

Dear Resident

You may have seen that Bromsgrove District Council's Development Plan to 2030 has been approved. There are implications for Barnt Green.

It is fairly certain that there will be additional houses in Barnt Green. This may be within the parish boundary itself, in the neighbouring parishes or both.

Bromsgrove's Development Plan has yet to identify sites for 2,300 homes. It is believed that these will be in the six larger settlements, as defined by Bromsgrove District Council. They are Alvechurch, Barnt Green (including Lickey), Catshill, Hagley, Rubery and Wythall.

Additionally, Birmingham City Council has a shortfall in the amount of land available to meet its housing needs. It is possible that part of this shortfall will be apportioned and agreed by Bromsgrove District Council in the communities closest to the city, such as Hagley, Rubery, Barnt Green, Alvechurch and Wythall. A further 2,000 or so homes are well within the realms of possibility.

With a shortage of land available to Bromsgrove District Council, a review of the Green Belt will be triggered within the next couple of years. A portion of the number of houses to be built over the next 15 years will, no doubt, have to be accommodated by Barnt Green and the adjoining parishes.

Robert Cholmondeley, Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council

MP and Councillors' contacts:	
MP	Sajid Javid – sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk
County Councillor	Peter McDonald – pmcdonald2@worcestershire.gov.uk
District Councillor	Charles Hotham – c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Parish Councillors:	Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Edwin Gumbley, Charles Hotham, Judith Jagger, Jenny Jellie, Philip Perry, Susan Whitehand
Chairman:	Robert Cholmondeley robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com
Executive Officer:	Gill Lungley, MILCM exec@barntgreen.org.uk tel: 0121 447 9893
Parish councillors' contact details can be obtained via www.barntgreen.org.uk or from the Parish Council office at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF Office open hours are: Mon to Weds 10am – 1pm and Thurs 10am – 4pm	

Parish Council blog

The issue that has caused the most concern since the start of 2017 is the closure of the road junction at Bittell Road / Kendal End Road / Fiery Hill Road. Not least because pedestrians were stranded either side of the blockade with the only alternative a near 2-mile detour most of which was along a narrow unlit, un-paved country lane. Fortunately the housing developer was able to provide a new access way to ease the problem but the situation has shown that communications on this issue were poor.

We are looking forward to the roads being back to 'normal' sometime in March.

At their February meeting, members discussed the Christmas lights switch-on that took place in the village at the beginning of December which was felt to be a great success. Plans are already in hand for the event later this year which is likely to be held on the first Saturday afternoon in December. More news to be released later this year.

The parish council's budget has been agreed for the 2017/18 financial year and even though costs have risen the amount to be paid by each household to the parish council via the Council Tax will be the same as last year, thanks to more households paying in to the pot. For the 'band D' rated household this amounts to £62.58 for the whole year; bands A – C will pay less whilst bands E – H will pay more. An online copy of the parish council's budget is available via www.barntgreen.org (search 'budget') or paper copy from the office.

New picnic tables should be in place on the Barnt Green playing field very soon along with the new notice board which is to be used for local notices in one half and parish council notices on the other. Along with other improvements at the field including better management of the boundary stream, we hope residents of all ages will continue to enjoy this outdoor facility. See page 7 for further proposed improvements.

In May, local electors will be given the chance to choose their representative at Worcestershire County Council. In Barnt Green we are covered by the Beacon division. At the time of writing we have no idea who is standing, but would like to wish all candidates the best of luck!

Parish council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month usually at 80 Hewell Road; they start at 7pm and are open to the public to attend, with an opportunity to speak during the 'Open Forum' section.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th April starting at 7pm in the Cofton Lounge, Parish Centre, Sandhills Road (behind St Andrews Church). This is YOUR meeting to discuss parish affairs, so if you have something to say please get in touch with the parish council office by 12th April to make sure your request is included on the agenda.

All agendas are published at least 3 clear days before the meeting and can be found on the notice board next to the bus shelter, and on our website.

BARNT GREEN CHUGGERS – a great place for you to start and enjoy social running and cycling – celebrating its 12th Birthday with the first Barnt Green Fun Run.



Starting 12 years ago from the front room of a house in Barnt Green, and with just a handful of runners, the Chuggers Club, with the recent addition of Chaingang Cycling, now has over 100 members and is based at Barnt Green Sports Club (weekly runs - Mondays 8pm, rides Wednesdays 7pm).

Chuggers & Chaingang continue to grow and Mike Dickenson (Club Chairman) puts its success (measured not by speed or competition, but ability to retain local members) down to the fun and recreational nature of the club, complimented by a full social programme. There is no pressure to compete or to be part of teams, and free from this pressure members go on to enjoy and improve their running and cycling and achieve amazing things. Many simply enjoy weekly club runs and rides, followed by a drink with friends in the Sports Club Bar, but some have taken on numerous running and cycling challenges that have helped raise ££thousands for charities over the years.

