

Dear Resident

Love it or hate it, the railway running through Barnt Green is a major asset to our community. As a society, we are prone to complain that some of the country's rail infrastructure is Victorian and, in Barnt Green, we have been paying the price through road closures of essential improvements that will deliver a service that many small communities could only dream of having.

We have witnessed the complexities of upgrading the railway, whilst keeping it operational, and I would like to thank everyone for their patience for the inconvenience suffered as the long overrunning bridge work nears completion.

One of the consequences of the rail upgrade is that Network Rail wish to close the footpath crossing at Cofton Hall. Having conducted a camera survey of usage and because of previous incidents, Network Rail have instigated temporary closure of the footpath on safety grounds. It is well used and the Parish Council is keen to maintain this footpath route.

Proposals, other than permanent closure, are awaited from Network Rail. In the meantime if you have any suggestions for solving this dilemma please let us know.

On a more positive note, we have the annual village walk scheduled for Saturday, 26th September. There are 3 walks of differing lengths, all finishing in Millennium Park with a pig roast. More details are on page 8.

On the following Saturday evening, 3rd October, the Parish Council has organised a live entertainment event, Seven Ages, to be held at St Andrew's Church Hall. More details are on page 5. I hope you will support these events.

Robert Cholmondeley, Vice-Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council

MP and Councillors' contacts:

MP Sajid Javid – sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk

County Councillor Peter McDonald – pmcdonald2@worcestershire.gov.uk

District Councillor Charles Hotham – c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Parish Councillors: Rachel Banner, Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Edwin Gumbley, Charles Hotham, John Jagger, Susan Whitehand

Chairman: John Jagger JKJagger@sky.com 0121 445 2437

Executive Officer: Gill Lungley exec@barntgreen.org.uk 0121 447 9893

Parish councillors' contact details can be obtained from the Parish Council office at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF or at www.barntgreen.org.uk

Comings and goings

Following the departure of Paul MacLachlan to pastures new in the east of England Gill Lungley has now taken over the position of Executive Officer. Gill is an experienced Clerk who has worked for a variety of parish councils for many years. We wish both officers well in their new posts.

At its meeting on Wednesday 22nd July, councillors co-opted Rachel Banner on to the Parish Council. Rachel is an experienced Parish Councillor having previously served on this Council for a number of years. Rachel has hit the ground running by agreeing to take on the co-ordination of next year's Community Open Gardens event to be held over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd July, alongside a Flower Festival in St Andrew's Church - see page 3.



Have you got what it takes to be a Parish Councillor?

At the time of writing there is still one vacancy on the Parish Council following the May 2015 elections. It will assist the smooth running and efficiency of the Council if all the positions are filled. The responsibilities are not too onerous and your time can yield huge reward for the community as well as being personally satisfying. The Council meets monthly to discuss and act on local council issues.

Responsibilities include:

- maintaining community facilities including Millennium Park and play area, Parker's Piece playing field and street lighting;
- maintaining and enhancing the local natural and built environment;
- responding to local planning applications;
- liaising with District and County Councils and other statutory bodies;
- listening to, and representing, the interests of the whole community;
- keeping the community informed about issues of local interest.

The Parish Council is currently drafting a Barnt Green Neighbourhood Plan which will impact on the character of the village for years to come. Every resident will be invited to provide input to this Plan and the council will be sending out a questionnaire in the near future.

If you feel you would like to serve your community as a Parish Councillor and be involved in producing a blueprint for the future then please contact the Executive Officer for an application pack.

**To receive Parish Council emails about issues of significance
in Barnt Green forward your email address to
exec@barntgreen.org.uk**

Defibrillator



You may have noticed that the defibrillator donated by West Midlands Ambulance is now installed next to the Post Office. To use in an emergency dial 999 and quote the code on the box. You will then be given the code to access the defibrillator. If you would like to be trained to use the equipment or trained in First Aid generally please contact the Executive Officer.

Plans are being drawn up for a Community Event - Open Gardens with a Flower Festival in St Andrew's Church on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd July 2016. If you would like to volunteer your garden or simply want more information please contact Rachel Banner on 0121 445 4479. Size doesn't matter! It's not a competition it is just for enjoyment.

Open Gardens and Flower Festival



Hewell Road bridge



Picture taken October 2014

FROM THIS...

The march of progress sees electrification of the railway line, which has necessitated changes to the road bridges in order to accommodate the new equipment. Hewell Lane has been closed for many months whilst the work has taken place underneath the bridge and after its upgrade it now looks somewhat different.

...TO THIS

It's not quite what we were expecting but we have been told the new surface will weather and start to look like the old sandstone type brickwork in next to no time!

Picture August 2015, prior to completion.



Parish Council meetings

The Parish Council meets at 80 Hewell Road on the first Wednesday evening of every month - 2nd Sept, 7th Oct, 4th Nov, 2nd Dec; 7pm. All meetings are open to members of the public to attend.

Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment (NPE) Committee: dates and times yet to be arranged.

Parish Council frustration over *misused* rail path

Parish Councillors were both surprised and incredulous at the recent decision by Worcesterstershire County Council to issue a temporary closure notice on a popular village footpath which leads from Cofton Church Lane, across the rail line near Cofton Park and on to Lower Bittell Reservoir.

The closure follows concerns raised by Network Rail over the safety of the crossing and claims of regular misuse. Evidence put forward by Network Rail included walkers not looking prior to crossing, crossing in groups and allowing their dogs to cross the line off the lead.

Speaking on behalf on the Parish Council, Vice Chairman, Robert Cholmondeley commented that *“although Network Rail representatives have expressed safety concerns over the higher speeds of trains on the newly electrified line, there has been no prior mention of misuse. Network Rail have assured the Parish Council that they will consider a different, permanent and safer route across the line and that local people will be consulted before a final decision is taken.”*

If you agree with the Parish Council that the closure of this footpath will deny local residents an important local right of way please send your comments to the Parish Council at exec@barntgreen.org.uk

Cala Homes: safety questions over new junction proposals

At a recent meeting (23rd July) between representatives of Cala Homes and Barnt Green Residents' Association (BGRA) it emerged that Cala Homes are seeking to abandon plans to move the junction of Fiery Hill Road further away from the railway bridge. Ita Curtis, Chair of BGRA, said *“the amended plans, recently submitted to the District Council, show that the route taken by Fiery Hill Road extends further into Kendal End Road to increase visibility when looking at approaching traffic from the Railway Bridge. The larger car park is now incorporated into the Cala Homes site and will be managed by them. However this solution does not solve car parking on Fiery Hill Road or displacement parking.”*

Cala representatives believe the new proposals will satisfy the necessary visibility criteria. The Parish Council will follow this up as the whole point of moving the junction was to address a known safety hotspot! The planning application (reference 15/0652) showing the revised road layout will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 2nd September.

If you have any community news please send it to the Executive Officer at exec@barntgreen.org.uk

You are invited to ...

...**the Barnt Green Community Walk and Pig Roast.** Returning for its third year on Saturday 26th September. See back page for details.

...**Kepow Theatre Company's production of Seven Ages** at 7.30pm on Saturday 3rd October at St Andrew's Church Hall. Details below.

...**a harvest service and lunch** at the Baptist church on 4th October at 10.30am and at St Andrew's church on 11th October at 9.30am.

...**the annual village bonfire and fireworks are expected** to take place on Saturday 7th November - watch out for notices.

... **Barnt Green Outdoor Cinema** at Barnt Green Sports Club.

Friday 4th September: **The Lion King**

Saturday 5th September: **Mamma Mia (with after party)**

Gates open at 6.00pm: £15 adults, £6 children u12, £free children u2

Tickets from Barnt Green Sports Club, Barnt Green Post Office or by calling 0121 445 6323. Funds in aid of Barnt Green Pre-school.

Licensed bar and gourmet street food available. Ample tent coverage. Bring camping chair and blanket. **Please leave cars at home and walk or arrange to be dropped off and for cars to be parked elsewhere.**

Barnt Green Parish Council proudly presents a new initiative that will bring new, live entertainment to the village. If successful the Parish Council is looking to bring two new, live performances into Barnt Green every year.

The first production, **Seven Ages**, explores the idea that we go through seven stages in life. From infancy – through love and wisdom – to growing old disgracefully. Essentially a comedy with touching moments **Seven Ages** seeks to explore two of the most important questions in life: *why am I here?* and *what's important in my life?* whilst simultaneously making you laugh. Whatever stage of life you're at, you'll love this show. Suitable for 6 – 106 year olds.

St Andrew's Church Hall Saturday 3rd October. Doors open at 6.45pm and the play starts at 7.30pm

Tickets - £10 adults, £8.50 >65yrs, £8.50 aged 6 - 16yrs – are available from the parish council office (weekday mornings Mon - Thurs) or by phone and email.

The second production is 'The Origin of Species', scheduled for 16th April 2016 – look out for more information on that in the next Bulletin.

Please support your local, live entertainment

For further information about clubs and societies in Barnt Green visit the Parish Council website at www.barntgreen.org.uk

News through the parish council's inbox...

From Bromsgrove District Council:

INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

The way you register to vote has changed, so make sure you are in. Registering to vote is straightforward. Go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote
Alternatively call Bromsgrove and Redditch Council on 01527 881421

From West Mercia Police:

JOIN NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE CITIZENS' ACADEMY

The Citizens' Academy is an exciting opportunity to understand and experience how West Mercia Police protects local people from harm and improves residents' quality of life.

