

**Bathampton Parish Council
Newsletter May 2026**

Chairman's Notes

Moira.Brennan@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place at the Village Hall on Wednesday 6 May at 7.30pm. We hope you will join us to hear an update on the Parish Council's activities over the last year. We will have guest speakers from Avon Wildlife Trust (with an update on the beavers who have made their home on the Avon) and the National Trust (to tell us about recent changes to their land on Bathampton Meadows including extensive tree planting and a new footpath). There will also be a chance to ask questions or raise any issues affecting life in the village and to have an informal chat with Councillors and other local people over a small refreshment. I look forward to seeing you there.

We were recently advised by the doctors' practice that the defibrillator is out of use and that it is now beyond repair. They have advised us that they are not able to contribute to a new defibrillator but are willing to continue with the safety checks. We have asked for further information to allow us to discuss what options might be available but we are still waiting to hear back from the surgery.

The Council have now set up new email addresses. This is part of a process to help us to meet more rigorous governance rules surrounding Freedom of Information and Data Processing requirements by making sure council business takes place using council owned email addresses rather than private ones. Liz, our clerk, is now contactable on clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk.

Finally, we have noticed that someone is clearing the verge along the A36 side of the triangular field. If this is you can we all say thank you as it will contribute to making that pavement safer for all of us. Perhaps you could contact us? We also want to say thank you to all the volunteers who litter pick and look after the public footpaths around the village. If you want to get involved with these activities there is information later in the newsletter.

WECA Bus Consultation

<http://haveyoursaywest.co.uk/betterbuses>

The WECA bus survey is available online. You have until 10 May to complete it. The information collected will help WECA to design bus services that take account of the local concerns.

Village Hall

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

The Playground project

Liz Daly

Following our last update, we are pleased to confirm that designs have now been received from suppliers. The Parish Council have carefully reviewed all submissions and shortlisted five proposals to take forward to the next stage. These shortlisted designs will be shared with the community, giving residents the opportunity to have their say before any final decisions are made.

We are keen to gather as much feedback as possible to help ensure the chosen design reflects the needs and wishes of those that use the playground. The consultation will be promoted via our website and Facebook page where you'll be able to view the designs and submit comments online. There will also be an opportunity to see the proposals in person and speak with us at the Village Hall on:

Saturday 6th June 2-4pm and Wednesday 10th June 7pm-9pm.

We encourage residents and playground users to get involved and share their views. Further details on how to access the designs will be shared shortly.

This is a really exciting stage of the project and we are looking forward to moving ahead with the new playground later this year following the appointment of the preferred supplier.

Donations are still welcome to support the overall playground project and may help enhance the final scheme once a supplier has been appointed.

If you would like to contribute, please contact Liz Daly, at clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk or by phone on 07980 627391.

Kennet and Avon 75th Anniversary Celebrations

The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust are holding events to mark the 75th anniversary of the canal. As part of this an accessible boat called "Hannah" will be travelling the full length of the canal from Bristol to Reading this June, stopping in Bathampton on the morning of Saturday 13 June. There will be a chance to visit the boat, find out more about the canal's history and enjoy trips on the newly acquired accessible water bus the Sir John Knill. You can find more details at <https://katrust.org.uk/ka75/>

Hedges and junctions

Jan.Helps@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

Now that trees and hedgerows are coming into leaf, it's the time of year to ask residents with hedges, trees or shrubs growing next to paths or junctions to check that they are not impeding paths or affecting sight lines. It is particularly important to check that pedestrians, cyclists and drivers have as clear a view as possible when trying to cross or exit roads safely. Thank you, in anticipation of your help in this matter.

Highways

Tony.Purpuri@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

Traffic Regulation Orders

Once a year BANES gives the Parish Council the opportunity to propose locations in the village for additional parking restrictions. This year we have 2 proposed location in the Holcombe Close / Holcombe Lane areas, which I will present in detail at the Annual Residents meeting in order to seek feedback prior to submitting. If you think any other location requires consideration, please email me at the address above with your suggestions. I also aim to give an update on the implementation of the locations that were approved last time round.

Parking

I have received a number of comments from residents throughout the village regarding inconsiderate parking, particularly on street corners, pavements, across drives and on double yellows. There have been instances of access to streets being blocked to all vehicles or pedestrians having to walk onto roads. Please can you ensure your or your visitors vehicles are parked legally and not causing an obstruction. Where cars have been blocking roads or drives affected residents have had to contact BANES parking enforcement to deal with specific vehicles.

Planning

Lin.King@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

The Draft Local Plan is scheduled to be discussed by BANES on 10th June and if approved the six-week public consultation should begin in late June, giving everyone a further opportunity to review and comment.

Padel Tennis

The expected application arrived and was discussed at the March Parish Council meeting. There had been a lot of comments on social media and several emails to the Parish Council. Whilst we would love to see something like this in the village, we had many reservations, mostly around noise and traffic, particularly the access onto what is already a very busy junction; this meant that the PC response had to be an objection until these aspects are more fully addressed. At the time of writing we have not heard anything further from BANES. Full details and all comments / responses can be found on the BANES website under Planning, application number 26/00259/FUL. More information can be found at <https://smashpadel.co/>

National Trust

Joanna Rolfe / Lin King

In March the National Trust completed the planting of 10,000 trees in Bathampton Meadows, in the new wood pasture and in hedgerows across the site. At the beginning of April a new circular permissive path opened to the east of the Meadows. New benches have now also been installed, each including a quote that is special to the land or the local community.

