

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 - ournheathpc@hotmail.co.uk		
website – www.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish		
Parish Tree Warden, Cllr Stuart Hall	-	01527 878123
Parish Footpath Warden, Warren King	-	07985 364632
Bournheath Village Hall (bookings)	-	01527 878752
Neighbourhood Watch, Bryan Hewitt	-	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 – bromsgrovecsc@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, 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 the county council's website or come along to our meetings.



BOURNHEATH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

August 2012

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE – Cllr Karen May...

From this year's Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th May:

We are now beginning the second year of the four-year term of office as your Parish Councillors, and I am pleased to say we are at full membership! Over the last year we have been:-

- Overseeing the Lengthsman Scheme which involves keeping our Parish road signs clean and free from overgrowth, seeing that the ditches and drains etc. run freely and removing noxious weeds from the roadside.
- Maintaining grass verges and benches in the Parish.
- Meeting with the Police And Community Together (PACT) team twice yearly in the Woodvale Ward.
- Buying new Christmas tree lights for the Christmas tree on Tuppenny Cake with funding kindly provided by Bumble Hole Foods.
- Buying more keys for the gate to the Claypit Lane car park (for the playing field and Village Hall) and Cllr Keith Drew continues to oversee the rota for the gate's opening and closing. Lack of lighting was highlighted as an issue when people were trying to lock the gate, so the Parish Council provided the Village Hall committee with a £200 grant for a new spotlight to solve this problem.
- Exploring joint working with Worcestershire County Council on speeding and road safety issues such as the possible implementation of temporary vehicle activated speed signs and we are intending to install roadside flower boxes at the entrances to the village.
- Pushing for improvements to the drainage and sewage problems in the Parish. We shall continue to lobby the relevant authorities to carry out the much needed work in this Parish for residents' peace of mind and acceptable quality of life.
- Representing the parish at District & County Council meetings.
- Learning about the Localism Bill, District Council's Core Strategy & the new National Planning Policy Framework.

For the coming year we shall continue in the same vein as well as seeking an appropriate venue for our regular public meetings and attempting to resolve the flooding problems. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us on any matter relating to the community, contact details on back page.

FUNDS and BUDGETING

Every year the Parish Council must provide a statement of its accounts to an external auditor allocated by the Audit Commission. The accounts for the financial year ending 31/03/2012 have now been signed off with an unqualified audit opinion and we show here the figures presented to the auditor.

Opening balance at 01/04/2011	£10,476	
Annual precept (raised via Council Tax)	£10,500	
Other receipts for the year	<u>£2,429</u>	
Sub total		£23,405
Payments inc salary, grants, maintenance etc	<u>£9,980</u>	
Sub total		£9,980
Final balance , carried forward		<u>£13,425</u>

The expenditure budget for this financial year to 31/3/2013 is £10,850 and whilst it is good practice to keep contingency funds to deal with any emergencies that may arise the Parish Council would like to ask you how any surplus funds should be spent.

Our priorities at the moment are to deal with the flooding and drainage issues in Bournheath Village, but after that there may be some flexibility to support other projects. Suggestions include outdoor exercise equipment and traffic speed signs. We would appreciate all your suggestions and will give serious consideration to the most viable. **Come and let us know at the Open Forum meeting on 29th August.**

TREES and FOOTPATHS

The Parish ie Bournheath village and Wildmoor, has two designated individuals to look after all things related to trees and footpaths.

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

Our main concern regarding hedges is when they are allowed to grow unchecked near to the road and pavement where they can become a nuisance to pedestrians and drivers. Please, all hedge owners, look at the hedge from the other side once in a while to check you are not endangering other people. Then, if you do decide to trim back, please clear up the clippings so that they don't fall into the drainage system where they could contribute to the flooding problems.

The Parish Footpaths Warden is Warren King. Warren will walk the local by-ways to ensure they are well signed, passable and user-friendly. If you need to report any concerns about a public right of way then please contact Warren.

Contact details for both Stuart and Warren are on the back page.

PLANNING MATTERS

All planning applications for our area are decided by Bromsgrove District Council as the Local Planning Authority. Their Planning Publicity Policy is as follows:

Planning Publicity Policy refers to the District Council's guidelines for advertising planning applications. All developments are subject to some form of mandatory notification and advertising which serves to inform the local community about new applications and allows you to have your say on development in Bromsgrove.

There are three main tools the District Council uses to advertise planning applications - **Neighbour Notification letters, Site Notices** and **Press Notices**.

For **Neighbour Notifications** our policy is to write to adjoining properties which physically abut the application site. This excludes any properties which are separated from the site by means of a physical feature such as a stream, footpath, track, road etc.

