

Dear Resident,

There are changes on the horizon which will affect us in Barnt Green. The Government's devolution plans will move Worcestershire County Council to Unitary Authority status in the next couple of years. Final proposals have to be submitted by the end of November 2025. There's currently an active debate about whether there should be one unitary authority for all the county or two - one for South Worcestershire and one for North Worcestershire. Normally, unitary authorities must have a minimum population of 500,000, but the population of Worcestershire is only 600,000.

Most of the activities undertaken by Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) will transfer to the new unitary authority as a layer of local government is stripped out. Barnt Green Parish Council may acquire a few more minor responsibilities, but most of the activities such as waste collection, housing and planning will transfer from BDC to the new unitary authority.

Against this backdrop, the Government has imposed 9,000 new houses to be built in the area currently covered by BDC by 2041, an increase of over 80% from previous numbers. A major problem for BDC is that 89% of its land is green belt with little in the brown or grey belt categories. It would be naïve to think that there will not be implications for Barnt Green. We are in contact with BDC. What we don't know yet are the critical issues of the numbers, type and location of any proposed new housing. We want to avoid additional stress to our village centre and preserve the identity of our village.

Robert Cholmondeley, Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council

MP and Councillors' contacts:

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County Councillor	Adrian Kriss - AKriss@worcestershire.gov.uk
District Councillor	Charles Hotham - c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk
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Chairman	Robert.cholmondeley@barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.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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Best Dressed Xmas Window Competition Winner 2024!

Every year Barnt Green parish council hold a Best Dressed Christmas Window Competition. Many of the local businesses take part and it gives a real sense of Christmas in the village. Every year the displays get better and better making it very hard for the judges to decide the winner. Arden Estates were the 2024 worthy winners and were presented with the trophy by Robert Cholmondeley, Chairman of Barnt Green Parish Council. Thanks go to all the businesses for taking part and adding some Christmas sparkle to the village.



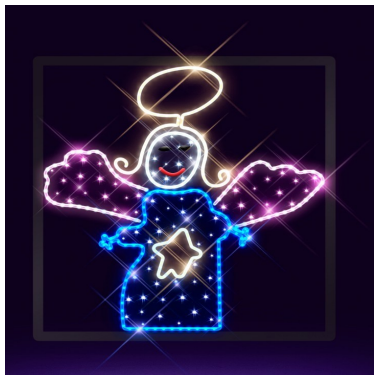
Christmas Lights Competition

The parish council held a Christmas lights competition for the pupils at St Andrews First School. Both winners had their designs made into a bespoke light to be hung along Hewell Road adding to the other lights designed by children. The winners were at the Xmas lights switch on event held in Millennium Park

and turned their light on with the help of Santa.

Abigail Gordon designed the angel light .

Dylan Grassby designed the turkey



Bittell Road Playing Fields

New Community Orchard

At the bottom of Bittell Road playing field, in the small alcove, a new community orchard has been created. Five apple trees and three plum trees have been planted. Worcestershire County Council Coronation Living Fund paid for the project and parish councillors along with two volunteers carried out the work. We hope the trees will produce lots of fruit for the community to help themselves!



New Children's play equipment

The children's play equipment installation is complete and proving to be very popular. The equipment has been moved over slightly from where the previous equipment was sited to avoid the boggiest part of the field. The timber



equipment has all been designed to help develop balancing, agility and coordination skills whilst also being a lot of fun! Grass tiles help prevent the ground eroding from foot traffic. Thanks to Barnt Green Medical Trust who supported the purchase with funding for two thirds of the cost. It is hoped the equipment will provide many years of activity and fun for children of all ages.

Millennium Park

The bridge in Millennium Park has been replaced with a brand new one! The old bridge had become worn and some of the treads had deteriorated so the parish council purchased a replacement and our Outdoor Parish Caretaker installed it just in time for the warmer weather.



Pollinator Site

The area at the end of Greenbank is a designated pollinator site. Unfortunately somebody drove onto the site knocking over the rope fence. Our Outdoor Parish Caretaker has now cemented the posts in place. The Volunteer Group of local residents have filled the hole, that was left by the careless driver, with turf. Cllr Phil Perry has pruned the two pear trees on the site. Once the weather is drier the Volunteer Group will start to make a plan for increasing the pollinators on the site. The site is encouraging insects and wildlife to flourish and help biodiversity in Barnt Green.

