

# **Bathampton Parish Council**

## **Newsletter February 2022**

### **Chairman's Notes**

**Moira Brennan**

I am writing this on the day that the National Trust announced that, in its ownership, Bathampton Meadows will be safe for future generations. This is fantastic news. Lin King provides more information below – but I want to say thank you to everyone who just would not accept that our valley would be turned into a car park. In particular I want to thank the Bathampton Meadows Alliance who continued to work, even after the Park and Ride battle was won, to find a way to make sure the Meadows would never again be threatened with development.

Once again there is a lot going on and you will read more about it in the rest of newsletter. All the work is being carried out by 6 councillors. We expect to appoint one more councillor at our meeting in February but there are still 2 spaces available on the Parish Council. If you are interested in getting involved then please contact one of the councillors or come along to a meeting.

### **Village Hall**

**Moira Brennan**

We are once again taking bookings for one off events at the village hall. To enquire about a booking you can email Kate at [bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com).

We have posted an updated version of What's On in Bathampton on the local noticeboards and on the Parish Council website. I am delighted to say that exercise classes in the hall are proving very popular including Keepfit and Chair Keepfit on Wednesday afternoon, Yoga on Friday lunchtime and a new Pilates class on Tuesday evenings.

Unusually we also have two evening slots available on a Wednesday and Thursday evening. If you are interested in running a regular weekly event in the hall email us on the address above.

### **The Meadows**

**Lin King**

Hooray - The Meadows are safe! We are delighted and I am sure that by now you will have seen the news announced by the National Trust (NT) for a 'green corridor through Bathampton Meadows linking Bath to the surrounding countryside.' This is the confirmation we have waited for that the land owned by BANES has been transferred to NT, and NT have also acquired part of the New Leaf Farm land. Together these will form the green corridor along the river as far as Grosvenor Bridge and will protect the area from future development. NT will be working with Bath River Line on a walking route. They will work with Avon Wildlife Trust to increase biodiversity and benefit wildlife with improvements to foraging habitat for greater horseshoe bats, an improved wetland habitat for wading birds and increased numbers of wildflowers for pollinators.

Initial meetings with local groups have already been arranged and a programme of community engagement to develop a vision for the future of this cherished local green space will begin in the Spring. Thanks to everyone who has helped us to get to this point, for their hard work, dedication and perseverance and we look forward to the future developments, and maybe a mass picnic when it is a bit warmer! For more information and a lovely picture of the frosty meadows visit

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bathampton-meadows](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bathampton-meadows)

## **Job Opportunity**

The village agent vacancy deadline has now been extended by the West of England Rural Network (WERN). WERN employs people with local knowledge to help and support local people. All Village Agents are part-time (between 10 and 14 hours) working those hours flexibly to suit themselves and the service and are home based but travel within an agreed area. Agents work alongside a team of like minded and dedicated peers. Village Agents are an important resource to help with providing healthcare to those in need through enabling the provision of preventative interventions. To apply for one of the posts or for more information, please visit: [wern.org.uk/village-agent-vacancy](http://wern.org.uk/village-agent-vacancy)

## **Leisure and Amenities**

**Jan Helps and Liz Daly**

### **Playground**

You may have already noticed the new signage at the entrances to the playing field and playground. We hope that our new and more visual signage will also help to protect these wonderful village spaces and help keep them clean and tidy for the enjoyment of all. We are also delighted to announce that new parallel bars will be installed on the playing field w/c 17th February following the decommissioning of the parallel bars last year. We will keep you updated via social media as and when an exact date for the work has been confirmed. We would additionally like to thank Ward Councillor Sarah Warren who contributed £500 towards the cost of this equipment from the Ward Councillor empowerment fund.

### **Hedges**

Spring is on its way and buds are appearing on shrubs and trees. If you have a hedge bordering a path or your property is adjacent to a junction, please ensure that pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs can pass easily and that sight lines are clear for drivers and cyclists. Thank you.