Join us at Bromsgrove Police and Fire Station every Wednesday 6.30pm – 9.30pm from 16th September – 18th November 2015. Please visit www.westmercia.police.uk/citizens-academies for more information and to complete the application form to be part of this innovative programme. The closing date is Monday 31st August. Criteria will be applied to the selection process and successful applicants will be subject to security checks.

From Worcestershire County Council:

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Did you know that you can go online for a real time view of road works in progress in Worcestershire? Visit: <http://worcestershire.roadworks.org/>

And...

To report concerns online relating to highways matters such as potholes, out-of-order street lights, overgrown shrubbery etc, click on the Report button at www.worcestershire.gov.uk

HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Beware these tall plants with pretty pink slipper-shaped flowers! They grow near water in dense stands that suppress the growth of native plants and in autumn when they die back the waterside banks are left bare and therefore liable to erosion. This non-native species is invasive and not welcome. If you find it in your garden please control it to stop it spreading any further – there is advice online or via the parish council office.

**If you have any community news please send it to the
Executive Officer at exec@barntgreen.org.uk**

Weekly events

Sunday	Holy Communion	St Andrew's Church	8.00am
	Family Service	St Andrew's Church	9.30am
	Family Service	Baptist Church	10.30am
	Quaker worship	Friends' Meeting House	10.30am
Monday	Bridge Club	Friends' Meeting House	7.00pm
	Choral Society	Parish Centre (Sept - June)	7.45pm
Tuesday	Art Club	Friends' Meeting House	10.00am
	Talk Together	Parish Centre	12.15pm
	Slimming World	Parish Centre	7.00pm
	Tai Chi	Friends' Meeting House	7.00pm
Wednesday	Literature Group	Friends' Meeting House	10.00am
	Parents and Tots	Baptist Church (Term Time)	10.30am
	Bridge Club	Parish Centre	1.30pm
Thursday	Holy Communion	St Andrew's Church	9.15am
	Baby/Toddler Group	Parish Centre (Term Time)	10.00am
	Quaker evening	Friends' Meeting House	7.00pm
Friday	Art Club	Friends' Meeting House	10.00am
	Bridge Club	Burcot Village Hall	7.00pm

Monthly events

Macular Disease Society	Last Fri	Friends' Meeting House	2.00pm
Monday Fellowship Group	2 nd Mon	Parish Centre	2.30pm
Friendship Club (not Aug/Jan)	3 rd Tues	Friends' Meeting House	2.15pm
Gardening Club	1 st Wed	Burcot Village Hall	7.30pm
Lickey Women's Institute	1 st Tues	Trinity Centre, Lickey	7.30pm
Lickey Hills Local History	3 rd Tues	Trinity Centre, Lickey	7.45pm
Parish Council	1 st Wed	Parish Council Office	7.00pm

If your club or society would like to be featured in the Village Diary please send details to exec@barntgreen.org.uk

Barnt Green Community walk and pig roast

On Saturday 26th September you are invited to join the Barnt Green community walk and pig roast. In 2013, over 200 people of all ages took part in what Worcestershire's Countryside Access Volunteer Officer, Amanda Hill, described as *the best Community Walk in the county*. Similar numbers took part in 2014.

This year, there will be three guided walks; a longer walk of no more than 8 miles, an intermediate 'waterside' walk of about 4 miles and a shorter walk of 2.5 miles.

All the walks should arrive back at Millennium Park between 5:30pm and 6.00pm in time for a pig roast (vegetarian options available) and entertainment. Individuals and families are invited to come along on the day and join in. Children are very welcome but, if under 16, should be accompanied by a responsible adult. There is no charge for the walk but pig roast and bar purchases will apply. Dogs on leads are welcome to join the walk.

The timetable is:

1.30pm: Walk 1 (7.5 miles) leaves Barnt Green for a circular walk to Rowney Green and back (register from 1.00pm);

3:00pm: Walk 2 (4 miles) leaves Barnt Green for Bittell reservoirs, the Worcester and Birmingham canal and the Crown at Withybed Green returning to Barnt Green (register from 2.30pm);

4:00pm: Walk 3 (2.5 miles) subject to review – *leaves Barnt Green either along Fiery Hill Road along public right of way (PRoW) to Blackwell Road then back to Millennium Park or via Blackwell Road to Linthurst Road loop round via PRoW to Blackwell Road and back* (register from 3.30pm).

5:30pm Pig Roast and entertainment.

Musicians: your community needs you

If any local musicians are available in the late afternoon/early evening on Saturday 26th September to volunteer live music to intrepid walkers following the annual Community Walk please contact the Executive Officer on 0121 447 9893 or exec@barntgreen.org.uk

Food and drink provided!

Our traders, and those less mobile, will appreciate it if residents can walk to this event and lessen the demand on village parking spaces.

Support your community walk: bring your family and friends