

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter February 2024

Chairman's Notes

Moira Brennan

BANES Local Plan (through to 2042)

On 1 February BANES Cabinet are considering an Options Document which will inform planning and development in our area for the next 18 years. If approved the document will go for 6 weeks consultation starting on 12 February. The report says that an estimated 14,500 new homes are needed in BANES in the period to 2042. The Parish Council have been informed that Bathampton is considered to be "a relatively sustainable village for potential Local Plan led growth". This is apparently based on our being a village "best connected by sustainable transport and with a better range of services and facilities". It is not at all clear what this means but Cllr Sarah Warren (one of our ward councillors) has advised that it would mean that BANES would expect 40 new homes (5% of our existing housing base) to be built in the village in the next 18 years. As a Parish Council we have always supported infill as a means of providing new houses in the village eg houses added on plots that are larger than required for the existing home. It is hard to see how this could provide 40 new homes in the time period without allowing development in the green belt that surrounds the village. As the consultation will take place before our next newsletter, we are asking people to make sure they make their views heard in the consultation. We also seek input to inform the Parish Council's response to the consultation. If you are aware of sites that could offer new housing or if you would like to tell us your thoughts having seen the consultation events, please email Liz, our Parish Clerk.

Planned 18 month trial of through traffic restriction on Sydney Road / New Sydney Place

The residents of Sydney Road have produced a Liveable Neighbourhoods Plan which includes stopping traffic turning left into Sydney Road at the traffic lights at the bottom of the A36 going into Bath. This is based on consultation with local residents but without consulting other potentially affected users. There seems to be no wider consultation process and BANES argue that the trial will be the consultation. Based on Department of Transport data, of the traffic travelling on the A36, around one third travels through Sydney Road and two thirds go straight on towards the Bathwick traffic lights (via Beckford Road). This suggests that closing Sydney Road could increase the traffic flow along Beckford Road by 50%. The trial could cause major queues for all motorists using the A36 on the only remaining route from Bathampton towards Bath and would be compounded by the planned reopening of Cleveland Bridge to HGVs (due December this year). The BANES website is very hard to follow on what is planned and when and how to give feedback but it does seem that the proposed changes need an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) and if objections are received in the first 6 months from it coming into force then modifications have to be made or a public enquiry may be required. We have posted a link to a petition on our Facebook page (Bathampton Community). Please feel free to share it with neighbours etc who you think might not be on Facebook.

Temporary Job Opportunity to cover Village Handyman sick leave

We are very sad to say that after over 25 years of keeping our village looking spic and span and well maintained, Alan has had to take some sick leave. While all of our thoughts are with him and we wish him a very speedy recovery we need to appoint someone to look after the communal areas in the village.

The role is 10 hours per week and is very flexible. It involves grass cutting, regular inspections of the village's community spaces to identify and deal with any issues, making repairs and lots more. The role requires someone who can work independently, is skilled, organised and hard-working with excellent problem-solving abilities. The applicant will ideally have a full UK driving licence with access to a vehicle. If you are interested in discussing the role (and the salary) please give Liz a call on 07980627391.

Village Hall

bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com

The hall is available for private events. If you want to book an event, contact Katie at bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com. Prices for parties are from £36 for a 3 hour booking (including time for you to set up and clear up).

Truespeed

A number of residents have asked when Truespeed broadband will be installed in the village. The plan was for civil works to start late summer/early autumn, however there have been some delays and these works were delayed to December with full connection currently expected by March 2024.

Grit Bins

There are grit bins around the village which residents are welcome to use if there are icy areas on local roads and pavements.

Highways

Tony Purpuri highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com

Tier Scooters

In the last newsletter we reported on issues with the Tier scooters and e-bikes blocking the defibrillator and access to the surgery. Unfortunately the problem has persisted and in fact worsened. Thank you to those that have commented on the usefulness of the scooters. We have asked BANES to install parking racks and/or markings to show where scooters can be parked. Unfortunately BANES were not able to give timelines on when this will be done. As a temporary measure it has been decided to close the Tier site by the surgery until racks or markings can be deployed. The two other sites within the village, A36 by Down Lane and by St. George's Hill, remain operational and available for use. Once the parking racks or markings have been implemented by BANES the Holcombe Lane site will be reopened.

