Bathampton Parish Council
Newsletter November 2026

Chairman's Notes **Moira.Brennan@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk**

In the May newsletter I mentioned that we had been advised by the local surgery that the defibrillator situated outside the surgery was no longer working and was not possible to repair. The defibrillator installation and ongoing costs had been funded by BANES. We contacted BANES who said they no longer had budget for providing defibrillators. As there are other defibrillators in the village registered on the emergency services system BANES did not think it was a priority. When we looked into this we discovered that whilst there are other defibrillators in the village none of them are available 24 /7.

Although Parish Councils have the authority to purchase a defibrillator we have never done so and have no medical experience. We were fortunate to be offered advice by two people with relevant experience (thank you both for your time). As part of this research it became clear that none of us had really given much forethought to what happens in the unfortunate case that you need to use a defibrillator. At our October meeting the Council decided that we would purchase a new defibrillator. Whilst we have no budget for this spend we concluded that it would be appropriate to fund the purchase using some of our back up reserves. We also agreed that we need to raise the level of awareness locally about what to do if faced with an emergency situation. We will continue to take advice from people who know much more than we do about how we can achieve this. We are now working with the surgery to arrange to install the equipment. We will keep you informed on our progress. In the meantime it is important that anyone who finds themselves in an emergency situation does not hesitate to call the emergency services. Call them from the location of the patient as this location information is used to direct the ambulance. Do not leave the patient to try to find a defibrillator unless told to do so by the call handler. The call handler knows all of the equipment situated locally and whether it is working and available and will advise you accordingly.

BANES are consulting on changes to parking charges. Whilst you would think this would have limited impact on Bathampton we try to keep an eye on consultations. One of the proposed parking charges includes an intention to make the parking on the A36, coming out of Bath, a pay and display parking area. We are concerned that this change could have a knock on effect on Bathampton as commuters and canal users who currently have access to free parking will look for somewhere else to park. This could have serious implications for Bathampton's streets and in particular Trossachs Drive. As the consultation is due to end on 3 November (possibly before the newsletter reaches you) we have used our social media etc to make people aware that the consultation is open and allow them to respond as they see fit.

BANES have made us aware of a new engagement centre aimed at making their consultations easier to find. The site is https://haveyoursay.bathnes.gov.uk/. You can sign up to be advised of future consultations as they go live.

The wall works on the A36 south of Bathampton are due to come to an end in November. National Highways have advised us that they are about to start a new scheme with night time closures for essential tree removal. This will continue until January 2027. The work will happen on Sunday to Thursday nights from 8pm to 6am. You can check out where the closures are by selecting the A36 on their website https://nationalhighways.co.uk/roads-and-travel/live-travel-updates/road-closure-report/

Playground Project – An Exciting Step Forward **Liz Daly**

We are delighted to share a further update on our playground project.
Following our community consultation and a detailed review of the revised proposals, the Parish Council has formally agreed to proceed with DragonPlay as its preferred supplier. We are really pleased to be moving forward with the project and grateful to everyone who took the time to share their views and help shape the plans. DragonPlay will now work on developing the final design, with the remaining

contractual and administrative arrangements to be completed before the project moves forward. We hope to share the latest design with the community soon.
Subject to the completion of these arrangements, work is anticipated to begin in the New Year. The playground will be closed and unavailable for use while the works are underway and there may also be some temporary disruption in the surrounding area. We will keep residents informed and confirm the start date and any relevant arrangements as soon as these are known.
We are delighted with the progress made so far and look forward to bringing the plans to life and create an improved play space for local children and families to enjoy for years to come.
Thank you once again to everyone who has supported the project and contributed their ideas, financial support and feedback. Your involvement has helped us reach this important stage, and we look forward to sharing more news as the project progresses. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the Clerk, Liz Daly, at clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk or by phone on 07980 627391.

Keeping Our Village Safe: Anti-Social Behaviour and Playing Field Use

Concerns have been raised about anti-social behaviour in the centre of the village and around Holcombe Lane. These include young people riding electric powered quad bikes on the recreational field, illegal two wheeled e-bikes being ridden on roads and pavements and children entering private roads and gardens behind properties on Holcombe Lane without permission.
Particular concern has been raised by several residents about a young male riding a fat-tyred bicycle, reportedly modified for speed. He has been seen wearing a balaclava and face covering while riding on pavements and weaving in and out of traffic along Holcombe Lane. This behaviour poses a serious potential risk to pedestrians and other road users particularly older residents and young children.
Residents are reminded that quad bikes and unauthorised motorised vehicles are not permitted on the playing field. Anyone seen riding these vehicles on the field will be reported to the police.
These concerns have already been reported to the police. Anyone who witnesses these or similar incidents is asked to report them directly to the police by dialling 101 and provide dates, times, locations and descriptions where possible. Please do not put yourself at risk by intervening or confronting those involved.
We all want our village to remain a safe, welcoming and enjoyable place to live.
Thank you for helping to protect our community and for treating our neighbours and shared spaces with consideration and respect.

A Reminder About Dogs on the Playing Field

Residents are reminded that dogs are not permitted on the playing field (the grassed area behind the children's playground).
This area is intended for children to play, run around and enjoy the outdoors safely. Recently, residents have noticed an increase in the number of dogs being brought onto the grassed area.
Please be considerate of children and their families by keeping dogs off the recreational grounds and using other suitable areas in the village and its surrounds instead.
Signs are already in place to make this restriction clear. We kindly ask all dog owners to respect the signs and follow the rules, helping to ensure that the playing field remains a clean, safe and welcoming environment for local children. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Holcombe Lane Works **Tony.Purpuri@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk**

Last month BANES Highways resurfaced much of Holcombe Lane and the surrounding areas, which included refreshing all the lines and increasing the width of the disabled parking bays. The Parish Council have thanked the highways team and contactors for their professionalism in completing the job as quickly as possible and with the minimum amount of disruption. Whilst I understand some of the frustrations with the road closures, they were necessary to undertake the work as quickly as possible. The new road surface is fantastic and makes a huge amount of difference to the entire area.

