



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2005



Issue No.5
Published 22nd April 2005

BARNT GREEN FESTIVAL

Saturday 25th June 2005

The Parish Council is holding another Festival which will be similar to those held to commemorate the Millennium and the Golden Jubilee. It will a wonderful event for all the family – please do come along and support it.

If you would like to get involved or have any ideas please contact Betty Lucas. Please note that Hewell Road will be closed from 12 noon on 25th June 2005. Owners of cars parked on Hewell Road will be requested to move them before the event begins. The 145 bus route will be diverted for the day – signs will be displayed with details.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR
AN OCCASIONAL OUTDOOR PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE**

I, Judith Jagger, of 22 Bittell Road, Barnt Green, Birmingham B45 8LT, hereby give notice that I have applied to Bromsgrove District Council for the grant of an Occasional Public Entertainments Licence in respect of the Barnt Green Festival to be held on Saturday 25th June 2005. The event is to be held on Hewell Road, between its junctions with Station Approach and Sandhills Lane.

Any person who wishes to make any representations regarding this application should submit their comments in writing and send them to Sharon Smith, Principal Licensing Officer, Bromsgrove District Council, The Council House, Burcot Lane, Worcestershire B60 1AA, no later than two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

Dated 22nd April 2005

www.barntgreen.org.uk

If a copy in larger print or in Braille is required, please contact the Clerk

Chairman's Introduction

I am delighted that we now have a full complement of parish councillors since Diane Carr joined us in January. Diane will be known to many of you and I leave you to read her introduction in this issue.

Sadly Debbie, our Clerk, leaves us; we will find it very difficult to manage without her as we all relied on her expert guidance. Thankfully Debbie is not leaving the village and will, I am sure, remain an active member of the community. We wish her and her family well.

Parking Charges at the Station

These increased on 1st April to £2 per day. However the Parish Council managed to negotiate the retention of the 2 hour parking charge of 50p although this will only remain for a limited period. The Parish and District Councils are trying to find a way of lessening the impact on the village. Any information on cars regularly parked on roads around the village would be appreciated.

Dropped kerbs around the Village

The Parish Council has been asked to identify any pavements which require dropped kerbs to enable buggy and wheelchair users etc to cross the road safely. Please let us know of any locations which would benefit from this.

Annual Report

The Parish Council's Annual Report will be published shortly. It will be available on the website and copies will be left around the village in the Church Halls, doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms etc. If you would like a copy please contact the Clerk.

Telegraph Pole

You will have noticed the recent sudden appearance of a telegraph pole in front of Savoir Faire. The Parish Council was particularly concerned about the quality of workmanship in filling the trench in the pavement, and at least that has been improved. Unfortunately, we will have to live with the pole itself as we had no right to object to the location of the pole.

Millennium Arch

It is believed that a lorry caused the damage to the Arch but unfortunately the CCTV camera did not catch the incident. If anyone did witness it, please contact us. The Arch will be rebuilt shortly.

Electricity Sub-Station

Trees around a substation in Bittell Road are causing a problem for neighbouring residents and we have reported this.

Bollards on Hewell Road

As we go to print, we understand that the County Council intends to begin installing bollards along Hewell Road from Orchard Croft to Coach Cottages in April or shortly thereafter. Investigations and consultation continue in relation to the remaining stretch. The Parish Council still hopes that a parking/loading bay will be installed.

Early Morning Deliveries

The Parish Council had a very useful meeting with traders in February at which issues of mutual interest were discussed including deliveries, particularly by early morning refrigeration units. It was clear that everyone wants to resolve this issue. The manager of Tesco Express has rescheduled his deliveries and, to significantly reduce noise, has transferred some goods from freezer units to chilled units.

The County Council has been requested to explore the possibility of designating the parking bays outside Tesco Express as a loading bay between the hours of 6.00am to 8.00am as this will ensure that deliveries can be made nearer the store, therefore minimising noise.

If you are still experiencing problems with early morning deliveries, please make a written note of the time, date and nature of the problem and let us know.

The Parish Council is meeting with the traders in June to review the situation.

Park and Playing Field

After years of calling the park and playing field just that, the Council has decided to name the park on Hewell Road “the Millennium Park” and the playing field on Bittell Road as “Parker’s Piece” in recognition of Sheila Parker’s vision and tenacity in securing the land for the community.

Crossing Point on Bittell Road

The County Council advises that a crossing at or near the Baptist Church is not required using its formula. However, they have agreed to test out the use of “pinch points” on a trial basis.

