

\*\*\*\*\*Station Lift Update\*\*\*\*\*

The Department for Transport has given approval for the station lifts and we have been advised that the installation will commence in Autumn 2023.

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Police Officer numbers hit historic high in West Mercia

A record number of police officers, 2494 in total, are now serving in West Mercia, as officer numbers hit new highs.

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion has supported West Mercia Police’s Chief Constable to not only meet the Government’s uplift target for West Mercia, but exceed it.

Your police force now has a headcount of 2494 officers, with officer numbers increasing by 508 since the PCC was first elected in 2016.

A further boost to officer numbers will happen in this financial year, with an additional 40 officers recruited to create new community crime fighting teams.

The PCC is committed to ensuring police officers are accessible and visible in your community, tackling the issues that matter to you.



www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk

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Dear Resident

We’ve recently had local elections which included Barnt Green Parish Council. There was no physical ballot because there were 8 candidates for the 8 councillor positions. Your councillors were consequently elected unopposed. They are listed in the panel below.

Elections are held every 4 years, though councillors elect the Chair and the Vice Chair of the council every 12 months. Council meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Monday of each month, except August and December. Details are on our website.

We have made some changes to the events we normally organise. We have moved the Community Walk from September to Saturday 24 June. With lighter evenings, we have combined this with a performance from Brass Beatz in Millennium Park from 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. I hope you will support this event.

Robert Cholmondeley, Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council

MP and Councillors’ contacts:

Table with 2 columns: Role and Contact Information. Includes MP Sajid Javid, County Councillor Adrian Kriss, District Councillor Charles Hotham, Parish Councillors (Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hotham, Philip Perry, Olivia Pardo Roques, Susan Whitehand, Mark Roberts, James Baldwin and Lydia Williams), Chairman Cllr Robert Cholmondeley, Executive Officer Eleanor Choudry, Office Address 80 Hewell Road, B45 8NF, and Contact 0121 447 9893 exec@barntgreen.org.uk

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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## Welcome Cllr Williams

We are delighted to welcome resident Lydia Williams who was elected to the Parish Council. We hope Lydia enjoys her new role!

## Flooding on Hewell Road

The road dips on Hewell Road under the bridge and this has caused cars to occasionally get stuck in flood waters following heavy rain. We are in the process of adding a flood level water marker which will help drivers gauge the depth of the water before proceeding.

## Pollinator Site



## Coffee & Chat Sessions

Come along to meet others in the local community, you are guaranteed a warm welcome, a hot drink and biscuit!

**Barnt Green Baptist Church, Bittell Rd**

Every Wednesday 10 am until 12 noon

**St Andrews Parish Centre, Sandhills Rd**

Every Friday 10.30 am until 12 noon

The Worcester Black Pear tree and Williams' Bon Chretien Pear tree which were planted in remembrance of HM Queen Elizabeth on the Pollinator Site are growing well. The area is a designated pollinator site with some wildflowers and yellow rattle growing that is encouraging insects and wildlife. We are hoping to get local residents involved in maintaining the site and welcome any ideas on how to improve the area. Please contact the EO at [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk).

## Community Event—Saturday 24th June 2023

There will be 2 guided walks planned of 4 and 8 miles with both walks starting and ending at Millennium Park, Hewell Road. The 8 mile walk will commence at 1.30pm and the 4 mile walk at 3pm. Both guided walks will return at approximately 5pm for music in Millennium Park by the popular 9-piece party band, Brass Beatz. Drinks, food and ice creams will be available to purchase.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Barnt Green Parish Council has moved, relocating from the front office at 80 Hewell Road to the rear office of the same address. This has improved access for all users and incorporates a dedicated permanent meeting space seating up to 15 people. If you would like to hire the meeting room please contact the office for terms of hire and a booking form. Email [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk) or call 0121 447 9893. Facilities include: set meeting style table layout for 8 people, toilet facilities, kitchen available upon request, internet provision with conference screen to enable power point presentation / video conferencing etc.

### A consultation on division boundaries for Worcestershire has begun

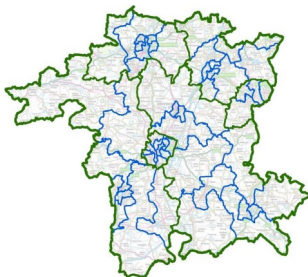
This is a public consultation and The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) welcome views from individuals and organisations across Worcestershire on where they think new division boundaries should be drawn. LGBCE are minded to recommend that **57 councillors** should be elected to Worcestershire County Council in the future. This is **no change** from the current number of councillors. LGBCE are now inviting proposals to help them draw up a pattern of divisions to accommodate **57 councillors**.

In drawing up new electoral divisions, they must balance three legal criteria, namely:

- to deliver electoral equality: where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the county;

- that the pattern of divisions should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities;

- that the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.



