



December 2010

## BATHEASTON BULLETIN No 26



### **Message from Parish Council Chairman - Cllr David Lavington.....**

Progress in building the new school hall and classrooms has been progressing at a pace.

Initial consultation with residents and the Parish Council has taken place with the Trustees and the Architect for the New Village Hall to replace the existing Church Hall in School Lane.

B&NES intend to withdraw funding for the Youth Centre from April 2011. No consultation had previously taken place with the Parish Council. Discussions have recently taken place between the B&NES Principle Youth Officer, our District Councillors, the Parish Council and the Batheaston Youth Management Committee to try and address this unsatisfactory proposal.

In the meantime I urge you to lobby your three District Councillors, listed in this Bulletin, regarding the unfairness of fully funding the Youth Centres in Bath and not even part funding our Youth Centre in Batheaston (almost 50% of the funding is at present raised locally).

The Youth Club appeals for more Volunteers to help with running/managing this Club in 2011.

Following the B&NES full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November we understand that a motion, to continue with the Bath Transportation Package as it is (including the Park & Ride on the Bathampton Meadows), was passed: "For" = 33 (Cons.) "Against" = 29 (LIB/DEM & Labour). This vote is In order that money could still come from Government B&NES will consider part funding this project!! Therefore the battle to try and save the meadows continues.

B&NES will receive considerably less money from Central Government over the next 3 years. Cuts have already started this year so expect further cuts to be made year-on-year. In the light of this the Parish Council will need to consider carefully what services we are able to supply and to resist possible pressures from B&NES for us to pay for more of their services!

Next year Elections will be held, in May, for both District Councillors and Parish Councillors. I urge you to seriously consider standing for one of the 15 Parish Council seats. In particular we would welcome residents apply from Elmhurst & Catherine Way as this area is under-represented at present.

Finally may all the Parish Councillors and Staff.....

### **Wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year**

#### **Christmas Trees**

Will be collected during January on garden waste day for composting. If over 4ft tall please cut down

#### **Christmas Waste Collections**

Only those collections completed on Monday and Tuesday are affected – Batheaston collections should be as usual.

#### **Food Waste**

Please note that all kitchen food waste can be disposed of in your caddy including turkey bones, stale mince pies, leftover sprouts, plate scrapings and any foods past their "use by" dates.

If running low on the compostable liners for your caddy newspaper can be used instead – or buy more from local or online stockists as listed on [www.bathnes.gov.uk/foodwaste](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/foodwaste).

Catering for extra guests might create more food waste. Advice is available on [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com). This site also has a variety of tasty recipe ideas to use up leftovers.

#### **Cardboard**

You can put cardboard, brown paper, greeting cards in the blue bag – but please take off any plastic bits and cut/fold the card flat to fit easily into the blue bag

#### **Other Items**

Broken and unwanted electrical items such as hairdryers, fairy lights, electrical toys (in fact anything with a plug or a battery) can be taken to the Recycling Centres. They will be broken down and recycled into new items instead of ending up in a landfill site.

#### **Pavement Gully at the Shops**

A design incorporating "dished" concrete blocks filling up the gully was considered by the B&NES highways engineer and was acceptable.

But it would mean open water running the length of the pavement as some dwellings discharge into this gully. In Bath's Green Street each side has a row of these "dished" blocks, alongside a 'gridded' gully. These metal grids are bolted down, very even and would still allow clearance of blockages.

Suppliers are being canvassed and a revised scheme is imminent.

#### **Vision Plan**

The BPC continues to progress the various elements at all Council and Committee meetings.

The Pavement Gully is being addressed as above.

Following strong representations from the Ramblers Association B&NES is committed to temporary repairs to the River Avon Footpath but recognises that the alternative Footbridge is the long-term answer. Discussions with B&NES, the Environmental Agency, Napier University, Architects and Constructors are progressing but costs might delay construction for 2/3 years.

The 9 x Lamps in the Car Park are not adequate and a scheme to replace with 7 only Lamps is being pursued – with our Cllr Tabb in the forefront.

A similar review of the 17 x Street Lights, installed and owned by the BPC, is in progress to reduce running costs.

The BPC has also formed a separate Village Centre Committee (VCC) to give practical shape to various parts of the Vision Plan not covered by an existing Committee

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

It was hoped that the B&NES Bath Transport Package (BTP) would have been 'scrapped' in the Government's spending review.