Every planning application is advertised by means of a **site notice** which is placed at a suitable height on or near to the development site.

Certain applications will be advertised by way of a **press notice** in a local newspaper (for Bournheath area this is the Bromsgrove Standard). These applications are often those of wider public concern and those relating to telecommunications, agriculture, advertising, conservation areas and listed buildings.

Although we advertise applications appropriately within Government guidelines, this does not always cover everybody who has an interest in a development, therefore it is possible that you may find out by informal or indirect means; however this will not affect your right to participate. Remember only the closest neighbours adjoining the site are directly notified based purely on the geographical context.

We hope for everybody to be included in the development process, but our formal methods are only a guideline for notification. If you hear of an application but have not received or seen notification of it, then in the first instance you should check the website where all new applications are recorded. If the application has been received and validated then anyone is able to make comments. Therefore, whether you hear of an application through a neighbour notification letter, site notice, press notice, at the school gates, or local pub, you are welcome to have your say and contribute to the future of Bromsgrove. **For contact information see back page.**

Parish Council participation - The District Council consults the Parish Council on every application that is lodged for the Bournheath parish area. As this is of public concern we openly discuss current applications at our monthly meetings although sometimes, due to time constraints, we may have to delegate any comment to our clerk who will submit our collective thoughts on the matter. As they arise all the applications are included on our agendas posted on the notice boards and online.

CATSHILL LIBRARY

Worcestershire County Council is seeking the views of residents on the future of Library services in this area; their public consultation runs until Friday 14th September 2012 with a public consultation event on Wednesday 5th September at Catshill Middle School starting at 7pm.

The existing Catshill library building in Barley Mow Lane is in a poor state of repair and will be expensive to refurbish to an acceptable standard. Other limitations such as inadequate parking facilities, the need to use staff from other library sites, the limited floor area in the library and low user numbers make the current location unsustainable. A co-located part time library service to an existing building is a cost effective and more sustainable approach but would require volunteers to come forward from the community to help make it viable.

During early scoping discussions last year an opportunity emerged to relocate library services into a community room attached to Catshill Middle School. Facilities at the co-location site would include kitchen, toilets and local parking. This option could enable a new library to offer:

- Books and magazines
- A place to sit and read
- PCs and Internet access
- Community Centre Facilities
- Youth provision
- Children's story time
- Readers groups
- Adult Learning Groups
- Bounce and Rhyme sessions for babies and toddlers

While most services would be on a self-service basis community volunteers would be responsible for basic routine tasks; volunteers would be trained and supported by Bromsgrove Library staff providing professional advice.

There may be other options and considerations such as Mobile Library and Library at Home services and so the County Council urges us all to complete the questionnaire which is available from the library, the parish council and online at:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/pdf/Questionnaire%20Catshill%20Library.pdf

FASTER BROADBAND...

Businesses and residents are being urged to say now if they want faster Broadband for the future. Worcestershire County Council is working with partner organisations to increase Broadband speeds locally and they need us to help make this a reality by completing the Broadband survey to help ensure the county is 'Open for Business'.

Check this out now! Survey closes 02/09/2012

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/broadband or www.facebook.com/broadbandworcs

VILLAGE HALL ROUND-UP

From Keith Drew, who is both a parish councillor and a member of the Village Hall Committee:

As a member of the village hall management committee I can report that the hall is well used but I strongly feel that the Village Hall should be a focal point for all of the Parishioners and used more by them. If you have any ideas as to how this can be achieved or by your own personal use of the Hall then I am sure the Village Hall Management Committee would be pleased to hear from you. Contact details can be found on web site www.hallshire.com/halls/view/788/bournheath-village-hall

New lighting, as previously reported, has now been installed within the hall, with new external lights donated by the Parish Council to assist User access and those closing the gate in the dark. In the near future, if not already completed by the time you receive this Newsletter, the car park's holes will be filled and surface regarded with loose chippings.

The locking of the Gates is still being seen as a benefit to those living close to the Hall and to those farther a-field maintaining lower levels of litter, anti-social behaviour etc., and to deter travellers from gaining access.

The opening and closing of the gates is carried out by a number of regular volunteers, however I would be grateful for more volunteers to spread the load. So if you are a regular dog walker around the Recreation ground or the Village, or live in close proximity to the Hall like Fairfield Road or Dodford Road and could spare a few moments of your time in the morning, evening or weekend I would be pleased to hear from you. You can contact me, Keith Drew, in person or via text on 07850 022027.

