

## Barnt Green Chuggers & Chaingang

Formed in 2005, The Barnt Green Chuggers (Running) and Chaingang (Cycling) are a local non-profit community Club who are affiliated with both England Athletics and Cycling UK. They are based at Barnt Green Sports Club and cater for all running and cycling abilities including those on electric bikes. They are principally a social and recreational club and don't focus on competition. Weekly Chugger sessions are Monday at 7pm with additional sessions on Wednesday evenings. Chaingang rides are Wednesday evening also at 7pm with additional sessions on Saturday mornings.



They pride themselves on having a vibrant social calendar hosting both sporting and social events and having an excellent local base. Both Chuggers and Chaingang take part in local runs, sportives and charity events. Recent events have included a Midsummer

Run, Ride and Curry Evening, a Chaingang Charity Ride, the Chuggers annual Waseley Hills Run and taking part in the Worcester Mid-Week Run series. April 2023 saw a well-attended Majorca Chaingang Cycling Trip with another scheduled for 2024. Still to come for this year are the annual Mulled Wine Run and Christmas Party / Awards night.



The club has a healthy membership of 130+ and are always keen to welcome

more members, so, if wanting to stay in shape, you used to run or cycle and would like to start again, or simply to enjoy some recreational runs and rides with some friendly local people – please contact Membership Secretary Kate Gallimore [kategallimore@googlemail.com](mailto:kategallimore@googlemail.com) or visit [www.barntgreenchuggers.co.uk](http://www.barntgreenchuggers.co.uk)



### MP and Councillors' contacts:

MP	Sajid Javid - <a href="mailto:sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk">sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk</a>
County Councillor	Adrian Kriss - <a href="mailto:AKriss@worcestershire.gov.uk">AKriss@worcestershire.gov.uk</a>
District Councillor	Charles Hotham - <a href="mailto:c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk">c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk</a>
Parish Councillors	Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hotham, Philip Perry, Olivia Pardo Roques, Susan Whitehand, Mark Roberts, James Baldwin and Lydia Williams. Councillor contact details available via: <a href="http://www.barntgreen.org.uk">www.barntgreen.org.uk</a>
Chairman	CLlr Robert Cholmondeley - <a href="mailto:robert.cholmondeley@barntgreen.org.uk">robert.cholmondeley@barntgreen.org.uk</a>
Executive Officer	Eleanor Choudry
Office Address	80 Hewell Road, B45 8NF
Contact	0121 447 9893 <a href="mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk">exec@barntgreen.org.uk</a>

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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Dear Resident,

I am asked on a regular basis for the situation on the installation of lifts at the railway station. Many of you will remember when the old footbridge was replaced in 2015 as part of the Bromsgrove electrification. To comply with the Equality Act 2010, this should have triggered full disabled access to the station. This is only possible with lifts.

After a long campaign and many broken promises, approval has been granted by the Department for Transport and the funding is in place. Contractors were scheduled to commence the work in August 2023.

Contractors aren't yet on site. We're told that there's still some final design work to complete plus incorporating some changes in fire regulations.

What is worrying is that the 5-year control period under which Network Rail funding is managed expires in March 2024. If work does not commence soon, the allocation for the lifts may slip to the next 2024-2029 control period with an unknown commencement date. We are pressing for work to commence as soon as possible against this backdrop.

Robert Cholmondeley, Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council



## Bus Services in Barnt Green

A Barnt Green resident wanted to highlight the excellent **182** bus service from Barnt Green to Redditch. The service picks up on Sandhills Road and stops at Redditch bus station which is next to the Kingfisher shopping centre. The service returns a couple of hours later to Barnt Green, Hewell Road, after the shopping has been completed! It's a great idea to leave the car behind and not have to worry about traffic and parking. The bus departs from Sandhills Road at 9:39 and returns at 12:25 from Redditch getting back to Barnt Green at 12:59, Monday to Friday. Pensioner and disability free bus passes are available on the Worcestershire County Council website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk)

*Merry Christmas*

**BARNT GREEN XMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON**  
**MILLENNIUM PARK**

**Saturday 2nd December 3.30pm - 5pm**

**Christmas Lights Countdown**

*Arrow Valley Brass Band* ★ *The Theatre Workshop Choir*  
 ★ *Meet Father Christmas* ★

*Come and support your local traders supplying food and drinks*

Barnt Green Parish Council, 80 Hewell Rd, Birmingham B45 8NF [exec@barntgreen.org.uk](mailto:exec@barntgreen.org.uk) 0121 447 9893

Barnt Green Parish Council is situated at 80 Hewell Road at the rear office. With improved access for all users the office space 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 review of Bromsgrove Polling Districts and Polling Places

Since October 2013, all local authorities have been required to review their polling districts, polling places, and polling stations every five years. The review period starts in October and must be completed within 16 months of this. Each authority may choose the exact dates and length of their review; however it must fall within this window. The current compulsory review period is from October 2023 to Jan 2025 although it is good practice to have completed the review before the next General Election is called.

The review for Bromsgrove District Council started on 2 October 2023.

The definition of the terms for the items being reviewed are:

- A 'polling district' is a geographical subdivision of an electoral area such as a district or parish ward which a polling place is designate.
- A 'polling place' is defined as the building or area in which a polling station resides.

