

Dear Resident

Housing - not if, but when, and how much - that seems to be the scenario.

Barnt Green is one of six larger settlements identified by Bromsgrove District Council to accommodate its 2,300 housing shortfall. With no available sites, green belt will have to be used. Hence, there will be a green belt review, possibly in 2019.

Birmingham's shortfall triggered the study by consultants, GL Hearne and Wood, raising the potential for a new settlement of up to 15,000 new homes along the railway corridors south of Barnt Green towards both Redditch and Bromsgrove.

The prospect of urbanisation, as far as the southern boundaries of both Bromsgrove and Redditch, doesn't sit well. Most of us wish to maintain the nature of Barnt Green as a village, within the green belt, between Birmingham, Redditch and Bromsgrove.

Thank you to those who have lobbied for the provision of lifts at Barnt Green Station. Network Rail has submitted an application for funding to the Department for Transport. Installation, though, is unlikely to be until 2020.

The footpath over the railway at Cofton, was closed in 2015, but should be reopened by the year end when a new footbridge is erected this Autumn.

Our annual Community Walk will be held on Saturday 22 September. Please come along and enjoy the countryside on either the 3, 5 or 8-mile walk followed by refreshments and live music in Millennium Park.

Robert Cholmondeley, 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: Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hotham, Judith Jagger, Philip Perry, Susan Whitehand + 2 vacancies
Councillor contact details via www.barntgreen.org.uk

Chairman: Cllr Robert Cholmondeley robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com

Executive Officer: Gill Lungley, FSLCC exec@barntgreen.org.uk
80 Hewell Road B45 8NF tel: 0121 447 9893 / 07410 906282

All information is correct at the time of printing. Views expressed in the newsletter are those of the contributors and may not be those of the Parish Council.

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What happened at the Annual Parish Meeting – ‘Your Meeting’?

Held on 26th April, this was the annual opportunity for residents to talk about ‘parish affairs’, ie anything that is of concern generally within the Barnt Green community. This year we heard from District Councillor Charles Hotham talk about the Hearn report that suggests development for up to 15,000 homes in an as yet undefined area covering Barnt Green, Alvechurch, Blackwell and Lickey, followed by discussion on housing need both locally and nationally.

Other topics included the expectation that the council will be replacing the orange (sodium) footpath lamps with brighter, white LED lamps; the work of the new outdoor parish caretaker; parking restrictions in the village centre; the installation of outdoor gym equipment, which was unlikely to go ahead; and the Community Bus scheme needs volunteer drivers.

The full draft minutes of this meeting are available on the council’s website.

From recent parish council meetings...

At the parish council’s annual meeting held in **May**, members heard about the scheme to encourage pollinators such as bees and butterflies by planting wildflowers and shrubs on highways verges and other unused spaces in Worcestershire. A few sites in Barnt Green have been identified and we shall be working with the county council to support the scheme.

In **June** the council heard from Peter McDonald the county council’s elected member for the Beacon division, which covers Barnt Green. He too appears to be frustrated by the county council’s lack of progress with the Sandhills Lane re-surfacing scheme and looks forward to the return of a direct labour force rather than the current reliance on contractors to carry out the work.

In **July** members received notification from the newest recruit to their ranks that he would be moving away to university, creating a casual vacancy. Members wished Sam Harris good luck for the future and appreciated his involvement even though it was brief.

With the pipe repair works now completed at Upper Bittell Reservoir, the parish council was pleased to note the Canal and River Trust had left the site so clean and tidy and what looks like a job well done. The work involved renewing the valve in the bottom of the reservoir, which is some 12m below normal top water level, and relining the pipe which discharges the water when the valve is opened. The council agreed to find out more about the project for its archives so that in another 84 years’ time there will be a reference resource detailing what happened in 2018.

Parish council meetings are usually held on the 3rd Monday each month at Barnt Green Baptist Church lounge, Bittell Road B45 8LU

Meetings start at 7pm and are open to the public to attend, with an opportunity to speak during the Open Forum section.

All agendas are published at least 3 clear days before the meeting and can be found on the notice board next to the bus shelter and on our website.



<https://www.refill.org.uk>

Refill Bromsgrove

With an aim to reduce plastic pollution and promote healthy hydration, Refill is a national, practical tap water campaign that aims to make refilling your bottle as easy, convenient and cheap as possible by promoting Refill Stations on every street.

