

# **BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2004**

**Issue No.3**

*[www.barntgreen.org.uk](http://www.barntgreen.org.uk)*

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

#### **Logo Competition**

The winning entry which was submitted by Mrs Margaret Eaton and her design will appear on the Parish Council's note paper and documents.

#### **Quality Parish Status**

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that it is one of only two parish councils in Worcestershire to have been awarded a new national award known as Quality Parish Status. This is a recognition of the Council's involvement with the local community and its adherence to current legislation and regulations. We believe that this award will attract a grant of up to £15,000 towards development of the Council (details at present are a little sketchy, and more will be provided in due course) and the Parish Council will also be entitled to display the Quality Parish logo, so watch out for our new style of note paper and documents!

### Vice-Chairman's Introduction

Our Parish Council Chairman Elaine Buckett has just undergone major surgery and will be convalescing for the next two months. To enable Elaine to make a speedy recovery could you please direct all queries to me or our Clerk.

There has been a lot of confusion over the last month about the Hewell Road Pedestrian Safety Measures drawn up by Worcestershire County Council. The Parish Council has been put into a very embarrassing position by the County Council by not consulting us properly before presenting a revised plan just before the consultation day on the 23 September. This was disappointing, as we have been discussing these issues with them for several years. We have written to the Highways Partnership Unit expressing our views and asking for a revised plan, which will include one or two shorter loading/parking bays on the south side of Hewell Road with the parking to be left as it is outside the Tesco block of shops. We have asked for other minor alterations following representations made by affected parties.

We will fully consult with the affected parties when we receive the revised plans from Worcestershire County Council.

Judith Jagger, Vice-Chairman

### Advice from Worcestershire Trading Standards

#### Knowledge gives you the power

Thousands of students are heading off to university this month, some for the first time, some returning for another year. For many it is the first time they will have lived away from home.

Worcestershire County Council Trading Standards are only too aware of the vulnerability of students as they strike out on their own. They become instant targets for businesses as soon as they move into a property, and often through lack of understanding, they can find themselves committing to things that will later cause them grief.

To help, Trading Standards have developed a student pack called **Knowledge**. The packs contain information covering consumer rights, buying gas and electricity, renting information, homeworking, debt and credit management and buying a car - all presented in a format that can be retained for future use. If you would like to get hold of a copy call the Advice and Education Team on 01905 765373. To get you started we have listed below some of the key things to remember:

- Never send money in advance to people or companies who claim they can offer you work at home.
- Make sure you **understand your consumer rights**. As you begin to buy goods and services knowing your rights becomes more important. Visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tradingstandards) to get more information.
- If you plan on buying anything on credit make sure you understand exactly **how much it is actually going to cost you** and that you can afford the repayments. If you sign a finance agreement at home after discussing it in person (not the phone) with the lender or supplier, you have the right to cancel. However if you sign the agreement in a shop, or on trade premises you cannot usually get out of it.
- When making purchases, especially large ones such as a car, **don't be rushed into making a decision**. A reputable trader will not mind waiting.
- Make sure you **understand any tenancy terms** you are signing. Remember they are legally binding - if you are concerned about something or do not understand it get advice.
- **Establish right from the start the method of bills payment** in any shared house - consider pre-payment methods, which avoid nasty shocks when the bill arrives. Don't get stuck with a large amount to pay at the end of the year and no money from fellow housemates.

For advice on any of the issues above, or more general help contact Trading Standards on 01905 765373 or [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tradingstandards).

### Hewell Road

**Following the public consultation about the bollards, many useful suggestions and improvements were put forward. But in the meantime the safety of pedestrians is paramount so please try to avoid parking on the pavements. As it is impossible to increase the size of the Village, it is imperative that everyone helps. There is a two hour parking restriction in Hewell Road, so could as many people as possible please use the Queen Vic's car park in order to leave as much space in the village as possible for shoppers. This can only be achieved with your help and consideration and will ultimately benefit everyone, including the shops.**

### Wheelie Bins

Unfortunately the District Council is still unable to advise the Parish Council on the likely date of introduction of wheelie bins and recycling boxes into the remainder of the village.

### Christmas Lights

As previously reported, health and safety requirements mean that the Parish Council is unable to put up the strings of Christmas lights above the shops on Hewell Road. However, the lights have been offered to the traders, and it is hoped that they may be able to put them up. This year it is intended to erect two Christmas trees in the village, one at the entrance to the Park on Hewell Road and a new one at the junction of Hewell Road and Orchard Croft (approval from the County Council is awaited for this) as a "Welcome" to the village! Let us know what you think when you have seen them.

### Is your house number visible?

**It is often difficult to identify individual houses in the parish because many houses have long drives. It would really help the emergency services and others who do household deliveries if your house number were clearly displayed so it could be seen from the road.**

### Parish Lengthsman

A Lengthsman, Mr Ron Rand, has now been appointed and has started work tackling small highway maintenance jobs around the village, initially concentrating on Hewell Road. If you have any suggestions as to what he should be tackling next, please contact Peter Cliff (details overleaf).

### Notice Board

The new community notice board in the bus shelter has been well used. The Parish Council's thanks go to John Gee who kindly erected it free of charge. Please feel free to put your organisations posters on it. The Parish Council is buying a new notice board which will be sited more or less in the same position as the old one. It is hoped to erect another community board to replace the one which used to be sited near the Post Office.

### Party Wall Act

Did you know that if your next-door neighbour is about to start some building work you may have rights under the Party Wall Act. For details contact Bromsgrove District Council's Planning Services department.

### Children's Play Area, Hewell Road

New fencing has been installed along part of the boundary along Hewell Road. It is intended to complete the run of fencing in the next financial year. A path from the new gate to the seats by the swing is also planned for next year.

A new slide has been installed on the advice of RoSPA. On their advice, the park will also be made a dog-free area; new signs and fencing in the beech hedge will be erected this year.

If you have any ideas for new equipment please get in touch!

### Safer Routes to School

**The County Council advises that although it has completed its survey of St. Andrew's First School, it is currently surveying other schools in the pyramid; consultation on their priorities must take place before any decisions can be made about St. Andrew's. Any works which are recommended as a result of the Safer Routes to School Survey will be done in the financial year 2006-7.**

### Playing Field, Bittell Road

The Parish Council's application for funding from Awards for All for a basket ball net has been turned down. Is this something you would like the Parish Council to go ahead with anyway, bearing in mind that it will have to be funded from the Council Tax bill?

### Environment

**During the next month or so, the speed, school, and road signs in Hewell Road will be cleaned and all the supporting poles painted black.**

**The corner of Station Approach and Hewell Road (by Tony's Handyman) will be re-fenced and cobbled and the other village notice board placed here.**

**Worcestershire County Council has given the Parish Council 20 small specimen conifers, which we hope to plant on Hewell Lane adjoining the Longlands in November.**

### Christmas Carol Service

Last year's Carol Service around the tree in was a great success and will be held again this year. It is likely to be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2004 in the morning, but notices will be displayed in the village nearer the time. Please do come along and join us.

### Street Lighting

**Most of the street lights in the village are managed by the Parish Council. If any lights are out, please contact the Parish Council and we will sort it out.**

