

## BATHEASTON BULLETIN No 25

### **New School Classrooms & Hall**

At almost £2 millions this is the most significant building project in the Village for many, many years.

Temporary classrooms are needed while the existing ones are demolished and replaced by the new classrooms and Hall. Two portable units are now being installed alongside the St Johns Church Hall and the School will use both these Units and the church hall.

Installation during the Summer has required the suspension of parking on Northend for a day and a restriction on normal traffic flow. This will need to be repeated next year when the units are removed.

### **New School Hall Construction Site**

The Batheaston Leisure association (BLA) and the Batheaston Parish Council (BPC) offered part of the unplayable Football field for a construction access and a site compound. The fencing alongside Coalpit Road is realigned for increased visibility and will be replaced next year when the "constructors make good".

The constructors also are committed to improving the drainage and refurbishing the playing surface on completion of the building contract in order to restore it to playable conditions.

### **Safe Route to School.**

A new woodland footpath will be created from Northend, back of the Methodist buildings, down to the School.

This new pathway will be available to Teachers and Northend/High St. children.

### **More Parking in Northend**

There will be a considerable amount of 'spoil' excavated from the site of the new school buildings.

This 'spoil' is to be used to terrace the land behind the Methodist buildings to create an area that could be utilised for parking. During the day this could be used by school staff and in the evenings/weekends for over-spill parking for special events in the village.

A planning application for this proposal, and the biomass boiler, is currently being considered.

(B&NES)

*Mike Gray*

### **School Heating**

A new Bio-mass Boiler fuelled by dry wood chippings is proposed. To be clear of the Flood Plain the boiler room will be installed at the edge of the 'spoil' site and a new access road will be provided alongside the existing track way beside the Methodist Hall.

This new road will be used by all vehicles delivering fuel, and provide access for the proposed parking area.

### **Footbridge to School**

The Hall constructors are providing a heavy duty bridge across the brook – to connect to the Field construction compound.

When making good, after finishing the school buildings, it is proposed to replace this hired bridge with a simpler wooden unit which will provide access to the Field/School for the children.

### **Footpath Across Solsbury Hill**

This old footpath was missed off the Designated Footpath's Map in 1956. Much paperwork has been required to "prove" the existence and use of this Footpath and last year B&NES finally acknowledged that all the necessary paperwork and advices was approved. We are indebted to Peter Giles for his "massive" progressing of this project But this "proof" has now to be legally instituted and – as of August 2010 – this legalisation is now 12<sup>th</sup> on the list for processing, at about £2500.

### **River Avon Footbridge**

B&NES commissioned a study into providing a Footbridge across the Avon, acceptable to push-chairs and bicycles, as an alternative to repairing the Footpath. But, with little money available from the public purse, the three schemes examined were all too expensive.

Our Cllr Vito Pecchia (an architect) has developed a less expensive alternative design with Napier University and the Environment Agency.

The Parish Council is actively pursuing this alternative as a Footbridge opens up the opportunity of a cycle-way through to the Canal Towpath.

### **Park & Ride on Bathampton Meadows**

Back in 2006 B&NES produced a Bath Transport Package (BTP) and obtained potential funding from the Department of Transport (DfT). The Funding depended on approval of four separate Applications and compulsory purchase orders. For funding and planning purposes the 4 applications had to be linked and all agreed.

There were some *slight* alterations of the rules for B&NES to obtain approval from itself; those injustices had to be challenged.

### **VeracityBath Ltd (VCB)**

For these challenges a new Company was formed – VeraCityBath Ltd (VCB) and two legal challenges were made:-

The First against the Secretary of State for not following his own Department's guidelines about protection of World Heritage sites.

The Second against B&NES who had by then submitted that it's 4 Application approvals could be treated separately – i.e. if B&NES received monies from elsewhere they could proceed with the Meadows alone.

A High Court judgement has effectively pronounced that the BTP package CANNOT be split up – it is **all or nothing**. But this judicial "battle" leaves VCB owing about £500

### **Progress of Government Funding**

Meanwhile the new Government has ruled out any funding before October's public spending review and have told B&NES that any further expenditure on the BTP is at it's own risk.

Bathavon North Parish Councils and the London Road Residents Association have written to the relevant Ministers and MPs that the BTP "**does NOT** achieve its stated objectives," that, because of omitted costs and wrong assumptions, its estimated benefit should be reduced by at least 70% to below the cost and that the scheme should be scrapped, saving some £50/60 millions.

The Parish Councils and VCB continue their struggles. **Mark Millar (VCB)**

### **BREDAC**

Continues to serve some 350 + email addresses.