However the BTP will now have to compete with 22 other schemes – throughout the UK - to bid for a "slice" of £600 million expenditure, (*less than half the total £1.3billions aggregate for all 22 bids*) Final decisions will be made by the end of 2011

### **The BTP Business Plan**

Our own Cllr Fremantle has studied the Business Plan revised by the consultants as issued this January 2010. The main aims were: -

- (a) To reduce congestion and
- (b) To improve Air Quality

As previously advised to both B&NES and the Government, neither objective is "anywhere in sight"

1. The £58+ millions expenditure is not good use of Taxpayers' funds;
2. The declared benefits have been overstated by £117 million;
3. The expensive elements – the P&R and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) would show a loss of £30 million;
4. The BTP scheme does **NOT** improve traffic congestion;
5. The BTP scheme does **NOT** improve Air Quality;
6. The P&R at 1400 spaces is **NOT** sustainable and **NOT** capable of extension;
7. The P&R site lies in the Green Belt, within 200metres of the World heritage Site and is surrounded by the AONB;
8. B&NES has admitted that the P&R site fails to satisfy the requisite tests in PPG2
9. The P&R would irreversibly degrade the magnificent WHS landscape setting;
10. UNESCO has ordered an investigation – it is apparent that they were not fully aware of such a development in the WHS Landscape setting.
11. Under UNESCO guidance the Bathampton Meadows site should become a "buffer zone"
12. Public consultation on the BTP was untimely and perfunctory. On the scheme's announcement it had a 78% rejection rate;
13. NO rigorous evaluation of other potential P&R options was carried out.
14. There is also significant public opposition to the Bus Rapid Transit and Newbridge P&R expansion, which, again, is in the Green Belt, the AONB, the WHS and adjacent to the Bath conservation Area.
15. A number of District Councillors have expressed grave concerns on the flawed process used by B&NES to obtain approvals of its own scheme.
16. A number of Government and B&NES reports over the preceding decade consistently and explicitly rejected the use of the Meadows site, on the grounds of serious adverse environmental impact.
17. The BRT would be no more rapid than using the existing bus services. B&NES own Consultants calculated that the BRT will be slower between Newbridge and City Centre.
18. The compulsory Purchase Orders required to implement the BRT scheme are highly controversial and subject to a Public Inquiry.

### **The next 14 months?**

B&NES will continue to spend taxpayers' monies justifying/fudging its Business Plan.

Don Foster MP is pushing for more low-cost options and has been asked to advise the Parish Council so that we might possibly help in support.

### **The Village New Hall - Graham Richardson, Chairman**

Last month the Batheaston New Village Hall Trust (Registered Charity Number 1119104) and the Architects (Messrs White Design Associates) hosted a series of Consultation Exhibitions. The aim of these Exhibitions was to enable the village to meet members of the project team and have input into the design and planning of the new Village Hall.

### **Public Comments**

The project team was pleased that some 200 people visited the Exhibition, many of whom made design and planning requests, comments and other helpful suggestions that are being analysed by the project team and will be made public on the charity web site as soon as possible.

### **Next Exhibition**

Using the results of the Exhibition, earlier Consultation meetings and other the information gathering exercises, the Trustees will be holding a Concept Exhibition for the village on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> January next year, when there will be an opportunity to see and comment on possible designs for the new Village Hall. If anyone missed the opportunity of visiting any of the Exhibitions and Consultation meetings and would like to make their own contribution to the project work, they are invited to visit the charity's web site at [www.batheastonhall.org.uk](http://www.batheastonhall.org.uk).

### *Become a Friend*

Anyone who wishes to be kept regularly informed about the project, is invited to become a **FRIEND** of the New Village Hall – membership details and other information also being available on the above web site or by 'phoning Rob Mimmack on 859708 or myself on 852608.

### **THE FOOTBALL PITCH - Rob Mimmack**

#### **A chance to bring football back to Batheaston**

Villagers will be aware that the Football Field in Coalpit Road is currently being used by the contractors for the Primary School redevelopment as their site compound. This should end in the summer of 2011 and the pitch will then be fully reinstated to a playable condition at B&NES Council's expense. Because of the need for new grass to establish itself the pitch will unfortunately not be available for football matches until the 2012/13 Season

#### **Proposed Upgrade**

The BLA, which is responsible for the management and maintenance of the village's sports and recreation facilities, is keen to see the pitch used again and would like to take the opportunity to upgrade the fencing and the changing facilities also. Any building work needs to undertaken before the pitch is re-laid and seeded in late summer 2011.

