



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2008



Issue No.16

www.barntgreen.org.uk



Members of the Barnt Green Youth Parish Council pictured with Julie Kirkbride MP on their recent visit to the House of Commons. The members are (l to r) Jonathan Cooper, Lizzie Jones, Rebecca Foster, Melissa Sykes, Catriona Hampton and Katy McCrossan

Chairman's Introduction

Car Parking

The Parish Council is pleased that its negotiations with Central Trains resulted in a significant reduction in station car parking charges from last September. We had hoped this would significantly reduce the nuisance of on street parking within the village from station users from outside the village. The Parish Council would encourage rail users to use the car park, thereby helping to reduce the parking problem and the resulting congestion.

Redevelopment of the Longbridge Site

As most of you will have read in the local press the Area Action Plan has been unveiled by Birmingham City Council, Worcestershire County Council and Bromsgrove District Council. As we are one of the parishes edging on to this site it is most important that good infrastructure is put into place. We as a parish council are most concerned that our roads do not see a significant increase in traffic and we will be making our concerns known in response to the consultation. If anybody has other concerns please let your councillors know.

Parish Precept 2007-2008

The Parish Council has decided for the second year running not to increase the precept rate for the Parish for the next financial year which, we are sure, will be very welcome in the current financial climate. The Parish precept rate is collected within the rates bill from Bromsgrove District Council.

Parish Office

We are still hopeful of securing a Parish Council Office, but on going to press we have not yet been successful in this endeavour.

Judith Jaqer

Barnt Green Youth Parish Council

The Barnt Green Youth Parish Council, which was established as a result of the publication of the Parish Plan, has three main aims. First of all it wants to make Barnt Green a friendly and exciting place for the 'youth' of the Village. One of the things it would like to do is to set up a meeting place where young people can meet thier friends and make new ones. The Youth Council would also like to improve the facilities at the Bittell Road playing field by adding an adventure trail. Secondly, it would like to make Barnt Green a safer environment for pedestrians. The roads it is particularly concerned about are Bittell Road, Fiery Hill Road, Hewell Road and Sandhills Green. And finally, it would like to improve transport into and out of the Village. If you would like to help in achieving any of these aims, if you think there are others which are more important, if you would like your voice heard then please email: smwhitehand@hotmail.co.uk

Recycling Christmas Trees

The Rangers at the Lickey Hills Country Park are again offering a recycling service for Christmas trees. From January 2 to 31 you can take your trees to the car park at the Visitor Centre in Warren Lane. The trees will be shredded and the mulch used on paths in the Country Park or in other Birmingham parks.



Bromsgrove Lifeline is a community alarm service available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year to any vulnerable person living within the Bromsgrove District who is over retirement age or suffers from a disablement or serious health problem. The aim of the Service is to give the user confidence to continue living independently in their own home and to

provide security and peace of mind to themselves and their families.

How much does it cost?

If you own your own home or live in privately rented accommodation the following costs apply:

- One-Off Installation Fee £20.00
- Hire of Equipment (inc maintenance cover): £1.65 per week
- Monitoring Charge (per person): £1.30 per week
- Total: £2.95 per week

If you are interested in subscribing to the Bromsgrove Lifeline Service, an appointment will be made for a Lifeline Officer to visit you at your home. The Officer will carry an ID card with them at all times, which they will present to you on arrival.

For an appointment please telephone Lifeline on 01527 881375 or complete the slip below and return to:

Culture and Community Services
Bromsgrove Council
Burcot Lane

! -----
 | Bromsgrove B60 1AA
 | I am interested in subscribing to the
 | Bromsgrove Lifeline Service. Please
 | contact me to arrange a Lifeline
 | Officer to visit.
 | Name:.....
 |
 | Address:.....
 |
 |Post Code.....
 | Contact
Tel. No:.....

The 'Village Green'

Many thanks to all residents who responded to the request in our last Newsletter for comments on the proposal to remove the hedge on the Sandhills Road side of Millennium Park.

