



BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2009



Issue No.21

www.barntgreen.org.uk

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Thursday April 16th | PACT Meeting at Friends Meeting House, Sandhills Road.
7.00pm |
| Wednesday May 6th | Annual Parish Meeting Parish Centre 8.00pm. All residents are welcome to attend. |
| Saturday May 16 th | Spring Parish Walk. Meet 10.00am Millennium Park |
| Sunday May 17th | Community Shred Day. Take your confidential waste along for a free disposal service at Bromsgrove Rugby Club. Donations welcomed for Leukaemia Research |
| Saturday June 27th | Barnt Green Festival. Village Centre 2.00pm – 6.00pm |

Chairman's Message

The Parish Council is now coming to the end of its financial year during which we have made substantial improvements to the village. These include the refurbishment of Millennium Park, which saw new paths, seating, lighting and waste bins installed. All the roads leading into the village now have new welcome and finger-post signs. Many trees, shrubs, and daffodil bulbs have been planted making a wonderful display; and the new Christmas lighting display gave the village a real seasonal feel. We hope to continue to improve the village next year and in particular to seek a solution to our perennial problems with parking. Full details of the Council's activities will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 6th to which all residents are invited.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parish Council's many helpers who make our job much easier. We look forward to the whole village supporting our Summer Festival on Saturday June 27th.

Judith Jagger

BART GREEN SUMMER FESTIVAL

Barnt Green Summer Festival will be held on Saturday 27th June. Hewell Road will be closed to traffic from 1.00 pm until 6.00 from Station Approach to the sub station in the park. Bus routes will be diverted during this time. Barnt Green Parish Council organise this event and all monies raised will be donated to local charities. A host of entertainment is planned for your enjoyment throughout the afternoon, culminating in the popular theatrical percussion group Glamba who perform a unique blend of Brazilian, African and Western beats – played on everything from drum kits to dustbins! The festival will start at 2.00 pm with a parade along Hewell Road lead by the Redditch Revolutions Majorettes. Other attractions will include dancing from St. Andrews Church of England School and Maxine Grant School of Ballet, Morris Dancers, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle and Penalty Shootout and much more. Anyone wishing to participate or to take a stall should contact Diane Carr on 0121 445 1220.

Planning Applications – how to comment

Bromsgrove District Council has recently set up a system whereby you can access information concerning current planning applications. In the past only neighbours to the site of the application have been directly notified, and information has been, and will continue to be, posted on lamp-posts in the vicinity. If you wish to view a specific application and/or comment on that application, and if you prefer not to go to the planning office, the simplest way of doing this is to visit the Bromsgrove District Council website – www.bromsgrove.gov.uk Click on 'Planning', 'Recent applications', "Public Access", 'Planning', and finally 'Application weekly list'. It is then possible to see, week-by-week, all current applications. By choosing those in which you have a particular interest you can view all the documents concerning that application, and submit comments if you wish to do so. Objections to planning applications can only be on planning grounds. Please note that there is usually a three-week time limit within which you must make comments.

If there are matters to do with specific planning applications about which you are particularly concerned then we encourage you to bring them to the attention of the Parish Council. Planning regulations have been relaxed a little recently in relation to the General Permitted Development Order. To view these changes you should visit www.bromsgrove.gov.uk and go into planning. There is a 'Householders Guide' to what development is allowed without planning permission. But if you are in any doubt then you should contact either the Parish Council or

Bromsgrove District Council. The changes to the General Permitted Development Order do not apply to Conservation Areas.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 6th at the Parish Centre in Sandhills Road, commencing at 8.00pm. All Barnt Green residents are invited to attend and to hear about the Council's activities and achievements over the last 12 months. If you have any questions for the Parish Council, then this is the time to ask them.

Millennium Park – The Final Touches

Following the major refurbishment of Millennium Park carried out last year, the Council has now added the final touches to complete the job. New lights have been installed in the centre of the park and the adjacent lantern on the column on Hewell Road has been replaced to match the existing ones in the shopping area. New litter bins and dog waste bin have been installed and the drainage in the children's play area has been updated to get rid of the surface water which appeared there in the autumn. Finally a new black and gold fingerpost sign has been installed at the Sandhills Road/Sandhills Green/Sandhills Lane junction to give the village a nice rural feel.



Parish Spring Walk

Simon Richards, our footpaths officer, has again organised a **Spring Walk**. The walk is organised for **Saturday 16th May and will start from Millennium Park at 10.00 am**. The route will head towards Alvechurch with views towards our goal - Rowney Green. At Alvechurch we will pick up people who have come from Barnt Green on the train. From here we cross the River Arrow and head up a Bridleway to Rowney Green.