Wildwaters Festival 2026

Dan.Cossins@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

After great success in its inaugural year, the Wildwaters Festival is back for a second year in 2026. It is taking place between 1st to 30th June. The aim of the festival is to celebrate nature and community and to take a stand against biodiversity loss and climate change.

Bathampton will be holding 2 events; A beaver, otter, bird watch (which is already fully booked) on June 5th and "The Wildlife Of Bathampton Film Night" at the village hall on June 25th (7pm to 9pm). Two short films will be shown, and there will be nibbles and refreshments for everyone who attends.

You can book the film night, which is FREE, at www.whitelinecoaching.com/events/

Events in neighbouring parishes can be booked at www.wildwatersfestival.com/events/

Recording Nesting Birds

Spring will see the return of our nesting swift population. Swifts are in steep decline nationally so preserving (and hopefully increasing) the swifts we have in Bathampton is of utmost importance. For this reason you are reminded, wherever possible, to avoid having roof work carried out between April and July.

Parish councillor Dan Cossins White has begun a project to help the swifts, which will hopefully lead to swift boxes being installed for next year. As a first step towards this, he wants to determine how many nests we have and exactly where they are. If you know or suspect you have a swift nest in your roof (or indeed house sparrow, house martin or starling nests) please notify him on 07498365282.

Footpaths Flooding and Drainage

David.Bead@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

With over eleven miles of public footpaths in Bathampton parish, there is a maintenance requirement during the spring, summer and early autumn growing seasons cutting back vegetation to ensure unrestricted public access. Local footpaths are widely used by residents, dog walkers and visitors. Routine maintenance responsibility lies with Bathampton Parish Council, which receives some support from the Cotswold Volunteers; however, most routine maintenance is provided by local volunteers and landowners. Bathampton Parish Council would like to thank these volunteers and landowners for their continued support in maintaining public rights of way and also, to invite anyone who would like to volunteer for footpath maintenance to contact us at the address above.

Do you have a date for the diary?

The newsletter is produced quarterly and the next one will be produced in August. If you have an event of interest to the village coming up before the November edition, let us know so that we can advertise.

Parish Councillors		Parish Clerk (Liz Daly): 07980 627391
George Ardrey	07986 958396	clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk
David Beard	336722	Newsletter Editor and What's On Jan Helps can be contacted on 01225 336656 or Jan.Helps@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk
Moira Brennan	07850 037737	Your BANES Councillors
Jan Helps	336656	Kevin Guy 07365 916114 or Kevin_Guy@bathnes.gov.uk
Lin King	460998	
Tony Purpuri	335978	
Richard Schofield	423033	
Dan Cossins White	07508722345	Sarah Warren Sarah_Warren@bathnes.gov.uk

PC Website www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook (Bathampton Community) and Twitter (Bathamptonpc).

What's On in Bathampton

Organisation	Times	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups Village hall	Monday 1.30pm Monday 6.30pm Thursday 9.30am	Brent King	07967 167300
Bathampton Village Show	bathamptonvillageshow.co.uk bathampton.show@gmail.com	David Mayo	07779 545956
Bell ringers	Mondays 7.30pm Sundays 10.15am	Stuart Burroughs	07092 944007
Bridge Club Village hall	Monday 1.30 – 4.30 pm	Ken Jefferies	07968 050467
Brownies	Wednesday 6.00 -7.30 pm	57thbrownies@girlguidingbath.org.uk	
Cricket Club	Tuesday & Sunday	Stephen Dailey Smith	01225 460395
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	07793 056448
Chair Keep Fit Standing Keep Fit Village Hall	Wednesday 3pm Wednesday 4pm	jackiebrangwyn@yahoo.co.uk	01225 840850
Mr Wilkins' Shilling Northwest 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	07815 868252
Playgroup Village Hall	Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday	Lisa Nash bathamptonplaygroup@ yahoo.co.uk	07716 600269
Scouts Beavers Cubs	Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm Monday 6 – 7 pm Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm At Scout HQ	www.bathamptonscouts.org join@bathamptonscouts.org	0345 300 1818
Scottish Country Dancing Village hall	Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm	Jane Hammond	01225 833411
Senior Table Tennis Scout HQ	Tues mornings 10.00-12.00	David Plumbridge George Malcolm	01225 429979 07789 961848
St Nicholas Church	Sundays 10.45am. Other times see stnicholasbathampton.org. uk	Jonty Frith – minister rector@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk Natalie - office office@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk	07905 883075 01225 442311
Table Tennis Scout HQ	Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm	Ray Bennett	01225 866880
Bathampton WI Village Hall	First Saturday of the month 10-12am. £5 for non members	Enquiries to vgsurgey@gmail.com	07788 117875
Yoga Village hall	Friday 12.30 – 2.00	Suzy Lovegrove suzy@lovegrove.com	07980008672