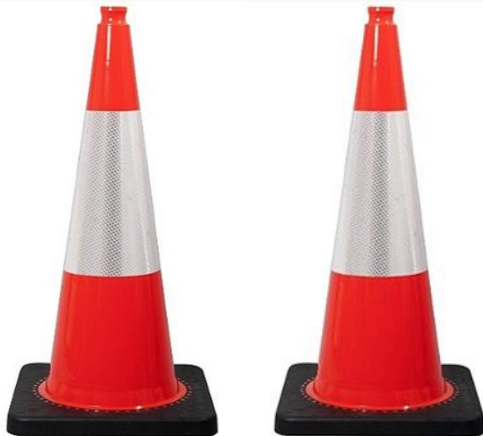
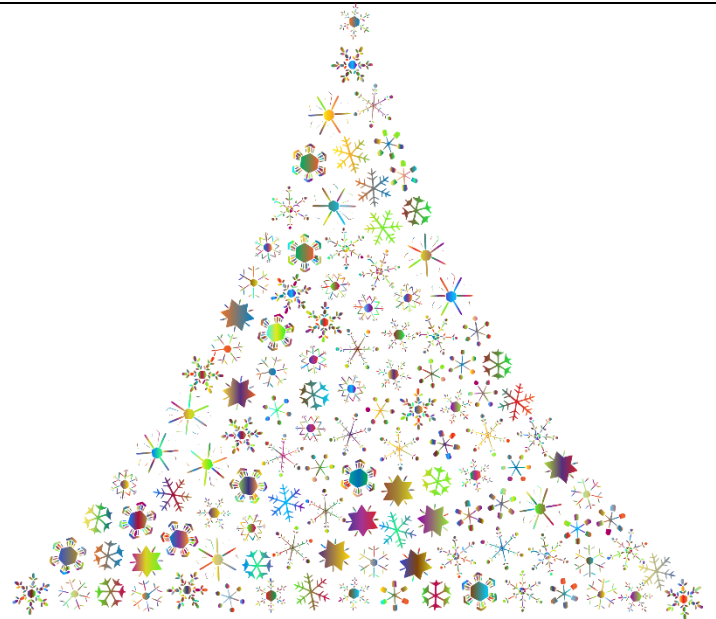
There are over 12,000 Refill Stations across the country including several in Barnt Green and the parish council office.

Get involved and download the free app now to see where you can find free, local drinking water.

Christmas Lights

Plans are in hand for the Christmas lights switch-on which this year will take place on Saturday 1st December. Do come along to Barnt Green village centre to see the lights, taste what the shops have to offer and enjoy the seasonal entertainment.

The winner of the children's competition to find a seasonal surprise in the shop windows will be announced during the afternoon; entry forms will be available from 10th November in the Post Office.



Road Works

The parish council is notified of planned road works and publishes the relevant information on its website and Facebook page. There is also a very useful interactive national website that shows what's going on locally. It shows future planned works as well as current, see -

<https://www.roadworks.org/>

Contact details: Office at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NF

Open: Mon – Thurs 10am – 1pm & Thurs 2pm – 4pm

Land: 0121 447 9893 / Mob: 07410 906282 / email: exec@barntgreen.org.uk

YOUTH SERVICES

Following consultation with Bromsgrove's high school pupils who said they would like somewhere where they could attend and feel like they belonged to, a new Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub has been launched to offer help and support to young people across the district. The scheme is located in the basement of Bromsgrove Baptist Church, New Road.

Funding for it has been provided by Bromsgrove District Council, Worcestershire County Council, the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, Community Safety Partnership, YMCA, Bromsgrove Baptist Church, and other local supporters. Refurbishment has cost £65,000 and more will be used to fund the project's daily running costs.

The Hub gives the young people of Bromsgrove a base where they can speak to professionals on a range of topics including relationship advice, mental health support, self-esteem and sexual health. It will also provide parenting sessions. The hub also benefits the wider Bromsgrove community by tackling concerns of anti-social behaviour and a place where they can meet professionals and gain support.

Job coaches are based at The Hub every Tuesday between 3pm and 5pm. They aim to support participants to achieve a positive outcome by either gaining employment, returning to education or training, or actively engaging in job searching. They can work with anyone who lives in the Bromsgrove District, over 16 and not in paid work of any kind including a zero hours contract. More information on Building Better Opportunities can be seen via: <https://www.fusionworcs.co.uk/projects/bbo/>

The Hub also hosts life coaching and mental health support for young people from The Hub, run by Headgym one afternoon per fortnight. The Hub can be contacted via: General.Enquiries.TheHub@YMCAWorcestershire.org.uk

For the updated directory of activities and things to do for young people in Bromsgrove and Redditch see:

http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/media/3806486/eh_infobooklet_summer18_desktopprint.pdf.

