

# BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER JULY 2004

Issue No.2

<http://www.barntgreen.org.uk/>

*If a copy in larger print or in Braille is required, please contact the Clerk*

## Logo Competition

The Parish Council was delighted with the entries in the logo competition and thanks all those who took part.  
The winning entry was submitted by Mrs Margaret Eaton and a version of her design will soon appear on the Parish Council's notepaper and documents.

Some of our favourite runners-up will feature on future editions of the Newsletter.  
This one was submitted by Jonathan Cooper aged 10.



### **Chairman's Introduction**

The latest news about the ADR is disappointing; however we await the report from the District Council as to the effect of the ruling on the village. Also disappointing is the continuing failure of the County Council to commence the agreed safety improvements to the Village centre. We are still robustly pursuing the possibility of extra parking for shoppers on the BT site.

Barnt Green is, in area and number of dwellings, a relatively small parish. Despite this the Parish Council is very active, dealing with your concerns and expectations. We need to fill the vacancy on the council to spread the work load. At the APM it was commented that residents "had better things to do with their time" this is a very sad reflection on community commitment and I hope that somewhere there is someone who, despite being busy in their own life, will go that extra mile and volunteer to serve their village.

Elaine Buckett, Chairman

### **Advice from Worcestershire Trading Standards**

#### **You want a trouble free holiday – but what if things don't go to plan?**

##### **Just remember:**

- When you book your holiday, always make sure your tour operator is a **member of a Trade Association**, such as ABTA, ATOL, or AITO – that way you get protection if things go wrong.
- Take out travel insurance – it's another expense, but if you shop around you could find a good deal. Remember to make sure that it covers what you plan for your holiday e.g. scuba diving, paragliding, jet-skiing.
- If you arrive and are unhappy with arrangements then **contact your local representative as soon as possible**, and let them know your concerns. Get them to put the complaint in writing so you have proof you spoke to them and if your complaint is serious try to **gather evidence** such as photographs, video film and the names and details of other holidaymakers who could act as witnesses.
- If your holiday did not match the description in the brochure then once again you need visual evidence. The Package Travel Regulations require that brochures must contain accurate information in relation to certain things, i.e. type of accommodation on offer and location.
- When you get back, **write to the company** with whom you booked your holiday, this is normally the tour operator not the travel agent, unless the travel agent arranged the package for you – remember to keep copies of the letters sent and offer to send the evidence you have collected, if they require it.

If you are unable to resolve the problem you should consider seeking the advice of the **Trade Association** to resolve the dispute.

#### ***For more advice contact:***

Trading Standards on 01905 765373 or [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tradingstandards).

ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) – 020 7637 2444 – [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com)

AITO (Association of Independent Tour Operators) – 020 8744 9280

ATOL (*Air Travel Organisers Licence*) – 020 7453 6430 – [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)

### **Wheelie Bins**

Unfortunately the District Council is unable to advise the Parish Council on the likely date of introduction of wheelie bins and recycling boxes into the remainder of the village. It is hoped details will be available for the next newsletter.

### **Annual Report**

The Parish Council has published its first formal Annual Report which can be viewed on the website [www.barntgreen.org.uk](http://www.barntgreen.org.uk). Copies have also been left in strategic places around the village. If you would like a copy please contact the Clerk.

## **Parish Transport Survey**

**Please take a few moments to complete and return the Parish Transport Survey enclosed with this newsletter (with the distributed printed version).**

### **Can you help?**

The Parish Council needs advice on certain areas and if you are an expert in one of the following areas and would be prepared to give a little time to help the village, it would be really appreciated!

- **IT – a new computer with associated hardware needs to be bought. Can you advise on the best systems?**
- **Finance software – can you recommend a package suitable for the needs of the Parish Council?**
- **Tools – those used by volunteers and some contractors need to be inspected from time to time for insurance purposes**
- **Preparation and distribution of surveys for the Parish Plan.**

### **Road Sweeping**

The Parish Council has received a lot of complaints this year from residents about the lack of road sweeping in the village. The District Council has advised that it carries this out only 4 times per year. If you think this is inadequate, then it is suggested that you contact one of your District Councillors, Ann Doyle or Brian Fuller (contact details at the end of the newsletter).

### **Fiery Hill Road**

The Parish Council has also received a lot of complaints this year about the number of cars parked all day on Fiery Hill Road near the station as this significantly reduces the visibility for passing vehicles. The Highways Partnership Unit has been requested to look at this and advise on possible solutions.

### **ADR**

You may have read in the press about the recent High Court decision which requires Bromsgrove District Council to rethink its decision not to include the fields adjoining Fiery Hill Road as sites for possible future redevelopment. The District Council awaits legal advice on the legal position of the site in land use terms. At the moment it appears that the site will have no status i.e. it will not be Green Belt, it will not be an ADR, in fact it will be akin to a 'black hole'. Hopefully this will be clarified soon.

