

Dear Resident

There is a low prospect of new housing in Barnt Green at the moment because a review of the green belt is being undertaken by Bromsgrove District Council. The process has started with a consultation on the methodology to be used for the review but the outcome is not likely to be known for at least another year. The risks, though, to Barnt Green remain undiminished.

The Parish Council has agreed to adopt the SmartWater scheme in conjunction with West Mercia Police. Over the coming months, members of the council and police will be knocking on doors and encouraging residents to sign up to the scheme and distributing kits.

SmartWater involves marking your valuable possessions with an invisible liquid which is readable under ultra violet light. Each kit has a unique forensic code which assists returning stolen property to its owners, but also, second hand dealers are often signed up to the scheme which helps to reveal the identity of the underlying criminals.

If sufficient residents sign up to the scheme, signs can be installed saying that Barnt Green is a SmartWater village. The implementation of Smart Water is known to reduce crime. The costs of the initiative will be borne by the Parish Council and West Mercia Police.

It is pleasing to see that work has started on installing the footbridge over the railway line at Cofton Hackett so the footpath should be reopened this year.

Robert Cholmondeley, Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council

## MP and Councillors' contacts:

MP	Sajid Javid – <a href="mailto:sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk">sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk</a>	
County Councillor	Peter McDonald – <a href="mailto:pmcdonald2@worcestershire.gov.uk">pmcdonald2@worcestershire.gov.uk</a>	
District Councillor	Charles Hotham – <a href="mailto:c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk">c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk</a>	
Parish Councillors:	Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hotham, Judith Jagger, Philip Perry, Susan Whitehand, Joakim Nilsson and Harrison Rone-Clarke Councillor contact details via <a href="http://www.barntgreen.org.uk">www.barntgreen.org.uk</a>	
Chairman:	Cllr Robert Cholmondeley	<a href="mailto:robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com">robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com</a>
Executive Officer:	Tracy Bodley 80 Hewell Road B45 8NF	<a href="mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk">exec@barntgreen.org.uk</a> tel: 0121 447 9893 / 07410 906282

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### **Traffic Speeds in your village**

Concerns have been raised over the number of cars that speed on certain roads in the village.

Residents are reporting that at very busy periods they feel trapped in their homes as they fear that speeding cars may mount the pavement.

This particularly affects the elderly, people in mobility scooters and parents with prams who feel more vulnerable to the speed demons.

If you feel strongly about road speed in your area then you can request that a speed survey is undertaken by Worcestershire County Council.

For more information please go to Worcestershire County Council Website or follow the link to report your request for traffic calming measures at [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report\\_it](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it)

Alternatively please contact your local County Councillor – Peter McDonald.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Have you considered setting up your own Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch works on a basic idea: neighbours join together to keep watch on each other's homes and their immediate surroundings in a bid to make the neighbourhood a safe and better place to live. Barnt Green is generally a safe place to live and has a low crime rate however an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme can help build relationships and a better community environment as well as preventing crime and anti-social behaviour.

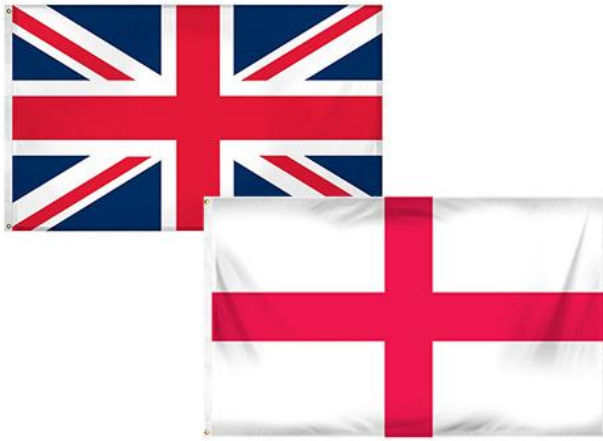
A scheme can focus on a street/cul-de-sac or on longer roads, a section of houses each with a dedicated volunteer co-ordinator to communicate alerts from residents and the police to each member. Co-ordinators have a vital role in Neighbourhood Watch and have the opportunity to make a real difference to their community. It's a great way to meet your neighbours and there are great resources to help you set up a scheme.

More information can be found at [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk) or by contacting the Hagley and Rubery Safer Neighbourhood team by calling 101 or emailing [hr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:hr.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk).