A 'polling station' is the room or area within a polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the Interim (Acting) Returning Officer.

The review requires the council to:

- Seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, and, when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

\* Seek to ensure that polling places are within their polling district unless special circumstances (such as no suitable building being available) make it desirable to designate an area outside the polling district. The Interim (Acting) Returning Officer is required to decide how many polling stations are needed for each polling place and to allocate electors to the polling stations in such a manner they think most convenient.

The following is not considered as part of the review:

The changing of any district ward boundaries (which can only be done by statute following an electoral review carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission - a review for Bromsgrove District is going to be carried out in the near future). This review is concerned only with the administrative subdivision of a ward into polling districts which are then assigned polling places;

or

The changing of polling districts in areas which are also aligned with parish boundaries and therefore cannot be amended during this review (these can only be amended during a Community Governance Review).

Information is also on deposit at the Council Offices, Parkside, Market St, Bromsgrove.

Links to the background papers and interactive map setting out the current situation of polling districts and places within Bromsgrove is available at [bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://bromsgrove.gov.uk) along with the online consultation polling review submission form.

The consultation is running from 2 October to 5pm on 13 November and the District Council welcomes comments on the current polling districts and polling places.

If you think you should be voting in a polling place closer to address please get in touch as the polling district may be able to be amended. In addition if you feel there is an alternative building that might be better to be used as a polling place please let Bromsgrove District Council know.

## Hewell Lane

Worcestershire County Council has begun resurfacing the pavement near The Longlands on Hewell Lane. The lamp post will be lowered to allow a new footway around the bend and a new crossing point.

## 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. A flood level water marker has been installed which will help drivers gauge the depth of the water before proceeding.

## Pollinator Site

The area at the end of Green Bank is a designated pollinator site. A new Volunteer Group of local residents has been created to help maintain the site. It will take a few years for the area to become fully established. It has been trimmed back to the ground and councillors have planted more Yellow Rattle to prevent too much grass growth. Cllrs also weeded around the pear trees that were planted in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II. Wildflower seeds without grasses will be planted. The area is encouraging insects and wildlife to flourish.

## 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



## Bittell Road Playing Field

Further drainage works have been carried out at Bittell Road playing field. The area surrounding the children's play equipment gets very wet and boggy in the wettest months preventing use of the equipment. Now the drainage works are complete we will be turning our attention to the play equipment which is in need of refurbishment.

## Shop lifting

Nationally shop lifting has increased and unfortunately this has also affected Barnt Green along with other neighbouring villages. A meeting is to be arranged with shopkeepers, the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Business Crime Officer to implement a workable solution to prevent this crime.

## Parking

The problem of parking is an ongoing issue in Barnt Green. West Mercia Police operate a Local Policing Community Charter and ask parish councils to identify priorities that the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and other departments will work on. Parking has been identified as a priority by the parish council and it is hoped some action will be taken.

## Summer Events in Barnt Green

On Saturday 24th June the Parish Council held a community walk followed by music in Millennium Park by Brass Beatz. There were 2 walks, a 4 mile walk and an 8 mile walk. It was a very hot day but all those that attended enjoyed the walks and other people joined the walkers for the music and drinks in Millennium Park.

On Saturday 16th September the parish council hired the playing field in Bittell Road to the events organiser Social Eats. They hosted a successful Music and Street Food Festival. Some concerns were raised by neighbouring residents regarding the festival. If there are to be future events in the field the feedback received will be acted upon and communication with residents improved.

\*\*\*\*\***REPORT CRIME**\*\*\*\*\*

Businesses and residents are being encouraged to report crime online at <https://www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/report-a-crime-incident/>

In an emergency call 999 Call 101 for non-emergency enquiries

### A message from your Safer Neighbourhood Team

Your police Safer Neighbourhood Team will be holding a number of 'Drop-in' surgeries at **The Garry** over the next several weeks. If you have any issues or concerns, or you would simply like to speak to a member of the team please pop along to one of the following 'drop-in' sessions for a one-to-one chat. Alternatively, if you cannot attend but would still like to speak to a member of the team you can still contact us either via email: [hr.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:hr.snt@westmercia.police.uk) or TWITTER: [@HagRuberyCops](https://twitter.com/HagRuberyCops)

### The Garry, 18-20 Hewell Road

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct - 14:00-15:00

Tue 07<sup>th</sup> Nov – 13:00-14:00

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – 14:00-15:00

Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov – 11:00-12:00

Fri 01<sup>st</sup> Dec – 10:00-11:00

Wed 06<sup>th</sup> Dec – 15:00-16:00

### County Council Surgery for Beacon

**Monday 20th November 2023**

**6-7pm**

**Cofton Village Hall**

**County Councillor Adrian Kriss will be running a drop-in surgery in conjunction with the police in the Meeting Room at Cofton Village Hall. Please do take this opportunity to come and meet him and raise any questions you may have.**

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

🎵 **THURSDAY 28TH** 🎵

**DECEMBER 2023**

**WASSAIL WALK**

Meet in

**Millennium Park**

**3pm 5 mile walk**

**3.30pm 3 mile walk**

**Apple juice and mulled wine  
Bonfire, Morris Dancers, poems and procession!**



**ALL WELCOME!**

