

BINLEY WOODS PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER No 33

July 2014



Recreation Ground Questionnaire

One of the priority actions in the Binley Woods Parish Plan is to upgrade the play equipment in the Recreation Ground and to consider installing adult exercise equipment. However:

- ***What play equipment should we install?***
- ***If we installed adult exercise equipment, would it be used or would it be an expensive waste of taxpayers' money?***

To help answer these questions, we have created a simple questionnaire for residents, young and old, to complete and this has already been issued to pupils at Binley Woods Primary School, members of the Youth Club and to a number of groups at the Village Hall.

You can collect your copy of the questionnaire from any of the following:

- K&P Newsagents, Woodlands Road
- The Post Office, Rugby Road
- The One Stop, Rugby Road

We would like to thank the above businesses for their support.

The questionnaire can also be downloaded and printed from the village's Parish Plan website: binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com.

Instructions on how to complete the questionnaire and where to return it are printed on the questionnaire form. The deadline for the receipt of completed questionnaires is **Sunday, 31st August 2014**.

We will use your responses to determine what, if anything, should be done to improve the facilities in the Recreation Ground and to help obtain grant funding for those improvements.

Please make your opinion count and help us improve Binley Woods for all members of the community.

Parish Plan Update

Improvements to Public Open Spaces

Additional dog bins have been installed in the Recreation Ground, at the entrance to the One O'clock Ride and in Elm Close; and two new benches have been installed near the skateboard park. The team is now concentrating its efforts on improving the play equipment (see front page).

Thanks to Vicki Loughran's campaign, the situation regarding dog faeces in the Recreation Ground and around the village in general has improved of late. Thank you to all those considerate dog owners who pick up after their pets – and for the small minority of you who don't, we are looking to make use of the services of a volunteer dog warden to track you down.

Given the improved situation in the Recreation Ground, the Parish Council has agreed, at least for the time being, that dogs do not have to be kept on leads. They must, however, be kept under control at all times.

Book Exchange Coming Soon!

Do you like reading? Not at home during Mobile Library visiting hours? Look out for the Binley Woods Book Exchange coming to a pub near you.

We hope to set up a book exchange this autumn. If you have any good quality books you would like to donate to help us get started, please contact Viv Wood on 02476 542658. More information in the next newsletter.

Overgrown Hedges

The Parish Plan identified that hedges which overhang the pavement or obstruct motorists' views at road junctions were a concern to residents. If you have a hedge or tree that is growing over the pavement and obstructing it, please cut it back. If you need assistance with this, please let us know and we will try to arrange some help for you.

Water Pressure

The Parish Plan questionnaire responses identified that a number of residents considered their water pressure to be low.

We contacted Severn-Trent who advised us of a simple test residents can undertake to test their water pressure. With all other taps and items that use water turned off (washing machine, shower, etc) and the stop-cock turned on full, fill a one litre container from a ground floor tap. If the container fills within seven seconds or less, your water pressure meets their statutory obligations. If not, you should contact Severn-Trent Customer Services on 0800 783 4444 and report a possible problem with your water pressure.

Note: the problem may not be the Severn-Trent supply, but your plumbing (furred up pipes, a faulty tap or stop-cock, etc) or a shared supply pipe.

The Village Hall Needs Your Help!

The Village Hall car park is in a very dangerous condition and fundraising has now started to enable it to be resurfaced and lighting installed.

- Could you help with fundraising?
- Would you be prepared to join the committee or volunteer to help in other ways, such as decorating or repairs?
- Why not hire the Village Hall for your work events, private parties, wedding receptions, conferences etc?

All donations gratefully received. Please contact Barbara on 02476 544296 or Kath on 02476 542340, or e-mail kath@outgun.com.

Craft Fair 8th November

To raise funds for the car park, the Village Hall is hosting a Craft Fair on Saturday, 8th November between 12.00noon and 3.00pm. Local people will be selling their homemade crafts, including Christmas gifts, decorations and cards, cakes, jewellery, soaps and much more. For further information or to book a stall, please e-mail Stella on stelroy@yahoo.co.uk.

Rogue Trader Free Zone

Since April, many parts of Binley Woods have been a Rogue Trader Free Zone. The consensus of opinion is that the scheme has been a success and the number of unregistered cold callers has diminished considerably.

The zone had to be limited to a number of roads, but the placement of signage throughout the village does give the appearance of much wider cover. The Parish Council asked Warwickshire Trading Standards to extend the scheme to the remaining areas of the village, but they have requested we evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme after a six month period.

Your feedback on the Rogue Trader Free Zone, combined with local police intelligence, is essential if we wish to expand the scheme to the rest of the village. To do this, just speak to any of your Parish Councillors (see back page) or e-mail stever2000@sky.com and report how successful you believe the scheme has been, or on the other hand, to identify the areas in which unregistered cold callers are still operating.

Goodbye PCSO Ken

From September, Ken Wyer is taking on a new role within Warwickshire Police - Youth Engagement Officer for North Warwickshire. His duties will include engaging with young people across the north of the county and working with new police cadets.

We would like to thank Ken for his dedication to Binley Woods and to wish him well for the future. As yet, there is no word on Ken's replacement.

Councillors Paul Howells and Vicki Loughran

Due to family commitments, Paul Howells has resigned from the Parish Council. Paul was a councillor for some six years and could be guaranteed to liven up Parish Council meetings with his quick wit and insightful comments. We would like to thank Paul for his dedicated service to the community and to wish him, and his family, all the very best for the future.

Following notification via the village noticeboards of a vacancy for a parish councillor, Vicki Loughran put her name forward and she was unanimously co-opted on to the Parish Council at the June meeting. We asked Vicki to pen a few words of introduction:

“My family moved to Binley Woods over eight years ago and my son attended the village primary school. I work full time in financial services but I like to try and give a little back to my local community, hence my recent efforts on the dog fouling campaign! I will endeavour to do my best for our village and look forward to being an active member of the Parish Council.”

We welcome Vicki to the Parish Council. In addition to her successful ‘dog fouling campaign’, she is now channelling her energy into upgrading the facilities in the Recreation Ground.

Binley Woods Open Gardens

The Open Gardens event on 22nd June raised £3,550 for Myton Hospice, which I'm sure you will agree is fantastic! Thank you to everyone who took part – those who opened their gardens, sold programmes, ran stalls, or helped out in other ways - and, of course, to all our visitors.

Binley Woods Parish Council Information

The Parish Council meets in the Morrison Room of the Binley Woods Village Hall at 7.30pm. Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month, but this may vary at Christmastime and during the summer holiday period.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. There is a standing agenda item at the start of each meeting where members of the public can raise concerns and ask questions.

Meetings are advertised on the Parish Council noticeboards around the village. Minutes of previous meetings are available on the Parish Council website (www.binleywoods.org) or by written request to the Clerk.

Chairman:	Paul Salisbury	02476 542340	Vice Chair:	Liz Johnson	02476 543074
Councillors:	Norman Brinton	02476 542178		Peter Claisse	02476 543932
	Pat Docker	02476 543786		Linda Harbour	07958 244784
	Dave Jones	02476 540101		Vicki Loughran	07909 781799
	Steve Roberts	02476 543308		Ken Short	02476 540422
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