

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter November 2024

Chairman's Notes

Moira Brennan

Many of you will know that our village handyman, Alan Saunders, has died at the age of 86. Alan worked for the Parish Council for well over 20 years following his "retirement" and continued to work up to the beginning of this year. He kept the village looking spick and span and took a real pride in his work. Our thoughts are with his family. Alan will be a very hard act to follow and we are thinking about how we ensure we continue to maintain those areas of the village which do not fall under BANES management. More details on the role is below.

There has been a lot of concern in the village about the licensing application from King Edwards School (KES) to allow events to be held on their playing field. The KES burser came to our September meeting and laid out their plans. The reality is that they want to organise a small number of fundraising and community events each year eg rugby tournaments or laser shows with a bar and they have plans to manage traffic and noise disturbance. Currently they apply for a Temporary Events Notice (TENs) for each event they hold. The Parish Council's concern is that the wording of the proposed licence application is very wide, and while we are certain that the current KES management have good intentions we are worried that if the licence is approved in its current format then future managers of the site could run events that could be very disruptive to the village. KES took our concerns on board and amended their application but we still feel that the licence could be misused. The Parish Council therefore objected to the licensing application in its current format. We have been speaking to KES and they want to work with us but are finding it hard within the constraints of the licencing system to narrow the application while still giving them freedom to run the kind of events they envisage. We understand there is a licensing hearing on 31 October which we plan to attend.

We have been talking to Sarah Warren and WECA for sometime about reviewing the timings of the 11 and D1 bus to try to give us a better spaced bus service. WECA did review the number 11 service a few years back but soon after, First Bus amended their timetable, which undid the planned benefits of the change. WECA have now said they do not see a way to improve the bus timings as the D1 is a commercial service which can be changed to suit demand whilst the 11 and 12 operate as a subsidised service and have to operate on a regular basis to be financially affordable. Most people get on the 11 service in Holcombe Vale with few people getting on on the Warminster Road. It's not ideal, but we know the 11 service is a lifeline for many and we must try to protect it.

In the last newsletter I drew attention to the BANES Active Travel Plan. The Parish Council were concerned that the Plan implied that the canal path would be identified as a "quick cycle route". We have therefore submitted a response to the consultation which raises concerns that this designation would be at odds with the CRT policy whereby cyclists have to give way to the most vulnerable users (in particular pedestrians and people mooring boats) and could put those users at risk.

Finally I wanted to say a massive thanks to the Village Show Committee and everyone who volunteered to once again provide a superb village show. The sun was out, the circus skills had everyone enthralled and it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves. A special thanks to Share and Repair's Fred who sharpened lots of tools and knives, saving them from landfill. Also thanks to the lovely masseuse who gave all her profits from the day to the Playground appeal.

Recruitment of a village handyperson

Following the passing of our wonderful handyman Alan Saunders we are now recruiting for a permanent handyperson to help keep our village looking well maintained and to help with the upkeep of the communal areas. The role is likely to be for 10 hours a week (subject to change following a review of the role) and can be worked flexibly throughout the week in agreement with the council. The role includes grass cutting and care of the playground, 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 and attention to detail. The applicant will have a full UK driving licence with access to a vehicle. If you are

interested in discussing the role (and the salary) please call the Clerk, Liz Daly on 07980627391. A CV or letter should be sent by email to bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com by 30 November.

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).

Bathampton Primary School

Tony Purpuri

Bathampton Primary School is looking for school governors from the local community. The governing committee is small and needs breadth of experience to support and oversee the school. If you are looking for a way to give back to the local community and have experience in education, general management or fundraising the school would love to hear from you.

Governors meet quarterly in the school and full training is given. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Tony.

Bathampton Pharmacy

Pharmacies across the country are experiencing financial difficulties and there is concern that some may go out of business. They say that the funding they receive does not cover expenditure. There is a campaign to highlight the issues. The Bathampton Pharmacy is currently viable but if you want to know more please pop in and discuss the issues with them. You can show solidarity by signing their petition or getting a postcard to send off.

The pharmacy offers free consultations for a range of minor ailments, smoking cessation and contraceptive advice with no appointments needed. Covid and Flu vaccinations can be booked through NHS and you can choose to have these done at the pharmacy. We depend on our pharmacy so let's support it.

Truespeed

After we were contacted by residents asking why Truespeed did not seem to be delivering wifi as planned we asked the company for an update. They responded as follows.

Construction in Bathampton had commenced, and we were making good progress. However, the primary challenge was the numerous blockages across the entire project, especially on Warminster Road. Additionally, Highways England had marked the same area for major upgrades to water, gas and other utilities, which prevented us from collaborating on clearing these blockages. Consequently, the Project Initiation Agreement (PIA) expired, and with no further work achievable, it was closed. This project is now on hold until at least April 2025, when we can secure new road notices to begin clearing the blockages. We sincerely apologise for the inconvenience and the wait this will entail. Please be assured that we are committed to resolving the situation as swiftly as possible and will keep you updated with any developments.

In the spirit of commercial fairness we note that Virgin Media have also been laying cables in the village although they have not contacted us.