### **Parish Lengthsman**

The Parish Council is joining the new Parish Lengthsman scheme in partnership with Worcestershire County Council. The County Council, which is responsible for maintaining the highway network, acknowledges that as concentrates its resources on the major maintenance tasks, it is often unable to carry out the more minor maintenance tasks which are nevertheless important to the village.

This scheme will see the County Council providing funding of up to £2000 per year to allow Barnt Green Parish Council hopefully to engage a local person to do minor highway maintenance at the direction of the Parish Council.

The tasks which the Lengthsman may carry out include cleaning dirty signs, clearing gullies, clearing channels, rodding blocked drains, siding out footways, removing vegetation obscuring traffic signs and negotiating with landowners to ensure that vegetation overhanging the pavement is cut back.

The Parish Council is enthusiastic about the scheme. With our parish being relatively small and compact, a Lengthsman working a few hours a week will make a noticeable difference to the safety and tidiness of the village. It is hoped that the Lengthsman will start work in the village in September and his (or her!) Worcestershire County Council Parish Lengthsman high-visibility jacket should be easily identifiable!

Advertisements for the position have been placed in the notice board and in strategic places around the village. If anyone is interested in applying, details can be obtained from the Clerk to the Parish Council.

### **Quiet Lanes**

Some time ago the County Council launched a Quiet Lanes Initiative with a view to restoring country lanes to their former quiet state and Aqueduct Lane and Cherry Hill Road asked to be considered under this Initiative. A pilot scheme has taken place in Inkberrow but it would appear that it has not exactly been a huge success! The scheme is to be reviewed in October.

### **HELP!**

We have received permission to landscape the small corner of Station Approach and Hewell Road by the Telephone Box. The Parish Council have been given some flint setts that it would like incorporated into the design and would be delighted to hear from any parishioners who would like to help the Parish Council tidy up this corner. Please contact either Betty Lucas or Judith Jagger.

### **Notice Board**

The old notice board next to the bus shelter must be replaced. The Parish Council has decided to put up 2 boards in its place, one for the Parish Council official business and one for the community to use for advertising events and information. For a trial period the community notice board will be fixed to the back wall inside the bus shelter but if this is not satisfactory, an alternative location will be found. Please let the Parish Councillors know what you think about the new community notice board.

### **Children's Play Area**

As a result of RoSPA's inspection of the play area, there is a lot of work to be done to the park.

The chain link fence at the front of the park is now past its best so new railings are being fixed from the bus shelter to the gas station. The stretch from the bus shelter to the arch is likely to be done next year.

It is now a requirement that children's play areas are dog-free, so fencing is being installed to keep dogs out of the play area. Fencing will be put in the beech hedge later in the year to make the area as dog-proof as possible. However, the fencing has been designed so that parents can keep an eye on both the dog and the children!

The slide has for many years performed a great service but now needs to be put out to grass! A new slide will be installed later this summer.

### **The Village Design Statement**

After last year's meeting of parishioners the Committee has completed a draft document which will be available shortly for further comment.

### **A Day in the Life of the Bromsgrove Dog Warden**

*Carol Ingleson is our Dog Warden and also the Pest Control Officer, so is a very busy lady. Finding stray dogs is a problem and they are sent to the Birmingham Dogs' Home where they can be collected or sold for £25. Many of these dogs are not collected by their owner and need re-homing.*

*Problems that Carol deals with are nuisance barking and fouling. Dealing with the barking requires an official letter and perpetrator fouling can usually be pinpointed to an address. In both cases there is a view to prosecuting if a change of behaviour is not ensured.*

*The Pest Control aspect is very serious and covers wasps' nests and other insects, rot and pest animals and problems caused by birds and bats which are protected.*

*Carol has been very helpful to your Parish in providing free plastic bags and notices for public areas.*

### **Vacancy for a Parish Councillor**

**There is currently a vacancy for a parish councillor. If you would like to contribute to the village in this way, please contact one of the Parish Councillors or the Clerk for further information**

### **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 Clerk. Your Parish Councillors are:

<b>Elaine Buckett (Chairman)</b>	<b>0121 445 1254</b>
<b>Judith Jagger (Vice-Chairman)</b>	<b>0121 445 2437</b>
<b>Peter Cliff</b>	<b>0121 445 6383</b>
<b>Tom Gray</b>	<b>0121 445 4424</b>
<b>Betty Lucas</b>	<b>0121 445 1370</b>
<b>Sheila Parker</b>	<b>0121 445 1408</b>
<b>Susan Whitehand</b>	<b>0121 445 3530</b>
<b>Parish Clerk: Deborah Warren</b>	<b>0121 445 5433</b>

[chair@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:chair@barntgreen.org.uk)

[clerk@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:clerk@barntgreen.org.uk)

### **Useful Telephone Numbers:**

**District Councillors:** Mrs Ann Doyle 0121 445 4184

**County Councillor:** Brian Taylor 0121 445 1350

Brian Fuller 0121 445 4950

**Anti-Social Behaviour Officer:** 01527 881423

**Police:** 08457 444888