

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter August 2024

Chairman's Notes

Moira Brennan

The Annual Parish Assembly in May was well attended. It was great to see familiar faces and also many people who had never attended before. Our two ward councillors came along and were able to update us on various issues. The subject that attracted most discussion was the introduction of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood in Sydney Road / New Sydney Place. There was lively debate and lots of strong feelings. It is really helpful for us as a council to get this chance to understand local views on the many and varied issues that we discuss.

If you haven't already, please feed back your personal views on the New Sydney Place scheme via the online form on the BANES website. <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/form/sydney-road-etio-consultation>. The trial is due to end at the end of September. Given that the A36 is once again due to be closed (from 12 August until Spring 2025 – more information in the Highways section), we asked BANES whether the trial period needs to be reconsidered given that it will not now include representative traffic flows in the last month and a half.

BANES have produced, and are consulting on, an Active Travel Plan. The plan is available on the BANES website. There is an online consultation form which is available until 20 August.

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

We received an update from Truespeed that their roll out in Hanton Hill will be delayed until September or October due to the need to agree a road closure to allow the infrastructure to be installed.

Highways

Tony Purpuri **highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com**

Safer Routes to School

In the last newsletter we reported that BANES has allocated funding to improve pedestrian safety at the canal bridge and the narrowing by Mulberry Garden. Preliminary design has begun on the proposed improvements which marks a very positive step to improving safety at the bridge.

Tier scooters

A couple of months ago, working closely with BANES, the Tier scooters were reinstated with a clearly marked parking location, aimed at preventing blocking of the pavement, the defibrillator and the fire exit to the doctor's surgery. Unfortunately, there have been a number of incidents where e-bikes have been left outside this area, blocking the pavement and disabled/pushchair access to the surgery. There have also been incidences of bikes/scooters being left right up against the fire exit. This has left us with no choice but to ask BANES to remove the site permanently or relocate it to another area. The sites at St. George's Hill and by the scout hut will remain unchanged. If users have any thoughts on alternate locations please get in touch.

A36 Closure

A few weeks ago Highways England announced the 6 month closure of the A36, from Limpley Stoke to Midford Lane, to conduct structural repairs to the hillside. The road will close from 12 August. The closure will mean an impact upon bus services, notably the D2X will not run through Bathampton due to the diversions in place. We understand that the D1 and 11 buses will be unaffected. We are in the process of finding more information about the impact of the closure.

Parking in the Village

There has been an increase in the number of cars parking inconsiderately throughout the village. Vehicles have been parked leaving insufficient passing space and cars have been parking opposite junctions (which is dangerous and illegal). We will be asking BANES to repaint faded double yellows, and add some to particularly dangerous areas, as well as asking for greater parking enforcement in dangerous spots. If you have a visitor, please can you ensure they park sensibly.

Canal

Rob Bash

Despite a temporary pause in bin collections at the bridge over the canal, service was resumed following a meeting between BANES and the Canal and River Trust (CRT). Daily collections are keeping the site well maintained and clean. However, during the period of negotiation, it was cited by several people that there was a degree of fly tipping and use by non-boaters. The Parish Council would like to thank those who respect that the bins are for the use of the boating community only (who pay CRT for their use) and would also like to reiterate that fly tipping is a criminal offence that can result in unlimited fines or imprisonment for up to 5 years. If you do observe fly-tipping, please do not attempt to remove it, as it could contain sharp or contaminated material. Instead, please report the incident to BANES or CRT (to arrange removal) or the police if you have information on the person fly-tipping.

Footpaths

David Beard

Bathampton Parish Council is responsible for clearing vegetation along 11 miles of local public footpaths. This summer's weather conditions have caused rapid growth of grass and brambles, making the task much more challenging. Whilst we have a schedule for footpath clearance, please let us know if a path has become obstructed by vegetation. We are always looking for volunteers to join work parties to maintain the paths. Currently we only have 2 people maintaining all of the paths for which we are responsible. Please contact David Beard if you are able to help with the upkeep of parish footpaths.

Playground Project

Liz Daly

We were informed during June that our National Lottery, Reaching Communities and Partnerships funding application was not successful. The National Lottery highlighted that whilst the application benefits many local residents, they have prioritised projects which more strongly align to their programme priorities, particularly those demonstrating specific community need and showing how funding can help address inequality or disadvantage. We are however remaining hopeful and, as suggested by the National Lottery, we will proceed in putting another application together for their Awards for All grant programme, offering grants of up to £20,000.

Funds for the playground project stand at nearly £47,000 and the Parish Council have plans to allocate surplus from the financial year ending March 2024 to the project, which is expected to be just over £7,000.

We will provide further updates as and when we have them but in the meantime, if you are interested in holding your own fundraising events to raise money for the project or wish to donate directly, please contact the Clerk on bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com or on 07980627391.

Climate and Ecology Emergency

Jan Helps and Lin King

The Repair Café held alongside the Plant Sale on June 8th was a great success – plant people brought items to be repaired and those bringing items for repair bought plants and everyone sat down for drinks and refreshments and a good old chat and catch up. It was such a lovely atmosphere that we intend to join up with the Village Show Committee for a repeat next year.

The tool-sharpening was so popular that the Village Show committee asked if we could arrange to have it at the show. Fred from Share and Repair is going to have his own stand, this time with his power equipment, ready to sharpen all your tools. Donations will be gratefully received and will be shared between Share and Repair and the Village Show helping both organisations to continue their great work. Make a note and let's keep Fred busy.

