



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2006



Issue No.9

www.barntgreen.org.uk

Chairman's Introduction

I hope that the new equipment now installed in Parker's Piece and the Millennium Park will provide much enjoyment for the youths and the younger children of the village. Thank you to those involved in the consultation process in identifying what was wanted. Bromsgrove District Council contributed to the provision of some of these improvements through an allocation of section 106 money, which is money contributed by developers to Bromsgrove District Council in lieu of making specific provision for play spaces or affordable housing. Various new works will be underway around the village in the next couple of months including new railings and a footpath in Millennium Park and new goalposts for Parkers Piece (Bittell Road Playing Field). Some improvements such as the bollards and planters have been an ongoing issue since 1997, others have not taken quite so long to complete. Sadly Councillor Mrs Lucas is retiring from the Parish Council. Many of you will know that Betty is always at the centre of village activities and is a phenomenal source of information. Her contribution to the work of the council will be very much missed and we are glad that she has offered to help whenever needed. Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council have been accredited with Quality Status – something that was awarded to Barnt Green in 2005. This is excellent for the residents of that parish and for the wider community, and we send our good wishes. I hope that you find this newsletter useful; any comments re the content or presentation are most welcome.

The Parish Plan

Work continues on the Parish Plan and a display of the key issues and findings will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 3rd. Please accept the Council's apologies for the cancellation of the Parish Plan Exhibition.

The key findings from the household survey can be found on a loose leaf insert in this newsletter.

The Victoria

Mitchells & Butlers should be starting work shortly on the refurbishment of The Victoria, giving it a refreshing new look. The company had advised us that it might be necessary to close the car park for the duration of the refurbishment work, but if it is then this will only be a temporary measure. We have M&B's assurance that the car park will continue to be available to people using the village facilities.

It had been suggested that at one time the District Council owned part of the car park. We have checked this through our District Councillor and it has proved not to be the case, but thanks to the resident who queried it as all information is always useful.

Parish Walk Sunday May 7th

Simon Richards, our footpaths officer, has drawn up a route for the inaugural Parish Walk on Sunday May 7th. We shall meet at 11.30am at the car park by the Bittell Road Playing Field and the duration is approximately 5 miles. All are welcome. Please remember:

- **Wear sensible shoes that you don't mind getting dirty.**
- **Bring a drink (non-alcoholic!)**
- **Bring waterproofs if there is a chance of rain**
- **The Parish Council can take no responsibility for any loss or injury on the walk.**

Village Improvements

Work has started on the improvements to Hewell Road. The entrance to the car park at the rear of Tesco has been widened to make it safer for pedestrians crossing the access road, and the remaining bollards and planters will be installed shortly on the stretch from Oulsnams to Sandhills Road. This will make the pavement a lot safer for pedestrians.

Changes to the parking arrangements on Fiery Hill Road are still the subject of discussion between the District Council and the Police, but the scheme should be implemented in approximately three months time.

Meanwhile we have worked with Network Rail to tidy up the overgrown vegetation on the railway embankment in Fiery Hill Road, which has resulted in a vast improvement to the appearance of this stretch of road.

Decriminalisation of Parking

It had been hoped that parking would be decriminalised, giving the local Council powers to impose parking fines.

Unfortunately Bromsgrove District Council's consultants have indicated that this would not be financially viable and the District Council has decided not to proceed.

Village Groups and Societies

Directory

There has been an excellent response to the Village Groups and Societies Directory included in the last Newsletter. Apologies to those organisations that we either excluded or gave incorrect information for. We have corrected these and an amended Directory is enclosed with this Newsletter. We shall publish an updated directory twice a year from now on so please keep the executive officer up to date with any changes. The Directory on the Parish Council website will be updated regularly and should be your first port of call for information about village organisations and activities.

Wheellie Bins

A reminder from the District Council to put your house number on your grey and green refuse bins. This will make sure that they don't go astray and will make it easier for the refuse crews to put bins outside the right house.

