



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2005

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Pupils from St Andrew's School entertain crowds at the Barnt Green Festival with the ballet moves they have learned at the Maxine Grant Ballet School

Barnt Green Festival 2005

The children from St Andrew's First School recently added their contribution to the Parish Plan. Listed under what we like about our parish were:-

- Lots of community activities
- Friendly village members.

These were certainly in evidence at the Festival on the 25th June. Our thanks are due to the hard work of the Festival committee composed of The Charity Club, some of the Parish Council members and many conscripted individuals! Many of the Traders put on a superb effort providing food and drink, activities and quality prizes for the raffle, a big thank you to them all. We hope you all enjoyed the day; if you would like to join any of the village groups so that you can contribute to this aspect of village life and make friends and maybe have some fun despite the hard work involved, please contact us and we will send your details on to the group concerned. More than £1000 was raised for local charities – those that will benefit are the Barnt Green Scouts, the Air Ambulance and the Acorns Hospice. Winning raffle ticket numbers still left are 241 - 93 - 184 - 112 - 164 - 265 - 24 - 57 - 225 - 102 - 206 - 154 - 240 - 194 - 189 - 345 - 390 - 37 - 75 - 434 - 472 - 331 - & 232.

Chairman's Introduction

We are pleased to welcome Roger Westbury as our new 'clerk' - now to be called our executive officer as it is thought that the title of clerk fails to identify what the role entails.

We remain a very active, albeit small Parish Council, and are glad of the offers of help that have come via the newsletter or as an offshoot to the Parish Plan.

Are you a Rambler?

Do you like walking along the footpaths and bridleways of Barnt Green? If so, you could be the person the Parish Council is looking for. We need a footpaths officer to keep us apprised of the condition of our paths and to report any damaged stiles, overhanging trees and branches and any problems with access. This is a volunteer position. If you are interested, please contact the executive officer.

Parish Plan

A big thank you to all who helped to get the questionnaires delivered and collected back in. Due to the high returns at least the village will be 'shaped' by the majority of the community. The questionnaire was funded by a grant from the Countryside Agency, after extensive form filling by the Parish Council. Thank you to Meadow Farm Butchers, Tesco and The Deli on the Green for allowing collection boxes in their shops.

Here are a few thought-provoking quotes from some of the returned questionnaires:-

"A more representative Parish council in terms of age and ability"

"To think you may persuade people to leave their vehicles at home is foolish in the extreme"

"Make Hewell Road village traffic only, diverting through traffic"

"Too far to walk too old to cycle"

"All four wheel drive vehicles should be prohibited from the High Street parking areas. They make it impossible for smaller environment conscious car owners to park safely"

When the data has been analysed and reported on, we will try to publish some of the specific questions, with a response in the newsletters over the next twelve months.

PARISH PLAN OPEN DAY

The next information gathering event is on September 17th at the Friends Meeting House from 10 am to 4 pm - look out for posters. All are welcome to come and add their comments - residents, shoppers, traders, visitors and all who use the village. There will even be a "Big Brother Diary Room" where people will be able to record on video their thoughts on how they see the village progressing in the future. Come and have your say.

Parking

The problems caused by all day parking around the village by commuters are continuing. Fiery Hill Road is now awaiting double yellow lines around the junction with Hewell Lane. Sad that yet more urban markings are to be installed however the situation could not be left unresolved; the parked cars are an obstruction and are causing other drivers considerable difficulties.

Decriminalisation of parking

We understand that the District Council is considering this. It would mean that parking would cease to be a criminal offence and the enforcement would be carried out by the District Council. The District Council would employ traffic wardens and the revenue could feed back into the system. Barnt Green would expect an allocation of hours from the traffic wardens along with the other areas, and we may be able to purchase extra hours which we would expect to determine to suit the needs of the village.

Bollards on Hewell Road

Following requests from Barnt Green Parish Council to improve pedestrian facilities on Hewell Road, a public consultation exercise was held in September 2004. Several proposals were put forward at this consultation to introduce infrastructure to assist pedestrian safety and local deliveries. 126 responses were received as a result of this consultation, and Worcestershire County Council took the decision to deliver a scheme to assist pedestrian safety and local deliveries in two sections. The first was to install bollards from number 25 to 75 Hewell Road as no relevant objections were received on this section of Hewell Road. This work was completed on June 24th. The second section from 75 Hewell Road to Sandhills Road will be going out to further public consultation.

Annual Report

The Parish Council's Annual Report has now been published and is available on the Barnt Green website and copies have been placed around the village in the Church Halls, doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms etc. If you would like a copy please contact the executive officer.

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

Communications

We now have a Parish Notice Board near the bus shelter, and two notice boards for use by village groups- one in the bus shelter and the other on the corner of Station Approach. All village

groups are invited to use the boards provided and to send their details to the Executive Officer for inclusion on the web site. Lack of information re the groups and activities in the locality was highlighted in the returned questionnaires. If any of the groups would like displays laminated again please contact the Executive Officer.

Christmas Lights

The Parish Council had a very successful forum with local traders in June and as a result, Christmas lights will once again adorn the village in December.

Lighting

The Council began its plan of replacing the concrete streetlamp pillars last year and this year a further three have been earmarked for replacement on Bittell Road. In addition a new streetlight will be installed at the junction of Bittell Road and Bittell Lane.

Environment

Since our last Newsletter, the bench has been painted by the park bus stop and the ground in front of the bench has been concreted. The vegetation on the Longlands Bank on Hewell Lane will be cut back during the next few weeks. The Parish Council is consulting with Network Rail about the ground around the bridge on Hewell Road and Hewell Lane. We would like to take over the maintenance of this land on behalf of the company with their permission and their money!!

We would also like to take over the maintenance of the land around the bridge on Hewell Lane and Bittell Road and also the railway bank on Fieri Hill Road

Highways

We have now had our Lengthsman working in the village for a few months and we hope that you are beginning to see the improvements.

The Lengthsman is currently asking householders to cut back their hedges where they overhang the pavements.

A big thanks to all the residents who have already done this, but there is still a lot more to do.

Can we please have your assistance to cut back your overgrown hedges in order to make the pavements safer and more accessible for all pedestrians?

Barnt Green Spartak FC

Barnt Green Spartak Football Club who have been playing for 13 years – moving from ground to ground – are looking for a permanent site in the vicinity of Barnt Green. If anyone knows of

any suitable land in the area, please contact Tony Allen on 01527 879475.

The Victoria

Rumours persist in the village that the Victoria public house is to be sold for development. We spoke to M&B Retail Leisure who own The Victoria, and were

told by their external communications manager Sally Ellson: "M&B has no plans to sell The Victoria. In fact the company is looking to invest in the business in the future."

Can you find a hidden message in the Newsletter? Tip – look for bold letters where they shouldn't be. If you find it, contact the executive officer. You could win a prize!!

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:

Mrs Ann Doyle 0121 445 4184

Brian Fuller 0121 445 4950

anne@doyle5341.fsnet.co.uk

County Councillor:

Peter McDonald 0121 453 9267

Anti-Social Behaviour Officer: 01527 881423

Police: 08457 444888

Dates for your diary....

Saturday September 10th Councillors' Walkabout in Village

Saturday September 17th Parish Plan Open Day at Friends Meeting House.
10.00am – 4.00pm

Monday September 26th Parish Council Meeting at Parish Centre. 7.00pm

Saturday 15th October Morning - Village Clean-Up

Friday December 9th Christmas Carol Service at St Andrews Church. 3.45pm

www.barntgreen.org.uk

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