



## **Please Look After Your Village**

A number of residents have commented that the village is “going downhill” with increasing amounts of litter and dog foul scattered around the streets and green spaces, cars churning up the grass verges and residents enclosing public land to the front of their properties with fences and hedges.

Please have consideration for your fellow residents:

- Use the litter and dog litter bins provided; or take it home. Dropping litter and not picking up after your pet are both offences.
- Do not park on the grass verges (it is illegal), especially when the verges are wet.
- Do not park where your vehicle will obstruct pedestrians or other road users. The police will give you a ticket.
- Do not fence off the highway land in front of your property. The County Council will take legal action, as they are currently with some residents.

## **Parish Plan Update**

Thank you to everyone who completed and returned their Parish Plan survey questionnaire back in the autumn. We received a staggering 459 responses, which equates to over 40% of the homes and businesses in the village; a truly excellent result.

The Parish Plan team are currently beavering away analysing the survey responses and summarising them in the ‘Interim Report’, a copy of which will be delivered to every household in the village in a couple of months’ time. We will also be publishing the full set of survey results on our website.

In addition, we are making plans for the next Open Day on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May where you will be able to come along to the Village Hall and comment on the results of the survey and let us have your views on the actions that are being proposed to address those issues you feel most strongly about. We will publish details of the Open Day in our next Parish Plan newsletter.

We issued volunteer forms with the Parish Plan survey questionnaires. 81 residents returned a completed form expressing an interest in a variety of community activities, from helping out with local clubs, to joining Neighbourhood Watch or performing with the Boardwalkers. Thank you to everyone who responded; hopefully you will have already been contacted by the relevant club or society.

## **Binley Woods Library Building**

In mid-November, the Parish Council submitted a bid to Warwickshire County Council to purchase the former library building on behalf of the residents of Binley Woods as a community facility. This action was taken following the analysis of the preliminary results from the Parish Plan survey which showed 91% of residents in favour of retaining the building for the community and 90% in favour of the Parish Council buying it.

Although we were told that a decision would be made early in the New Year, at the time of writing we have not heard whether our bid was successful. Let’s hope we receive some good news soon!

## Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch membership in the village continues to grow. To give others who have not yet had the opportunity to join, there is an application form included with this newsletter which should be completed and dropped into the village hall letterbox.

As has been mentioned in the past, there is no cost involved, in fact many insurance companies offer discounts for members of bone fide schemes such as we already have in the village. You will not be inundated with emails or phone calls; you will just get community alerts from the police or council relating to incidents or security information for our area. To give you an idea of the type of alert you will receive, just visit <http://binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com/category/n-watch/> where you will be able to see all the alerts that have been issued over the last year.

We understand that some of you who completed an application form to join Neighbourhood Watch in the last few months are still not receiving community alerts, either by phone or email. We sincerely apologise for this and would ask that you also complete the form and drop it into the village hall.

## Vacancy for Parish Handyman

Our current village handyman, Brian Jeffrey, is standing down due to poor health. We would like to thank Brian for many years loyal service to the community and wish him well for the future.

We therefore have a vacancy for a Parish Handyman. Duties include litter picking around the shops in Woodlands Road, the recreation ground, village green, grass verges and other public open spaces, and also light DIY and gardening jobs around the village. There are no set hours per week; the number of hours will depend upon the amount of work to be done. The pay is the adult minimum wage and expenses as incurred. If you are interested, or for further information, please contact the Parish Council Chairman, Paul Salisbury, on 02476 542340.

## Binley Woods Community Drop-ins

A reminder of the Community Drop-in dates for the next three months:

- Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm-7.30pm
- Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm-3.00pm
- Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm-7.30pm
- Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2.00pm-3.00pm

Community Drop-ins give residents the opportunity to meet with the police and/or representatives from the Parish Council and discuss issues and concerns over a cup of tea or coffee. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Reminder: 101

101 is the new non-emergency phone number for the police. If you spot anything suspicious in the village, please call 101 straight away, ask for 'Warwickshire Police' and give them the details. They will respond accordingly.

Of course, if it's an emergency dial 999.

## Village Website

When we embarked on the Parish Plan project some 18 months ago, we established a new website to keep residents informed of progress. Since then, the website has evolved into a village-wide medium covering a great deal more than just the Parish Plan.

The website has been promoted in previous editions of both the Parish Council newsletter and the Parish Plan newsletter. However, when completing the recent Parish Plan survey questionnaire, 65% of Binley Woods' residents claimed not to know about it!

Here is the address:

**<http://binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com>**

On the website you will find details of events in the village, including a diary of weekly, monthly and one-off events at the Village Hall, Neighbourhood Watch alerts and information, Trading Standards alerts, updates on what's happening with the Parish Plan and key Parish Plan documents, articles on the history of the village, links to other relevant local websites, and much, much more.

If you sign up to the website, you will receive an e-mail alert every time new material is uploaded. You can also add you own comments against any of the articles posted to the site.

Alternatively, why not visit our Facebook page? Or, even better,  it to receive village news and information posted directly on your wall. Just search for 'Binley Woods' and you'll find us on the list; or follow the link from our website.

For those of you with short attention spans, here is the website address once more:

**<http://binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com>**

### **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 our website ([www.binleywoods.org](http://www.binleywoods.org)) and by written request to the Clerk.

Chairman:	Paul Salisbury	02476 542340		
Vice Chair:	Dave Jones	02476 540101		
Councillors:	Norman Brinton	02476 542178	Peter Claisse	02476 543932
	Pat Docker	02476 543786	Linda Harbour	07958 244784
	Paul Howells	02476 542611	Liz Johnson	02476 543074
	Steve Roberts	02476 543308	Ken Short	02476 540422
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