

# ANNUAL REPORT - 2010/11

*From the Chairman – Cllr David Lavington.....*

**On behalf of the Council may I wish you all a very Happy Easter**

### Councillors

During this last year the Parish has seen the following Councillors moving away :- Peter Davis, Alan Wright, Richard Clist. We miss these active contributors.

But we have gained Cllrs Jeremy Heffer & Michael Tabb both of whom are already contributing towards improving the welfare of this Village

### During the Year:-

- \* Speed Table ramps improved;
- \* Scheme prepared for the Pavement Gulley in front of the shops;
- \* Precept Reduction by 18.9% down to £33,000 (from (£40,000));
- \* Promising acknowledgement from Wilts Council that "storage" rules are being flouted at Colerne Airfield Stores;
- \* Relayed valid doubts on the Core Strategy – will participate in any Inquiry;
- \* Founder member of new Valley Parishes Alliance (VPA);
- \* All Car Park Lighting promised to be replaced this year;
- \* B&NES acknowledging that a River Avon Footbridge is worth actively investigating;
- \* 2 x New Benches installed;
- \* Established a Village Centre Committee (VCC);
- \* Village represented in the new B&NES Transport Commission;
- \* Maintaining pressure on B&NES and DfT concerning the Bath Transport Package (BTP);
- \* Resurfacing of Bannerdown Road and removal of much unneeded street furniture on London road.

### Bannerdown Common

The Common is gradually "Shrinking" as scrubland encroaches from all the surrounding trees. The Freeholders Committee is planning to have this scrub grazed by cattle – as in the past – and require to fence off the area. Permission to 'fence-off' Common Land has already been granted

### Village Hall. (C Bond)

St Johns Church Hall is some 15 years overdue for replacement and a generous bequest from Ms Patsy Townsend goes a long way towards making that replacement possible. Architects are working hard on schemes and have presented their ideas at several separate consultation sessions.

Investigations indicate that a "straightforward" Replacement on the existing site will best serve the Village. Extra parking on the field is also planned.

An update will be offered at the Annual Village Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May – in the same tumbling-down Hall

### "Localism Bill"

The Government is desiring more responsibility to be passed down to Parish and Town Councils

A "Localism Bill" is presently being progressed through Parliament at this time

BUT – is it extra powers with no monies?

### New Seats

A new Bench has been installed on top of Solsbury Hill, and a new Bench sited at the front of the RC Church of the Good Shepherd, kindly donated by the Batheaston Neighbourhood Group

### Bus Shelters & Bike Stands

Monies have been advised that might permit extra "roofed" bus shelters to be installed in the Village 4 separate sites have been advised to B&NES who is in the process of surveying all villages before deciding on an allocation. We might get one. The Parish Council has also advised where B&NES might be able to site 3 x new Cycle Stands,

### Village Centre Committee (VCC)

The Council noted that 82% of the respondents to the Vision Plan Steering Group's Survey identified the Garden High Street area as the "village centre", and that it is currently that part of the village which is most visited or traversed both by villagers and visitors.

It is convinced that its further development as the recreational and commercial centre of the village would strengthen the cohesion of the village community.

It has accordingly adopted the Plan on page 24 of the Vision Plan 2009 as the basis for its long-term aspirations and has established a Village Centre Committee (VCC), subject, of course, to the Council, to investigate, advise and progress that Plan.

The Committee is now actively engaged in preliminary research and investigation to establish essential pre-conditions and will follow this up with a consultation and development programme in the new Council term.

Unaudited Accounts 2010 - 2011				Proposed 2011-2012	
<b>INCOME</b> Precept £40,000; Agency payments £16,890, Interest £410; Other £30		<b>Budget</b> <b>£56,990</b>	<b>Actual</b> <b>£58,130</b>	<b>Budget £</b> <b>£50,290</b>	
		<b>Budget</b> <b>£84,880</b>	<b>Actual</b> <b>£47,930</b>	<b>Budget</b> <b>£72,140</b>	
<b>EXPENSES - As below:-</b>		<b>Budget £</b>	<b>Actual £</b>	<b>Savings £</b>	<b>Budget £</b>
<b>Wages</b> Clerk, 2 x Handymen, Warden, Gardener		<b>26,540</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>- 840</b>	<b>26360</b> +2% Wage Awards
<b>Administration</b>		<b>7,800</b>	<b>5,510</b>	<b>- 2290</b>	<b>7200</b>
Audit - Required by Law		600	580		
Insurance - Required by Law		1860	1880		
Subscriptions Member of ALCA @ £514, VPA @ £150 + CPRE etc.		740	740		
Post £170; Phone £340; Stat'y £20; Travel £180, Office £430; Copying £350; C'men £180; Website £350; Other £690		2710	2120		
New Notice boards		600	190		
<b>Highways</b>		<b>32,390</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>- 30210</b>	<b>14100</b> Renovate gully at Shops@ £10000 + Extra Light @ £1300
16 x Street Lights		100	1320		
Sweeping Materials		520	340		
Garage Rental		320	290		
Footpaths Clearing		700	230		
<i>Proposed Renovation of all Street Lamps cancelled "saving" £20000+ Delay Extra Light @ £1300+ Proposed Park &amp; Ride costs @ £7500 not reqd.</i>					
<b>Planning</b>		<b>1,950</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>+260</b>	<b>1870</b>
Hanging Baskets + Plants		500	370		
Toilets		1100	1260	(Water Leaks)	
Jubilee Oak/ Lime Pruning		0	500		
<b>Resources</b>		<b>4,450</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>- 2880</b>	<b>12020</b> Initiate Footbridge over Avon VCC support @ £500
CAB Donation		1000	1000		
Bulletins Issue 3 x Issues per annum		500	470		
Local Organisations Support		500	100		
<b>Recreation</b>		<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>- 420</b>	<b>2340</b>
Water Rate & Electricity + Coffee Morning costs		1200	830		
BLA donation- (+ Warden & Electricity costs)		1300	1300		
<b>Projects</b>		<b>9200</b>	<b>8660</b>	<b>-540</b>	<b>8250</b> Youth Club @£8000
Youth Club + 3 <sup>rd</sup> Evening		8000	8000		
Pavilion Refurbishment - Doors repairs		700	660		