NEW TRAIN SERVICES

The long-awaited electrified rail service between Barnt Green and Bromsgrove has arrived! We now have four trains each hour stopping at Barnt Green station to take us into Birmingham, one of which comes from Bromsgrove. There is an hourly service to Bromsgrove from Barnt Green, with the last train leaving Barnt Green at 23:19hrs. The last train leaves Bromsgrove at 22:41hrs, arriving in Barnt Green at 22:47hrs.

The latest news regarding the three proposed lifts at the station is that Network Rail have applied to the Department for Transport for 'Access for All' funding. If successful this will be provided in the 5-year funding period starting April 2019.

**If you have any community news to share, please let us know.
This newsletter is issued each year in February and August and a feature page is included in The Village magazine in May and November.**

ARMISTICE CENTENARY



Barnt Green's war memorial is listed Grade II; Historic England's website records it as follows:

Historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impacts of world events on this community, and the sacrifices it made in the conflicts of the C20;

Architectural interest: as an accomplished war memorial, which takes the form of statues of Christ, flanked by a soldier and sailor and memorial plaques, designed by the Bromsgrove Guild, set in a brick wall with ashlar dressings;

Group value: the memorial forms a group with the Church of St Andrew, Barnt Green (Grade II).

History

The memorial was designed by the Bromsgrove Guild and originally placed in the western gable of the Church of St Andrew, an early-Christian-style church of basilican appearance, designed by AS Dixon. The church was built between 1909 and 1914 and the memorial was presumably set in place at a date following the end of the war. In 2001 the church was lengthened at its (ritual) western end, as had always been the intention, and a new apsed porch, designed by Liz Jeavons-Fellows was added and the memorial was moved and set in a brick wall to the north west of the church building.

MATERIALS & PLAN: limestone carvings set in a red brick wall laid in random bond with an ashlar coping and wrought iron railing to its south side. The monument is rectangular, with the sculptures set in niches on its south side.

DETAILS: the south face has the three sculptures formerly set in the church gable. At the centre is Christ on the cross in high relief, set against a broad stone cross which is flush with the brickwork. To either side are smaller stone niches with hoods formed of projecting tiles. That to the left shelters a sculpture of a soldier in great coat and battle dress and that to the right has a sailor with rifle. The sculptures look downwards and are clearly intended to be viewed from below. To the top of the wall are two stepped, projecting courses of bricks, supported on tiles, the topmost being a soldier course with a concrete coping above. A curved, tiled platform of three steps at ground floor level, is set behind a wrought iron fence.

To the western flank are two bronze, rectangular plaques, the upper one of which reads: '1914+ REMEMBER+1918' with names below, and at the bottom of the plaque 'MAY THEY REST IN PEACE'. Below that is another plaque which reads '1939 + 1945' with the names of the fallen from that conflict. Below this a further, small brass plaque that reads 'THIS WAR MEMORIAL / WAS RELOCATED, RESTORED / AND REDEDICATED / AS PART OF THE REFURBISHMENT OF / ST ANDREW'S CHURCH / NOVEMBER 2001'.



LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The current council's 4-year term of office will come to an end next year on 2nd May 2019.

If enough people put themselves forward (that would mean more than eight candidates) then there will be a ballot to elect the councillors for the ensuing 4-year period.

AGE UK

Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest is based at 51 Windsor Street, Bromsgrove B60 2BJ, where they provide a free information and advice service from Monday – Friday, 10am – 1pm. There are daily drop-in sessions for short enquiries and booked appointments for more complex issues. The service is impartial, confidential and available to anyone over 50 and anyone supporting someone over the age of 50 (carers, family etc.).

Tel: 01527 570490 or email enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk

Age UK initiatives include a weekly range of activities including gentle exercise, computing and Tai Chi that take place at Amphlett Memorial Hall, and the burgeoning **Men in Sheds** group that brings together people who want to share and learn new skills in a relaxed and friendly environment.



There is a video of the Bromsgrove group in action; you can see this online at https://youtu.be/p_SBhOZQgeg produced in partnership with students from HOW College. Further information is available from Ed Carswell – 07478 250217 or Jim Collis – 07942 866146.

The charity has recently linked together its Help at Home, Handy Person, Gardener, Foot Care, Befriending and Care Call services to form a new, person-centred and integrated range of 'At Home' services for the North Worcestershire community. It is ideal for anyone who just needs an extra hand to make life easier and provides a flexible service working around the individual's needs.

Examples of the At Home services include cleaning and domestic tasks such as help with meal preparation or weekly cleaning; help with household repairs like fitting grab rails, stair rails, painting and decorating; help in the garden, doing the shopping, getting out and about and keeping individuals' company with a cup of tea and a chat. For more information on this service, contact 01527 871840, or email as above.