If you are interested in joining the Barnt Green Chuggers (running) or Chaingang (cycling) then please e-mail Mike on mjd201357@gmail.com or leave details at the Sports Club

Barnt Green 'Chuggers' Fun Run 17

Following the success of previous "Sport Relief Mile" run events, Barnt Green Chuggers is once again teaming up with Barnt Green Parish Council to put on the first "Barnt Green Chuggers 5K Fun Run and Party in The Park", on Sunday 7th May. As with the Sport Relief events, this is a fun event and a chance to have a go at completing the 5K multi-lap course around the village.

If you are interested in taking part (walking, jogging or running) then note the date and look out for more info – and importantly if you don't want to run, but want to be part of the action on the day and Marshal/Volunteer, then we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail Mike Dickenson (address above).

Women's beginners 'Up and Running' Programme



The Chuggers club is keen to introduce local people to running and as such is putting on its first Women's Up and Running programme starting in March. It is an 8-week programme ideally suited for the beginner jogger/runner who may be looking to improve health, fitness, lose weight or just wanting to get more active and have fun.

Supported by a team of motivators from Barnt Green Chuggers the programme provides a very gentle introduction to running; using a balanced mix of walking, jogging and running with the ultimate aim of participants completing the 5K Fun Run noted above. For more information contact Emma Fordham via emmafordham@rocketmail.com and Cathy Dakin cathydakin@gmail.com

The Women's Institute is back...



After a 14-year break, Barnt Green WI has been reformed. Originally started by Lady Margesson in 1916, it has been recreated by three local ladies: Nicola Denning, Jackie Greenhalgh, and Julia Waters. They got together with a local WI area advisor to arrange its set-up, in what would have been its centenary year. They organised four taster sessions last autumn, with talks varying from Fussy Eating: Nature or Nurture? to the first

female jeweller in Birmingham, plus a fun cheese and wine tasting evening. These three women now form the committee along with Cathy Dakin, Kim Neale, Helen Roberts and Alyson Williams.

Numbers varied at the initial sessions from the mid 40's to the mid 70's, but the first official meeting in January this year was attended by 81 ladies, who all successfully tackled needle felting, encouraged by Kim from the committee. Now more than 50 women of all ages have become members of the new Barnt Green WI. They like the great atmosphere, and are already forming new friendships. This is what the committee hoped for. They want to inspire women and to be inspired. In the future, they plan to create offshoot groups within the WI, such as a book and a craft club.

Barnt Green WI meets at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month in Barnt Green Baptist Church. Visitors are always welcome. Come along and try something new. Contact Julia Waters (president) on 0121 447 9880 or via barntgreenwi@gmail.com and @barntgreenwi.



Are you living with someone you care for?

Do you know someone who cares for someone?

A new group for **Carers in Bromsgrove** is starting on the **22nd February 2017** at **Crabtree Court** in Sidemoor from **2pm – 3.30pm**.

This group will then take place on the **last Wednesday** of every month.

This is an opportunity for **people who care** to come together and **take some time out** for themselves.

The first meeting will be to find out what you would like from the meetings.

You can bring the person you care for or come alone.

If you would like to know more, please contact

Maureen Oliver (WAC) on 01905 751 350

Rachael Tooth (bdht) on 0800 0850 160 or

Jas Panesar (LASC) on 01527 903 924

Barnt Green Motor Festival

Sunday afternoon, 2nd July 2017

Barnt Green Parish Council is considering organising a display of interesting cars, motor cycles and other vehicles.



If you would like to display your vehicle, please obtain an application form from:

Parish council office, 80 Hewell Road, B45 8NF

Telephone: 0121 447 9893

email: exec@barntgreen.org.uk or
robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com

Before 28th March 2017

If your club or society would like to be featured in future issues of The Bulletin please send details to exec@barntgreen.org.uk



Are you a community group in need of funding support?

The parish council has budgeted to provide up to £1,000 in grant support to community groups for the financial year starting on 1st April 2017. If you represent a local group that is seeking funding, please call the office for a grant application form or download it from the website.

An act of great civic thoughtfulness saw the installation of a dog-waste bin on the footpath from Fiery Hill Road to the Lickey Hills after one of the trustees for the Baron Davenport's Charity noticed dog waste bags were piling up on one corner of the walkway. A call to the Lickey Hills Park rangers and the release of funding was all it took for the new bin to be sited. The Parish Council thanks all concerned.

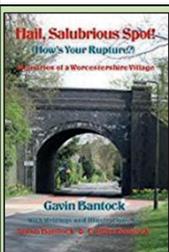
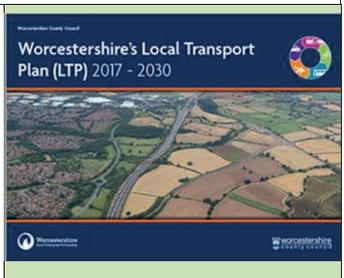


New dog waste bin photo provided by Cllr E Gumbley



On the subject of dog waste, after hearing from one resident in detail about the unpleasant after-effects of children falling into un-recovered deposits on the playing field and from another resident opposed to a proposed 'Dogs-on-Leads-Only' restriction, the parish council has installed a dog waste bag dispenser at Barnt Green playing field (off Bittell Road, behind the Baptist Church). Whilst most responsible dog owners will carry their own bags, these bags are freely available to anyone who needs them. Please use responsibly and dispose of in the nearest waste bin.