National Trust (NT)

Lin King

I went down to see NT at one of their recent 'drop-in' events, where they were showing details of what they hope to do at Bathampton Meadows and getting feedback on their plans. I hope that many of you also visited and chatted with them. They really do value our thoughts and opinions, negative as well as positive, and do use the feedback to shape their plans for the Meadows.

NT said that generally feedback has been very positive. Everyone was reassured that they do not intend to put up any buildings. The only negative was from dog walkers who are concerned about the intended all-weather path through the fields below New Leaf Farm and towards Grosvenor Bridge. Some dog owners like to let their dogs off the lead there and think it might not be possible in future. NT are looking into possible ways to accommodate this.

If you weren't able to get to see them, or if you want to talk some more, NT will have a stall at the Village Show.

Retrofit West

Lin King

Retrofit West are a not-for-profit company set up as a source of information and funding about domestic insulation and energy saving projects. I attended a meeting at Widcombe where they gave a presentation about what they can offer. I think there are people in Bathampton who would find this useful, so we are hoping that Retrofit West will come along to the Parish Council stand at the Village Show so that you can talk to them. We can then gauge whether there is enough interest to set up a full presentation session in the Village Hall.

Local Voices for People and Planet, from 3:30pm on 8th October 2024

Have your say and join BANES for a community conversation on Climate & Nature, focusing on the voices and experiences of Bathford, Bathampton and Batheaston residents. The event will bring the community together to share concerns, explore solutions, and learn about local initiatives leading to meaningful action for both BANES council and the community and inform the council's new Climate & Nature Strategy. Everyone is welcome and BANES are eager to hear from you.

The event will be held at Batheaston New Village Hall on Tuesday 8th October 2024, starting with a relaxed drop-in session from 3:30 to 6:00 pm featuring children's activities followed by a more structured conversation from 6:00 to 8:00 pm to delve deeper into community concerns.

For more information, please contact sustainability@bathnes.gov.uk.

Could you be a Green Open Homes Community Champion?

The 2024 Bath Green Open Homes event will take place on 12 and 13 October. Green Open Homes are friendly, informative events that demonstrate how to heat homes while reducing energy bills. They are looking for more homes that would be willing and interested in opening their doors. Out of the 16 homes they currently have, there are a couple of "outliers" in Batheaston. People are more likely to visit if there is a cluster of homes and they would really love to find some more in Batheaston / Bathampton. If you are interested to offer your home or find out more, please look at greenopenhomesbanes.org.

Parish Councillors		Parish Clerk (Liz Daly): 07980 627391 bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com
George Ardrey	424270	Newsletter Editor and What's On Jan Helps can be contacted on Telephone: 01225 336656 Email: newsletter.bathamptonPC@gmail.com
Rob Bash	07919210122	
David Beard	336722	
Moirá Brennan	313503	Your BANES Councillors Kevin Guy 07365 916114 or Kevin_Guy@bathnes.gov.uk Sarah Warren Sarah_Warren@bathnes.gov.uk
Jan Helps	336656	
Lin King	460998	
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 web-site.

What's On in Bathampton

Organisation	Times	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups Village hall	Monday 1.30pm Monday 6.30pm Thursday 9.30am	Brent King	07967167300
Bathampton Village Show	bathamptonvillageshow.co.uk bathampton.show@gmail.com	David Mayo	07779 54 59 56
Beavers	Monday 6 – 7 pm	Louise Madden	427682
Bell ringers	Mondays 7.30pm Sundays 10.15am	Candy McCabe	465564
Bridge Club Village hall	Monday 1.30 – 4.30 pm	Ken Jefferies	460800
Brownies	Wednesday 6.00 -7.30 pm	57thbrownies@girlguidingbath.org.uk	
Cricket Club	Tuesday & Sunday	Stephen Dalley Smith	460395
Cubs	Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm	Louise Madden	427682
Dance, Ballet and Modern Curtis School of Dance	Friday pm – call for times Village hall	Deborah Curtis	01761 437004
Dry Arch Growers. Bathampton community co-operative	Thursday mid morning and pm (while light) Sundays 11 – 3pm	Alex Robertson	07793056448
Chair Keep Fit Standing Keep Fit Village Hall	Wednesday 3pm Wednesday 4pm	jackiebrangwyn@yahoo.co.uk	840850
Mr Wilkins' Shilling North-west Clog Morris Dancing Village Hall	Thursday 8 - 10 pm	www.mrwilkinsshilling.org.uk mws_morris@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/mrwilkinsshilling	
Outdoor Fitness Classes Bathampton recreation ground	Thursday 9.15am Friday 9.15am	Nikki Andrews	07717 175149
Pilates (mixed gender) Village Hall	Tues 7.15 - 8.15pm	Renu Khosla Renu.physio@hotmail.com	07815868252
Playgroup Village Hall	Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday	Lisa Nash bathamptonplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk	07716 600269
Scouts Scout HQ	Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm	www.bathamptonscouts.org join@bathamptonscouts.org	
Scottish Country Dance Village hall	Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm	Jane Hammond	833411
Senior Table Tennis Scout HQ	Tues mornings 10.00-12.00	David Plumbridge George Malcolm	429979 07789 961848
St Nicholas Church	Sundays 10.45am. Other times see stnicholasbathampton.org.uk	Jonty Frith - minister Kay Rees – office office@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk	338055 442311
Table Tennis Scout HQ	Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm	Ray Bennett	866880
WI Bathampton Village Hall	First Saturday of the month 10-12am.	Enquiries to vgsurvey@gmail.com	07788117875
£5 for non members			
Yoga Village hall	Friday 12.30 – 2.00	Suzy Lovegrove suzy.lovegrove @lovegrove.com	07980008672

This guide is also available on the Parish Council website.