

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

PARISH COUNCILLORS

	Karen May	– 01527 575836	
	Parish Council Chairman		
Keith Drew	– 01527 575691	Hazel Feeney	– 01527 870034
Stuart Hall, vice-chairman	- 01527 878123	Brian Lodge	– 01527 875048
Martin Millinchip	– 01527 578891	Steve Westwood	– 01527 877783

Parish Council office (Clerk, Gill Lungley) - 07813 671899
 e-mail - bourneheathpc@hotmail.co.uk
 website – www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish

Parish Tree Warden, Cllr Stuart Hall - 01527 878123

Bournheath Village Community Centre - 07516 723360
 - also on Facebook and twitter

Neighbourhood Watch, Bryan Hewett - 01527 831897

Local Policing Team (non-emergency) - 0300 333 3000

Local Policing Team voice mail - 01527 583737
 e-mail – sidemoorandwoodvale.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Bromsgrove District Council hub - 01527 881288

e-mail – bromsgrovecc@bromsgrove.gov.uk

website - www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Planning website – <http://appuview.bromsgrove.gov.uk/online-applications/>

District Councillor, Woodvale Ward - 01562 730709

Brian Lewis - e-mail: b.lewis@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Worcestershire County Council hub - 01905 765765

e-mail – worcestershirehub@worcestershire.gov.uk

website - www.worcestershire.gov.uk

County Councillor, Woodvale Ward - 0121 460 1766

Sheila Blagg - e-mail: sblagg@worcestershire.gov.uk

MP (Bromsgrove) Sajid Javid – www.sajidjavid.com

To find out what the Parish Council is up to current information is posted in the Parish Council's three notice boards which are situated at (1) the crossroads of Fairfield Road with Dodford Road, (2) outside the village hall in Claypit Lane and (3) by Whitings in Wildmoor Lane or you can follow us online via the MyParish pages on Worcestershire county council's website or come along to our meetings.



BOURNHEATH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

May 2013

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE – Cllr Karen May...

Monday 13th May 2013 marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of a Parish Council for Bournheath! The current council is now beginning the third year of its four-year term of office and here is a short summary of what we are doing:

- ✚ We oversee the Lengthsman scheme which is funded mainly by County Council;
 - ✚ We continue to maintain some grass areas and benches in the Parish and we have installed and planted up flower boxes at the parish entrances; thanks to Bumble Hole Foods for their help.
 - ✚ We have installed a new noticeboard in Wildmoor.
 - ✚ Speeding traffic within the Parish is a constant concern for all parishioners so we are investing in a reconditioned Vehicle Activated sign which can be moved around the Parish for maximum benefit.
 - ✚ In April Severn Trent representatives discussed with residents the problems of the sewerage system and flooding during heavy rainfall. They will continue to work closely with us on our quest for a system upgrade and permanent solution but this will ONLY happen if residents who have been affected come forward to register. I'm happy to talk to anyone with concerns about this process.
 - ✚ A planning application has been submitted to Worcestershire County Council for the processing of Incinerator Bottom Ash at the Veolia landfill site in Fairfield. Severn Trent already allow leachate from this site to discharge into the local sewerage system and although Veolia have no current plans to increase the amount of discharge I am concerned with this proposal for a major industrial process in the Green Belt close to the aquifer that supplies our drinking water. I urge all residents to look at the application closely. We shall discuss this at our Annual Parish Meeting on 29th May 2013.
 - ✚ In March we discussed the Boundary Commission proposal to abolish the district ward of Woodvale which covers Bournheath, Fairfield and Dodford. We wrote objecting to the suggested move of Bournheath Village to Catshill South Ward and Wildmoor into Catshill North. The Boundary Commission will decide in June and all the responses to date can be viewed on the LGBCE website.
 - ✚ We held a Carol Concert last December on Tuppenny Cake which was very well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all. This year's event will be on Friday 13th December 2013 at 7pm and members of Blackwell Concert Band have kindly agreed to supply the music. I invite all of you to sing with us around the 2d Cake Christmas tree followed by hot punch and mince pies at the Village Hall.
- I thank the council members and all residents for your continued support.

FUNDS and BUDGETING

Every year the Parish Council must provide a statement of its accounts to an external auditor allocated by the Audit Commission. Before the accounts for the financial year ending 31/03/2013 are sent to the external auditor for 1st July 2013 they are available for public viewing between 16th May and 17th June. If anyone would like to take advantage of this annual opportunity please contact the Clerk.

The simplified figures are shown here:

Opening balance at 01/04/2013	£13,425
+ Annual precept (raised via Council Tax)	£10,500
+ Other receipts for the year	<u>£2,168</u>
Sub total	£26,093
- Payments inc salary, grants, maintenance etc	<u>£9,596</u>
Final balance , carried forward	<u>£16,497</u>

Parish Precept

The Parish Council's income is mainly derived from a charge to council tax payers known as the 'precept'; we are not entitled to a share of business rates. This year, due to changes in the way council tax benefits are paid out, the number of households now paying council tax has reduced meaning those that do still pay it have to pay more if the same level of funding is to be maintained.