Barnt Green Circular Walks

Leaflet maps are available in the parish council office for three circular walks around Barnt Green of between 2 miles and 6.5 miles – these are available to anyone calling in to the office and also online at Worcestershire county council's website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside



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

Under 5's stay and play every Thursday in term time 9.30am until 11.30am

St Andrews Parish Centre, Sandhills Rd

Every Friday 10.30am until 12 noon

St Andrews Parish Centre, Christian Aid week fund raising

On Saturday 17th May we will be running a soup and bread lunch in St Andrews Parish Centre lounge, open, to all, and a plant sale outside the church.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



SATURDAY 30TH

AUGUST 2025

Social Eats

STREET FOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Bittell Road Playing Fields

Further details will be available on Barnt Green Parish Council website and Facebook page.



OFFICE SPACE FOR HIRE

Barnt Green Parish Council has office space that is available to hire on an adhoc/regular basis for £5 per hour (minimum £15). We are situated at 80 Hewell Road at the rear office.

There is access for all users and a dedicated meeting space seating up to 15 people. Please contact the EO for terms of hire and a booking form.

Email

exec@barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 0121 447 9893. Facilities include: set meeting style table layout for 8 people, toilet facilities, kitchen available upon request, internet etc.

Barnt Green Chuggers & Chaingang

After the success of the 2024 programme, Chuggers & Chaingang, the local run and ride Club based at Barnt Green Sports Club, are once again launching their Up & Running initiative.

If you're thinking of taking up running, Up & Running is aimed at anyone looking to start or someone that hasn't run for a while and wishes to go back to basics. Up & Running will be led by trained run leaders who have knowledge and experience of running from scratch, building up distance and confidence all in an enjoyable environment. It will



commence on **Sunday 11 May** and will continue for approximately 7 weeks with the aim of completing a 5k run at the end of the course. Equipped with the knowledge and fitness from this course, you'll easily be able to run with the running groups on Club runs thereafter.

Formed in 2005, Barnt Green Chuggers (Running) and Chaingang (Cycling) Club provides sessions for all abilities and are aimed at those simply wanting to stay in shape as well as those wanting to improve their running, cycling and fitness. We 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.

If you are interested in joining us for Up & Running, or if you're a seasoned runner and would like to join a Chugger club run or a cyclist looking to group ride, then please contact Membership Secretary Kate Galimore kategallimore@googlemail.com or visit www.barntgreenchuggers.co.uk.

All agendas and minutes are available on the parish council website www.barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk along with meeting dates.

Barnt Greens Station Lifts Update

Following our last update at the parish council meeting in December 2024, we are pleased to confirm that work has started on site at Barnt Green.

The £7.5 million investment is set to be completed by autumn and will see the construction of three lifts. This upgrade will benefit passengers with reduced mobility, pushchairs and heavy luggage making it easier for everyone to access.

Network Rail teams have been installing track monitoring and gauge equipment and completed the final checks. They have started on-site preparations in advance of major installation work. The preparations have involved the creation of a site compound, bringing in materials and machinery and carrying out ground surveys across the station.

Some sections of platforms 1 and 2 will need to be sectioned off so work can take place safely but there will be no restriction to getting on and off trains.

Car parking facilities will need to be reduced to accommodate the site compound but temporary disabled parking spaces will be created. Network Rail are working closely with West Midlands Railway to cause the least possible disruption to passengers and the local community while work takes place.



Bringing Calm & Connection to Our Community Through Mindfulness & Meditation

Life can feel overwhelming—our minds race with to-do lists, worries, and distractions. But what if you could bring more calm, clarity, and balance into your day with just a few simple moments of mindfulness?

Mindfulness is the practice of being fully present—whether you're sipping a cup of tea, walking outside, or simply breathing. Research shows that practicing mindfulness regularly can:

- ✓ Reduce stress and anxiety
- ✓ Improve focus and emotional resilience
- ✓ Help with sleep and overall well-being

Try This: A One-Minute Mindfulness Reset

- ① **Pause** – Take a deep breath in... and a slow breath out.
- ② **Notice** – The sounds around you, the feel of your feet on the ground, or the warmth of your hands.
- ③ **Breathe** – Let go of tension and return to your day with greater ease.

Just **one mindful moment** can shift your entire day.

Experience the Benefits for Yourself

If you'd like to bring mindfulness into your life, why not join a friendly local meditation group?

Barnt Green resident **Coz Winn**, a professional mindfulness and meditation teacher, runs weekly sessions designed to help you relax, reduce stress, and develop simple techniques to feel calmer and more present.

📍 **Where?** The Friends Meeting House, Barnt Green

🕒 **When?** Every Wednesday Evening

🌿 **Free trial session for new attendees!**

For more details, visit

www.meditationwithcoz.com

