

**Notes of the Annual Village Meeting of the Batheaston Parish Council
held in the St Johns Church Hall on Thursday 17th April 2008 at 7-30 pm
(57 Attendees)**

Cllrs:- D Lavington(Chairman), L Brass, A Creed P Davis, K Eardley, S Fremantle, M Johns, L Kingsley,
V Pecchia, D Robins, A Wright, M Veal

Residents:- P Gayton, D Smith, A Robins, C Wright, D Trentham, V Trentham, T Griffiths, N Johnson, B Johnson,
P Burcombe, C Rich, P Mimmack, D Jackson, J Jackson, F Trenchard, R Carr-Gomm, V Trenchard, S Little, G Bell,
H Giles, C Davis, N Clutterbuck, M Elphick, P Lewis, R Horsfield, J Russell, P Martins, L Martins, J Denning, H Paine,
B Kallender, D Plenty, M Pitman, T Brown, S Robson, G Makay, D Pidgeon, R Mimmack, G Richardson, O Padfield,
Rev Fry, C Bond, R Birchell, P Giles, M Townley

Apologies : Cllrs J Abbatt, J Beresford-Smith, P Blanking, D Nokes, G Batt

8-1 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr David Lavington welcomed all to this Annual Meeting and it was gratifying to find that the Annual Report had been received by all present. The distribution system seems to work. The Parish Council has 3 advisory Committees – General Purposes Committee dealing with Finances etc., Highways Committee dealing with Roads, Footpaths and Lighting, and the Planning Committee dealing with all Applications and the environment - (last year 48 Applications). The Council And Committees meet some 38 times per year – almost every week.

Last year we processed over 5700 letters or emails (in and out) not to mention the many phone calls. Whilst this last year's Budget was planned to spend over £77,000 but this was severely curtailed because of potential needs in the village and a Statement of money movements last year was included in the Annual Report.

Queries from the floor included: -

1. Accounts should detail fully what the monies were spent on – not what was 'saved'. *Nobody else at the Meeting agreed, but a review was promised.*
2. The shopping area condition is appalling with papers, cigarette ends etc. *Extra bins provided but shops will be further advised.*
3. Excessive street furniture and signage should be removed. *B&NES has promised monies available for completion of the 20mph limits project. Signs will then be dealt with.*
4. Parking on the Estate is becoming hopeless and parking bays desired. *B&NES parking policy is NOT to increase parking spaces! The forthcoming Vision Plan questionnaire should help address these concerns.*
5. When will the next PACT meeting be held? *The next meeting of the Youth Consultancy Group is planned for next week on 23rd April and the Police usually attend. A date will be requested then.*

8-2 Recreational Development – Playing Field Mr R Mimmack

The Batheaston Leisure Association (BLA) was established in 1982 to initiate and maintain recreational facilities in the village. Set up as a Charitable Agency the BLA can access grants and lottery funds.

The Playing Field was constructed over 30 years from landfill and detritus from the Estate and the playing surface has become so distorted that the Football League has banned its use for League matches. There is a senior all-Batheaston Team needing the pitch on a Sunday and junior teams need to play at other times. The trees alongside the pitch are now very obtrusive and affect play.

To restore the pitch requires extensive investigation with boreholes etc (costing £4000) and at least £30,000 is anticipated for this renovation. A grant from the Football Trust is to be applied for but only a maximum 65% is expected.

8-3 Recreational Development – Village Hall Mr Graham Richardson

The existing Hall was constructed in 1952 using MOD surplus facilities, with an anticipated "life" of 15 years. The life now is estimated as being only another 2 years. It stands on land owned by the Diocese and a long-term peppercorn lease should continue. The Hall has a leaking asbestos roof and sound and heating insulation is very poor. Although the Hall is utilised most days this lack of sound-proofing affects its "rentability" at weekends and it is not fully used then.

Last year a "Village Hall Steering Group" was established and a bid for Lottery monies was made – but not successful. Alternative sites were explored when generating this Lottery Bid but the investigation 'settled' on a simple replacement with a Hall some 50% larger.

To investigate this Rebuild will require an initial high investment and other sources of grant monies must be determined.

In 2006 there were over 6000 people attending the Hall over 251 days with an annual income of £5,500.

8-4

The Youth Club then, very ably, served refreshments

8-5 The Childrens Society – Jim Davis & Claire James

Jim and Claire have been working now for 18 months in the village meeting with the Youth out on the streets, and in the Youth Club, They have been determining the needs and desires and the new Youth Shelter in the Car Park is one of the direct results of these investigations.

The Meeting was invited to reflect on what we all did, and got up to, as children. This was a sobering reflection on what we would now expect and allow our own children and grandchildren to do and act.

Our guests provided a slide-show presentation that indicates that problems with our Youth are not new and go back to Biblical times – the terms 'Hooligan' and 'Yob' were certainly coined in Victorian times.

A film showing a series of interviews with young people confirmed that their fears are as "perceived" as any adults – they go about in 'packs' for mutual protection – NOT to create a noise and nuisance.

The Childrens Society – established in 1881 - hopes to "Make a Difference in the Community" by emphasising that Youngsters and Adults should be tolerant of each other and that all sections need their own "space".

8-6 The presentations from Rob, Graham and the Childrens Society 'sparked off' many questions and the meeting closed at 9-45pm.