Christmas Lights

As you may recall, health and safety issues meant the traditional strings of Christmas lights could not be erected. We are working with the traders to try to resolve the issues and will be meeting them again in June to consider what should be done regarding the Christmas lights. Do you wish to continue with the lights in the traditional way? Or do you think they are unnecessary? Before it commits any funds to new lights the Parish Council needs your views, by the end of May please. Our thanks go to those traders who lit and decorated their windows and frontages and gave the village a festive feel.

Painting of Street Furniture

Poles and other items on Hewell Road have been painted black. We hope you agree this smartens up the village centre.

A Parish Office

Over the years the workload for the Parish Council has increased very significantly indeed, partly due to expectations of residents but also partly due to new initiatives and requirements imposed by central government. All parish councils are facing the same issues. However, it means that it is becoming increasingly difficult to continue to function from several dining rooms. We held a strategy meeting at which we considered how we are to function over the next 10 years or so and concluded that the time has come for us to seek an office from which to function. It is not envisaged that this will be open to the public, as that would require regular staffing which we feel is simply not necessary or cost-effective. If you know of a small office in the village which is available, please could you let us know.

A fairer deal

We are working with our District Councillors to try to secure some capital funding for the open spaces in the village from money the District Council has received when new developments have gone up in the village.

We are also working closely with the District Council to try to find a way to minimise the effect of double taxation on parished areas. We understand that the District Council is committed to finding a fairer system.

The Parish Plan

Representatives from the community have agreed to sit on a Parish Plan Steering Committee and this met for the first time on 23rd March 2005. It was so pleasing to have residents and business representatives willing to give up their time to enable this village to be shaped by the community itself. At the moment, we are in the information-gathering stage, which is vital as without your views the Parish Plan will not properly reflect the wishes and needs of the community. A questionnaire will be delivered to all households at the end of April. It is very important that you complete it. If you have any difficulty, require any assistance or need extra copies for other members of your household, please do not hesitate to contact us. The questionnaire will be collected by the end of May and/or there will be facilities to drop them in to a central collection box. An Open Day at which we will be seeking your views on other aspects will be held on Saturday 21st May 2005 at the Friends Meeting House – it will be well-publicised. Some members of the Steering Committee have been tasked with consulting with young people in the village and another group is liaising with the business community. One group is aiming to contact those residents who will find it difficult or impossible to respond to the questionnaire or come along to the Open Day; if you know of anyone to whom this applies, please let us know.

How to Contact the Parish Council

If you would like to contact the Parish Council about anything at all, please either contact one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk. Your Parish Councillors are:

Elaine Buckett (Chairman)	0121 445 1254	chair@barntgreen.org.uk
Judith Jagger (Vice-Chairman)	0121 445 2437	
Diane Carr	0121 445 1220	
Peter Cliff	0121 445 6383	
Tom Gray	0121 445 4424	
Betty Lucas	0121 445 1370	
Sheila Parker	0121 445 1408	
Susan Whitehand	0121 445 3530	
Parish Clerk: Deborah Warren	0121 445 5433	clerk@barntgreen.org.uk

Diane Carr

Diane is our newest member of the Parish Council. She first moved to Barnt Green 40 years ago and has lived in or around the village ever since. For the last 13 years Diane has owned Continental Exchange on Hewell Road and, as the owner of a local business, will bring a fresh view to the Parish Council. She has always been involved in local community activities and for the last 2 years has been responsible for securing the purchase of Cofton Hackett Reservoir for residents.

Parish Council Meetings

These are usually held on the last Monday in each month at the Parish Centre on Sandhills Road at 7.00pm. You are welcome to attend and observe, and an opportunity is given at each meeting for members of the public to speak. Details are on the website, and notices are regularly displayed on the notice board with the dates of the next meeting.

Useful Telephone Numbers:

District Councillors:

Mrs Ann Doyle 0121 445 4184

Brian Fuller 0121 445 4950

anne@doyle5341.fsnet.co.uk

County Councillor:

Brian Taylor 0121 445 1350

Anti-Social Behaviour Officer: 01527 881423

Police: 08457 444888

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Parish Centre on Wednesday 4th May 2005 at 7.00pm.

Please come along. It is your meeting and your chance to have your say. This will also be an opportunity to contribute to your Parish Plan.

Dates for your diary....

April		Parish Plan questionnaires sent to all households
Wed 4 th May	7.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting, Parish Centre, Sandhills Road
Thurs 5 th May		County Council (and possibly parliamentary) elections
Sat 21 st May	All day	Open Day for the Parish Plan, Friends Meeting House
May		Parish Plan questionnaires to be returned
Sat 18 th June	am	Parish Councillors walkabout in the village
Sat 25 th June	All day	Barnt Green Festival
Thurs 7 th July	7.00pm	Spotlight Meeting, Friends Meeting House
Sat 15 th October	am	Village Clean-Up