


Christmas Greetings from Barnt Green Parish Council


Dear Resident

The consultation on Bromsgrove District Council's (BDC) Draft Development Strategy has now closed. The Parish Council submitted a response which is posted on our website barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk. This response was based on the views and comments from completion of our survey and from the comments made at the public meeting held on 29 July at St Andrew's Parish Centre.

The proposal for 340 new homes to 2043 in the Barnt Green area represents a 40% increase, by far the largest percentage in the Bromsgrove district (10%-15% was the norm). The rationale appears to be based on the strategy adopted by BDC that locations with infrastructure, especially a railway station, are those where additional houses should be located.

The way the strategy has been implemented appears flawed because there has been no prior assessment of existing infrastructure to determine whether it can accommodate additional housing. The way the site selection has been undertaken also appears flawed because it was based on old green belt zones prior to the definition of the new grey belt areas.

Thanks to all of you who engaged in this process and submitted your individual comments.

Robert Cholmondeley, Chair, Barnt Green Parish Council

MP and Councillors' contacts:

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County Councillor	Alan Bailes - ABailes1@worcestershireshire.gov.uk
District Councillor	Charles Hotham - c.hotham@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Parish Councillors	Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hotham, Philip Perry, Olivia Pardo Roques, Susan Whitehand, Mark Roberts, Lydia Williams and Sally Tucker. Councillor contact details available via: www.barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk
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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Blooming Lovely – Summer Flowers & Autumn Planting Plans



The planters in Millennium Park and along Hewell Road looked wonderful throughout the summer, filled with strong, colourful blooms that brought cheer to the village and were much enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to all the local shops who cared for their hanging baskets – your efforts did not go unnoticed! The baskets added a lovely burst of colour to the village centre and helped create a warm, welcoming atmosphere on our high street.

Unfortunately, the tiered planters once again didn't quite live up to expectations. Despite our best efforts, the deep planting tiers and particularly hot, dry summer days made them difficult to maintain and water effectively. After some discussion at the September Parish Council meeting, councillors voted to remove both tiered planters as they are no longer considered practical or sustainable for future planting.

But it's not all bad news! As we head into autumn, councillors will be meeting once the summer flowers have finished to clear out the tiered planters and refresh the container displays along Hewell Road. These will be replanted with hardy, colourful winter plants to help keep the village looking bright and seasonal over the colder months.

Can you lend a hand?

We're always grateful for a helping hand and would love to hear from any residents who'd like to get involved with the planting. Whether you're a keen gardener or just happy to help, volunteers are very welcome – no experience necessary!

If you'd like to join in, please get in touch with the Executive Officer:

exec@barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Together, we can keep Barnt Green blooming beautifully – all year round!



Devolution: Unitary Authority

Changes to Local Councils – What It Means for You

You may have heard about some upcoming changes to how local councils are run in Worcestershire. Here's what's happening and what it could mean for you and your community.

What is Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation?

Devolution means that powers and funding are being moved from national government to local areas – giving local communities more say in the decisions that affect them.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is about changing how councils are structured and what they're responsible for. The Government has plans to replace the current two-tier system (where we have both county and district councils) with new unitary councils – one council for each area, responsible for all local services.

This change is set to happen across England by April 1, 2028, and it includes Worcestershire. That means Worcestershire County Council and the six district councils – Wyre Forest, Wychavon, Malvern Hills, Bromsgrove, Worcester City, and Redditch – are all part of these discussions.

What is a Unitary Council?

A unitary council is a single organisation that takes care of everything from education and roads to housing and rubbish collection. It simplifies things by having one council instead of two for each area. The Government has asked councils to come up with their own proposals for what these new councils could look like – making sure they're big enough to be efficient, financially stable, and able to provide good services.

What's Being Proposed in Worcestershire?

There are two main proposals being worked on:

Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council want to create one single unitary council for the whole of Worcestershire.

The other five district councils are proposing two separate unitary councils:

South Worcestershire Council – covering Worcester City, Malvern Hills, and Wychavon.

North Worcestershire Council – covering Bromsgrove, Redditch, and Wyre Forest.

These proposals are still being developed, and nothing has been decided yet.

What Happens Next?

Over the next few weeks, there will be local discussions about how communities will be represented under the new council structure. This includes:

Setting up Neighbourhood Action Committees or locality groups (each covering around 50,000 people); Possibly creating new Town or Parish Councils, such as: a Town Council for Bromsgrove, a Parish Council for Astwood Bank, one or more Town/Parish Councils for Redditch.

Why This Matters

These changes are all about making local services more efficient, giving communities a stronger voice, and making sure councils are financially secure for the future. But change takes time, planning, and investment – and councils will need to work closely together to get it right.

Pollinator Site

A Huge Thank You to Our Pollinator Site Volunteers!

The Parish Council would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the amazing Volunteer Group of local residents who have worked so hard on the Pollinator Site at the end of Green Bank this year.