Central Government recognised this would have a greater impact on parish residents so to soften the blow they released funding via the district councils for the benefit of parish council tax payers. Bromsgrove DC told us this would be in the form of a grant which they implied would make up part of the precept.

At our meeting in January it was agreed that we would maintain the precept for this year at the same level as last year, and taking the Central Government grant into account we set the precept at £10,689. Unfortunately Bromsgrove DC then changed its mind about paying the grant which resulted in parish council tax payers paying more than the parish council intended. It means that for this year a band D council tax payer will contribute £50.98 to the precept instead of the £48.65 we intended. Bromsgrove DC's Director of Finance has apologised to us for the mix-up and we have now been told they will pay out the grant next year! In the meantime despite our strenuous efforts for the grant to be passed on to you this year, we can only pass on Bromsgrove's apologies.

Parish Assets

We continue to look at where the funding can be put to best use. We intend to replace the highways benches over a period of time and purchase a new notice board to display parish notices at the Village Community Centre. However we would very much like to hear your thoughts on where the funding could be spent – come and tell us at the Annual Parish Meeting on 29th May.

THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Parish Councillor Stuart Hall is the Parish Tree Warden and is available to give informal advice regarding trees, shrubs and hedges. He writes:

Another year has passed with the hard winter hopefully now a distant memory; the weather took its toll on our village with pot holes forming due to the heavy frost.

The spring daffodils arrived late and partially stunted sadly due again to the frost; at the time of writing the pansies in the troughs placed around the entrance to the village are just beginning to flower, also affected by the cold snap - still better late than never. Your Parish Council is planning to plant more daffodils this year to plant up the areas that are devoid of them and to replace those that are blind. The grit bins around the village proved their worth and were replenished by County Council with some prompting from your Parish Council; unfortunately some was taken for private use thus leaving some areas short! If you observe this practice let the county or parish council know about it so that we don't run out of grit just when we need it.

Unfortunately we lost our lovely Cedar tree on the Tuppenny Cake island which will be sadly missed so we have planted a Norway Spruce to replace it which will take a few years to mature. In the meantime we may have to go back to buying a cut one at Christmas so we have something to sing our carols around.

A problem in the village which seems to be getting worse over time is the erosion of the grass verges and the traffic islands we do our best to protect these but with the increase in traffic, larger lorries and farm plant it's something we have to live with but if you do observe a particular incident please collect the relevant details such as vehicle registration numbers, type of vehicle etc and report to our Parish Clerk as in some cases we can recover the situation.

We now look forward towards hopefully a good summer period with the hedgerows coming alive again. Your input on ideas for improving our village environment will always be welcome. Stuart Hall



LOCAL GOVERNMENT WARD BOUNDARIES – BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

We await the Commission's decision following our responses to their review of the district ward boundaries which proposes to split Bournheath parish into two and put each half into the two proposed Catshill wards! See www.lgbce.org.uk

CATSHILL COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library has moved from the old Wesleyan chapel in Barley Mow Lane to a newly fitted out annexe at Catshill Middle School in Meadow Road. The aim is for it to be run by the community, for the community and it's not only a place to borrow books from! The library is used for health checks, support surgeries, book club, and story-time as well as for dvd's, audio-books, e-zines and computer access. Out of library hours the room can be booked for community meetings, adult learning and group events. The new opening hours are: Monday 9.15am – 12.15pm; Tuesday 3pm – 7pm; Thursday 3pm – 5.30pm; Friday 3pm – 5.3pm; Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

If you have a few spare hours that you would like to put to good use please consider volunteering here. Find out more by popping in to the library or by going online: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/library-services/local-library-details/catshill.aspx



Party, Event, Meeting or Get-together?

Bournheath Village Community Centre Is Your Venue

telephone: 07516 723360

Email: ournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk

***Discounted Rates for Parish Residents**



@ournheathvilla

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 29th MAY 2013, 7.30pm

BOURNHEATH VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Every year the Parish Council is obliged to hold a meeting for the local government electors of the parish where you are entitled to attend, speak and vote. The purpose of this meeting is generally defined as to "discuss parish affairs" and so it is an opportunity to celebrate local activities and debate current community issues. Although this meeting will be held on the same day as our Annual Parish Council meeting the two meetings are very different. Please let us know if there's anything you'd like to talk about and we'll add it to the agenda. We hope to see you then!

BOURNHEATH VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Chairman Keith Drew writes:

At a well-attended, but feisty, Annual General Meeting, held on the 30th Nov 2012, a brand new Management Committee was elected, with none of the previous Committee offering themselves for re-election, something not seen for many years. A word of thanks should be extended to the former Committee Members for all their work over the years. The new Management Committee, at the time of writing, comprises June Maw (Secretary), Angela Barnes (Treasurer), Helen Ward (Booking Secretary), Vanessa Westwood and Sarah Beard (both IT and Publicity), David Barnes (Club Draw/Income Generation), Jan Mckinstry (Events /Hall Use), John Cross (Vice Chairman) and myself, Keith Drew (Chairman).

You can follow us on Facebook through Bournheath Village Community Centre, via Twitter @BournheathVilla and our e-mail is ournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk. Our new contact telephone number is 07516 723360.