All parish council meetings are usually held on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of 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 also on our website.



### Flag flying Days

Since installing a flag pole in Millennium Park in autumn 2018, Barnt Green will proudly fly flags on commemorative days.

The Parish has two flags; the Union flag and the St George flag and will fly the most appropriate flag fitting the occasion.

A Flag will be flown on official days such as the Queen's birthdays, St George's Day and Remembrance Day, and for major sporting events.

### Christmas Lights Feedback

The event held on 1<sup>st</sup> December had a good turnout and the Parish Council would like to thank those who took part including the Starlight Project, Cats Chorus, The Town Crier and St Andrews church congregation for their nativity characters and pavement marshals.

The Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window Competition was also a great hit and was won by The Flooring Boutique, and the 'Find Santa' competition was won by a local resident.



### 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 12 noon – 4pm, Tues & Wed 10am – 2.30pm

Land: 0121 447 9893 / Mob: 07410 906282 / email: [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk)

## New Year Volunteering for 2019!

Onside a local charity which works across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, is looking for people to take on the role of a Relevant Persons Representative (RPR).

As an RPR the volunteer would be visiting a person just once every 6-8 weeks for no more than 1 hour. Volunteering would be local to where the volunteer lives. Volunteers as an RPR are safeguarding the rights of vulnerable people who don't have the mental capacity to consent to care or treatment.

Onside's Volunteer Manager, Claire Watkins, said "Our volunteers give their time, their passion and enthusiasm, this role is very worthwhile and rewarding."

Volunteers are ordinary people of all ages and backgrounds they just need to be good listeners and have some time to give. We also have further opportunities with advocacy, mentoring, café and book shop volunteering available.

If you can picture yourself in the role of an Onside volunteer please call Claire Watkins - Volunteer Manager on 01905 27525 or email [claire.watkins@onside-advocacy.org.uk](mailto:claire.watkins@onside-advocacy.org.uk) to find out more. This type of volunteering is flexible to fit with your life and circumstances. Free training (throughout the year) is provided and all expenses paid.

### Note to Editors: *Background on charity:*

- Onside improves the lives of over 3000 vulnerable adults every year in Worcestershire and Herefordshire.
- We provide free services to support adults facing disadvantage through mental and physical ill health, learning disability and old age. Eg. Depression, autism, learning difficulties
- Onside employs over 50 people and has 150 active volunteers
- Onside is a Worcestershire based charity established in 1993 stemming from a belief that everyone has the right to be a valued human being and to be treated in a just and fair manner.

Registered Charity no. 1102022 Onside contact: Volunteering: Claire Watkins 01905 27525  
[volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@onside-advocacy.org.uk) Web: [www.onside-advocacy.org.uk](http://www.onside-advocacy.org.uk).

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

## **Rogue Traders - If in doubt, keep them out!**

Rogue Traders are people pretending to be builders or "qualified" trades men or women needing to do 'urgent' repairs or sales people offering bargain products.

Things to be aware of:

- They often pressurise householders to make quick decisions to have work done.
- They will often cold call on households and deliberately overcharge for unsatisfactory goods and services.
- Victims of this practice are often vulnerable or elderly and in the most serious cases, offenders will return to the same victim again and again.

Police work jointly with local authority trading standards officers and other agencies to target offenders who prey on vulnerable members of the community in this way.

The following advice will help tackling doorstep rogue traders:

- Close and lock your back door before answering the front door
- Use a spy hole, chain or window to see the caller before answering the door.
- Never buy goods and services from people calling unexpectedly or unannounced.
- If the caller is selling something or offering work on your house or garden tell them that you are not interested and ask them to leave.
- If they do not leave tell them you will call the police.
- Always ask for proof of identity. Take it from the person through the letterbox.
- Phone the company or organisation the caller claims to be from (use the number in the phone book) to confirm their identity.
- If you have any doubt - keep them out.

Remember it's your home. Don't be afraid to say 'No' and report anything suspicious to police.