Mill Lane

BANES are currently consulting on making Mill Lane a 20mph zone, from the railway bridge to the Toll Bridge. You can view and comment on the proposal (23-035) on the BANES website and search "TRO Consultation".

Flooding and drainage

David Beard

Recent extreme weather created problems locally, with the River Avon flooding to almost record levels, leading to a temporary closure of Bathampton toll bridge. The Environment Agency classifies Bathampton as a high-risk flood area. National Highways have started road drainage upgrades along the A36 between Trossachs Drive in Bathampton and Brass Knocker Hill. This should reduce risks of surface water run-off to Devonshire Road and Down Lane. The work is scheduled for completion by September 2024 and will use local traffic control measures during daytime hours to minimise disruption. The BANES Highways Drainage team has installed an additional street gully outside Court Leet Farm in Bathampton Lane. This is to cope with increased water flow from a local spring. The team also installed a new inspection chamber in Devonshire Road to help clear builder's rubble which was blocking some street drains at the western end of the road. If you are having building works done can you ensure your builders do not use the drains to dispose of sand, cement etc. BANES Highways Drainage is scheduling gully cleaning in Bathampton for a date in February. This should unblock some of the street drains in Bathampton Lane and elsewhere.

One of the original cast iron water supply pipes in Holcombe Vale failed during recent freezing weather, resulting in flooding and reduced water pressure for local houses. An emergency team from Wessex Water repaired the broken pipe on a Sunday, within just hours of the reporting.

In the event of further flooding or freezing, the emergency telephone numbers are:

BANES - 01225 39 40 41 (for flooding on local roads in Bathampton)

National Highways England - 0300 123 5000 (for flooding on the A36)

Wessex Water – 0345 600 4 600 (for leaking mains water pipes)

Playground Project

Liz Daly

The Playground Project funds currently stands at £43,030. This is making excellent progress towards raising the much-needed funds to proceed with the Project. We will submit an application to apply for funding from the National Lottery in the next few weeks which, if successful, will enable the Parish Council to start finalising design plans and begin a community consultation before making a start on the improvements. We are keeping everything crossed that this time around our application will be successful and we will provide further updates as soon as we know more. In the meantime, if you are interested in holding fundraising events to raise money for the project or wish to donate please contact

the Clerk directly on bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com or on 07980627391. A huge thank you once again to everyone who has supported the project so far!

Repair Café

Lin King

Good news! We will be hosting another Repair Café this year!

It will be held in the Village Hall (small room) on the morning of Saturday June 8th alongside the Plant Sale in the main hall; the Village Show Café Team will as usual be providing lovely refreshments.

I'm sure that there are plenty of you out there who have the relevant skills to work alongside the Share & Repair team, so please get in touch to offer your help. Sewing and electrical skills are particularly useful. Make a note of the date and remember to save any items which need repairing for the Share & Repair volunteers to have a look at. We will advertise the date as widely as possible nearer the time, so keep a look out on notice boards and social media.

Bathampton Meadows and the National Trust

Lin King

The statement of understanding between the National Trust (NT) and Bathampton Meadows Alliance (BMA) has finally been agreed and the fund of donations held in the BMA bank account has been transferred to NT, as agreed by members when consulted. The final sum was £14,324.

Joanna Rolfe (NT Project Manager for the Meadows) thanked the BMA and said –

“I can confirm that the funds will be allocated to the Bathampton Meadows Project only and will go towards the Trust's work to improve the area for nature and people.

We will work with yourselves on the plaque to recognise the role of local people in saving the meadows. We will also continue to liaise with you on where your kind donation will be spent and to gain your knowledge and input into the progression of the project”.

Climate and Ecology Emergency

Jan Helps and Lin King

Could you be a Green Open Homes Community Champion?

