communication with BANES to monitor and manage the situation. Some of the measures are: traffic lights through the village to ensure pedestrian safety, especially on the school run; improved signage on the A36; and temporary parking restrictions near the toll bridge. We will continue to monitor the situation, however with the school holiday having started traffic should reduce significantly.

**Speed Watch** The Bathampton Community Speedwatch is now up and running. Currently we have one site approved (Bathampton Lane), with further sites earmarked for approval. There are three volunteers trained up and regularly out monitoring and reporting speeding vehicles. Our current top speeder was doing 46mph down Bathampton lane (20mph zone). However, with only 3 trained volunteers we are limited to how often we can go out. If you are interested in improving safety through the village please consider volunteering. The more of us there are the greater the impact we can have. Please contact Tony Purpuri at [highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com](mailto:highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com) .

## Consultations on road safety – Down Lane and Warminster Road

Due to receiving a limited number of comments we are extending the consultation on the potential safety measure on the A36/Down Lane junction. Please could I encourage residents to review and comment via [highways.BathamptonPC@gmail.com](mailto:highways.BathamptonPC@gmail.com) on the proposal posted here (<https://bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk/highways-canal/highways-consultation>).

We are working with Bathampton Primary to put in an application to the Liveable Neighbourhoods scheme for a safer solution to crossing the middle of Down Lane between Holcombe Lane and Devonshire Road where there is poor visibility at both roads. While we continue to encourage BANES to move forward with the canal bridge (Conker Crossing) project that they agreed to adopt from the community in 2019, we have been advised to include a formal request for an interim alternative solution to the Conker Crossing in a Liveable Neighbourhoods application to keep the school run safe once Cleveland Bridge works finish. If you would like to support this application with your own thoughts on these issues. Comments to [highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com](mailto:highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com)

If you would like to give something back to your community, please also remember that there is a live Crossing Patrol vacancy for Bathampton Primary School on the BANES website.

## **Leisure and amenities**

## **Jan Helps and Liz Daly**

**Playground Project** The Parish Council have recently sent in a bid to the National Lottery to help acquire much needed funds for the Playground Project. We are currently awaiting a response, but the hope is to hear back with their decision within the next 8 weeks. In addition, the Parish Council intends to allocate a recently received Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment of £1520.50 towards the project with new funding opportunities being explored.

We have set up a GoFundMe page <https://gofund.me/6ebf4603>. To date approximately £2,125 has been raised to date (via GoFundMe and direct donations). If you wish to donate you can visit the link above or contact the Clerk on [bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com) or on 07980627391 to donate directly. Direct donations avoid the small GoFundMe platform charge. We would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have donated to date and to those looking to contribute.

**Playground Equipment** Due to a delay in the receipt of parts, the repair to the aerial runway has been delayed. Work is expected to take place towards the end of July / early August. We hope to publish an online message ahead of the repair work taking place as unfortunately the playground will need to be closed while the repairs are made. We also wanted to note that the parallel bars at the bottom of the playing fields have been highlighted within the latest inspection report as being 'High Risk' and in need of repair. Orange netting was used to cover the equipment to put it out of use but unfortunately this has been vandalised and consequently removed. The Parish Council are in the process of getting this item of equipment viewed by a playground supplier to enable a repair to be carried out. In the meantime, and for the safety of users please do not allow children to use this item of equipment until the repair has been completed.

**Playground / Playing Field Signage** Work is underway to provide new signage for the playground and playing fields. It is hoped that this will be in place within the next few months.

**Dogs within the Bathampton Playing Fields and Playground** Dogs are not allowed in the Bathampton Village Playground or on the Playing Fields. The reason for the 'No Dog' policy within these areas of the village is to provide a safe and clean space for children to play. Dog fouling can result in Toxocariasis which stays in the ground even after the poo has been removed. This puts young children at considerable risk. Unfortunately, despite signage being in place at all entry points, some people continue to ignore it and there have been recent incidents of dogs fouling in these play spaces and dogs running loose and upsetting young children. Bathampton has plenty of wonderful spaces where dogs can be walked with no restrictions. We ask that everyone adheres to these rules to enable this space to be kept clean and safe for the enjoyment of the community.

