

# Notes of Batheaston Annual Village Meeting Held in the St Johns Church Hall 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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## **Present** (34 Attendees)

Councillors

Lavington, Robins, Blanking, Eardley, Fremantle, Jackson, Kingsley, Nokes, Moon, Townley (Clerk)

Residents

Bond, Batt, Burcombe, Crozier-Cole(2), Fitzpatrick, Foote, Gledhill, Griffiths, Hunt, Jackson, Kallendar, Kershaw, Padfield, Mimmack, Pecchia, Plenty, Podgson, Powesland (2), Ticehurst, Toghill, Townley, Woodroffe,

## **7-1 Welcome**

Chairman David Lavington thanked all attendees and looked forward to a constructive meeting.

## **7.2 Parish Council Annual Report – Cllr David Lavington**

The annual Report had been delivered to almost all households in the Village during week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Comments were invited:-

- (a) The Precept had been maintained at the same level;
- (b) In addition to the Precept monies are "earned" from B&NES through Agency agreements where the BPC is paid for Street Sweeping, Gardening, toilets & Paths Clearing.
- (c) The river Footpath has had some £6000+ invested in the last few years and the recent river bank failures have been passed to B&NES for correction. IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. A cost of £350,000 has been estimated and discussions continue
- (d) Vandalism of the Toilets is to be corrected by B&NES after metal doors are installed across the doors.
- (e) A Footpath off Steway Lane is to be cleared by B&NES.

## **7.3 Environment – Carole Bond**

Carole is a consultant of over 14 years on sustainable Development etc, and offered a very informative outline of "green development" in this Village – where she lives.

B&NES is running at a 39% recycling target with an aim to reach 66% - unfortunately there are no specific recycle numbers for Batheaston, but Carole used the meeting to highlight where we are already looking "green". Low-energy light bulbs, composting, more use of public transport, being thrifty in life style. Interestingly DVD machines and TVS if left in stand-by mode all day are responsible for some £164 millions of 'lost' power. Manufacturers should be urged to have machines, which remember their programmes when switched off. Home PC units do this memorising already.

Two examples of local villages "going green" were identified eg Chew Magna has initiated a "Go Zero Waste" programme with restoration of a water mill for power generation, car share scheme, local food guide, carbon 'footprint' identification.

The proposed new Village Hall – to replace this existing hall – will be very sustainable; our own School was on TV only this week with their eco-friendly programme; the Parish Vision Plan will certainly address these issues; a resident has offered to establish an Eco Club, which will be funded by the RSA.

There were several questions and inter-action and Carole was thanked warmly for her talk.

*There was a brief intermission fro refreshments and discussion.*

## **7.4 "BRED" Progress. – Brian Kallendar**

This email distribution system was established to allow any organisation or individual to advertise/disseminate forthcoming programmes. It has been running since last November and is averaging 2/3 notices each week. All emails are sent in black & white to reduce downloading time.

There are currently 195 recipients and it is hoped that some 400/500 will eventually join the scheme. Interestingly the split is 108 Northend, 39 Bannerdown, 29 high Street, 10 Estate and 9 outsiders. More usage from the Estate is desired.

The BRED system is totally safe, anonymous and does not issue any 'spam' or viruses. BRED is NOT intended to replace any other method of communication.

It is recognised that there can never be a PC unit (with email facility) in all 1100+ households in the Village. Therefore Brian asked if all existing BRED 'customers' could "Adopt-a-Neighbour" and run off the bulletins/adverts and pass round very locally?

Tonight was a good example of 3 meetings going on at the same time so clashing. The Website has a useful calendar and Brian offers to enter all specific events so that Organisations can determine available dates. Please contact Brian direct to determine if this Calendar might be of use.

This Calendar could also be printed for The Rhymes Pavilion eg Wednesday Coffee Morning, – Post Office etc. Questions were invited, and answered, and Brian was thanked for a very lucid explanation of progress.

### **7.5 Village Hall Progress – Rob Mimmack**

The existing building is an ex-MoD fabrication erected in 1952 – with a life expectancy of 10/15 years. Still in use 55 years later covering a wide range of activities and uses.

A Steering Group has been established to investigate a 'replacement' with the following brief:-

- A. Whilst on church land the Hall will be free from church Authority;
- B. Has to be a Sustainable design;
- C. Architects have produced designs – with thanks to the Parish Council for funding this research;
- D. Exhibitions and Consultations held – especially with immediate neighbours;
- E. Charitable Trust established – for entering any Grants bids – registering with the Charity Commission;
- F. A Lottery Bid is in progress and must be lodged in the Birmingham Headquarters by midday on 30<sup>th</sup> April. The Steering Group will achieve that deadline.
- G. When Lottery Monies are known then additional Fund Raising events will be required;
- H. A Planning application to replace the existing Hall and the entire process is estimated to take 2 years;
- I. On completion a Management Group will be established, elected democratically.

Questions were invited, and answered, and Rob was thanked for an enlightening presentation.

### **7.6 Park & Ride Progress Report – Cllr David Lavington**

The Lambridge Park & Ride at Lambridge has been approved but the proposed Flood Protection Scheme has been rejected twice and the application to resite the Rugby Training pitches has still to be heard.

It is understood that an independent party is to submit a 3<sup>rd</sup> Flood Protection Scheme, incorporating the Rugby Training Pitches, but this Application has still to be seen and will NOT be considered until after the May Local elections. B&NES are using an independent party so that – if the Scheme is rejected a 3<sup>rd</sup> time – the appellant can appeal.

This Parish Council is conferring with our sister Councils at Bathford and Bathampton on the legal implications if a Rejection Appeal is necessary.

The B&NES bid for Highways Funding (which includes the £7 millions for Lambridge – the most expensive P&R in the UK) has still not been approved by Government.

This Parish Council's alternative Application to utilise Charmy Down was withdrawn to answer specific objections. Progress with the highways Agency is positive, providing that B&NES adopts Charmy Down as an alternative site.

### **7.7 Batheaston Vision Plan – Vito Pecchia**

The inaugural meeting to launch this Vision Plan in late March was very successful with 49 attendees.

A number of volunteers to form a Steering Group came forward and there is to be a meeting soon with these volunteers. It is noted that there more volunteers are desired from the Estate, Bannerdown and High Street. *(After the meeting a volunteer from Bannerdown and the High Street came forward.)*

The role of the Steering Group will be initially to establish a questionnaire for all households on the widest range of topics that can affect the village.

The Parish Council has already drafted a Village Design Statement that deals with buildings and designs and the VDS will be considered and included in the Vision Plan.

Again questions were invited, and answered, and Vito was thanked for all his efforts to date.

### **7.8 Any Other Business**

(a) Carole bond reminded the audience that Encore's next production is "Billy Liar" – a popular comedy to be played 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May with a matinee on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

(b) Everyone was invited to use their vote on 3<sup>rd</sup> May elections, which will determine the District and Parish Councillors for the next 4 years.

(c) Cllr David did thank all attendees at tonight's Meeting and added his personal Thanks to all the existing Councillors who have served so diligently over the past 4 years. The Village does owe them so much.

(d) Cllr David also wanted to express his very sincere Thanks to the Parish Council's staff who keep our pavements swept, toilets clean and Gardens tidy. The Clerk was thanked for the tremendous role that he plays in keeping the Parish Council's business running smoothly..

The meeting closed at 9-20 pm.