### **Highways**

**Tony Purpuri** [highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com](mailto:highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com)

### **Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)**

The latest informal consultation on three proposed TROs has been sent to the Parish Council for comment. The purpose of the TROs is to improve road safety by implementing, amongst other things, parking restrictions. The area affected is Holcombe Lane and the orders seek to stop dangerous parking close to junctions. Once the statutory consultations have been responded to the proposals will be advertised publicly for comment. This usually includes signs on lamp posts in the area affected.

### **Conker Crossing**

We have been working closely with the Conker Crossing Trustees to try to progress the programme, optimise a solution and gain funding to improve pedestrian safety through the village. The need for improving pedestrian safety throughout the village is clear, and the canal bridge is just one area of real concern. The temporary traffic lights on the canal bridge has improved pedestrian safety but this is only a stop-gap measure. We have agreement to retain these lights whilst a permanent solution is explored with BANES councillors considering the village as a whole.

### **Footpaths**

**David Beard** [footpaths.bathamptonPC@gmail.com](mailto:footpaths.bathamptonPC@gmail.com)

Great progress has been made on the application to have six local footpaths officially registered as public rights of way, thanks to the response of local walkers who have completed user evidence forms. The first application for registration (Holcombe Vale to The Green) was made on 24th January and two further applications for the Hantone Hill and Candy Bridge canal towpath routes will be submitted in February. We would still welcome further support from any walkers, cyclists or joggers who have used the paths on Bathampton Down or the route through Bathampton Wood/Hengrove Wood to the American Museum. If you have used these footpaths and would like to support the applications for registration, please send us a completed User Evidence Form (available to download from the Parish Council website).

## Drainage and flooding

Living in the shadow of Bathampton Down, with its unpredictable natural springs, results in frequent flooding on the A36 after heavy rainfall. A major causal factor is poor drainage and overgrown ditches on the bridleways and trackways descending from Bathampton Down, creating surface run-off onto the road below. The BANES Highways Drainage team has promised to undertake engineering work during February in order to help resolve the problem. If successful, this should reduce flooding on both the pathways themselves and on the Warminster Road near to the Down Lane junction and at St George's Hill.

## Climate and Ecology Emergency

Jan Helps

**Repair Cafe** - For some time we have been considering what Bathampton can or should do about the Climate Emergency and to this end we have booked the Village Hall on Saturday March 26th. We will be hosting a Repair Cafe which will be run by Share and Repair. We will also use the opportunity to consult residents on what they would like the village to do towards combating climate change as well as learn about local initiatives. We hope Curo, as local landowners, will be there to discuss what we might do with our local green spaces. We welcome other suggestions, so please get in touch if you have any ideas about what you would like to see or if you would like to have a stand on the day. Details are yet to be finalised but look out for more information on notice boards, website and social media.

**Plant more trees** - Do you want to do something real to help the Climate Emergency? Come and help to grow trees! More Trees BANES (MTB) has a small not for profit tree nursery hosted by Dry Arch Growers in Bathampton, less than 5 minutes' walk from the shops on Holcombe Lane. The nursery aims to 'grow on' tree seedlings to good sized saplings which can then be planted out in their final location as close to the Dry Arch site as possible. During 2022 MTB aims to germinate and produce around 7,500 seedlings. How can you help? MTB needs volunteers of all ages and abilities who live locally, to help with a variety of jobs, including watering in summer months and dry periods. Volunteers meet monthly on Sunday morning for outside gardening along with tea, cake and socialising. Find more detail on More Trees BANES Facebook page or email MTB on [volunteers@moretrees.earth](mailto:volunteers@moretrees.earth) for further information.

**Can you help us reduce the carbon footprint of the lights in the Village Hall ??** The Village Hall Committee would like to convert our halogen tube lights to LEDs. We are looking for someone to advise us on the best way forward. If you feel you could offer advice please email us at [bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com)

**Warmer Bath** - Bath Preservation Trust and the Centre for Sustainable Energy have produced a brochure on improving the energy efficiency of traditional homes in the city of Bath. Available to download [Warmer Bath \(bath-preservation-trust.org.uk\)](http://warmerbath.org.uk)

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