LGBCE will treat all submissions equally, and judge each case on its merits and against the legal criteria.

If you wish to put forward a view, they would also urge you to ensure that evidence supports your submission.

For example, if you wish to argue that two areas should be included in the same electoral division, make sure you tell them *why* they should be together, providing evidence about community facilities, ties, organisations, and amenities, rather than simply asserting that they belong together.

There is more advice at [lgbce.org.uk](http://lgbce.org.uk) about how you can get involved in the consultation.

Their website features technical guidance that explains the process and policies, as well as guidance on how to participate in each part of the process.

They have also set up a webpage dedicated to the review of Worcestershire, where you can find all the relevant information.

You can access interactive maps of the current ward boundaries across Worcestershire on their website. The portal allows you to comment and upload documents directly to the site.

### Bittell Road Playing Field

Barnt Green Medical Trust kindly provided funding for drainage works to prevent water pooling around the children's play equipment. The wet ground meant that the play equipment was unusable in the wettest months. The drainage works have significantly improved the area leaving only a small part that remains boggy. We are looking at having further minor drainage works completed. Following the drainage improvements the play equipment will be repaired and revamped providing a great play area for young children locally.



### Troop Aid

Once again the Parish Council Office has offered to be a drop in centre for donations to Troop Aid who are in urgent need of shower gel, single toothbrushes, toothpaste, stick deodorants and razors for their grab bags. When our military get injured or fall ill, Troop Aid grab bags are waiting for them on their hospital bed, whether at home or abroad in their Field Hospitals where we are still active.

Our nation has a military presence in many countries and whether in action, advising or training, injuries and illness still occur. We would like to thank everyone for their previous donations as your support enables us to carry on.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual meeting was held on the 24th April. Reports from both District and County Councillors were delivered and an Open Forum is held which is an opportunity for residents to raise any issues within the parish or ask any questions. Worcester County Councillor Kriss confirmed Highways have agreed to carry out improvement works on the footway in Hewell Lane. Highways also considered two areas for a pedestrian crossing but unfortunately they did not select Bittell Road, although it is hoped that the area will be reconsidered in the future. There are not enough bus and train services for local people and so there will be an extension of demand response travel to increase transport availability in Barnt Green and Rubery. District Councillor Hotham reported that the large levelling up grant received by Bromsgrove District Council from the government is to be spent on redeveloping the Market Hall site in the town centre and has also been used to purchase the old fire station and library buildings in Windsor Street. There is a country wide national shortage of planning officers resulting in delays to planning determinations. The review of the district wide strategic plan was delayed but is now expected to be made public shortly. The Chairman, Robert Cholmondeley, gave a summary of the past year highlighting events and news and the Executive Officer summarised the financial position of the council to date.

**All agendas and minutes are available on the parish council website**

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**SATURDAY 16TH  
SEPTEMBER 2023**



**SOCIAL EATS STREET FOOD  
AND MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**Bittell Road playing  
fields , Barnt Green**



**12 NOON UNTIL 10PM**

**Street food stalls, live music including  
tribute bands, children's entertain-  
ment. Fun family day out!**

**Further details to follow.**

## Celebrations as Children's Charity Doubles its Presence in Barnt Green with Shop Expansion

The Acorns Children's Hospice shop in Barnt Green has doubled in size offering customers even more high-quality pre-loved items. The expansion means the Hewell Road shop now has a site dedicated to children's clothes, toys and games as well as a boutique bursting with bargains across a range of ladies' wear, menswear, homeware, books, music and more. To celebrate the 'bigger and better' Acorns Barnt Green shop, staff and volunteers held a special community open day to showcase the exciting improvements. Anna Ingram and Karen Jones, Community Shop Managers at Acorns Barnt Green, said "We're thrilled to be able to unveil our bigger, better Barnt Green shop and share this exciting expansion with the local community. As the only charity retailer in the village, we're proud to be a part of this community, which in return has shown us nothing but love and support for over 10 years "This exciting new chapter for our shop is as much for them as it is for us – we wouldn't be here without them and we certainly wouldn't be able to expand our shop. Nor would we be here without the commitment and support of our amazing team of volunteers, all of whom live locally. So, a huge thank you to everyone in Barnt Green for really taking our shop and our cause into their hearts!" Acorns has 45 shops on high streets across the region raising money towards the £10 million per year the charity needs to continue its work providing vital care for children with life limiting and life threatening conditions and support for their families. Gary Pettit, Acorns Retail Director added, said: "The opportunity to double the size of our Barnt Green site was one we just couldn't pass up. For over 10 years, the people of Barnt Green have so generously given our shop its unwavering support and we wanted to give back by investing in the local community".



To find your local Acorns charity shop, please visit [www.acorns.org.uk](http://www.acorns.org.uk)

Please do not leave donations outside the shop.