Following the successful Green Open Homes events in November 2023, BANES and Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE) are intending to run more events in the coming year thanks to additional funding gained by the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Green Open Homes offers the opportunity for people interested in improving the energy efficiency of their homes to visit homes that have already installed energy efficiency improvements, whether it be insulation, solar panels, heat pumps or effective low-cost DIY measures. In November over 750 people visited 22 open homes in Bath and the Chew Valley. BWCE were overwhelmed by the response to the weekend and the enthusiasm there was for it.

BWCE need 'community champions' to run local Green Open Homes events as well as home owners who are willing to open their homes. BWCE will be here to support all champions, and their aim is to create a supportive network of like-minded and passionate people. To get involved fill in the expression of interest form on the home page of greenopenhomesbanes.org.

Try a thermal camera to find where your home is losing heat

Did you know that you can hire a thermal camera from the Share and Repair shop in George Street, Bath? For a fee of £15 for two days, you can use it to detect heat loss from your home. The camera is the size of a mobile phone and comes with basic instructions, although there is also lots of advice on line. Its easy to share a camera with neighbours or friends over a couple of days making it even better value to hire. Its only something you can do in the winter as you need at least a 10C temperature difference between inside and outside. You can book on line provided you register with Share and Repair and you will also need to leave a deposit.

Parish Nature Action Plan

If you read the weekly BANES newsletter, you may have read a recent article regarding a request for towns and parishes to produce a Nature Action Plan. This is a way for parish and town councils to plan the action they will take to help nature in their area by identifying their existing assets for nature and opportunities for restoring nature in their area. As a Parish Council, we have been involved in monitoring and developing a response to climate emergency and helping to restore nature in the village over many years. However, we always need groups and individuals to get involved and help with this. If you are interested in being involved or would like to find out more, please contact Jan.

Dry Arch Growers

Can you meet the 30 Plant Challenge?

A Community Growing Scheme helps! The media is full of advice on prolonging a healthy life (and helping the planet along the way). If you search “30 Plant Challenge” online you will find plenty of advice as to why eating a wide variety of organically grown fruit and vegetables is now viewed as one of the most important ways of increasing your chances of a longer and healthier life – along with exercise and social contact. Dry Arch Growers at the end of Holcombe Lane in Bathampton can help with all three things.

Founded in 2010, Dry Arch Growers is a volunteer-led, not-for-profit organisation operating on the site of a former market garden, orchard and nursery where members “sow together, grow together and share together”. The social element of membership is not to be underestimated. With qualified nutritionists, experienced gardeners, and expert cooks amongst its members there is no shortage of help and advice for less confident newcomers taking their first steps into community growing. A comfortable wooden cabin provides the opportunity for coffee breaks and lunchtime chats which are not always about vegetables!

If you are interested in what membership offers then take a look at www.dryarchgrowers.co.uk, email info@dryarchgrowers.co.uk or call Phil on 07718 072532 to find out more and arrange a visit.

The Bridge - Coffee and Companionship for all ages. The Miller Room St Nicholas Church

St Nicholas Church is trialling a new group get together fortnightly on a Thursday morning. The aim is to have a warm and welcoming space that will allow the community to meet together and enjoy refreshments. Everyone is welcome to drop in between 9 and 11.30am.

Dates for the trial will be 1st Feb, 15th Feb, 29th Feb, 14th March and 28th March. It would be lovely to welcome you.

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George Ardrey	424270	Newsletter Editor and What's On Jan Helps can be contacted on
Rob Bash	07919210122	Telephone: 01225 336656
David Beard	336722	Email: newsletter.bathamptonPC@gmail.com
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Jan Helps	336656	Kevin Guy 07365 916114 or Kevin_Guy@bathnes.gov.uk
Lin King	460998	Sarah Warren Sarah_Warren@bathnes.gov.uk
Tony Purpuri	335978	

Website bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook (Bathampton Community) and Twitter (Bathamptonpc). The What's On in Bathampton guide is available on the Parish Council website.