If you do need to employ a tradesman, please remember these useful tips:

- Take advice from family, friends or reputable traders.
- Avoid any cold callers that may turn up or ring unexpectedly or unannounced.
- Only use reputable workmen recommended by family and friends, or those who have worked satisfactorily for you before. Consider contacting your local Trading Standards who may run a registered traders scheme.
- If you do decide the work needs doing, always obtain at least 3 quotes and make sure the quote you accept is in writing.
- Ask traders to provide you with written contact details and ask about insurance backed guarantees.
- Ask for details of previous satisfied customers and contact them.
- Consumer law allows you a seven day cooling off period so you can change your mind.
- Keep back part of the cost until the repair job has been satisfactorily completed. This will provide an incentive for the trader to complete the job or put right any problems.



## LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The current council's 4-year term of office will come to an end this year on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Becoming a councillor gives you the opportunity to influence decisions that affect Barnt Green. Please contact the Parish Council Office if you are interested in standing for election.



### Worcestershire Association of Carers and Worcestershire Integrated Carers Hub

Worcestershire Association of Carers (WAC) is a countywide organisation that was established 20 years ago to offer an independent source of information, advice and guidance for the 63,000 unpaid adult carers in Worcestershire. WAC provides representation for carers at a local and national level and supports carers to have a voice in decisions that affect them.

Currently, WAC provides services to nearly 11,000 carers in the county and is in search for the remaining 52,000 carers. In order to find these hidden carers, WAC hosts a various amount of fundraising opportunities and events, such as hosting Carers Breakfasts, holds regular engagement drop ins and works closely with partners such as other charities, housing trusts, hospices and acute and community hospitals.

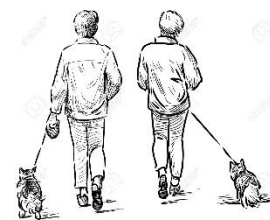
In addition to hosting events for carers, WAC also offers a wide range of services. They include: Carers Helpline (0300 012 4272), webchat, carer groups, e-learning, end of life support, carer talktime and their caring with confidence programme. The Caring with Confidence Programme is highly interactive sessions that tackle all of the challenges carers face, such as emotional ups and downs, daily practical matters, better communication, and legal and financial issues.

More than 3 in 5 people within the UK will become an unpaid carer for a family member or a friend who needs help due to illness, age, disability or addition. As the number of carers continues to increase in Worcestershire, it is important to WAC to have the ability and funds to do support and find these carers.

If you would like more information, please visit: [www.carerworcs.org.uk](http://www.carerworcs.org.uk) or email [mail@carersworcs.org.uk](mailto:mail@carersworcs.org.uk)



## COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR 2019



This year sees a number of events for the village of Barnt Green. Firm dates are yet to be established but these are the possible highlights for the upcoming year.

- Fun Run 2019, a popular event organised by The Barnt Green Chuggers. The date is yet to be confirmed but look out for the advertising posters around the month of May.
- Community Walk to be held in late September 2019.
- Christmas Lights switch-on, this will take place in early December which should be a bright start to your seasonal festivities.
- Wassail Walk, held between Christmas and new year, this is an ideal way to get out and about with your family and friends and maybe work off some of your Christmas calories.



### Volunteers Welcome

To host any community all inclusive event requires planning and volunteers.

If you could spare some time assisting with planning of any of the above events or would like to share your thoughts and ideas on future events please contact the Executive Officer, Tracy Bodley on 0121 447 9893 or alternatively email at [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk)

## IMPROVEMENT PLANS TO THE WATER MAIN IN HEWELL ROAD

At the Parish Council meeting held on 21 January 2019 representatives from Amey Customer Services were in attendance to report on the improvement plans to the water main in Hewell Road.

The representatives speaking on behalf of Severn Trent outlined the ongoing plans for improving the water main; in advance of the work planned for 6½ weeks during July/August 2019.

Work will be carried out on three trial holes during half-term period to assess the extent to which the slip-lining process can be used. Slip-lining will allow for better access during the works.

Nearer to the start date Amey will arrange two local drop-in sessions for residents.

Information on progress will be brought to a future parish council meeting.

Please keep an eye out on the Barnt Green Parish Council Website and Facebook page for updates.

## WILDFLOWER POLLINATORS

As urbanization spreads, we know that the natural environment is damaged, not least the loss of flowers which insects can pollinate.

As a first pilot, the Parish Council will be adopting a small area of land near the school, on the corner of Green Bank, which will be planted with wild flowers in the Spring. It will be fenced off and a small sign erected so everyone can see what is being done.

To keep updated on the progress of this project, please refer to the Barnt Green Parish Council website.