High Street Traffic

We have had multiple reports of traffic in the high street being an issue, particularly during busy periods and when larger vehicles come through the village. Volumes of traffic are likely to be higher than normal at the moment due to the amount of road work going on in Bath itself, which is probably pushing traffic through the village. I am in discussion with BANES on what mitigating actions could be implemented.

Footpaths, Flooding and Drainage **David Beard (01225 336722)**

Litter volunteers and fly tipping
A big thank-you to everyone who responded to our last newsletter request for litter-picking volunteers – your contribution is greatly appreciated. Over the past year or so the Warminster Road verge has become a site for fly tipping (on the northern side to the east of the junction with Bathampton Lane). Bathampton Parish Council contacted BANES Environmental Services with a request for help in removing a collection of household waste items that have been dumped in this area and we hope for a positive response. To notify cases of illegal dumping you witness, the Crimestoppers telephone number is 0800 555111. The FixMyStreet.com website can be used to notify BANES of any fly tipping that requires removal.

Footpaths
The 11 miles of footpaths and public right of way within Bathampton parish are maintained by Bathampton Parish Council volunteers and by some of the landowners whose properties the paths cross. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who helped with footpath maintenance during the past year, particularly in trimming vegetation to keep the footpaths open. We are always looking for volunteers who can help out during next summer's growing season and if you would like to help in 2027, please phone David Beard. We would also like to request that everyone avoids placing trimmed vegetation in water courses which may be dry in the summer but which rapidly fill up after heavy autumn and winter rainfall, resulting in blockages and localised flooding.

Lighting on footpath from Devonshire Lane to Bathampton Lane

We are aware that the light on this footpath has been out for some time. We have had a quote and completed a purchase order to have the light inspected and repaired and carried out clearance work to facilitate the works. Unfortunately, despite much chasing, the contractor is yet to give us a date to complete the work.

Padel Tennis **Lin.King@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk**

It has been widely reported that the BANES planning committee approved the application to build 5 padel tennis courts in Bathampton. The case notes on the BANES planning portal still say Pending and therefore we have not seen a decision for this application. We believe BANES are putting together a Section 106 legal agreement, which is obviously taking some time, and until this has been signed the process cannot be completed. 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/

Bathampton Brownies

Bathampton Brownies run every Wednesday evening in the village hall. Girl guiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. They build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. They give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good. They give them a space to have fun. If you know a girl who would like to know more about Brownies in Bathampton email Katrin at 57thbrownies@girlguidingbath.org.uk.

Christmas Trees for sale

The 28th Bath (Bathampton) Scouts will be selling Nordmann low-drop Christmas trees in a range of sizes up to 250cm, with prices starting at just £25 at the Scout HQ opposite the top of Down Lane (BA2 6XJ) on Saturday the 5th and 12th December 2026 between 11am - 3pm.

Free delivery is available in Bathampton.
To pre-order your tree, email xmastrees@bathamptonscouts.org.
Support your local Scouts and make your Christmas extra special. All proceeds go towards supporting Scouting in Bathampton, helping young people develop skills, confidence and friendships.

Join the Christmas Story

Join the Christmas Story at St Nicholas' Church is a free activity for everyone – young and old. Personalise your wooden 'peg' doll using coloured pens (provided) and add it to all the others on the Nativity scene. Drop in for any of these workshop sessions in church: Saturday 21st November (10 am – 4 pm), Sunday 22nd (12.30 – 4 pm) and Monday 23rd (3.30 – 6 pm). All welcome.
Please note the times of Christingle services this year are 4 pm and 5.15 pm on Christmas Eve.

Bathampton Christmas Tree Light Switch On Event
Thursday 3 December 2026 at 5.30pm

Bathampton Playgroup is delighted to be planning a festive Christmas Tree Light Switch-On to bring the village together and celebrate the start of the Christmas season.
Taking place around the Christmas tree outside the Village Hall, the event will feature festive songs sung by the children from Bathampton Playgroup and their families, followed by carols for everyone to join in and then the countdown and the switching on of the Christmas tree lights.
Alcohol free mulled wine and mince pies will be available to purchase with collection buckets for anyone wishing to make an additional donation. All proceeds will help raise funds for Bathampton Playgroup.
We hope this will be a lovely opportunity for residents of all ages to come together, enjoy some Christmas carols and festive cheer, and hopefully establish a new village tradition.
Please save the date — everyone is welcome!

Village Hall **bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com**

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

The village hall recently had an energy survey completed by WECA. One suggestion was that we should be considering reducing our reliance on fossil fuels by considering an air to air heat pump to replace our gas boiler. If you happen to have expertise in this area and would be willing to help us think through our options please email us.

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	
Jan Helps	336656	
Lin King	460998	Your BANES Councillors
Tony Purpuri tony.purpuri@bathamptonparishcouncil.org		Kevin Guy 07365 916114 or Kevin_Guy@bathnes.gov.uk
Richard Schofield	423033	Sarah Warren Sarah_Warren@bathnes.gov.uk
Dan Cossins White	07508 722345	

Parish Council website www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook (Bathampton Community) and Twitter (Bathamptonpc).

The latest copy of What's On in Bathampton is available on the Parish Council website.