If you wish to join this scheme please email [admin@bredac.co.uk](mailto:admin@bredac.co.uk)

If any Organisation wishes to advertise their

### **Councillor Changes**

The Parish Council is very pleased to welcome Cllr Michael Tabb and Cllr Jeremy Heffer to fill the vacancies left by Alan Wright and Mike Willard.

With regret we also said a temporary goodbye to Chris Routh

### **Valley Parishes Alliance**

The many mis-directions and lack of consultations with Parish Councils and other bodies when the Bath Transport Package was being developed suggested that a new coalition of like-minded bodies was needed to express co-ordinated views about any B&NES proposals.

Accordingly an Alliance of the Parish Councils of Bathampton, Batheaston, Bathford, Claverton, Freshford, Limpley Stoke, Monkton Combe, Westwood and **Winsley** was formerly launched on 21<sup>st</sup> June with B&NES and Wiltshire top officials in attendance.

### **Pavement at the Shops**

The Parish Council has long recognised the difficulties of traversing the "strange" gully in front of the main shops.

After many meetings with B&NES Highways engineers the BPC prepared its own series of alternatives for investigation.

The Highways Dept. has now replied that it will accept filling in the gully with dish-shaped concrete blocks, and are to provide the appropriate designs.

The BPC has prepared new designs and the details are being determined by B&NES. The BPC will consult with all the shops and owners along the entire length before any costings are sought.

### **St Johns Church Hall**

A generous bequest should kick-start a rebuild in the Autumn of next year.

The new Hall will NOT be a "Church Hall" but the "Village Hall" – the land being gifted and field leased by the Diocese.

Architects (White Design in Bristol, famous for their eco-friendly constructions) have been selected – and the design work should commence this Summer so that all Consultations and Planning problems can be resolved before quotations are pursued. Cllr Lawrence Brass is to be the BPC's representative.

### **B&NES Joint local Transport Plan (2011 – 2026)**

The consultation period for these proposals is from June to September 2010 and being overseen by the Parish Council "*like a hawk*".

The draft Plan indicates that an A36/A46 link road is highly unlikely before 2026, but B&NES still has the "link" (across the railway line at Bathampton off the By-pass) firmly in its planning. The BPC continues to impress upon B&NES that there is no justification for this continued project in the plans and should be abandoned.

There are better ways of ridding the A36 of HGVs.

### **River Avon Footpath**

This Footpath was closed in August 2006 because sections had collapsed making this B&NES Path unsafe.

A structural survey by B&NES estimated that some £350,000 would be required to shore up the banking throughout it's 510 metres length.

This amount is just not available.

The Ramblers Association (RA) last year commissioned their own survey which found that the three worst areas could be shored-up for some £35,000. But there are still many other areas that will need attention in the future.

B&NES proposes tackling the worst sections (as per RA) as soon as possible.

### **Double Yellow Lines**

When the replenishment programme was completed 4 years ago specific areas requested by the BPC were not included. B&NES has to raise a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO @ £2500) so that illegal parking can be penalised.

A B&NES-wide TRO is now being processed and it is intended that this year the "missing" double yellow lines will be installed at:-

1. Both corners at Avoncourt/Elmhurst;
2. RH corner at top of Elmhurst Hill;
3. Across the Gates at Catherine Way/Steway Lane.

But the B&NES-wide TRO will take some time but we should have all "our" requested lines this year.

### **Encore Northenders Information**

2010 is proving quite a year for Encore Northenders - our very own village theatre company. Having won 'Best Pantomime' for their 2009 production of *Sleeping Beauty*, they have just been informed they have been nominated for the award again for last winter's production 'Puss in Boots', so fingers crossed they can win again

In the meantime, the Company are not just sitting back on their laurels, but are well into rehearsals for their upcoming dinner/cabaret performances of "Pizazz 3", to be performed in the Church Hall from Thurs Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sat Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, but such is their popularity that tickets are selling like hot cakes, so make sure you have yours and don't miss out on a sparkling evening of comedy and song with food and drinks served at your table while you enjoy the show.

Also in the pipeline is another mix of fun and frolics with Santa and his elves in mind....when they present another 'Yule Love It' in December, and then it's straight into panto mode again for their brand new production of 'The Pied Piper' to be performed from Jan 31<sup>st</sup> to Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 2011.

To enable them to pack all this merriment into our lives, they are always on the look out for new performers of any age and also anyone interested in the technical, staging, wardrobe and front of house areas...so if you feel you would like to join this exciting group, please don't hesitate to contact Artistic Director Greg Vere, **NB** Encore are very keen to recruit a small band of 8 to 12 yr olds to appear in Pied Piper, so for more information on that, please contact Greg.