Throughout the spring and summer, the group has been busy with regular strimming, weeding, and planting, helping to create a welcoming space for wildlife and a beautiful area for us all to enjoy. One of their many

successes this year has been managing the brambles, giving more room for wildflowers – including Yellow Rattle – to thrive and spread.

Some wildflower seeds were even lovingly grown in one of the volunteers' greenhouses before being planted at the site – a real community effort! The group has also noted that the grass hasn't grown as tall this year and there's been less Knapweed, making space for more variety in the display.

We'd also like to thank Cllr Perry for taking the time to weed around the base of the pear trees. These trees, planted in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II, have flourished thanks to regular watering from the volunteers and the addition of protective cages.

The site brought more colour this year and is a credit to all those who helped. Now, the area has been strimmed to the ground, with the cuttings left in place to allow seeds to naturally settle into the soil – setting the stage for another lovely display next year.

We're so grateful for the time and effort of everyone involved, and we're already looking forward to seeing what blooms in 2026!





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 11am

St Andrews Parish Centre, Sandhills Rd

Every Friday 10.30am until 12 noon

Friends Meeting House, 6 Sandhills Rd

Regular film showings are held, see the notice boards in the Friends Meeting House and by the gate for details.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

WASSAIL WALK - MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2025

Join us for a magical winter celebration full of tradition, warmth, and community spirit!

Meet at Millennium Park, Hewell Road

2.45pm - 5-mile walk

3.30pm - 3-mile walk (a gentler option)

Then gather round for:

A roaring bonfire

Delicious apple juice and warming mulled wine

Morris dancers, poems and a traditional Wassail procession!

Bring your friends, family, wellies—and your festive spirit!

ALL WELCOME—See you there!



Network Rail Station Lifts

Gaining access to all the platforms at Barnt Green station has evolved from the 19th century into the 21st century with completion of the installation of lifts. This has delivered full disabled access at the station.

From this:



To this:



We thank everyone who has supported the Parish Council in its campaign. The £7.5m project has delivered an important piece of infrastructure for Barnt Green and its residents.

Chuggers & Chaingang

Winter approaching? Tempted to hibernate? Come and join Barnt Green Chuggers and Chaingang who run and ride all year!

Barnt Green Chuggers (Running) and Chaingang (Cycling) Club provides sessions for all abilities and are aimed at those wanting to stay in shape as well as those wanting to improve their running, cycling and fitness. We are mainly a social and recreational club and don't focus on competition with fun and enjoyable sessions. Weekly Chugger sessions are Monday at 7pm (high vis and lights required through winter) with additional sessions on Wednesday evenings. Chaingang rides are Wednesday evening (again high vis and bike lights essential) also at 7pm with additional sessions on Saturday mornings. Groups are often mixed ability through the winter months so there is something for everyone.

If you would like to try a Chugger club run or a cyclist looking to group ride, then please contact Membership Secretary Kate Gallimore kategallimore@googlemail.com or visit www.barntgreenchuggers.co.uk for more information.



Christmas Greetings from Barnt Green Parish Council

Barnt Green Christmas Lights Switch-On!
Millennium Park, Barnt Green
Saturday 29th November
3:30 PM – 6 PM

Get ready for a magical afternoon as **Barnt Green** lights up for Christmas!

Enjoy the festive sounds of the **Arrow Valley Brass Band** as they fill the park with classic Christmas carols.

Meet Father Christmas – bring the kids and snap a selfie with Santa himself!

Local retailers including Village Vineyards, Cofton on The Green and Cofton Pizza will be serving up tasty **treats, snacks and festive drinks** to keep you warm and merry.

Join us for the **BIG Christmas Countdown** as we switch on the lights and officially kick off the holiday season!

Don't miss this heart-warming community event – wrap up warm, bring your festive cheer, and let's light up Barnt Green together!



Need a Space to Meet or Work?**Affordable Office Space for Hire in Barnt Green**

Barnt Green Parish Council has a bright and accessible office space available to hire on an ad hoc or regular basis – perfect for meetings, small groups, or quiet working time.

Location: 80 Hewell Road (rear office)

Cost: Just £5 per hour (minimum hire £15)

The dedicated meeting area comfortably seats up to 15 people and includes:

- Meeting table setup for 8
- Wi-Fi access
- Kitchen facilities (available on request)
- Toilet facilities

Step-free access for all users

Whether you're hosting a community group, running a workshop, or simply need a quiet workspace – we've got you covered!

For booking details and terms of hire, contact the Executive Officer:

exec@barntgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk

0121 447 9893

We'd love to welcome you!

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

Public Notice: Flags Installed on Street Lamps in Barnt Green

The Parish Council has received a number of enquiries regarding the England flags and Union Jacks that have been affixed to street lamps in Barnt Green.

We would like to clarify that the Parish Council was not consulted regarding the installation of these flags and has not granted consent for them to be attached to the street lamps, some of which are under Parish Council ownership.

Responsibility for street lighting on the public highway lies with the Highway Authority under the *Highways Act 1980*. In this case, Worcestershire County Council, as the relevant authority, has confirmed that it currently has no plans to remove the flags.