**Councillors PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS - March 2011**

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

GPC = General Purposes Committee; HFL = Highways, Footpaths & Lighting Committee  
 Committee PEC = Planning & Environment Committee; VCC = Village Centre Committee

**Part-time Employees**

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

**District Councillors**

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

**Councillors**

This year in May will be the local elections for both Parish and District Councillors. The term of office is for 4 years and the first meeting of the newly elected Parish Councillors is set for Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Batheaston is allocated 15 Councillors and 3 x District Councillors. The full Parish Council meets approximately every 6 weeks equating to 9 meetings this next year. There are 4 separate Committees comprising 7 Councillors each, which also meet on a 6 week cycle. The Council and Committees meet usually in The Rhymes Pavilion, on a Tuesday evening, at 7.15pm and the meetings last no more than 2 hours. The existing Council is not well-represented in Elmhurst nor Catherine Way. We do need volunteers from there so please advise the Clerk if you are interested.

### **Bath Transport Package (BTP)**

This Package originally requested over £50 millions of Government money from the Department for Transport (DfT).

Last October the Government pared down its total local transport grants

investment from £1.3 billions to £600 millions and invited all bidding Authorities to re-think and resubmit their Funding Request. It particularly sought changes in scope which improved value-for-money.

B&NES has chosen to sell some of its assets, and thus reduced its request for funding by approximately £20 millions? It hopes that the reduced amount being sought will gain the DfT funding for the BTP package.

But The traffic congestion will be worse than today's.

There is NO improvement in Air quality from today's

The BRT takes up to 6 minutes more than showcase buses to travel between the City centre and Newbridge.

The P&R is TOO small and cannot be sustained/expanded.

The CPOs to provide the BRT are not even agreed.

The value-for-money is minus £48 millions

A "golden" opportunity was missed: -

(1) Eliminate the BRT and simply improve existing bus services

(2) Resite the Newbridge P&R expansion to the land south-side of the A36;

(3) Transfer the P&R to Charmy down;

(4) Cancel the expansion of Lansdown P&R as Charmy Down will accommodate its extra traffic (and Christmas coaches).

(5) Ban all A36-bound HGVs from London Road.

These 5 items will produce a profitable package, and satisfy the DfT's request for a re-think.

And save selling off "the Bath Silver".

### **Youth Club Status (Rob Mimmack)**

B&NES has withdrawn its £16,500 annual contribution and the Youth Club closed its doors on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

However – with assistance from the Parish Council - it is Intended that the Youth Club re-opens its doors every Tuesday and Thursday from 1<sup>st</sup> May this year.

One of these evenings is being funded by the Youth Club, who are seeking Grants and other assistance

### **Core Strategy**

B&NES has to prepare a Scheme for all aspects of "life" in its authority – with schemes up to 2026. The name is "Core Strategy" and all organisations were asked to make preliminary observations back in June 2010. These observations were developed into a "Draft Core Strategy" and issued for comment in December last.

The BPC provided 20 pages of comments before the 3<sup>rd</sup> February deadline, and another Revision of the Draft is promised in early Summer.

Our major concerns are: -

1. No linking with Wiltshire is proposed;
2. No reference to Parish Plans;
3. Discrepancy with number of housing required vs Government targets;
4. No encroachment on the Green Belt but supporting a P&R on the Meadows!
5. No recognition of UNESCO's criteria for the world Heritage Site setting. The CS does NOT designate a "buffer Zone" which should embrace all surrounding, visible green spaces.
6. There is a bewildering refusal to not listen the PC 7. Preservation of the Green Belt is too woolly

### **River Footbridge**

A very detailed survey of the River Avon banking at the footpath BA 2/5 has revealed that some £100,000 will be required for repairs now, and repairs will still be required in the future.

B&NES is therefore now looking at the provision of a Footbridge and a new Footpath/Cycle Way across The River Avon from the Car Park.