DRAINS and SEWERS

Most of you will know of the devastation caused here in June when the drainage system in Bournheath village was unable to cope with the amount of rainwater and village homes were flooded. Living with the threat of water incursion every time it rains is detrimental to our quality of life and we feel great sympathy for those families affected by it. In an attempt to change this state of affairs the Parish Council Chairman, Karen May, has been relentlessly pursuing a course of action to put things right. We hope you will be in favour of any works being done and will tolerate any short-term inconvenience whilst corrective action is being taken.

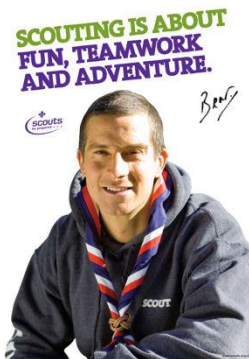
In the meantime there is something we can all do to reduce the harm to our drainage and sewerage system and that is to dispose of liquid fat in the bin, not down the sink.

LOCAL SCOUTING NEWS

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Conrad Palmer and I have been asked by the County Manager for Scouting to take on the voluntary role of Group Scout Leader (Group Manager) for 6th Bromsgrove Scout Group.

Even though the Scout Hut that is used by 6th Bromsgrove is in Catshill, the Group's catchment area is Bournheath, Catshill, Fairfield, Marlbrook, Wildmoor and the surrounding area. I look forward to developing links with the community and, with the help of a team of volunteers, delivering Scouting's **Everyday Adventure**. Currently the Group provides an exciting developmental programme to **girls and boys** between the age of 8 years and 14 years (Cubs & Scouts) plus the Scout Hut is used by the District Scout Network Unit, 18 years – 25 years.

The Scout Group's current plan is a refurbishment of the Scout Hut and, once volunteers have been found, establishing a Beaver Scout Colony that will cater for boys and girls aged between 6 years and 8 years. Long term we are hoping to establish satellite units in local village halls.



Please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Conrad Palmer, Group Scout Leader,
6th Bromsgrove Scout Group**

10 Pepperwood Close Fairfield Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B61 9ND T: +44 (0)1527 833583

E: conradpalmer@btinternet.com

W: www.scouts.org.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

From Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Bryan Hewitt:

The Community messaging Service has really become a hive of information since Andrew Symonds took over Neighbourhood Watch. It tells us what is going on even though most of the activities are outside our borders. We are fortunate that our Parish has not had any criminal activity to speak about over the last year. Members of our team are distributed around the village but we are still short of a couple of people ie Mount Road and Wildmoor. As I walk around the parish I notice there are still too many "freebies" left out in cut off drain pipes at the end of drives; these are known to act as a free advert to any passing thief to call in! Remember to clear these out daily and ask a friend or neighbour to do it for you when you go on holiday. Neighbourhood Watch contact details are on the back page.

MEETINGS VENUE

'To meet or not to meet? that is the question' posited by a member at a recent parish council meeting. Therein hangs a tale!

For the past 19+ years, ever since its inaugural meeting on 13th May 1993, Bournheath Parish Council has held its monthly meetings at Bournheath Village Hall and an agreement was signed in good faith to this effect stating our requirement to meet on the last Wednesday of the month. Earlier this year in March the Parish Council heard that the hall was to be let on Wednesday evenings on a weekly basis to someone else and the Parish Council would have to hold its meetings elsewhere. This despite the Village Hall's earlier statement to us all that 'the Village Hall is the only amenity within the Parish and it is available to everyone'!

Councillors are not prepared to accept this new situation and a variety of alternative options have been put to the Village Hall Management Committee. For their part the VHMC have offered to provide available dates 'as and when' based on availability when other users are on holiday. But as we need to plan our meeting dates at least one year in advance due to the variety of members' other commitments and as a haphazard schedule is not helpful to good decision making, we face a quandary.

We would like to continue to meet in the parish as we are not keen to use the funds raised via your council tax to support a community building in a different parish, or pay for the travel expenses that will be involved. Also we are concerned that we could be accused of turning our back on you, our electorate. Please note this is far from the case and we are seeking an acceptable way forward.

We are not keen to have the distinction of being the only parish council in the district that meets outside its parish boundary! If anyone can help solve our dilemma, please let us know.

OPEN FORUM..

The VHMC have advised us that we can use the hall this month whilst the new user group is on holiday so we intend to hold an Open Forum. It won't be the usual Parish Council meeting as we would like **you** to do the talking! Please feel free to come along and raise any matters of concern relating to the parish.

Open Forum - Wednesday 29th August, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.



CHRISTMAS TREE..



We are sorry to report the death of the tree we use for the Christmas lights on Tuppenny Cake and we shall be seeking to replace it in due course.