Parish Precept

You will by now have received details of your Council Tax for the 2006-07 year and will be aware that there has been a significant increase, in percentage terms, in the portion of the tax that comes to the Parish Council. This increase puts the Parish Council in a position to consider the purchase of a resource for both the Council and the village should suitable premises become available. We will keep you up to date with developments.

Police Report

PC Willetts, Local Police Officer for Rubery District, advises that there has been an increase in the volume of cars broken into across the Bromsgrove district, targeting satellite navigation systems. She requests that when your vehicle is parked up, the Sat Nav screen is removed from the car completely and not left in the door well, or the glove box

With the onset of spring, garden sheds appear to have had an increase in the amount of break-ins being reported. Mowers and strimmers seem to be the main targets, but any garden tools could also be taken. Please security mark your tools, even consider painting them bright colours to make disposal more difficult, and try and fit a good quality lock to the shed door.

PACT- Partners and Communities

Together

On 26th April at a venue to be confirmed there will be a public meeting, which will be called PACT and replaces the previous "Spotlight" meetings.

This meeting will be your opportunity to tell a selected panel, made up from representatives from County, District, and Parish Councillors, housing officers, NHS, Neighbourhood Watch, Highways Partnership, Bromsgrove District Council, and West Mercia Constabulary what issues affect you in your community.

During the meeting you will be invited to tell the PACT panel what issues affect you, these issues are then written down and a vote is taken to establish priorities. The PACT panel then discusses who will take responsibility for the issues raised and how they will be resolved.

Issues raised so far in other wards have included speeding, parking problems, litter,

dog fouling, anti social behaviour and hedge cutting.

Three months later the PACT meeting will be repeated and progress with the previous priorities will be reported on.

The PACT meeting will represent the local communities who live in the Hillside Council

ward, which covers Cofton Hackett, Lickey, Barnt Green, and small areas of Blackwell and Marlbrook.

The location and time of the first PACT meeting will be advertised around the area prior to April 26th.

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
will be held on**

**WEDNESDAY 3rd MAY 2006 at 8.00pm
at the**

PARISH CENTRE, SANDHILLS ROAD, BARNT GREEN

Please come along to the Annual Parish Meeting. This is your opportunity as a resident of Barnt Green to have your say! This meeting is for all electors for the parish of Barnt Green, but all are warmly invited to attend.

The Parish Council will report on its activities and expenditure during the past year and you can address any questions on any issues which concern you. There will also be a display of the key findings of the Household Survey and feedback from the Parish Plan Open Day.

Refreshments will be available

Dates for your diary....

Wednesday May 3rd ^t	Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday May 7 th	Parish Walk. Meet at 11.30 at Parker's Piece.
Saturday May 20 th	Charity Club Walk. Meet at Parish Centre. Contact Duggie Cresswell 445 1002 for details.
Monday May 22 nd	Parish Council Meeting (to include Annual Parish Council Meeting)

The latest information on village activities can be found on the Parish website. If you have any activities that you would like to bring to the attention of local residents, please contact the executive officer.

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 Executive Officer. Your Parish Councillors are:

Elaine Buckett (Chairman)
Judith Jagger (Vice-Chairman)
Diane Carr
Peter Cliff

0121 445 1254 chair@barntgreen.org.uk
0121 445 2437
0121 445 1220
0121 445 6383

Tom Gray 0121 445 4424
Betty Lucas 0121 445 1370
Sheila Parker 0121 445 1408
Susan Whitehand 0121 445 3530
Executive Officer: Roger Westbury 0121 447 7455 clerk@barntgreen.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings

These are usually held on the last Monday in each month at the Parish Centre in 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 :

County Councillor

Peter McDonald 0121 453 9267

Anti-Social Behaviour Officer: 01527 881423

Police: 08457 444888. Local police contact PC 2138 Jayne WILLETTS Rubery Police station.

Hall Bookings: Parish Centre Edna Whitehouse 445 4696
Baptist Church Hall Beverley Bennett 445 1551
Friends Meeting House Peter Wastenev 447 7355

If a copy in larger print or in Braille or an audio version is required, please contact the Executive Officer