### **Car Park Lighting**

B&NES has now programmed the replacement of all 9 lights with 7 new units – which will also permit the resiting of the CCTV unit to a more central position overlooking both Car Park and Gardens.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**

The Police are seeking more co-ordinators – to improve coverage in the Village.

If you can help – or have a concern – please contact your nearest Parish Councillor, or the Clerk

### **School Meadow**

The Primary School head-teacher will present the plans and proposals for improving the Meadow behind the Methodist buildings in Northend, at the Annual Village Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Our aim is to be of use to any resident in the district, regardless of age or circumstance,  
- assuming that you are a patient of the Batheaston Medical Centre.

We have a number of volunteers willing to give their time specifically for this purpose.

We provide transport to and from surgeries and hospitals: A wheelchair is available – suitable for car boots. In special cases, if you have a problem, we may be able to offer help in your home or garden.

We can also take you shopping or shop for you and renew or collect prescriptions.

We might assist by enabling you to visit. As well as, the monthly shopping coach to the local supermarket, we have a monthly Luncheon Club, help is always welcome – details from any co-ordinator.

To make contact with the BNG you simply telephone one of the co-ordinators whose numbers are below.

If none of them are available, the answerphone will provide another number to call.

Eileen 858433 Susan 852847 Evelyn 852227 Ann 858485

**BATHEASTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2011 AT 7-30 pm IN  
ST JOHNS CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL LANE**

***Batheaston Getting Better***

- 1 DISCUSSION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010 – 2011**
- 2 UPDATE on VILLAGE HALL (Rob Mimmack)**
- 3 UPDATE on NEW SCHOOL HALL & PROPOSALS FOR THE MEADOW (Sarah Webber)**

**REFRESHMENTS will be served during the evening**

Please Attend and help guide our Future

**Colerne Storage Facilities.**

The military storage facilities at the Colerne airfield were for "long-term" storage and, when sold off, any prospective purchaser was supposed to keep to that regulation.

But too many times manufacturing and processing units have been established there. There is also an Application pending to expand the stores by almost double the existing floor area.

Manufacturing and processing attracts a considerable amount of HGV traffic up and down Bannerdown Road because no other access has been explored. The Wiltshire Council will NOT consider any development in their area - neither the roadway through The Shoe, nor developing an alternative route from off the A4.

The latest Storage user is proposing to process 1000 tonnes of carpet waste there – EACH WEEK.

Both B&NES senior management and the BPC have been pressing to discontinue any other use than "long-term" storage and correspondence with the Wilts Council Planning Department might – now – be bearing fruit.

**Planning**

During the calendar year of 2010 the PEC considered 64 Applications and cleared them back to B&NES officers in an average 14.5 days.

**Parishes East of Bath**

*A new initiative proposed last year came to fruition with the launch of the Valley Parishes Alliance (VPA), where the Parishes East of Bath, are joining together with some Wiltshire members to represent a united "voice" in areas of common interest.*

*This Alliance represents some 11,000 residents.*

*The Constitution was agreed and already we have summarised all the "common-shared" objectives in the Core Strategy Reviews.*

*The VPA has an observer in the recently formed B&NES Transport Commission.*

**Pavement at the Shops**

The existing gully has long been a safety hazard and the B&NES highways engineers have been unable to offer an acceptable conversion. Therefore the BPC has submitted an alternative that 'sinks' a modern gully-system into the existing trough, and then tarmac entire new surfaces for a smoothed surface. All shops and Residents are to be advised of the proposal and then costings can be progressed. The BPC might be asked to fund the entire "repair"

***EASTER SERVICES – Batheaston Churches in Partnership (Imogen Fry)***

**Palm Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion at St Catherine  
10.00am Blessing of the Palms & Mass at the Good Shepherd  
10.00am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist  
10.30am Morning Worship at the Methodist Church

**Good Friday**

10.45am Cross Walk – details on posters at churches  
2.00pm An hour at the foot of the Cross at St John the Baptist  
See church notice board for services at Good Shepherd

**Maundy Thursday**

St John the Baptist  
See church notice board for services at Good Shepherd.

**Easter Eve**

5.00pm Easter Eve service at St John the Baptist  
See church notice board for services at Good Shepherd

**Easter Day**

8.00am Holy Communion at St Catherine  
10.00am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist  
10.00am Mass at the Good Shepherd  
10.30am Morning Worship at the Methodist Church

**Council Tax – 2011-12**

The Annual Precept (Council Tax) set by the Batheaston Parish Council is always added to the B&NES Council tax. This year the BPC is delighted to reduce the Precept by 18.9%, to £33,000 for 2011/2012 (vs £40,000 last year). This figure equates to 56p per week per household per "D" class home.

The proposed Projects for this coming year are highlighted in the "Accounts" on page 2.

**ELECTIONS 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011**

**PLEASE, PLEASE, USE YOUR VOTE AND ATTEND THE YOUTH CLUB VOTING STATION AS THERE ARE 15 X PARISH COUNCILLORS AND 3 X DISTRICT COUNCILLORS NEEDED FOR THIS VILLAGE.**