

Dear Resident

There has been considerable publicity about the change in proposals for the junction of Fiery Hill Road and Kendal End Road. These are summarised on page 8. In discussion with CALA Homes, the Parish Council has agreed to take on responsibility for the car park, and incur the ongoing cost of its maintenance.

The financial impact is being materially mitigated because CALA Homes has kindly offered to provide £30,000 for a future resurfacing. The Council believes that it is right to take on the responsibility of the car park to provide free parking for rail commuters, thus easing some of the traffic and parking difficulties on the surrounding roads.

With all the concerns about austerity I am pleased that the Council's budget for 2016/17 will mean that the amount each council tax payer contributes towards the precept will remain unchanged from 2015/16. The precept is the amount of money added to your council tax bill from Bromsgrove District Council and passed directly to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council will be meeting the costs of the plants outside the shops and will again be funding the hanging baskets during the summer months. More money has also been budgeted this year to keep the summer vegetation under control so that Barnt Green looks tidy. Your help in keeping your hedges and verges trimmed is always appreciated.

We shall be hosting our second arts event, The Origin of Species, on Saturday 16 April 2016. Details are on page 5. The first event held last September was a success and I felt it was like having a good Edinburgh Fringe event on our own doorstep. I encourage you to attend on 16 April if you can.

Robert Cholmondeley, Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council

MP and Councillors' contacts:

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

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

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

Parish Councillors: Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Edwin Gumbley, Charles Hotham, Jenny Jellie, Susan Whitehand, (2 vacancies)

Chairman: Robert Cholmondeley robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com

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

Parish Council blog:

At their regular meetings the parish council members discuss a wide range of topics that affect residents and businesses in Barnt Green. Here is a selection from recent meetings:

2nd December 2015: Peter McDonald, county councillor for Beacon division, commented on the reduced funding to County Hall meaning there will be cuts to council services. He also mentioned the possibility of a footbridge replacing the stopped-up footpath over the railway between Barnt Green and Cofton.

6th January: Thomas Curwell of the North Worcestershire Water Management (NWWM) team came to talk about the water course that runs through the centre of the village on its way past the Blackwell Road scout HQ to the reservoir off Bittell Farm Road. Much of its length is culverted as it travels under the railway, across Sandhills Lane and Sandhills Road, behind Victoria Mews and under Orchard Croft to emerge east of Bittell Lane on its way to join the river Arrow.

Maps available to the NWWM team can be used to show the likelihood of flooding. Whilst not in imminent danger of such an event, members had been finding out about how to set up a Community Emergency Plan and this is to be progressed.

Plans to install a surfaced footway alongside the playing field off Bittell Road are in hand and a decision on this is expected shortly. The first phase of the footway installation will allow for a better walking surface between the entrance to the playing field from the car park and the stream at the north-east boundary. We would welcome any feedback on this scheme.

3rd February: Photographs of anti-socially parked cars have been forwarded by concerned residents to the parish council office that we then send on to the police; news from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team has been received stating there is little that can be done upon receipt of these pictures because they need to see the situation for themselves before they can take action.

However, the police helpfully issued an official position which was published in The Village magazine and on the parish council website setting out what they can and can't do in these cases.

Discussions for relieving traffic congestion in Hewell Road included proposals to support a Walking Bus scheme, see page 4.

Plans were agreed to re-install the missing bollards along Hewell Road.

The subject of public toilets was raised with the suggestion they could be installed next to the children's play area in Millennium Park. It is thought they would be a welcome benefit to residents, shoppers, visitors and park users. Coun. Charlie Hotham is applying for grant funding from the District Council.

The meeting also considered purchasing a flagpole to fly the flag for the Queen's 90th birthday later in the year!

Speed!

We do still have a few of the 30mph roundel stickers for your wheelie bins. Lined up on the road side they are a weekly reminder to drivers of the speed limit in force on our main roads.

Please contact the parish council office for your stickers and they can be delivered to you, or you are welcome to call in to the office during the week 10am – 1pm (not Fridays).

