

## **PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Although we have not had an actual meeting, you can be sure that work within the village has still been going on. As a PC, we have managed to secure contracts and keep the affairs ongoing, albeit, in a different way. All the trees on Parish Council land have been trimmed and tidied, litter and dog bins replaced, benches installed and even the highway verges cut throughout all the summer period. Your Councillors have still worked relentlessly on your behalf and most if not all the issues have been resolved. Our meetings now are being administered via Zoom, which allows us a little more discussion and interaction between each other. Doing business via email, we were sending six or seven to each other to fill in the gaps. We can now ask the question direct. How life changes, and this will be something that will stick in some instances. Quite a few of our Councillors tick a number of 'at risk' boxes, so it looks like we will still be looking at a laptop screen for some time to come.

## **PARISH COUNCILLORS WANTED**

**We are still one Parish Councillor down, with a further Councillor stating they would step back if we received an interested party. Should you wish to join the Council and be co-opted as a Parish Councillor, please contact any of our Councillors or our Clerk, John Cook, and we will definitely respond to the request. We would certainly like to bring the 'average age' of the Council down so we can be assured of some continuity, but we realise that many people have busy schedules with children playing a big part in their lives. With this in mind, involvement can be as much as you want it to be and tailored to your availability. It is your chance to make a difference in your living environment. Thank you.**

### **Binley Woods Parish Council Information**

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

Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. There is an item at the start of each meeting for members of the public to raise concerns and ask questions.

Meetings are advertised on the Parish Council noticeboards around the village. Previous Minutes are available at [www.binleywoods.org](http://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  
Pat Docker 02476 543786 Linda Harbour 07958 244784  
Dave Jones 02476 540101 Steve Roberts 02476 543308  
Stephen Spencer 07940 839356 Des Dimitrov 07595 699878

Clerk: John Cook 01788 521046 e-mail: [binwoodspc@aol.com](mailto:binwoodspc@aol.com)  
41 Frobisher Road, Bilton, Rugby, CV22 7HU

# **BINLEY WOODS PARISH COUNCIL**

## **NEWSLETTER No 48**

### ***November 2020***



What an incredible year we are suffering from since the last newsletter was published. Who would have thought that we would all be confined to our own homes and not be allowed to congregate with other people and groups. It has been extremely hard for the people living on their own, whose social activities are reliant on meeting other residents. Then you have the grandparents who are unable to hug and cuddle their grandchildren. Strange times all round, and an approved vaccine can't come soon enough. We hope you are all safe and doing the correct things, and furthermore, let us hope this horrible virus will soon be a thing of the past. **Please keep well.**

## **LOCKDOWN**

In these unprecedented times, the village has certainly got together and it has been pleasing to hear of many households who have met for the first time, particularly on those Thursday evenings (they seem a long time ago now don't they) when we all got together (whilst socially distancing) to applaud the NHS, not to mention the VE day street parties. Unfortunately, in isolated instances, one or two households have continued having 'get togethers' in the good weather without any respect for their neighbours, which causes a great deal of unnecessary stress to those concerned. Needless to say, please be neighbour aware.

Also, we must give thanks to our local shops, particularly Scott's, Turnips and the Chemist.....and local volunteer groups who supported and continue to support the community with their home delivery service at this time. Let us all continue to support them as we slowly crawl out of this pandemic.

## **LOCAL PHARMACY – WOODLANDS ROAD**

We have just received copies of letters from NHS to our local pharmacy and replies back, which have given us great concern. The letters state that following a review, the Local Pharmaceutical Services Contract (LPS) will be withdrawn by NHS England, which means funding will not be available from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. This puts the pharmacy at great risk of closing as it would not be a viable concern. The

service residents receive from the Pharmacy is second to none, and the shop acts as a Village Hub. The pharmacist is also the first person to know if a resident hasn't picked up their medication, and on numerous occasions have made contact with residents to make sure they are well. On two occasions that we are aware of, this contact has saved the lives of people. We have no Doctors Surgery within a Village of almost 1,200 dwellings which in itself, is disgraceful. To lose our pharmacy is something we would not like to think about. The Parish Council have already written to the NHS and also to our local MP, Mark Pawsey, about the situation. We would ask that all residents would do the same, with their letters of concern. If we lose this service, we have no health care at all within Binley Woods. 300 names on a petition is only one complaint so **please write** to the following:

Simon Stevens  
Chief Executive  
NHS England / NHS England Contact Centre  
PO Box 16738  
Redditch B97 9PT

Mark Pawsey MP.  
Albert Buildings  
2 Castle Mews  
Rugby  
CV21 2XL

## **COMMUNITY ALERTS**

We are now approaching our fifth year of issuing Community Alerts and have in excess of 200 households on the distribution list. This represents circa 20% of the village and has been a great success, having been well received by most who receive them. Feedback has told us that in addition to having resolved a number of incidents within the village, they have acted as a useful tool in highlighting scams that unsuspecting residents could otherwise have been drawn into. If you are new to the village, these alerts are intended to advise residents on various matters that may have an effect on the Binley Woods community. Topics include Police Reports and warnings, Warwickshire Trading Standards scam alerts, Neighbourhood Watch, Parish Council notices or anything that could impact upon the village. If you wish to receive these alerts then please email [stever2000@sky.com](mailto:stever2000@sky.com) who will include you on the distribution list. Also, since commencing the scheme a number of you may have changed email address and no longer receive these alerts. If you wish to recommence your alerts then please email to the same address.

## **LITTER and DOG FOUL**

Generally speaking, the village is not too bad concerning litter and we tend to keep on top of the situation with volunteers who occasionally arrange litter picks and our thanks go out to them. However, there have been a couple of issues raised verbally and in social media regarding litter in the park and suggesting action by the Parish Council. The PC is limited in what it can do other than provide litter bins and attend personally to pick up the litter, which we do, as do many residents who walk in the area. A good thing that we have seen, particularly in the good weather, people making use of the picnic tables situated in the area, but on occasions, we have noted the litter left after a picnic. Fortunately this is not a regular occurrence but please, if you are using the area, tidy up afterwards. Likewise, with dog foul. This has always been a problem and we often see posts on social media of dog foul in the neighbourhood, both in parks and on pedestrian

footpaths and private drives. The PC has installed many dog-bins and make sure they are regularly emptied. Please can you make sure they are regularly full.....

## **POLICING**

Finally, after much complaining and moaning about not having a Police contact we can approach, we have been allocated a PCSO for Binley Woods. When we say 'for Binley Woods' this means we share with many other villages. PCSO Helena Seal is now our contact and after a visit from her, we are excited to 'welcome her aboard'. Her views on looking after the areas are to be out and amongst the residents. With this in mind, she would like to set up temporary office in Binley Woods where she can both work and be available for advice. We attempted this some time ago but within a few sessions, the PCSO was moved on. We would like to think this will be a more permanent service that we can call on. Whilst on the subject of Police, we have finally tracked down our ANPR camera, which was taken down by West Mercia Police. After much wrangling, it is back under our control, although the contact at Warwickshire Police is hoping to upgrade it to a later model. At last, we are moving forward with this as it was a great asset to the Police and people of Binley Woods as a deterrent for would be offenders.

## **A46 / A428 (TGI) ISLAND**

We expect by now you have realised that some of the minor work has started at the TGI Island. The major work will soon begin and the first thing you will experience will be the installation of concrete barriers along the centre of the A46 for workers safety. This could be happening anytime now and once in place, we hope the work will commence. After many meetings and discussions with Highways England, the Parish Council feels that most, if not all, of our concerns have been addressed. It shows that if you are prepared to keep talking, movement can be obtained. The plans look good and we have even secured infill panels along the raised section. We are now trying to push our luck by asking for some sort of planters on the approach to Binley Woods from the Island. (Fingers crossed).

## **GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME**

We were well on the way to getting this scheme up and running when the pandemic put everything on hold. Meetings were banned and it was not something you could do over the telephone or by emails. Most people within Binley Woods have actually been doing this scheme without realising it. The help and assistance from family, neighbours, friends and the shops have really helped the more vulnerable in the community. This is what the 'Good Neighbour Scheme' set out to achieve, and has been done on our behalf by Covid19. Perhaps the one good thing that has come out from all this. We are hoping that once we can get back to some sort of normality, whatever that is, that the people who have ran the help over the past six months, will pick up the baton and run with a new scheme that will cover the whole village. We are an elderly population, and it makes you realise just how much the elderly and vulnerable rely heavily on the younger element of the village. We are in awe of what has been achieved over the past months. Thanks to all for your help.