For tickets bookings for "Pizazz" or any of the other productions or for any information on joining or for children's auditions, Greg can be contacted on 01225 859023 or 07929 207018

### **Speed Bumps**

B&NES has completed various checks and have agreed to alter the slope of the ramps of the Speed Tables at the Car Sales Outlet and the one outside Brook Lodge.

A result, at last, for the BPC and the many

Residents who have campaigned for these  
"slope" changes.

**Bannerdown Road – HGVs**

Use of the stores at Colerne continues daily – despite the planning restriction that only "long-term" storage is permitted.

The Colerne Parish Council has also told the BPC that planning applications are proposed to expand and increase both facilities and use at this site. The BPC has objected to these plans.

The B&NES Highways Department has also approached their Wiltshire County counterparts to have Wilts include road improvements to the A420/A4 so that the heavy vehicular activity is contained – hopefully very much reduced.

A speed check on Bannerdown is proposed for this Summer by B&NES.

**Vision Plan**

Copies of the Plan were distributed to all households last year – and also to many B&NES officers and Departments.

The BPC progresses "its" elements at all Council and Committee meetings.

This year it is hoped that the "gully" pavement in front of the shops will be corrected, and that the Government does NOT make any grant on which B&NES' desecration of the Bathampton Meadows depends.

The River Avon Footbridge might not be constructed for 2/3 years.

**Website**

The last website piggy-backed on the B&NES Computer and this service was withdrawn last year.

A new website is being created by an expert in Bathampton and there will soon be a wealth of information available on

**Batheaston.org**

The Website will carry all Parish Council Agendas and Minutes so that residents can determine forthcoming events/meetings and progress on projects/repairs etc.

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The views expressed by others in this bulletin are not the responsibility of the Parish Council

**GPC** General Purposes Committee  
**Considers all matters of policy , legal, finance and other matters not covered by HFL/PEC Committees**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS - August 2010**

David Lavington 858744	Chairman	1 Wayfield Gardens BA1 7ED
David Robins 858036	V-Ch & Ch-PEC	'Woodsome', Bannerdown Rd BA1 8EG
Judith Beresford-Smith 859270	GPC	"The Chase" 30 High B'down BA1 7JZ
Pam Blanking 858728	PEC	'Summerhill', 45 Morris Lane BA1 7PS
Lawrence Brass 852222	VC-PEC	198 High Street BA1 7RA
Richard Clist 332042	VC-HFL	48 Bailbrook Lane BA1 7AN
Alison Creed 07977 034809	PEC	1 Coronation Cottages BA1 7DZ
Kathryn Eardley 859055	GPC	106 Northend BA1 7HA
Sydney Fremantle 852847	Ch-GPC	'Hill Lodge' Northend BA1 8EN
Margaret Johns 859515	HFL	3 Catherine Way BA1 7NY
Jeremy Heffer 852662	PEC	"Court View", Solsbury Lane BA1 7HB
Kevin Hawkins 858389	CH-HFL	5 Barnfield Way BA1 7PW
Vito Pecchia 852226	VC-GPC/PEC	104 Northend BA1 7HA
Michael Tabb 859102	HFL	"Wilmslow" Bannerdown Road BA1 7ND
Veronica Trenchard 852155	PEC	203 London Road East BA1 7NB

*GPC = General Purposes Committee;  
HFL = Highways, Footpaths & Lighting Committee;  
PEC = Planning & Environment Committee*

**Part-time Employees**

Mike Townley 852593	Clerk	'Bailrigg', 9 Eagle Park BA1 7HS
Justin Quintin Handyman		19 Uphill Drive, Larkhall BA1 6PB
Bert Poole Handyman		5 Elmhurst BA1 7NR
Greg Vere 859023	BLA Warden	86 Northend BA1 7ES

**District Councillors**

Gabriel Batt 859419	Dist Cllr	210 High Street BA1 7QZ
Ian Dewey 460658	Dist Cllr	'Kennet Court', Bathampton BA2 6ST
Martin Veal 858285	Dist Cllr	'Victory Gardens', B'down Drv BA1 7JW

**HFL** Highways, Footpaths, & Lighting

Considers ways in which improvements could be made to safety on the roads, lanes and footpaths. Responsible for identifying — to the Unitary Authority — any defects or repairs that are required to all roads, pavements, lanes and footpaths. Responsible for the cleanliness of pavements and streets and employs part-time Handymen for that purpose

**PEC** Planning & Environment

Responsible for making recommendations and comments, on behalf of the Parish Council, on all planning applications to the Unitary Authority (who have the 'final' decision on all applications). This Committee also considers any matters relating to the environment and conservation. It is responsible

for the Gardening (only) of the Batheaston Gardens.