



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2006



Issue No.8

www.barntgreen.org.uk

Chairman's Introduction

Looking back over the previous year, the work of the Council continues to steadily increase. The task for the members is sometimes onerous, and we welcome comments and contributions from residents and other people in the village community. The greatest benefit for us recently has been the work of the Steering Group for the Parish Plan and the previous contribution by those who worked on the Village Design Statement. Thank you to all involved.

Elaine Buckett, chairman Barnt Green Parish Council

2006-07 Parish Precept

The precept (that part of your council tax collected by the District Council on our behalf) is likely to be increased significantly for 2006-2007. This is to enable the council to purchase an office/resource centre for the village, should a suitable site become available. The increase will mean a total cost to each household of £1.44 per week, an increase of 65%. Mindful of this increase we asked residents to contribute to the discussion re the budget through the previous newsletter and web site, at a specially set up 'drop in centre' in October and at the budget meeting in November. Some residents did contribute to the discussion re the precept and we will pursue their ideas. The Parish Council was eager that everyone had had an opportunity to contribute and it called a Special Meeting of the Parish on the 18th January, the result of which was too late to be included in this issue.

The sole income for the community is the precept that the District Council collects on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council does not have any endowments or income generating assets, it has no contribution from the commercial 'rates'. Barnt Green is quite small having only 728 dwellings with 1425 registered electors. However its uniqueness stems from having a railway station, a vibrant commercial centre, a school and several churches. The work of the Parish Council reflects the high expectations of the community and it is for this reason, and to be in a position to sustain this activity, that we are seeking premises/resources.

Parish Council Elections

Parish Council elections are scheduled for 2007. Fifty per cent of the current councillors may not offer themselves for re-election. We need eight councillors - if we only get eight nominees an election will not be needed (this will qualify us to maintain our Quality Parish Status). However we all want a representative council and an election is the healthiest way forward for the Council and the community it serves. Please consider being prepared to put your name forward. If you would like to shadow a Councillor to find out what is entailed please let us know; it is also possible to be co-opted onto a working group so that you can get a flavour of what the Parish council is all about. Please contact the Executive Officer if you are interested.

Parish Plan

We continue to make good progress on the Parish Plan. The results of the Household Survey and the Open Day held last September have all been collated and will be consolidated into the initial outline plan on February 1st.

Debbie Warren, whom many of our readers will remember as the previous clerk to the Parish Council, has agreed to be the co-editor of the Plan, working alongside our executive officer. The first draft plan will be available on March 1st 2006 and will be unveiled at a public exhibition to be held on April 1st. The final Parish Plan should be adopted by the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 3rd, 2006.

We give below answers to more of the questions raised in responses to the household survey.

Questions & Answers from the Household Survey

Q1. Speeding on Blackwell Road from the bend approaching Barnt Green to railway-bridge near Victoria Pub. People are always speeding until first bump is reached on Hewell Road.

A1 Please send your comments on this to the Parish and County Council so that the significance can be identified.

Q2 Please stop wasting time on speed bumps and purchase land for parking

A2. Have you any specific land in mind and any costings? Our only income is from the precept

Q3 Pedestrianisation of areas near shops/Pedestrian area between 10am and 4pm Monday – Saturday/Pursue plans for Pedestrianisation of area near shops and re-planning of shops with multi storey parking at rear.

A3 Any comments supporting/opposing this idea are welcome.

Q4 There is too much disabled parking already – they are often the only 2 spaces available

A4. Any comments supporting/opposing this idea are welcome

Q5 A child friendly cycle lane around the village would be welcome to encourage young children to cycle in safety on the village roads

A5 Any in agreement with this could write to the County Council or County Councillor - see back of this newsletter for contact details.

Q6 More trees on Barnt Green side of Coopers Hill would reduce noise from the M42

A6 Any in agreement with this could write to the County Council or County Councillor and our local MP.

Q7 CCTV would be an idea on the main high street.

A7 There has been CCTV coverage along part of Hewell Road for more than five years. The Police frequently access the tapes for evidence

Q8 Most of the village voices i.e. the Magazine and other local papers ignore the bored and uninvolved youngsters who are huddled in groups in out of the way places. Relations with them will deteriorate into more damage for example at the station and on the Lickey Hills.

