

OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT FOR BITTELL ROAD PLAYING FIELD APPROVED!

At a recent Parish Council Meeting a scheme for the installation of outdoor gym equipment has been approved. The scheme consisting of 10 pieces of equipment, 2 with double use facility and some suitable for disabled users will consist of a mix of resistance equipment and cardio and will be grouped together on a special pad. The equipment is designed to work every muscle group with adjustable resistance to accommodate beginners to the more experienced. With the exact location yet to be determined following a site visit, it is hoped that installation will take place during the summer months so residents can benefit from the long daylight hours of use.



Artistic impression of outdoor gym equipment

Barnt Green Parish Council remains open for service but the office is currently closed to the general public. Operating hours are Monday—Thursday 10am—3pm

Please correspond by email wherever possible or use the 'contact us' page at www.barntgreen.org.uk

Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window Competition Winner

Congratulations goes to the team effort from Village Financial Solutions Ltd and Michelle & Co. Properties who won Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window Competition 2020.



Newly co-opted Cllr Mark Roberts awarding the trophy to Mark Meads of Village Financial Solutions above. The winning display left.

Walks around Barnt Green encouraged but don't drop litter.

During the third period of lockdown there has been an increase in litter dropped within the village and notably on those routes that take walkers into the countryside. The Parish Council encourage everyone to take their daily exercise but implore that your litter is not discarded over the paths and fields. Please take your litter home and dispose of it in your bins.

Barnt Green Parish Council – 3 Year Plan

The aims and objectives of the Parish Council is to serve the residents by providing, maintaining and improving facilities through the provision of appropriate services to improve health, fitness, well-being and support inclusivity. To learn more about the vision of the parish council please follow the link to view the council's three-year plan <https://www.barntgreen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Three-year-forward-plan-Interim-Review-2021.pdf>

SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

Lots of things in life can make you feel unwell or overwhelmed



One in five people who visit their GP or health care professionals have problems that can't be solved by medical treatment.

A Social Prescriber may be able to help

Social Prescribing can support you to deal with issues such as:

**UNEMPLOYMENT • MONEY • FAMILY • WELLBEING
HEALTH • DEPRESSION • ADDICTION • BENEFITS
ISOLATION • LONELINESS • ANXIETY • HOUSING
WORRIES • SMOKING • DRUGS • ALCOHOL**

You can talk to our friendly team in confidence and we will work with you to create a plan to overcome the difficulties you are facing



If you think a **Social Prescribing Link Worker** can help you; **Talk to your GP**, ask at **reception** or fill in a **self-referral form**

HELPING YOU TO FEEL BETTER

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LIVE & LOCAL LivingRoom

During these challenging times when it is difficult for communities to stay connected, it has been inspiring to see communities pull together to support those in need. With continued uncertainty and restrictions, Live & Local is able to offer **LivingRoom**, an opportunity for communities to connect and create something memorable and unique.

LivingRoom is a fully subsidised creative project for your community, enabling people to participate in something positive, working together whilst complying with current COVID restrictions.

Live & Local is well known for working with a wide range of community groups to bring subsidised performances from professional artists to community venues, including, churches and outdoor events. Since it has not be possible to stage live performances during the pandemic, professional musicians, writers, and performers have come up with brilliant ideas of ways of working remotely with community groups to collaborate and create unique new artworks. This could be writing poems, sharing stories, making a short video, performing an audio play, recording a new song, learning to dance, or anything from a whole host of arts activities. Live & Local will pair your community or group with a professional artist to work together remotely.

Live & Local: LivingRoom is funded by Arts Council England and your local authority, so there is no cost to the community. If you think your group would benefit from working remotely with a professional artist, please contact community@liveandlocal.org.uk to arrange a chat.

Overhanging Hedges – Householder Responsibilities

Paved public footpaths are used by pedestrians pushing wheelchairs and pushchairs. Mobility aids can range in width and some pushchairs can be up to 750mm 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 safely 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.

BARNT GREEN ONLINE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

ALL WELCOME

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK!