The Parish Council should have eight members but is currently under-manned with only six members. Whilst the work is not onerous the existing members would like to run at full complement.

Meetings are held usually in the parish council office on the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7pm and matters discussed relate to the village environment and issues of local concern.

Details and an application form are available on the parish council website or direct from the office.

Vacant Seats**Digital Inclusion**

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey included with the last issue of The Bulletin that asked about internet access.

The district housing trust is now assessing the responses and will suggest a strategy in due course. Meanwhile plans are in hand to bring the mobile computer classroom to the area, possibly in April although at the time of printing no firm dates have been arranged.

If you are interested in finding out more on this topic please keep in touch.



Even though the dog-waste bin has been removed from Millennium Park dog owners and walkers are reminded that Any Bin Will Do. The remaining litter bins in the park will take any waste. For those who might hesitate to 'pick up' please bear in mind there is no dog-poo fairy following behind you to magic it all away! We wish!!

**Any Bin
Will Do!**

SPORT RELIEF BACK FOR 2016

Barnt Green Sport Relief Mile
Sunday 20 March 2016
Join in the fun and games

It looks like the Barnt Green community will be putting on their running shoes again in support of the Sport Relief event that will be taking place nationally over the weekend of 18th – 20th March. The Barnt Green Mile will take place on Sunday 20th March, starting at 12:00hrs in Millennium Park, to raise funds for Sport Relief.

This year it is expected there will be 270 participants, hoping to run one of the three routes that have been mapped out covering one, three and six miles.

The organisers – Barnt Green Chuggers working with the Parish Council – have arranged for a barbeque, refreshments, bar, post-run massage, kids' play area and music in Millennium Park after the run.

The route will not involve any road-closures but there will be points at which runners will need to cross the roads – notably the crossroads of Sandhills Lane, Sandhills Road, Sandhills Green and Bittell Lane and the T-junction of Bittell Lane with Bittell Road.

We would ask residents to support this biennial event; if driving then please keep speeds to a minimum and take note of the marshals who will be positioned along the route.

Walking Bus – can you help?

One way of reducing the twice-a-day parking problems in Hewell Road would be to set up a Walking Bus or 'Kiss and Drop' system. This will allow parents who drive their children to and from school to access an identified safe parking site away from school premises where children will be left with nominated responsible adults and other children to walk the remaining short distance into class.



In terms of building friendships and encouraging healthy living this ticks all the boxes! It is believed the school is in favour of this scheme so now we need to find a happy band of volunteer Walking Bus walkers.

If you are willing to add your name to a rota of volunteers for one or two mornings and/or afternoons each week of school term then we would love to hear from you.

This is an opportunity to help reduce parking nuisances, improve all-round relationships with the school and its neighbours as well as taking part in a personal keep-fit programme. It's a win/win situation for all those involved! In the first instance, please contact the parish council office.

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

Parish Council dates for your diary ...

...**Sport Relief Mile: Sunday 20th March at Millennium Park, starts 12pm**

See page 4 for details.

...**PACT Meeting: Wednesday 23rd March at Friends' Meeting House, starts 7pm.** See page 6 for details.

...**Village Theatre, Live & Local production of The Origin of Species at 7.30pm on Saturday 16th April at St Andrew's Church Hall, see below.**

...**Walk abroad on St. George's Day 23rd April, catch the bus to Stoke Prior then walk back via canal & paths (10 miles) Meet bus shelter 12.30 pm.**

...**Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 27th April at Friends' Meeting House, starts 7.30pm.** See below for details.

...**Barnt Green Open Gardens weekend 2nd/3rd July 2016** – there will be a choice of village-centre gardens to visit and flower show in St Andrews Church

Village Theatre – 16th April – all invited...

Following hot on the heels of the Kepow Theatre production of The Seven Ages of Man last September via the Live and Local arts company, we can now look forward to the visit from Tangram Theatre on Saturday 16th April with 'The Origin of Species', an uproarious solo show that tells of Charles Darwin's discovery of the secrets of evolution.