#### **Future Organisation**

Anyone with an interest in playing or organising football teams, either for adults or juniors, is invited to come to the Rhymes Pavilion, Coalpit Road at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to talk with BLA members about what you would like to see done and tell us about your ideas. The existing changing rooms will be open for inspection from 7.00 p.m.

PLEASE COME ALONG BETWEEN 7.00 & 7.30 WEDNESDAY  
5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011

For further information please ring *Rob Mimmack* on 859708 or email [robert.mimmack@sky.com](mailto:robert.mimmack@sky.com)

## B&NES Spending Review

### Grant Settlement

The Government will cut the national settlement by 7% per year, every year for 4 years. This reduces B&NES monies by at least £30 millions. B&NES will continue to press for a fairer share as it has been penalised by a damping of entitlement = a "loss" of 2.5 million in each of the past years.

### Council Tax

The Government's Public Spending Review (PSR) announced a freeze on Council taxes = a 0% increase in 2011-12

Councils are being offered greater discretion from 2013-14 for targeting Council Tax benefits according to local priorities.

But the Government also announced a reduction of 10% in expenditure for that year so a significant challenge.

### Next Steps

B&NES did invite everybody to give their views (by 2<sup>nd</sup> December) on the Council's spending priorities in 2011-12 through a consultation that can be accessed at [www.bathnes.gov.uk/budget2011](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/budget2011). The B&NES Cabinet is developing a number of strategies, culminating in the annual Budget meeting in February 2011

## Encore Northenders Christmas -Greg Vere

Their first production is the popular

**'Yule Love It' Christmas cabaret.**

Yet again in the very capable hands of Petra Schofield, the company are presenting a cracker-packed, fun-filled pot-pourri of entertainment for all the family, with two performances a day on

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Then once the turkey has all been used up, the presents played with and discarded and the decorations are safely back in their box for another year, it is time to heave yourself out of the doldrums and join Encore for their very special pantomime season when they will perform

**'The Pied Piper'.**

Again written and directed by Greg Vere, and following three years of award nominated and award winning previous pantomimes, Encore set off again at the end of January with a specially written new version of this classic fairytale. Packed full of comedy, song and dance, It is just what is needed to chase away the post Christmas blues. For those of you who have already seen an Encore pantomime, you will know that early booking is always advised, and more so this year as the performances are all packed into one fun filled week.

The performances are Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2011 to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011, with evening

Encore continued.....

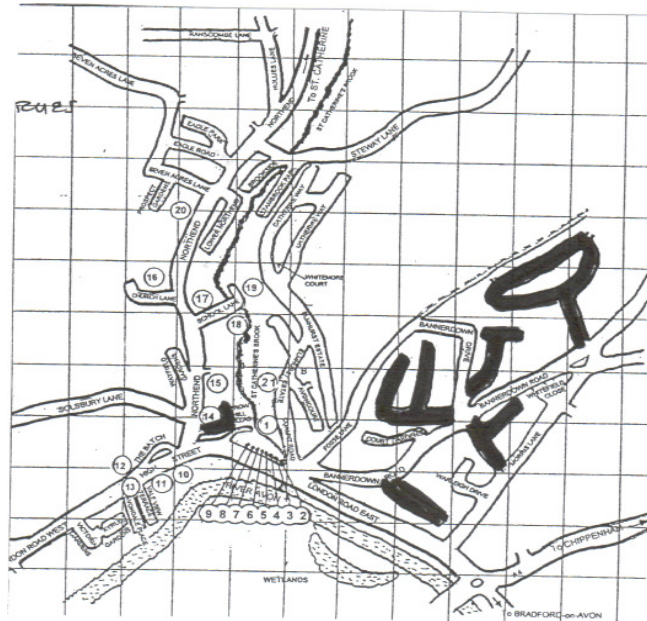
performances Monday to Friday at 7.30pm and then three performances on Saturday 2pm, 5pm and 8pm. For more information and ticket bookings for both of these productions call 01225 859023 or 07929 207018....but don't leave it too late as tickets are already selling very quickly

**Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Schemes** *Wherever we live our community may experience crime. It is easy to shrug and assume it won't happen to you, and that nothing can be done, but each of us has a vital role to play by becoming actively involved in crime prevention.*

Residents of a community possess a very specialised knowledge of their neighbourhood, which even the local Police cannot match. A police officer might not recognise someone as a stranger – but your neighbourhood might.

By letting the Police know of anything suspicious you see or hear you are helping to reduce the opportunities for crime to occur. The more difficult it can be made for criminals, the more likely it is that crime can be reduced.

