



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2007



Issue No.13

www.barntgreen.org.uk

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Monday April 23 rd | PACT Meeting at St Andrew's School, Hewell Road. 7.00pm
See flyer inside for details |
| Wednesday May 2 nd | Annual Parish Meeting Parish Centre 8.00pm. All residents are welcome to attend. |
| Thursday May 3 rd | District & Parish Council Elections (if contested) |
| Saturday May 12 th | Spring Parish Walk. Meet 10.00am Fiery Hill Road (by station) |
| Saturday May 19 th | Youth Meeting at Barnt Green Cricket Club. 10.00am.
See inside for details. |
| Saturday June 23 rd | Barnt Green Festival. 2.00pm – 6.00pm |

Chairman's Introduction

As some of you will know, I am standing down as chairman and as a parish councillor at the elections on May 3rd. I do have a few regrets about leaving the council. It has been a marvellous opportunity to really be 'in on the action', to get to know so many of the residents that I otherwise may not have had.

Barnt Green is lucky to have a dedicated core of community minded people who will put in a *great deal of effort*; actions rather than words are a true sign of commitment. It is *your* community, it is *your* parish council; the parish council is driven by the community not the other way round. What can you do for your community- it does so much for you?

Sadly despite our robust endeavours urging people to become councillors, at the time of writing it is likely that we will be one councillor short for the coming year. The Parish Council is non political, the present council has made great progress to be acknowledged as 'fit for purpose' and standing as a parish councillor is a wonderful way to serve your community. Please give some consideration to standing as a councillor in future - you wouldn't regret it.

Elaine Buckett

Parish Council Elections

Thursday May 3 2007 is the date for parish and district council elections if contested. We urge all residents to use their votes and to make sure that you get the council that you want. The new Parish Council will have its first meeting on Monday May 21st.

The Parish Plan



Parish council chairman Elaine Buckettt (left) and vice chairman Judith Jagger present the Parish Plan to Worcestershire County Council leader Dr George Lord.

The Barnt Green Parish Plan has now been presented to Julie Kirkbride MP, to Worcestershire County Council, to West Mercia Police, to Bromsgrove District Council and to the Barnt Green Chamber of Trade.

WCC leader Dr George Lord said: "The Barnt Green Parish Plan is a thoroughly researched document representing the considered views of your Parish members. It is a praiseworthy document revealing your aspirations for the future of your area. I accepted it on behalf of the Council and, though I can give no promises to meet some of the requests, they will be considered by the appropriate Committee. Well done all of you!"

Cllr Roger Hollingworth, leader of Bromsgrove District Council, commented: "This is a very useful document which is being used as a reference source by those working on the Local Development Framework for Bromsgrove, as they shape the District's core strategy."

Chief Inspector Tony Love added: "I have read the parish plan and have found it to be a well researched document which clearly sets out the objectives for the Parish Council and outlines what it hopes to achieve for the community. The delivery of the plan will require the co-operation of a number of other agencies including the police and as the Bromsgrove District commander I look forward to a constructive and productive relationship as I consider that our locally based officers and Community Support Officers will play a key role in its delivery."

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 2nd at the Parish Centre in Sandhills Road, commencing at 8.00pm. All Barnt Green residents are invited to attend and to hear about the Council's activities and achievements over the last 12 months. Representatives from a number of organisations have been invited to attend the meeting including Worcestershire County Council, Bromsgrove District Council, West Mercia Police, Barnt Green Chamber of Trade and Barnt Green Garden Club. If you have questions for any of these organisations, then this is the time to pose them. We have requested a detailed report to be presented from BDC, WCC and the police covering those recommendations from the Parish Plan that fall within their jurisdiction. This will provide an audit of the progress of the Parish Plan.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership where people come together to make their communities safer. It involves the police, community safety departments of local authorities and, above all, individuals and families who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. It aims to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the fear of crime by means of improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents to the police and by fostering a community spirit.

Although Barnt Green has had for many years a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, only a few streets nowadays appear to be covered. In a survey carried out over one year ago, it was evident though that there is strong interest in reinvigorating this scheme and this was included therefore as a recommendation in the Parish Plan.

A key element is the need for volunteer coordinators in each street whose job is to act as a central point for distributing intelligence and information provided by the police and keeping contact with the residents in their street. Ideally there should be one coordinator for 25 – 30 houses. The role is not onerous

We are looking therefore for volunteers across the parish. If you are willing to help and act as a coordinator for your street, can you please either call Roger Westbury, Executive Officer (tel: 447 7455) or email him at exec@barntgreen.org.uk. A meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch group will be held on Tuesday May 22 at 7.00pm at the Parish Centre in Sandhills Road. If you are interested in becoming a coordinator for your road in Barnt Green, or simply wish to find out more about Neighbourhood Watch, you are very welcome to attend.

Environment

Over the next few months the Parish Council will be upgrading Millennium Park as part of our ongoing village plan. The paths in the park need relaying to come up to Health and Safety standards – we hope to do the resurfacing work during the next few months. When the paths are being laid electricity cables will be put in place for some lighting which will be installed next year. We have also ordered three new benches for the park.

