



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2005



Issue No.7

www.barntgreen.org.uk

Chairman's Introduction

As you will see in this issue the Parish Plan is slowly, but more surely now, developing due to the hard work of the Steering Committee and our growing band of other volunteers. We would like to invite all our volunteers [litter pickers, deliverers, footpath group, archivists] to a "Thank you drinks and nibbles" at 8.45 pm on 12th December at the Parish Centre.

This issue also contains points from the Parish Council's draft budget for 2006-2007; please send us your comments by letter (there is a drop box at St Andrew's Parish Centre) or by e-mail to clerk@barntgreen.org.uk.

A reminder that the Annual Parish Christmas Carol Service takes place on Friday December 9th and will commence at 3.45pm, gathering around the Christmas Tree by the Millennium Arch in Hewell Road.

Finally may I take this opportunity to wish all parishioners a merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

The Parish Plan

The response from the Household Survey was excellent with 560 questionnaires returned from the 728 dwellings in the village. The Parish Plan Open Day on September 17th was also very well attended with more than 200 parishioners turning up to give their views on the future of the village and to highlight their concerns. The youth group had a very hectic session - gathering information in their Big Brother Diary Room - while the police and representatives from the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme attracted much interest. The all day refreshments served by the Scouts and Guides enabled them to add to their Rebuild Fund. So it was an excellent day for the village all round. All of the information gathered through these two events will be used to influence how Barnt Green shapes up over the next ten to fifteen years. In this and future Newsletters we shall be

answering some of the many specific questions raised in the Household Survey returns. The full results will be available on the website and will be published when the Parish Plan and its accompanying Action Plan are complete.

Questions & Answers from the Household Survey

Q1 Can we make the village centre more attractive and a quality place with flower tubs, trees, greenery etc.

A1 The Parish Council is endeavouring to do this with planters and hanging baskets - on which many compliments were received this summer. However trees are not permitted by the County Council due to possible root damage and reduction in the effectiveness of the CCTV cameras.

Q2 Can we have a local community shuttle bus around the village?

A2 The County Council is currently reviewing public transport in Worcestershire and this suggestion is certainly worthy of consideration.

Q3 Can we have more bins for dog litter, ideally one for each road.

A3 It will cost the Council around £950 this year to empty the litter bins that we have. We have 18 principal roads in the Parish together with several minor ones and to provide and empty dog litter bins in all of these would be prohibitively expensive.

Q4 What can be done about the constant barking of dogs in the village?

A4 Any stray dogs should be reported to the District Council dog warden, Julie Edmunds who can be contacted on 07799 887536. Continual barking by dogs is an environmental health issue and you should contact the EHO for Barnt Green who is Katie Sharp-Fisher on 01527 881437. She can explain the procedure to follow if you are troubled by the barking of dogs in your vicinity.

Q5 Can we have Tai Chi in the park, and what about a volleyball court on the playing field?

A5 Both the park and playing field are for public use and any organised group can hold events there. Groups must comply with Health and Safety requirements and have the necessary insurance cover.

A volleyball court would certainly be considered if there was sufficient demand for one. A petition or expression of interest from a significant number of people would be needed.

Q6 Could the area by the stream in the playing field be opened up and

landscaped, and fitted out with picnic tables?

A6 This is currently being considered by the Parish Council within Health and Safety constraints. Litter is another factor to be considered – it is expensive to provide and empty additional litter bins.

Q7 Can we have earlier notification of Council meetings and maybe a “drop in” surgery?

A7 Parish Council meetings are held on the last Monday of each month. Full details are on the back page of the quarterly newsletter and on the website, and the agenda is posted on the Parish Council noticeboard in Hewell Road one week before the date of the meeting. Minutes of all meetings are available on the website or from the executive officer. A drop-in surgery is currently being considered.

Welcome to our Footpaths Officer and Archivist

The Parish Council now has a volunteer footpaths officer whose job it is to monitor the condition of the footpaths and bridleways in the Parish. His name is Simon Richards and he can be contacted on 445 6424 if you have any issues regarding local footpaths.

We also have a Parish archivist who is Rick Main. His role is to collect and catalogue all historical information relating to Barnt Green so if you have any documents, old photographs, newspaper cuttings etc then let Rick know. His number is 445 3349.

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Mick O'Brien who is the winner of our website quiz competition and wins a bottle of champagne kindly donated by the Barnt Green Inn. Also to Lynn Dewing who spotted the hidden message in the last Newsletter (it was **Parish Plan Open**

Day) and who wins a bottle of wine donated by the Parish Council.

Books can also be reserved in advance by ringing 01905 765025.

Mobile library

Did you know that Bromsgrove District Council operates a mobile library service which visits Barnt Green once a month? Times and locations for its visits to Barnt Green and nearby venues are as follows:
Barnt Green – Orchard Croft. 4th Friday of the month from 10.20 – 11.00.
Lickey Post Office 4th Friday of the month from 9.55 – 10.10
Blackwell – Station Cottage. 2nd Thursday of the month from 10.50 – 11.00
Blackwell - Station Road. 2nd Thursday of the month from 11.05 – 11.15
Blackwell - Linthurst Newtown. 2nd Thursday of the month from 11.20 – 11.35

Bus Timetables

The timetable for the 145 service from Bromsgrove to Cotteridge is now on the Parish Noticeboard in Hewell Road. It can also be downloaded from <http://www.zaksbuses.com/145.pdf>

Sports Section

Congratulations to the local sports teams that bear the Barnt Green name. Barnt Green Cricket Club won the Birmingham & District Premier League and got through to the final of the Cockspur Cup at Lords where they lost by only 3 runs; and Barnt Green Spartak FC is currently riding high in the Midland Football Combination Premier League after winning their first seven games of the season.

Parish Council Budget for 2006-2007

The Parish Council is funded through the local tax system. Each year the Parish Council tells the District Council how much it needs for the following year to run its services, and that amount is added to the Council tax bill for each household in the parish and is known as the precept. For this current year, the estimated revenue expenditure was approximately £39,000; a grant of £4900 was expected from the District Council to defray "concurrent functions" and the precept was £34,000. This year a draft budget has been prepared and will be finalised at the Parish Council meeting on 28th November 2005. The whole of the draft budget is displayed on the website, and hard copies can be requested from the Executive Officer and the Parish Council welcomes your comments. The draft budget includes the cost of more or less everything the Parish Council would like to do next year in an ideal world, at a revenue cost of approximately £44,000 from which the concurrent functions grant (paid by the District Council) will be deducted. The draft budget includes the following items of expenditure:

- Continuing the programme of replacing the concrete street lighting columns
- Continuing the tarmac path in the Park as far as the swings
- Continuing the new fencing along the front of the Park on Hewell Road
- Installing planters on the pavement in front of the Tesco block of shops
- Replacing two benches

In addition the Council is looking to purchase premises in the village which would serve as an office for the executive officer and as a community centre with IT facilities. This would be funded through a loan and would add approximately £18500 to the total revenue expenditure in the first year, although this could be offset by rental income if a suitable property is acquired.

If all these projects were to proceed there would be an increase of approximately 68 per cent in the precept. If the Parish Council did not acquire its own premises, the increase would be approximately 14 per cent. The Parish Council welcomes *your input* on the budget before it is finalised on November 28th.

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

Dates for your diary....

Monday October 31st Parish Council Meeting
Monday November 28th Parish Council Meeting
Friday December 9th Christmas Carol Service at the Millennium Arch, Hewell Road
3.45pm

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