The Parish Council received a number of submissions and an “in person” deputation at its meeting in November. The consensus was that the hedge should be retained as it provided a natural habitat for birdlife, a safety barrier for young children playing in the park, and a tranquil atmosphere for those who just wanted to sit. For these reasons the Parish Council resolved to maintain the hedge and to keep it trimmed to its current height.

Halloween Walk

Thanks to Simon Richards, the Parish footpaths officer, for organising a successful Halloween Walk on Wednesday October 31. More than a dozen people attended the walk over the Lickey Hills to see the gothic statues on the scariest night of the year. Details of a spring walk will appear in the next newsletter.

Playing Field Working Party

A working party has been arranged to tidy up the wooded area of Bittell Road playing field. The event will take place on Wednesday 27 February from 10am to 3pm. Anyone interested in attending should contact the executive officer. Bring warm clothing, gloves, and stout footwear. A lunch of bacon sandwiches and mulled wine will be provided as will all tools and training.

Disposal of low energy lightbulbs

There has been a lot of publicity lately about the risks associated with the disposal of low energy lightbulbs, which contain a small amount of mercury. Worcestershire County Council has a container for this type of waste at the household waste site (HHWS) at Romsley and residents should make this disposal point their first port of call.

If you cannot get to the HHWS, the only way to dispose of these bulbs is in your household waste bin. In an ideal world the council would want all residents to go the drop off point but this is not going to be feasible in all circumstances.

Hazardous waste is only considered as “hazardous” when it is separated out i.e; if you had a skip full of mercury thermometers; however if a resident placed one mercury thermometer or one low energy lightbulb in a dustbin of household waste, it is not classed as hazardous. The hazardous waste regulations are really to cover industrial and commercial waste and waste management operations and are not so concerned with Household waste.

Rail Problems on Cross City Line

London Midland has apologised for the disruption to rail services on December 16. This happened as a result of sheets of metal roofing falling from the inside of the Canal Street tunnel on to a train.

There were subsequent reports of metal being in a position to affect overhead lines and so services were stopped until the tunnel was made safe.

London Midland has confirmed that it does provide refunds for unused travel/parking tickets. Passengers should direct their claims to Customer Relations. They can pick up comment forms at any staffed station along the Cross City line, or they can write to London Midland at the following freepost address. (Original tickets are required for refunds).

London Midland
FREEPOST MID 17926
Birmingham
B2 4QT

Council Budget 2008-09

The Parish Council resolved at its November meeting to maintain the Parish Precept at its current level for the next financial year. This means that there will be no increase in that proportion of your council tax which is collected by Bromsgrove District Council on behalf of the Parish Council. Details of the Parish Council budget for the 2008-09 year can be found on the Parish Council website.

Reporting Highways Faults

Did you know that you can report any highway or footway faults to Worcestershire County Council via its hub – either online or by phone. The telephone number to call is 0845 607 2005 or follow links on the WCC website to “Report It” at <http://worcestershire.whub.org.uk/home/wccindex.htm?partner=wcc>

Dates for your diary....

Monday January 28	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday February 19	Neighbourhood Watch Meeting 7.30pm. Baptist Church
Monday February 25	Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday February 27	Bittell Road Playing Field Working Party

Parish Council Meetings

These are usually held on the last Monday in each month at the Parish Centre in Sandhills Road at 7.00pm. The Parish Council does not meet in August or December. You are welcome to attend and observe Parish Council meetings, and an opportunity is given at each meeting for members of the public to speak.

Remember, **there will be no green bin collections** from December 2007; they will start again in April 2008. Please use your household waste site to dispose of garden waste.

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:

Judith Jagger (Chairman)	0121 445 2437 chair@barntgreen.org.uk
David Gilburn (Vice Chairman)	0121 445 1456
Diane Carr	0121 445 1220
Tom Gray	0121 445 4424
David Harding	dah@daharding.co.uk
Rick Main	0121 445 3349 bgpcarchivist@barntgreen.org.uk
Martin Peyton	0121 453 7212
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
Richard Deeming 0121 445 3114

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

Baptist Church Hall

Friends Meeting House

Edna Whitehouse 445 4696

Beverley Bennett 445 1551

Peter Wasteney 447 7355