The verges at the bottom of Fiery Hill Road have been cleared of stones and re-seeded with grass seed. Where Network Rail have re-fenced by the station we have planted shrubs and climbing plants and cleared the pavement of vegetation. Bittell Road and Bittell Farm Road have been cleared of rubbish. The Parish Council would also like to say a big thank you to all our volunteer litter pickers.

Parking

The Parish Council continues to monitor the effectiveness of the planters in increasing the safety of pedestrians on Hewell Road along the stretch of pavement from Victoria Mews to Sandhills Road. The council is engaged in discussion with the traders along this section of pavement to see if an effective and acceptable solution can be found to the problem.

The new restricted parking scheme for Fiery Hill Road has now been installed by the county council and the Parish Council will be assessing its effectiveness over the coming months.

PACT

The inaugural meeting of the Barnt Green PACT will be held on Monday April 23rd at St Andrews School in Hewell Road commencing at 7.00pm. The meeting will be hosted by West Mercia Police and all residents are invited to attend,

Parish Spring Walk

Simon Richards, our footpaths officer, has planned a **Spring Walk**. The walk is organised for **Saturday 12th May and will start from Fiery Hill Road by the station entrance at 10.00 am**. The route goes to Blackwell, Burcot then at the side of the Lickey Incline to the Cider farm at Tutnall. Here there is a stop for a bite to eat and a glass of cider. The walk then continues over the paths on Blackwell Golf Course and back to Barnt Green. The total walk is about 8 miles long. We can accommodate a maximum of 20 people and the cost will be £3 each. A link to the route can be found on the parish council website. Anyone interested in joining the walk should contact Simon (tel 0121 445 6424, e-mail sr6424@hotmail.com)

Quiet Lanes

We asked Worcestershire County Council for the latest position on the Quiet Lanes initiative. Their reply was: "Quiet Lanes are not being developed unless there is support for other strategies e.g. Walking, Cycling

and Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Before Quiet Lanes designation is considered any ideas need complete community support. **Quiet Lanes designation is not a way of reducing rat-running."**

There is reference to Quiet Lanes on page 115 of the Local Transport Plan 2 - - please see link below:- <http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/ltp-2006/wcc-transport-ltp-final-2006-2011.pdf>

County Comput@bus



The Comput@bus pictured on the car park at The Victoria.

We had an excellent response to our proposal for Worcestershire County Council to bring its purpose built, fully equipped mobile computer classroom to Barnt Green to run free introductory computer classes to

anyone over 19 years of age. The first seven "students" have now completed their course and a further eight have booked to attend the second course which commences on April 17th. If anyone is interested in attending future courses, please contact the executive officer and we will arrange further sessions for later in the year.

The Parish Council would like to express its thanks to The Victoria for allowing the Comput@bus to be located on its car park.

Barnt Green Festival

The Barnt Green Festival takes place this year on Saturday June 23rd from 2.00pm – 6.00pm and will feature a number of events and entertainment activities as well as an art exhibition at the Friends Meeting House, a barbecue provided by Meadow Farms butchers and teas supplied by the scouts and guides. Entertainers booked so far include the Nancy Butterfly Morris Dancing Team, AR Hawkesworth with his fairground organ, the Cornerstone Dance Routine, Children from St Andrews School, Step on Board, Rubery Youth Marching Band, and the Maxine Grant Ballet School. Hewell Road will be closed to traffic on the day from 1.00pm to 7.00pm.

For more information on the Festival, contact Councillor Diane Carr.

Dates for your diary....

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday April 30 th | Parish Council Meeting |
| Wednesday May 2 nd | Annual Parish Meeting |
| Thursday May 3 rd | Parish Council Elections |
| Saturday May 12 th | Spring Parish Walk |
| Monday May 21 st | Parish Council Meeting |

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.

A MEETING FOR ALL 11-19 YEAR OLDS IN
BARNT GREEN.

SATURDAY 19TH MAY 2007 (10.00AM – 11.00AM)

IN THE CLUB HOUSE

BARNT GREEN CRICKET CLUB, CHERRY HILL ROAD

YOUR FUTURE?

GET INVOLVED –

ESTABLISH A PARISH YOUTH COUNCIL

- **EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU.**
- **HAVE A VOICE ON LOCAL ISSUES ABOUT WHICH YOU HAVE A STRONG OPINION.**
- **DEVELOP YOUR ABILITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING.**
- **WORK TOGETHER TO TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION AND TO MAKE CHANGES YOU THINK ARE NEEDED.**
- **REPRESENT NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY THE VIEWS OF LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE.**

How to Contact the Parish Council

If you would like to get in touch with the Parish Council about anything at all, please contact either one of your Parish Councillors or the Parish Executive Officer. 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	
David Gilburn	0121 445 1456	
Rick Main	0121 445 3349	
Susan Whitehand	0121 445 3530	
Executive Officer: Roger Westbury	0121 447 7455	clerk@barntgreen.org.uk

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 Wasteney 447 7355

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