As a charity that provides all of the above support, they will welcome all offers of help to deliver these services including volunteers to the Befriending Service and backing from businesses for the Men in Sheds 'Shed Share sponsorship scheme'.

Contact Jo Hughes on 01527 868855 / jo.hughes@ageukbrwf.org.uk .

COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR 2018

Open to everyone to enjoy...

- Community Walk, Saturday 22nd September, details below.
- Christmas Lights switch-on, Saturday 1st December, village centre from 3.30pm.
- Wassail Walk, Thursday 27th December. Meet 2.30pm Millennium Park.



Join us on Saturday 22nd September for our 6th Annual Community Walk!

There are 3 walks to choose from, see below, all starting at Millennium Park. Walks return to Millennium Park between 5pm and 5:30pm and will be followed by a pig roast, drinks and live music by a renowned local artist.

The Community Walk is free to join and there is no need to book, just turn up. Accompanied children and dogs are welcome; all-terrain buggies will probably cope but the routes are unlikely to suit regular push-chairs. For further information please contact the parish council office.

The Walks: All walks will start and end at Millennium Park, Hewell Road B45 8NW.

- 8 miles: Meet at 1pm for a 1:30pm start.
- 5 miles: Meet at 2pm for a 2:30pm start.
- 3 miles: Meet at 3pm for a 3:30pm start.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES CONSULTATION

Worcestershire County Council is responsible for the county's highways and for ensuring traffic is safe on our local roads. For this reason, they are currently seeking comments to their proposal to extend the double yellow lines in Sandhills Lane near its junction with Hewell Road. The effect of this will be to prohibit waiting at any time from a point 25.5 metres from its junction with Hewell Road for a distance of 35.5 metres in a south easterly direction.

A copy of the proposal can be inspected at Bromsgrove District Council's offices in Market Street as well as at County Hall, Worcester. The Parish Council has also posted a copy in the 'news' section on its website.

Any objections or representations must be submitted in writing to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services at County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP or by email to roadtrafficregs@worcestershire.gov.uk by 19th September 2018.

WATER WORKS?

As part of their improvements to the local water supply it is likely that Severn Trent Water will be renewing the water mains in Hewell Road. Trial hole investigation was carried out in July, but no date has yet been arranged for the full works to take place. STW have advised there will be full notification and engagement when the full scope of the works is known.

BEWARE SCAM HMRC TELEPHONE CALLS

Bogus callers are attempting to frighten residents by falsely suggesting the Police are on the verge of arresting them for unpaid taxes. The fraudsters then ask the residents to pay the bogus 'tax bill' often using iTunes gift card voucher codes.

Be Aware

- HMRC will never use texts to tell you about a tax rebate or penalty or ask for payment using iTunes gift card voucher codes or similar.
- Telephone numbers and text messages can easily be spoofed. You should never trust the number you see on your telephone's display.
- If you receive a suspicious cold call, end it immediately.

The Telephone Preference Service (TPS)

The Telephone Preference Service (TPS) is a free service. It is the official central opt out register on which you can record your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls. It is a legal requirement that all organisations (including charities, voluntary organisations and political parties) do not make such calls to numbers registered on the TPS unless they have your consent to do so.

Organisations with which you have an ongoing relationship, for example those who regard you as a customer, (or in the case of charities - a donor) may gather your consent during the early stages of your relationship with them and will therefore be entitled to call you even if your number is registered on TPS, unless you have previously told them that you object to being called for marketing purposes.

The TPS can accept the registration of mobile telephone numbers, however it is important to note that this will prevent the receipt of marketing voice calls but not SMS (text) messages. If you wish to stop receiving SMS marketing messages, please send an 'opt-out' request to the company involved.

As TPS registration only prevents marketing calls, organisations will still be able to call you for the purposes of genuine market research.

To register your number or make a complaint the quickest and easiest way is to do this online by visiting: https://www.tpsonline.org.uk/tps/number_type.html

Alternatively, you can phone the Registration Line on: 0345 070 0707. You can call this number to register your number, discuss your concerns or request a complaint form to report receipt of unsolicited direct marketing calls.

For more information visit: www.tpsonline.org.uk

HOUSEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Paved public footpaths can be used by pedestrians pushing wheelchairs and pushchairs. Some pushchairs can be .75m wide.

If your hedge grows next to a footpath, pavement or footway, it is likely that you will be responsible for keeping it under control. Please check to make sure your neighbours and fellow residents can pass by without inconvenience.

Don't expect the council to cut the hedge for you; you would not expect your council tax to be spent on cutting your neighbour's hedge, would you?