Belonging to a Neighbour Hood Watch scheme also usually attracts reduced Household Insurance premiums.



"Blacked-out" roads shows existing NWSs

Batheaston obviously needs better coverage. If you want to get involved in a Watch scheme, and find out about the schemes and how they operate, your local police will help to set up one of your own.

To find your neighbourhood policing team visit:

[www.direct.gov.uk/neighbourhoodpolicing](http://www.direct.gov.uk/neighbourhoodpolicing)

Or for general crime reduction advice visit:

[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk) and

[www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

Or contact the Neighbourhood Watch Administrator Ms Helen Colville (01225) 842480

### Local Elections – May 2011

Next May all electors in B&NES will be asked to vote for 65 x District Councillors, 29 x Town Councillors and 390 Parish Councillors. Batheaston should elect 15 x Parish Councillors and 3 x District Councillors.

### **What is a Parish Council (PC)?**

A PC is the first legal tier of Government with its Local Authority/Council/Shire and should be consulted on all matters affecting its Parish.

PCs developed from the ancient manorial/vestry system and its powers were enshrined in law in 1894 with a plethora of subsequent laws enacted to endeavour to give the local Village/Town more control over its own destiny.

These enactments of law continue to this day with the Government maintaining that more “powers” be delegated down to the PC.

### **Powers of the PC**

A PC can maintain its own facilities eg Gardens, Pavements, Footpaths, Toilet Block – can engage staff and administer the PAYE/Income Tax etc.

It raises its own “monies” and Accounts of income and expenditure are controlled and must be externally audited. It can administer Charity donations.

*We are legally entitled to raise our own Militia!!!*

### **Local Authority Agency Agreements**

B&NES is responsible for Pavement Sweeping, Car Park and Gardens, toilet Facilities and clearing rural Footpaths.

The BPC has Agency Agreements to undertake these tasks – on behalf of B&NES

### **Nominees Meeting**

If you wish to learn more about the workings of a Parish Council, there will be a “Chat” evening on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 7.30pm in The Rhymes Pavilion

### **Voting in May 2011**

If you feel able to join the Parish Council - to help this Village improve - please offer your nominations to the Clerk.

**And please, please come out to vote on election day to ensure the nominated candidates are given your full support.**

### **Those Bumps**

Finally, after 17 months of nagging the “ramps” to 2 of our speed tables were improved.

Noise levels have been checked and a significant reduction noted.

#### **District Councillors**

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

### **Recent New Councillors**

Comments from our 4 most recent volunteers = *The cynics amongst us would say: --*

*"Why bother we can't influence anything - nobody listens to us – they are all the same Politicians/Councillors."*

*I must admit being one of those cynics before joining Batheaston Parish, but I am now of the opinion we only get out what we deserve.*

*If you don't put anything in, you can't expect to get anything out!*

*So having joined the Parish Council eighteen months ago, I can now confirm our Parish Councillors try very hard to represent the community as best we can within the limitations put upon us. However, this may sometimes seem to be a very slow process but it is better than doing nothing and just leaving it to others who may or may not work in accordance with your own thoughts and requirements.*

*As an example, we have recently adopted the Batheaston "Vision Plan" of which was formulated after consulting with all the Batheaston residents to secure their wishes and requirements for the future of our village.*

*The "Vision Plan" is exactly the type of local project required to sustain our Village's future and why I joined the Parish Council"*

*"I joined the BPC because I wanted to become involved in the local community. It is a great opportunity to work with like-minded people who obviously care about the future of Batheaston's fabric and community"*

#### **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS - December 2010**

David Lavington 858744	Chairman	1 Wayfield Gardens	BA1 7ED
David Robins V-Ch 858036	+Ch-PEC	Woodsome', Bannerdown Rd	BA1 8EG
Judith Beresford-Smith 859270	GPC	"The Chase" 30 High B'down	BA1 7JZ
Pam Blanking 858728	HFL	'Summerhill', 45 Morris Lane	BA1 7PS
Lawrence Brass	PEC	198 High Street	BA1 7RA
Richard Clist 332042	HFL	48 Bailbrook Lane	BA1 7AN
Alison Creed 0797 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	HFL	"Court View", Solsbury Lane	BA1 7HB
Kevin Hawkins 858389	CH-HFL	5 Barnfield Way	BA1 7PW
Vito Pecchia 852226	GPC + PEC	104 Northend	BA1 7HA
Michael Tabb 859102	HFL	"Wilmslow" Bannerdown Rd	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