**Trees** Having organised an inspection of the playing field trees, work will be carried out in the autumn to prune, remove dead branches and generally tidy. Should any tree be removed because of disease, then a replacement will be arranged.

**Adopt a planter** The planter at the corner of Holcombe Vale and Holcombe Lane has recently been refreshed and planted with bee friendly plants. Other village planters are looked after by members of the community but this particular planter needs someone to look after it. Do you live close by and could check on its watering and occasional weeding? If you are interested please contact Liz Daly or Jan Helps.

**Junctions and hedges** Thank you so much to those residents who have trimmed hedges which are overhanging paths and obscuring junctions. With the pattern of rain and sunshine, there will be continued growth so we ask you to continue to monitor and manage shrubs, hedges and trees.

## **The Meadows**

## **Lin King**

The concrete base for the permanent river rescue cabinet will soon be laid on the riverside and the new cabinet is expected to be installed during August. The 'temporary' river rescue cabinet will then be moved to a location further along the track towards the Batheaston footbridge, near the willow dome. We are pleased that the rescue equipment will be in place for most of the warmer

weather. Please only use the river if you are a competent swimmer and do not jump from the bridge.

Negotiations between BANES and the National Trust (NT) are still progressing well, everything is in place but the legalities still need to be finalised. Tom Boden of the NT met with Bathampton Parish Council, Bathampton Meadows Alliance and Friends of Bathampton Meadows Riverside to discuss working together in the future. Once plans become clearer there will be full consultation and everyone will be able to have their say. If you have any thoughts about how this area can be used we would love to hear them.

Finally, Bathscape's annual Walking Festival is taking place between 11<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September. Featuring 50+ free guided walks on a wide variety of issues and locations. Its finale is the Julian House Circuit of Bath Walk which as usual will pass through Bathampton on 26<sup>th</sup>. This year Alison Harper and Peter Fear are leading a walk from Bathampton to Batheaston, meeting some of the fantastic local community groups on the way. This walk is on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, please see the website for booking information [www.bathscapewalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.bathscapewalkingfestival.co.uk)

**Bathampton Primary (Fiona Powell)** The school is looking for School Governors. We are a small, dedicated governing body that needs a breadth of skills to help support and challenge the school in providing the very best education possible. If you are looking for a way to give back to your local community and have either finance, fundraising or education skills and experience, we would love to hear from you. Governors meet each term as a full group, currently remotely in the evening, and then join one of two sub-groups that focus on progress in either resources or pupils and learning. Full training is given. If you are interested please contact the Chair of Governors via email: [Cheryl.Cook@bathampton.bwmat.org](mailto:Cheryl.Cook@bathampton.bwmat.org) or the school on 01225 465229 or email [enquiries@bathampton.bwmat.com](mailto:enquiries@bathampton.bwmat.com).

### Cafe 25

We have recently introduced local, organic and fine foods for sale in the cafe. Pop in to learn more about eggs from Rupert's Fancy Fowls (Wingfield), cheese from Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company, Solsbury Hill Honey and local pickles and jams. We are also proud to be the first Scoop Ice Cream site for Lacock Gelato. If you know of local products that we should stock, please let us know. The Cafe has a license to sell alcohol including local craft beer. You can also enjoy a drink with your food in the cafe. The cafe goes from strength to strength, serving simple, tasty food. Full English breakfast is available all day as are a selection of toasties, jacket potatoes, ploughmans, omelettes and quiches. As always, our cakes are homemade as are our sausage rolls. Thank you to everyone for your support, we really appreciate it. We wouldn't have survived this lock down without you. Bathampton you truly are the best.

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