A8 Comments please from our youth. The Parish Council would welcome input and the possibility of a Youth Council being formed.

Q9 Use an empty shop as a library – open evenings and weekends only.

A9 There was no clear mandate from the household survey for a library in the village, as the mobile library service and the facilities in Bromsgrove and at Cofton Hackett were considered to be sufficient, but further comments would be welcomed.

Q10 Could we have Hopscotch paving (in Millennium Park)?

A10 This is a realistic possibility; any support/opposition for this idea would be welcomed.

Q11 To avoid Hewell Road becoming like Stirchley, the conservation area should be extended to cover all pre-1939 property in Sandhills Lane, Sandhills Road, Sandhills Green, Bittell Lane and Bittell Road. Property owners should be encouraged to maintain the period features of the older houses.

A11 A second Conservation Area in Barnt Green was suggested some time ago. The area would conceivably include small parts of Hewell Road and Bittell Lane, virtually all Sandhills Road, and parts of Sandhills Lane. To include significant parts of Bittell Road within the area is difficult as there is too great a degree of separation of appropriate buildings. The inclusion of every pre-1939 building would be most unlikely to be acceptable on either architectural or historical grounds. However, for the Parish as a whole the retention of the period features that are characteristic of particular areas should be strongly encouraged, and this will be emphasized in the Parish Plan.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 3rd 2006 at the Parish Centre in Sandhills Road. This is your opportunity to hear from the Council what it has achieved over the last twelve months, and to ask any questions that you would like to raise. So come along and have your say.

Improvements to Park & Playing Field

The Council has received a grant of £12000 from Bromsgrove District Council to carry out improvements to Millennium Park in Hewell Road and to the playing field on Bittell Road. This will include new equipment and further work on the playground fencing and pathway.

Poultry Register

Worcestershire County Council Animal Health and Welfare team are today asking the county's poultry keepers to get in touch in order for records of premises to be updated. Although there have been no known cases of Bird Flu in the UK national flock, the Animal Health and Welfare Team need to hear from keepers of all poultry, whether for commercial or non commercial purposes, in order to improve controls in the event of a possible future outbreak.

Andy Williams, Animal Health and Welfare Manager said: "In the case of an outbreak of avian flu it is not just the commercial keepers who are affected, all poultry is at risk. Our local register of all keepers of poultry, whether they keep 5 or 5,000 birds has been put in place to protect the poultry industry as a whole, as well as the public. In Worcestershire it affects an estimated 500 premises but we know there are probably more out there."

Keepers are asked to contact the team on 01905 765709 to register their details or email animaltss@worcestershire.gov.uk with the name and address of the premise, a contact name, telephone number and an idea of the number of birds within the flock. Anyone who is concerned about the welfare of livestock animal should contact the Animal Health and Welfare team on 01905 765709.

The Victoria

In November the Council met with the operations director of M&B Retail who own The Victoria. He advised us that they would be carrying out a major refurbishment of The Victoria in February/March 2006 and that they have no plans to dispose of the pub which they believe has a future. M&B also confirmed that they were happy to continue with the agreement to provide free parking on the pub's car park and that they have no intention of introducing charges for parking there.

Sports Section

Barnt Green Spartak FC continues to ride high in the Midland Football Combination Premier League, and at the turn of the year

was lying in third place, just 5 points behind leaders Atherstone Town. We wish them every success for the remainder of the season.

Village Groups and Societies

Directory

Included with this newsletter is a list of leisure groups, societies and

organisations in the village. This will become a regular feature and will also be added to the website. If your group is not included, or if any of the details are incorrect, please contact the executive officer so that we can amend the directory in the next newsletter.

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)	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	
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:		County Councillor	
Mrs Ann Doyle	0121 445 4184	Peter McDonald	0121 453 9267
Brian Fuller	0121 445 4950	:	
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 Wasteney 447 7355		

Dates for your diary....

Monday January 30th	Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday February 1st	Parish Plan Steering Group Meeting
Monday February 27 th	Parish Council Meeting
Monday March 27 th	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday April 1 st	Parish Plan Exhibition
Wednesday May 3 rd	Annual Parish Meeting

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