There are numerous paths and bridleways in this area. We will do a loop around the village via Icknield Street and stop for lunch in the Newborne Wood Nature Reserve, then head back to Alvechurch. There will be a choice of ways of returning to Barnt Green - by train or walk! Please bring a packed lunch - **please note there are no shops or pubs in Rowney Green!** There may be some muddy sections so it will be best to wear boots.

The Route

There are 3 options

- 1 The full route - Start and finish in Barnt Green approx 9 Miles.
- 2 Start in Barnt Green and finish at Alvechurch station approx 7 miles.
- 3 Start and finish at Alvechurch station approx 5 miles.

If you are starting from Alvechurch take the 10:39am train from Barnt Green - Simon will make sure he doesn't leave Alvechurch before the train arrives. Please email Simon at sr6424@btinternet.com if you are starting in Alvechurch.

Full details of the walk can be seen at http://www.barntgreenclub.co.uk/Spring_Walk_Details.html.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE - SOME PROGRESS BUT STILL MUCH TO DO

Maintenance of the footpaths and roads is the responsibility of the Highways Department of Worcestershire County Council. Back in June 2007, the Parish Council undertook a detailed survey of all the roads in the village. It was clear that the condition of many of the roads was rapidly deteriorating and the number of potholes increasing, not least because of a lack of proper maintenance over the previous decade.

Over the last 2 years the Parish Council has had numerous meetings with the Highways Department, firstly to agree the roads where the most urgent action was required and secondly a timetable to achieve this. Progress has been torturously slow until the last few months when at long last we have seen some results. Residents in the village will have noticed:

- The resurfacing of several roads including Hewell Lane, Fiery Hill Road, Oakdene Drive, Margesson Drive and the Bittell road service

road, and the footways on Bittell Road and Poplar Drive

- The replacement and re-siting of the Barnt Green gateway signs and a number of fingerpost (direction) signs
- The placing of flashing 30mph signs on Bittell Road

In the coming months, the Highways Department has agreed to repair the grass verges around the triangle at the junction of Twatling Road & Fiery Hill Road and the junction of Bittell Road & Bittell Farm Road, and install some bollards at those junctions to hopefully limit further damage.

The biggest issue however in the village is Hewell Road around the shopping area where, as a result of double parking and parking on the pavement, there is often significant traffic congestion and the increasing risk of a serious accident happening. The Parish Council, after consulting with the police, presented a series of proposals to the Highways Department which would have involved redesigning the parking space in that area including a new lay-by and loading bays and measures to discourage parking on the pavement.

Despite strenuous efforts on our part, the County Council has indicated that, in the absence of any serious or fatal accidents, it was unlikely that a quick solution would be forthcoming. However, given the poor state of the road surface and speed cushions, they were assessing whether the road should be resurfaced in the coming year.

The Parish Council will continue to press the Highways Department for action on these matters. In the meanwhile, though, residents should report to the Worcestershire Hub (tel: 0845 6072005 or <https://eshop.whub.org.uk/eshopcp-hub/login.asp?timeout=1>) any potholes or other repair work that they feel needs urgently handling.

The parking situation in the village is unlikely to be resolved in the near future. However, the situation could be improved if we are all a little more thoughtful in where we park. There are a number of car parks around the village including the one at the station which could be used. The solution at least in part lies in our own hands!

New Councillors

Following the disqualification of Martin Peyton from the Council and the unfortunate death of Councillor Rick Main, the Parish Council has co-opted two new members – Rachel Banner and Christine Jenkins. The Council welcomes them both and is sure that they will do an excellent job in representing residents' interests. We will feature profiles of both of our new councillors in the next newsletter.

Dates for your diary....

Monday April 27 th	Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday May 6 th	Annual Parish Meeting
Saturday May 16 th	Spring Parish Walk
Monday May 18 th	Parish Council Meeting

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.

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
Susan Whitehand	0121 445 3530	
Rachel Banner	0121 445 4479	
Chris Jenkins	0121 445 1034	
Executive Officer: Roger Westbury	0121 447 7455	clerk@barntgreen.org.uk

Useful Telephone Numbers:

District Councillors:		County Councillor	
Mrs Ann Doyle	0121 445 4184	Peter McDonald	0121 453 9267
Richard Deeming	0121 445 3114		

Anti-Social Behaviour Officer: 01527 881423

Police: 0300 3333000. Local police contact PC 2138 Jayne Willetts Rubery Police station.

Hall Bookings: Parish Centre	Edna Whitehouse 445 4696
Baptist Church Hall	Beverley Bennett 445 1551
Friends Meeting House	Tim Martin 447 7355

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