Highways

Tony Purpuri highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com

Road Safety

In the last newsletter I reported on the progress of the road safety work on the canal bridge. As we went to print we were informed that planning permission for the canal bridge had been submitted by BANES. Understandably this raised questions and concerns from residents particularly as the planning application only addressed potential changes to the canal bridge. As the bridge is listed the planning

application had to go in first to seek permission to work on it, but it gave the impression that it was an isolated plan. The improvement of the pavement on the bridge is part of a wider pedestrian safety scheme which may include speed humps at the approach to the bridge, an improved speed hump between the George and the church and a significantly improved pavement (possibly with bollards) at the narrowing by Mulberry Nursery. This is part of a scheme that BANES have allocated budget to. There will be further consultation with residents before any plans are implemented.

Additionally we are looking for Liveable Neighbourhood money to improve the pedestrian safety in other areas in the village, including the High Street, Down Lane and the Warminster Road. I will continue to work with volunteers to identify problem areas for consideration. Please get in touch if you want to find out more.

Road Markings

Many of the road markings in the village were faded to the point where cars were parking illegally and inconsiderately. BANES have now repainted some lines including disabled parking bays and double yellows. If you identify other road markings that are faded please get in touch with me and I can ask BANES to repaint them.

Climate change and Nature

Jan Helps and Lin King

If anything is a reminder of the direct impact of climate change on our own lives the amount of rain that we are experiencing is a call to take action to reduce our impact on global warming. BANES experienced a typical September month worth of rain in a 24 hour period where all of their resources were stretched to avoid flood damage across the area.

Retrofit West and Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE)

Retrofit West were not able to be at the Village Show in person, although we did have some of their literature. We didn't get the feedback that there was enough demand to set up a special evening for them in Bathampton, so we don't propose to do this. However, if this is wrong then please let Lin know and we can reconsider. If you want some advice or to access the voucher to use for an energy assessment the Retrofit West website is very helpful. BWCE have set up a new home energy advice service to help people make their homes more comfortable and energy efficient. Currently the Retrofit West vouchers will cover 70% of the cost of an expert energy assessment.

Bathampton Meadows

Joanna Rolfe (National Trust)

The National Trust are using funds, raised and donated by the Bathampton Meadows Alliance, to pay for an extension to the pathway in the eastern fields. They are planning to open up the central farmers' track and the southern perimeter of the fields to the public by installing a new fence and gates. This will create a circular pathway of around 1km and give users an opportunity to visit new areas of the meadows and see the beautiful views back over Batheaston, Bannerdown and Bathford. This is due to take place next year.

They are also designing bespoke signs with a map of the Meadows with space to include some wording where they can thank the residents for saving the meadows. Alternatively, there is an old stone gatepost in the middle of the field (they aren't sure how long it has been there, but believe it is part of the older field separation gates) and are considering whether they can move it to a more accessible location and either engrave it or attach a plaque

The oak tree in the car park of the George Inn

Many of you will know and love the huge oak tree in the car park of The George. Unfortunately it is unsafe and is going to have to be felled (if it hasn't been already by the time you receive this newsletter). According to the tree officer the decay is due to fungi which work below ground where they feed on the undersides of roots progressing upwards into the trunk. The canopy is suffering from some die back with areas of foliage turning yellow. The fungi is fruiting at the bottom of the trunk which means it is in the majority of the basal root area in the vicinity of the trunk. The George have agreed to plant a replacement tree.

Wild Waters Festival Jan Helps Saturday 31st May to Sunday 15th June inclusive

From Bradford on Avon to Bathampton, plans are afoot to bring together all the communities along the River Avon to create a celebration of our shared river and its vibrant ecosystem. They are aiming to provide a range of exciting events that highlight the importance of our natural waterways—featuring everything from educational talks and nature walks to arts, music and outdoor activities that explore the river's rich history and ecology. Local people and community groups (including those in Bathampton) are being asked to help shape this festival. Whether you want to run an event, lead an activity or join the organising team, we want to hear from you! There is a website where you can find out more and express an interest in getting involved <https://www.wildwatersfestival.com>

Here in Bathampton we are close to the water meadows and have the opportunity to collaborate with our National Trust rangers as well as neighbouring villages. The dates for the festival coincide with the Bath Festival of Nature and The Great Big Green Week - a celebration of community action to tackle climate change.

The organisers hope that all parishes and communities will hold events in their area so we are looking for ideas and suggestions of things that could happen in Bathampton. Events could be big or small, inside or out. They could be a creative activity based on a theme of water, something historic about water in the area, a science or nature activity. If you have an idea, an area of expertise or a hobby that might interest others, please get in touch. Contact Jan Helps who is acting as the link for Bathampton via the newsletter email or by phone or contact any of the parish council if that is easier. Don't be shy, we know we have lots of talent and imagination in the village.

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
Rob Bash	07919210122	Telephone: 01225 336656
David Beard	336722	Email: newsletter.bathamptonPC@gmail.com
Moirá Brennan	313503	
Jan Helps	336656	Your BANES Councillors
Lin King	460998	Kevin Guy 07365 916114 or Kevin_Guy@bathnes.gov.uk
Tony Purpuri	335978	Sarah Warren Sarah_Warren@bathnes.gov.uk

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.