MONDAY 12 APRIL 2021

7.00PM

THIS IS AN ONLINE MEETING, THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND MAY JOIN THE MEETING BY REQUESTING A LINK TO THE EMAIL BELOW:

exec@barntgreen.org.uk

This is not a parish council meeting or a church meeting, this is the yearly meeting hosted by the Parish Council for electors in Barnt Green to discuss 'parish affairs'. Any Barnt Green resident can attend, and everyone is welcome.

The meeting will commence with the Chairman's welcome and there will be an opportunity to receive reports from local council representatives which may include;

- Chairman's report;
- District Councillor's report;
- County Councillor's report;
- Parish Council finances

There will be an open forum for you to discuss community issues that are important to you.

BARNT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
exec@barntgreen.org.uk / www.barntgreen.org.uk



Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership

With thanks to the Parish Council, I take this opportunity to write about the Partnership, asking for support in achieving its objectives from Barnt Green residents.

The Partnership has been in place for over a year though of course its activities have been much curtailed by the pandemic. It is made up of the three Train Operating Companies within the County – West Midlands Trains, Great Western Railway, and CrossCountry – along with the County Council, the West Midlands Rail Executive, and the three Rail user Groups (BARRUP, SLUG, and the CLPG). Full details of the way that the partnership is funded can be found on the Partnership's website (wcrp.org.uk).

The Partnership works to the Four Pillars of Community Rail as set out by the Department of Transport:

- Providing a voice for the community;
- Promoting sustainable and healthy travel (the extra mile);
- Bringing communities together and supporting diversity and inclusion;
- Supporting social and economic development.

In practical terms, this translates to:

- The encouragement of the adoption of all the stations in Worcestershire by volunteers from within the communities served by each station;
- Working with each community in supporting walking and cycling initiatives and publicising local bus connectivity
- Working within communities to identify barriers to rail travel which may exist and ways in which these barriers may be overcome
- Supporting local initiatives which promote both rail services and the businesses and attractions served by those services.

Barnt Green is not an adopted station and there is an opportunity for residents to get together to add value to the look and feel of the station. Initial activities tend to be litter picking and gardening, but do not feel constrained by these examples.

Funding is available through the Partnership and the wider Community Rail movement for materials as clearly no volunteer should be out of pocket. Insurance when working at the station is provided by West Midlands Trains with whom each volunteer has to be registered. I should stress, of course, that all voluntary work is in addition to and does not replace the normal cleaning and maintenance work undertaken by West Midlands Railway contractors.

Ideally, the group of volunteers should be 'sponsored' by an existing organisation with a bank account as this provides an easy way for funds to be paid across for the work being done. However, it is not a pre-requisite to getting started.

Further information on the adoption process can be found at

<https://www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/adopt-station>
<https://communityrail.org.uk/community-rail/station-adoption/>

Naturally I am happy to take any questions either by email or by phone (contact details below)

I do hope that readers will wish to see Barnt Green adopted as a station for the community and that a group can come together to set the wheels in motion.

Peter Chapman

Partnership Officer

peter.chapman@wmre.org.uk / 07788 190197

Barnt Green station on the CRP website: <https://wcrp.org.uk/barnt-green-station/>



If you have any community news to share, please let us know.

This newsletter is issued each year in Spring and Autumn.

Dear Resident

I return to the subject of lifts at the railway station. These should have been fitted when a new footbridge was installed in 2015. The Parish Council has continued to engage with Network Rail to bring about a resolution to this breach of the 2010 Equality Act. There is, now, some positive progress to report.

The Department for Transport has given approval to the expenditure for detailed design. Although there is already passive provision for lifts, the detailed design establishes the full costs of installation.

There may be significant hurdles to cross if additional difficulties are encountered that increase the expected cost. Such difficulties could typically be the electrical supply and its capacity or structural issues on the platforms.

Approval of the detailed design and total costs are subject to the final approval of the Department for Transport. The application for this should be submitted towards the end of 2021 providing there are no unexpected problems. So, don't expect lifts too soon, but this is significant progress.

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	Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hotham, Judith Jagger, Joakim Nilsson, Philip Perry, Olivia Polton, Susan Whitehand and Mark Roberts
	Councillor contact details available via: www.barntgreen.org.uk
Chairman	Cllr Robert Cholmondeley - robert.cholmondeley@btinternet.com
Executive Officer	Tracy Bodley - exec@barntgreen.org.uk
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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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