

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter November 2022

Chairman's Notes

Loss of bus service in Bathampton

Bathampton Parish Council is continuing to talk to the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and Bath and North East Somerset council (BANES) about the devastating effect the loss of the number 11 bus service is having on the lives of residents. WECA are the body responsible for managing bus services. They tell us that they are prepared and willing to continue to fund the number 11 bus service however, due to a lack of bus drivers, they cannot find a bus operator that is willing to run the service. We are urging WECA and BANES to try to find an alternative service. Whilst both authorities are suggesting that they will find an alternative provider to run a replacement bus from April 2023, we will continue to push them to find something sooner. The lack of bus drivers is a national issue but apparently it is especially a problem in the West of England.

The loss of the number 11 particularly affects people who are not able to walk up the hill to access buses on the Warminster Road. People who are able to access the D1 are also suffering from a reduced service which means school children and commuters do not have access to an appropriately timed bus service and lack of space and unreliability means no one can rely on a bus turning up or having space available by the time it reaches Bathampton or on the way home.

First Bus have told our ward councillor that the D1 bus service is not failing to pick up passengers due to overcrowding but users are telling us this is not true. We are asking users to help us to build a case to prove that the D1 service is not providing an adequate service. We urge everyone who is aware of a scheduled bus failing to turn up or failing to allow them to board due to overcrowding to make a complaint to First Bus by phoning 0345 646 0707 between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday or logging the failure at <https://www.tellfirstbus.com/bristol-bath-and-west>. If you could keep a log of your issues and put them in an email to bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com it will give us data to prove that the D1 is not providing an adequate service. If you are unable to email, the councillors' and clerk's telephone numbers are at the end of this newsletter.

It is worth remembering that you can track the D1 using the First Bus app. Apparently buses are allowed to arrive at (and unfortunately pass) non timed stops up to 5 minutes before their scheduled time. Given that the timed stop before Bathampton coming from Wiltshire is in Winsley buses can arrive early when traffic is light.

I am really sorry to say that I don't think there will be a short term solution. Whilst the last thing we all need is more car journeys, I urge people to look into lift sharing. Do you know other people whose children attend the same secondary school as yours? Can you look at sharing lifts or creating a rota. Do you have a neighbour without a car that you could take to the shops next time you are going? There is also a fully accessible Dial a Ride service for people who can't use public transport. You need to register with them and prebook your ride – on 01225 395222. It costs £1.50 per journey if you have a concession card (£3 if not).

I would also remind you that we have two vacancies for parish councillors. If you have ideas about other solutions or you would like to help coordinate lift sharing or you would like to find funding and volunteers to run a village minibus please consider becoming a parish councillor. Whilst Bathampton Parish Council and in fact BANES have no authority regarding bus services we can and will continue to represent the needs of our village to WECA but we are a small team of volunteers who are already stretched so any help or ideas would be appreciated.

Village Show

I would like to add our thanks to the Village Show Committee and all the volunteers who make the show happen every year. It is great to see so many people getting involved. It was a fantastic day and all of our councillors appreciated those of you who took the time to come and chat to us.

Moira Brennan

Village Hall

It is lovely to see parties returning to the Village Hall. If you want to book an event contact Katie at bathamptontownhall@outlook.com. Prices are from £36 for a 3 hour booking (including time for you to set up and clear up).

Highways

Tony Purpuri highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com

Canal Bridge Safety Consultation

Over the last 12 months we have been working on trying to improve safety across the Canal Bridge and the surrounding areas. With the news that funding for the Conker Crossing was not available due to the scale of the investment required, BANES commissioned a safety paper on alternate options for the Canal Bridge and the narrow bit of road by Mulberry Kidz. The Parish Council has received and reviewed the findings of the review and will undertake a public consultation to share the information and seek feedback on the options provided. Please take the time to either look at the proposals on our website or come along to one of the events shown below. There is no guarantee that either option will be funded by BANES but by undertaking the consultation and understanding the views of people who live near the canal or travel over the bridge, whether on foot, by bike or in a car, we hope to increase the chance that they will be funded.

Consultation Documents and Links

All consultation documents can be found on the Bathampton Parish Council website under **Canal Bridge Safety Consultation (<https://bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk/highways-canal/canal-bridge-safety-consultation>)**. If you can't access the website or you prefer to see paper copies **public displays between the 8th and 10th November** will provide an opportunity to review all the documents. Included in the link above is an online form to provide feedback. There is also a downloadable version (for printing) and paper copies at the public display event. Locations for paper submission of the feedback forms will be provided on the forms.

Consultation Timetable

Staffed Public displays of the options

- 2.30 to 4.00 pm Tuesday 8 November, Bathampton School Hall
- 8.00 to 10.00 pm Wednesday 9 November, Main Hall, Bathampton Village Hall
- 7.00 to 9.00 pm Thursday 10 November, Small Hall, Bathampton Village Hall

Public meeting to ask questions, make statements and discuss options

- 8.00 to 10.00 pm Wednesday 16 November, Main Hall, Bathampton Village Hall

Planned closing date for responses

- 5.00 pm on Monday 12 December 2022

Footpaths

David Beard footpaths.bathamptonPC@gmail.com

Litter Volunteers

A big "thank you" to everyone who responded to the August newsletter request for litter volunteers; the Bathampton volunteer group now has 7 new members, and this will help us to extend our cover and include most of the village. We are awaiting delivery of additional equipment for the new volunteers, which is due at the end of the October. If anyone else would like to become a litter volunteer, please let us know. It is always useful to have extra hands even if you could offer cover for holidays etc.