Have your say on the county's local transport plan that will see us through to 2030. The consultation document states "this is an exciting time for Worcestershire, which will see unprecedented population, development and economic growth, particularly in our urban areas." The consultation is open until 17th March 2017, comment via www.worcestershire.gov.uk



Gavin Bantok, the author of 'Hail, Salubrious Spot!', a book on Barnt Green in the 1940's and 50's, has been in touch to let us know that although it is now out of print it is available to buy as an e-book. There's an online option to 'Look Inside', where you can preview the first two chapters.

On the same subject, a resident of Barnt Green who lived here between 1934 and 1989 is willing to pay up to £50 for an original edition of the book – if you have one please call 0121 445 2930.

TREES

From time to time the parish council is contacted by residents concerned about one or more trees being cut down, wanting to know if this is allowed. Government guidance states Tree Preservation Orders can be used to protect individual trees, trees within an area (such as the Barnt Green Conservation Areas), groups of trees or whole woodlands. Protected trees can be of any size or species. If requested, an order may be granted by the District Council where it is expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands in their area. Part of the parish lies within a Conservation Area which, broadly speaking, provides protection to all the trees within it meaning the District Council must grant permission before any felling work can be carried out.

TROOP AID

Pam Eves, the Troop Aid co-ordinator for this area, writes:

Very many thanks to the residents of Barnt Green for all the Christmas contributions of shower gel and various toiletries together with the cards and the lovely hamper of various items donated to Troop Aid for the QE and field hospitals. We would also like to thank the Parish Council Office for agreeing to be a drop-in centre to receive the donations.

All your continued support is greatly appreciated and enables us to carry on supporting our injured troops. We are mostly in need of shower gel, stick deodorants and single tooth brushes as our Grab Bags are currently going to our armed forces in 26 countries.

Thank you for your generosity.

PLAYING FIELD

The Parish Council is responsible for the upkeep of the playing field off Bittell Road which is open to all residents. The current facilities, including a football kick-about area and a teenage recreation zone, will soon be augmented with picnic tables and a complete pathway. Additionally, in a bid to encourage greater use and enjoyment of the field and improve individual levels of fitness and wellbeing, the parish council is considering the installation of outdoor gym equipment.

We would like to know what you think and will be taking to the streets to find out – look out for us during March in the village centre asking for your opinions. Alternatively, let us know by email, phone or letter, or by attending one of our monthly meetings – held on the first Wednesday each month.

Or come to the Annual Parish Meeting that will be held on Wednesday 26th April starting at 7pm: open to all, this is YOUR meeting to say what you like!

EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Christmas issue of The Bulletin mentioned the "Cold Weather Plan for England". This detailed some advice and contact points for communities to support vulnerable and able people in the winter particularly if the weather deteriorates. Whilst we are very fortunate in living where we do and having great support from the emergency services, it's always prudent to consider what we would all do in the event of a community emergency such as major flooding or a rail disaster.

Whilst we are sure the emergency services will do their best, we can all do our bit by ensuring any elderly or vulnerable parishioners/neighbours are okay by calling round, delivering messages or using our cars if appropriate. With social media part of most of our lives we are listing here some links and contact numbers to charities and government agencies that you may find useful and we aim to complete the plan in the next few months.

NHS www.nhs.uk	111
Emergency services (police, fire, ambulance)	999
Environment Agency www.environment-agency.gov.uk	08708 506506
British Red Cross www.redcross.org.uk	08448 711111
WRVS www.wrvs.org.uk	08456 014670
RSPCA www.rspca.org.uk	03001 234555
St John Ambulance www.sja.org.uk	08700 104950

The Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service www.hwfire.org.uk produce several information leaflets such as the following fire safety advice:

- **Fit smoke alarms** on every level of your house.
- **Test the batteries** in your smoke alarm every week. Change them every year. Never remove them.
- **Take extra care** if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking, take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk of fire.
- **Unplug appliances** when not using them or when you go to bed.
- **Put cigarettes out** properly and dispose of them carefully. Put them out. Right out.
- **Make sure candles are secured** in a proper holder and away from materials that may catch fire – like curtains.
- **Close inside doors** at night to help prevent the fire from spreading.
- **Plan an escape route** and make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- **Don't tackle a fire yourself.** Keep calm and act quickly, get everyone out as soon as possible.

Call Freephone 0800 032 1155 for free Home Fire Safety Advice

Barnt Green Parish Council

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