This is a critically acclaimed one-man musical comedy for all ages about Charles Darwin and his scientific theories, packed with audience interaction, big theories, terrible puns, brilliant physical comedy and original songs about everything from boring barnacles to the perils of marrying your cousin.

The evening promises to suit everyone looking for a night out of high-quality, ENTERTAINING musical-comedy with friends and family in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere at St Andrews Church Hall, Sandhills Road starting at 7.30pm – doors open from 6.45pm with a bar available before the event and during the interval.

Tickets will be available from the parish council office, by phone or by email and are reasonably priced at £10.00 adult / £8.50 senior 65+ / £8.50 juniors aged 11 - under16 / £34.50 family ticket (2 adults and 2 juniors).

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 27th April

This is your meeting to talk about local affairs. Usually people who attend parish council meetings are only allowed to speak during the open forum part of the meeting, but this one is different. You set the agenda.

Community groups are invited to talk about their activities over the preceding twelve months, along with reports invited from our representatives at county and district councils.

In the recent past there has been discussion as diverse as the proposed development in Fiery Hill Road, rail squeal, car parking, neighbourhood planning, empty houses, Network Rail plans and overgrown shrubbery.

7.30pm Friends' Meeting House, Sandhills Road

POLICING ISSUES

1. PACT (Police And Communities Together)

In policing terms Barnt Green parish is covered by the Hagley and Rubery Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Based in Rubery with a team consisting of police inspector, sergeant, constable and community support officers the SNT will respond to local policing issues.

Contact details are:

Online: westmercia.pnn.police.uk e:mail - hr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Non-emergency telephone: 101 (Emergency phone no. is 999)

The Parish Council has been keen to establish PACT meetings for the community and the inaugural meeting has been arranged for Wednesday **23rd March** starting at 7pm in the Friends Meeting House, Sandhills Road.

The police definition of PACT is “a panel made up of representatives from agencies such as the police, council, local schools. Gathering information about local issues in your neighbourhood so that we can work with you to take action to tackle them. Come along and have your say.”

The topics discussed will be prioritised with the most urgent or most popular identified for action and review.

2. Neighbourhood Watch

Tony Armond writes:

Barnt Green Neighbourhood Watch, is a part of a national organisation which has been helping to look after our neighbours' security for many years in a friendly way by Street Coordinators who pass on by 'phone, email, word-of-mouth or slips through the letterbox information emailed by the police. Our Secretary, Christina Wheatley, has retired and we need a replacement secretary to keep records up to date, but we no longer have AGMs. For what this involves please contact Christina at [<keithwheatley100@btinternet.com>](mailto:keithwheatley100@btinternet.com).

The following is possibly an incomplete list of streets/roads for which we are asking for volunteer coordinators:-

Aqueduct Lane, Cherry Hill Avenue, Green Bank, Hewell Lane, Hewell Road (one for each end and excluding the shops), Ingeva Drive, Malvern Grange, Mearse Lane (the bottom half looked after by Mrs. Alison Bird).

To find out what is involves please email me at [<tarmond@onetel.com>](mailto:tarmond@onetel.com) or 'phone 0121 445 5071.

3. SmartWater Village

It has been suggested that if all residents took up the offer of SmartWater to protect their property then Barnt Green would be a designated 'SmartWater Village', like Cleobury Mortimer and Cropthorne. Please come to the PACT meeting to indicate whether you would be in favour of this.