A dropbox facility has been developed for rapid communication between Members.

At our first meeting held in the New Year a number of matters were discussed and added to our Agenda of thoughts for the future of the Centre:-

- To rename the Hall as shown at the head of this article indicating our intentions to open use of the Centre to YOU the Community, whilst respecting those already using the Hall. Though still early days we are looking to have the Centre free for YOUR use at least once a month on a regulated basis. At the moment this will be haphazard working around existing bookings.
- To provide Committee Members with tasks that will involve all in the work ahead (see Members List above), and to provide as much 'openness' and 'transparency' as we can. To that end Minutes of Meetings and new Centre Hire Rates are now displayed in the Centre notice board adjacent to entrance.
- To consider means by which the Centre can be improved upon, from grants that may become available, and to provide flexibility of use to others in the future.
- To reconnect the bridges between YOUR Parish Council and the Management Committee.

I'm sure some will be fed up of me saying, but mentioned at our first Committee Meeting, 'the task in front of us is not going to be easy', but I'm sure the solidarity the new Committee has already shown will see us move forward as one.

As noted earlier we want YOU to be able to use the Centre as a benefit to the Community whenever possible but without stifling much needed income from long standing regular Centre users. We have already staged a very successful 'Quiz Night' with some 80 people in attendance, and hopefully by the time you read this article, a new adventure for Families in the form of an 'Easter Egg Hunt' will have been run also with success. Watch this space for future events which the Management Committee sincerely hope you will join them in.

On behalf of the Management Committee we look forward to your support.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Bryan Hewett writes:

Neighbourhood Watch is just what it says, we watch out for each other. Fortunately we have been spared criminal activity in the main in our village but that does not mean we should be complacent. The function of this scheme is so easily done - we look out for "strange" cars, people who may appear to be loitering, pushing freebies through our neighbour's door when they are away, etc etc..

Bromsgrove Neighbourhood watch via our Parish Council, have provided the signs which we have at every entry into our village including Smartwater. We have the Smartwater facility, (£15 per marker pen which has your DNA on it), this offer which only a minimal number of people in our village have taken up is still available.

The following people are the current "road" marshals to re-enforce the "watch" activities who you can get in touch with at any time.

Bryan Hewett	hewettbc@telco4u.net	01527 831897
Aileen Staniland	aileenstaniland1@aol.com	
Angela Barnes	angie.barnes60@btinternet	
Brian Griffiths	suebriangriffiths@talktalk.net	
Hazel Feeney	hazelfeeney@hotmail.co.uk	
Janet Donnelly	janetdonnelly@btinternet.com	
Karen May	karen.maybatch@btinternet.com	
Madeleine Beard	madeleine.beard@tiscali.co.uk	
Martin Millinchip	judy.martin.815@btinternet.com	
Stuart Garrett	stuggarrett@yahoo.com	



We could do with one or two more coordinators particularly in Mount Road. You will receive the weekly newsletter from the County Neighbourhood watch which lists all the criminal activity in our area - Bromsgrove, Fairfield, Dodford, Catshill and Bournheath.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The inaugural meeting of Bournheath Parish Council took place on Thursday 13th May 1993 at 7.00pm at Bournheath village hall with five member parish councillors present. This was followed by the Annual Parish Meeting which discussed the Western Orbital Route, tipping at Wildmoor and the effect of the water treatment plant on the village.

BIN COLLECTION CHANGES



Bromsgrove District Council will be making changes to bin collection rounds that could affect the day and time of your domestic waste collection; these changes will take place in June 2013 and you will be sent an information pack with your new collection details.

The reason for making these changes is to be more efficient by using less fuel, reducing vehicle wear and tear and to allow for more consistent collection across the district.

Information will be on Twitter, Facebook and online at www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/bincollectionchanges

SEVERN TRENT WATER

Tony Wray SEVERN Trent Water's chief executive is appealing to customers to share their views now on how they would like their money invested in the company's next business plan for 2015-2020. The plan, which will outline the future of Severn Trent's water and waste water services, will affect the amount customers will pay and what kind of service they will receive. That is why Tony Wray wants customers to talk to the company during the consultation period, which is now open.

He explained: "We're currently investing £1.3 million delivering clean water through our 54,000km of water pipes, taking waste water away, treating it and returning it safely back to the environment for our customers.

"That's a huge undertaking and now we have to start thinking about how we invest money in our next business plan, whether that's reducing leakage, improving water quality or preventing sewer flooding.

"Of course all of this affects our customers' water bill, which is why we want to hear from our customers about how they want to see their money being spent. There's two ways customers can do this - visit our website stwater.co.uk/letstalkwater or come along to one of the events we are holding across our region throughout April and May.

"This really is an opportunity for customers to help shape our plans so I'm very keen for them to get involved and tell us how they want us to invest their money." The consultation period closes at the end of August.

Bournheath Parish Council will be responding to this consultation and we urge everyone affected by flooding, or who knows anyone so affected, to send in comments as well. Improvements to our village infrastructure will lead to lower insurance premiums, but you MUST let Severn Trent know there's a problem before this can happen.