Drainage and Flooding

The UK Government Flood Risk Map shows that parts of Bathampton are subject to a high risk of surface water flooding. You can check your own property flood risk at the following website: <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/postcode>. In the early morning of Sunday 23rd October, The High Street flooded, with water overlapping the pavement and reaching peoples' front doors and gardens. We also saw substantial run off from Bathampton Down funnelling down the bridleway and bringing mud and stone down onto the A36.

Whilst street drains and gullies in lower-lying areas of Bathampton have been placed on regular surveillance measures, with monthly inspections by BANES Highways Drainage, much of the problem is caused by grills becoming blocked by falling leaves and by cars being parked with their wheels on top of street drains.

Two ways you can help to reduce local flood risks are by:

1. "Adopting a drain" near your own home, sweeping leaves off the grill and notifying BANES if it is not working properly, using "Fix-My-Street" (<https://fix.bathnes.gov.uk/>)
2. Not parking vehicles on top of grills that cover street drains

National Highways have reconfirmed plans to upgrade A36 drainage in an effort to prevent flooding, which is particularly bad in the St George's Hill area and along by the triangular field. Work will involve significant engineering work between Bathampton and Brassknocker Hill, starting in April 2023, and may require temporary road closure. In preparation, National Highways have started radar surveys and ground clearance

Canal news

Rob Bash

The Parish Council has been in touch with the Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT) and BANES to try to progress the issues of Pedestrian Safety on the canal path and to seek a resolution for the poor state of the rubbish compound by the stone bridge, opposite the school. Following consideration of various options, in order not to impede wheelchairs and prams etc. a number of signs have been put up by the CRT along the tow path, advising care and reasonable behaviour.

The rubbish compound has proven more problematic. There are currently 8 refuse collections a week but there are still occasions when the capacity of the bins is inadequate. Alternative sites have been sought but none have been identified and it is a requirement for the CRT to provide refuse facilities for boat users. While we work with CRT and BANES (which owns the land) to consider options for development, we ask residents to inform us if the compound is seen to be overflowing, if any fly tipping is observed and also if there is renewed vermin activity, following treatment of the site in August.

Vandalism

Following a spate of vandalism over the Summer, including two break-ins at the local Spar shop, activity appears to have subsided. The Parish Council has spoken with the local Police and more regular patrols of the area are underway. However, we would ask all residents to be observant and report any suspicious behaviour or damage to the Police, either by calling "101" or by contacting the Police Community Support Officer, Gary Williams, at gary.williams@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

Climate and Ecology Emergency

Jan Helps and Lin King

Repair Cafe

After the success of the Repair Café in March we have booked Share and Repair for another session in the Village Hall on **Saturday November 26th**. The Share and Repair volunteers will be there from 10:00 am until 12:00 so please bring along any items you have been saving up for them to have a look at. Remember that this is a charity and please make a donation towards their costs. Also we would love to

have some local people helping so let us know if you can offer any skills. We would particularly welcome someone to help with sewing. Refreshments will be provided by a team from the Village Show and profits from this will go to the Village Show, so come along and have a coffee even if you are not bringing anything to repair

Tree planting at Holcombe Vale

Following meetings with Joe Robson, senior arboriculturist for CURO, we have arranged for CURO to plant extra trees on Holcombe Vale. The trees will be of an optimum size to grow strongly but not suffer from transplant shock. They will be planted to expand areas which already have trees but will maintain open areas to walk through, sit and play. The trees discussed will be of a suitable size for the area and include early blossom for bees, fruits for birds and autumn colour. We hope that this time next year, we can form a village group to underplant with daffodils.

If anyone would like to help the CURO team to plant these new trees, it would be a great help so please contact Jan Helps if it is something you would like to be involved with. We are probably looking at around 9 trees and the planting time is likely to be in early 2023.

Bathamton Women's Institute

Meet in the Village Hall on the first Saturday of each month.

- 5 November: talk from local nutritionist Hannah Rayner, and our AGM
- 3 December: our bring and share Christmas lunch
- 7 January – Littlest Lives – a rabbit rescue and re homing charity
- 4 February – a speaker from Dorothy House

All women are welcome to attend meetings of the Women's Institute, no matter where you live. Visitors are asked to pay £5 per meeting, WI members attend free. Please wear a face-mask if it makes you feel more comfortable.

Have a question? Email us at bathamtonwi@gmail.com, or leave a note at 4 Down Lane.

St. Nicholas Church

Our telephone number is still 01225 442311, but, currently, there is no one regularly in the church office to receive phone calls. There is now an answer message, providing information, but messages cannot be left by the caller. The best way to contact us is by email at office@stnicholasbathamton.org.uk.

Change in newsletter format

The change in the newsletter format is a result of us seeking cost savings following our previous printer almost doubling the quote to produce the newsletter.

George Ardrey	424270	Parish Clerk (Liz Daly): 07980 627391 bathamtonparishclerk@gmail.com Newsletter Editor and What's On Jan Helps can be contacted on Telephone: 01225 336656 Email: newsletter.bathamtonPC@gmail.com
David Beard	336722	
Moirá Brennan	313503	
Jan Helps	336656	
Lin King	460998	
Tony Purpuri	335978	
Rob Bash	07919210122	

Website bathamtonparishcouncil.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook (Bathamton Community) and Twitter (Bathamtonpc)