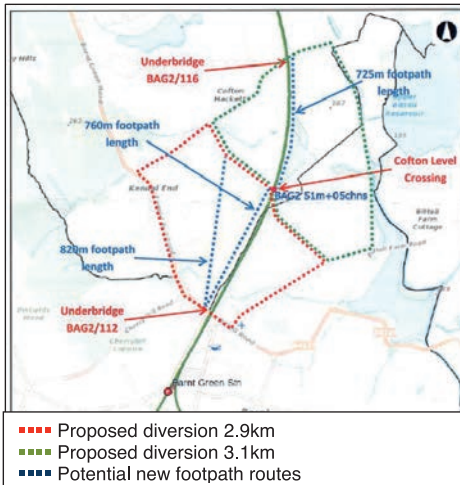
If your club or society would like to be featured in future issues of The Bulletin please send details to exec@barntgreen.org.uk

RAILWAY CROSSING – COFTON FOOTPATH

Network Rail caused quite a stir when they closed the footpath between Barnt Green and Cofton Hackett that crosses the railway to the north of Barnt Green station. The County Council have since confirmed the temporary closure is in place until the end of this year.

The closure was made on safety grounds as the crossing passes over three live railway lines with a maximum speed of 90mph and 300 trains every day.

A number of residents complained about this closure prompting the Parish Council to make their views known to Network Rail. In due course their Project Sponsor wrote to the parish council on 27th January as follows:



“We have identified two options to address the issue of crossing safety at this location. Before deciding whether or not to submit an application for one of the options we consult with the District and Parish Councils and User Groups, allowing two months for a response.

The aim is to identify as many as possible of the interests that people have in the public path network and pursue proposals that not only satisfy the relevant legal tests but are also accepted as being both necessary and fair.

The first option is to divert the existing footpaths. There are a number of potential footpath routes and these have been marked up on the plan enclosed. These new public footpaths would improve access in the area and would open up potential circular walks.

The second option is to build a new footbridge close to the location of the current crossing, together with minor footpath diversion.”

A copy of the plans has also been posted to the parish council's website and on to the notice board beside the Hewell Road bus shelter.

The Parish Council will be considering their response at the meeting on 2nd March. A copy of the meeting's draft minutes will be available on the website after the meeting.

If anyone would like to comment directly to the parish council on this issue then please e-mail, post or phone your comments to us by 16th March.

Barnt Green Parish Council meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 80 Hewell Road, B45 8NF

FIERY HILL ROAD DEVELOPMENT

The original plan submitted by Banner Homes for the new housing development at Fiery Hill Road included a scheme to move the pavement under the railway bridge away from the north side of Kendal End Road to the opposite side and divert the Fiery Hill Road / Kendal End Road T-junction to the west, away from the railway bridge to be nearer to the Barnt Green Inn.

The newly created triangle of land between the railway and Fiery Hill Road would then be used as a car park for commuters using the railway station.

With a change of developer and a review of the site the plans have been amended so that Fiery Hill Road will not now be diverted. Having considered the data presented with the CALA Homes application, the parish council did not object to this amendment for the following reasons:

- Despite everyone's concerns that this is a dangerous junction, out of all the vehicle manoeuvres that occur on a daily basis at this point there has been only one report of personal injury.
- Following changes to the Bittell Road/Hewell Road junction the revised junction would be marginally safer than that originally proposed.
- Sight lines to the east will be improved for drivers exiting Fiery Hill Road due to the new pavement layout.
- The original option would cause considerable disruption to residents and businesses whilst BT telephone and broadband equipment was re-sited and the road closed. This new option will be less disruptive.

There will still be a car park which CALA Homes has kindly agreed to hand over to the parish council and this will be sited on the same side of the road as the new housing estate. It is not intended as an overflow car park for residents of the new estate.

The parish council does not intend to charge for the use of the car park as it is believed that parking charges would discourage use of the site.

Barnt Green Circular Walks

On the subject of walking, we have map-leaflets in the office relating to three circular walks around Barnt Green of between 4 miles and 6.5 miles – these are available to anyone calling in to the office and online at Worcestershire county council's website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside

Barnt Green Parish Council office is at 80 Hewell Road, B45 8NF

Telephone: 0121 447 9893 / e-mail: exec@barntgreen.org.uk

Website: www.barntgreen.org.uk

The office is open daily during the week except Friday.

Mornings 10am – 1pm; Thursday afternoons 2pm – 4pm