

# BARNWELL PARISH COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

Dear Barnwellian,

It is proving to be a busy year for the Council as the development of the **Neighbourhood Plan** gains momentum. I hope that you have all received a flyer explaining the aims and importance of a neighbourhood plan. We are holding drop-in sessions at 8pm every Monday evening until 13<sup>th</sup> April in the restaurant of the Montagu Arms so that anyone can pop in, even for just a few minutes, to see how we are progressing, to offer opinions and ideas and, ideally, help!

On **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April** we are planning to hold a **Consultation Day** in the Village Hall from 11am – 4pm. At this event the work we have done so far will be on display and everyone will have a chance to comment on every aspect of it and make suggestions. There will be a children's activity table, supervised by Little Ducklings and light refreshments will be provided. We really hope that you will manage to come and see us there, as this is a plan for YOUR VILLAGE and we need YOUR input to make it viable.

The Environment Agency has carried out a survey of the brook and has concluded that there is indeed a colony of **water voles** living around the area of the ford. As this is a protected species, the Parish Council has decided to erect an interpretation board at the ford with information about water voles. We have been very fortunate in receiving a grant from Councillor Wendy Brackenbury's Empowerment Fund to pay this project, and we are most grateful to her for her help.

You will probably have noticed that our **village notice board** is looking a little the worse for wear. This is because the wood is suffering from being under the lime tree. We have therefore decided to renovate it and move it to the village green, next to the phone box and away from any lime trees.

The **new cycle way** on the slip road to Oundle is almost completed and it is hoped that the cyclists amongst you will find it helpful. Whilst the ideal, of course, would be to have a cycle path all the way to Oundle, this is, at least, a step in the right direction. Our thanks go to Councillor Nick Bould for his efforts in helping to bring this project to fruition.

Nick has also been involved in trying to set up a village **website**. However, as new government transparency regulations demand that various aspects of council business need now to be available to view online to enable greater public scrutiny, a website is now a necessity for the Parish Council. For this purpose a low cost website is being investigated and should be up and running in April, we will let you know further details via the village notice board.

Following an initiative by Mrs. Sandra Cartledge to have improvements made to the **footpath between Barnwell and Armston**, I am pleased to report that Sarah Barnwell, the County Community Liaison Officer, has given approval for the work to go ahead on improving the existing footpath. However, this work will probably not start until after 1<sup>st</sup> April. With regard to the areas where there is no existing footpath, she advises that the project for building a new footpath will have to be assessed and costed for feasibility. She will keep us informed.

The **annual village litter pick** is again being organised by Councillor Phil Holden. It is scheduled for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, starting at the Village Green at 6pm. Please come along if you are able to help.

The **Parish Council AGM** will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. The Parish Meeting will start at 7.30pm followed by the AGM at 8pm; everyone is most welcome to attend.

Heather Hanlon, Chair

**Parson Latham`s Chapel Hall** - Our Chapel Hall extension is nearing completion. Over the last few weeks concrete floors have gone in, window frames are in place and the roof with two skylights is on. We are half way through and hope to be completed by mid to late April. We are also refurbishing the Chapel Hall itself with new heating, lighting, curtains and carpeting and a new kitchen area. It has been a very long journey. However the Trustees determination, patience and continuous work have at last paid off.

Trustees and residents are keen to see the Chapel hall in use. Our first event will be our Trustees and resident`s annual luncheon. We hope to let the chapel hall for small meetings and other suitable occasions. We also intend to start regular coffee mornings and hope to see many of you then and show you our beautiful Chapel Hall "with loo".

Pat Rutterford, Chairman

**Barnwell WI** - this, the Centenary year of the WI, is jam-packed full of activities for Barnwell WI members. With a membership this year of nearly 40 ladies, of ages ranging from 30+ to 90, we plan to celebrate this special year with a lot of fun! So far this year, we have enjoyed an evening of Latin Line dancing, a games evening, a bar skittles evening at Molesworth and a meal out at a local pub. Still to come is an evening out at greyhound racing and talks about Jack the Ripper, Guide Dogs in Action, unusual table decorations(!) and the making of Miranda, from Gentleman to Gentlewoman!! Plans are still in the pipeline as to what to do to mark the centenary in September, so 'watch' this space!

We meet once a month, on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm, at the village hall. Please call Andrea Croft on 01832 272382, if you want any further information about the WI, or just turn up and see what we get up to!

**Join the Residents' Panel** - have your say on a wide range of subjects that affect where you live and work.

The Residents' Panel is a joint venture between our East Northants Council, Northamptonshire County Council, and Northampton Borough Council. It is made up of local people who have volunteered to give their opinions on a range of issues/services affecting the local area.

The Residents' Panel is a key element of East Northamptonshire Council's Consultation Strategy and allows the council to:

- evaluate the services we provide
- identify opportunities for improving services in the future
- understand local priorities

Visit our Residents' Panel page to sign up. Links: Residents Panel page on ENC website: <http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/residentspanel>

Angela Hook, Corporate Support Manager, East Northamptonshire Council

**Parish Council Elections** – all parish councils are disbanded and new councillors are elected every 4 years, this will happen in Barnwell on Thursday, 7th May 2015, this year the same day as the District and General Elections.

This is an opportunity to get involved with running the parish and dealing with matters such as planning, highways, and other issues affecting the well-being of the community you live in.

You would need to be able to attend Parish Council meetings which are held bi-monthly on the third Tuesday of the month, at the meetings current issues are discussed and tasks shared out amongst the Councillors, if you would like to discuss more about what is involved in being a councillor then please contact one of your current councillors, details below.

Barnwell has 7 councillors, and anyone who fulfils the criteria below is eligible to be nominated to stand for election:

A candidate must be a UK, Commonwealth, Irish citizen or a citizen of another EU Member state over the age of 18 years on the day of nomination and not disqualified by statute, who:

- is an elector of the parish OR
- during the whole of the last 12 months has either occupied as owner or tenant, land or other premises in the parish OR
- has a principle or only place or work in the parish OR
- lives within 4.8km (3miles) of the parish boundary

If 7 or less people are nominated to stand for election, then they automatically become the new Parish Councillors, if more than 7 are nominated then a Parish Election is needed. The cost of an election falls on Barnwell parish tax payers, so please think carefully before putting yourself forward.

The notice of election will be published on Monday 23 March 2015, and nominations will be accepted from Tuesday **24 March 2015 until 4pm on Thursday 9 April 2015**.

If you are interested in standing for election please contact the Parish Clerk who will send you the nomination forms that need to be completed, and if you would like any further information please refer to the Electoral Commission's guidance, at <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales> which is very comprehensive.

The **deadline** for the **submission of nominations is 4pm on Thursday 9 April 2015**. After that date the Parish Clerk will be provided with details of persons nominated, and whether an election will be necessary.

Just a reminder that **Parish Council Meetings** are held at the Village Hall, at 8pm, on the third Tuesday of every other month, all are welcome, watch out for the agenda on the village notice board and the Parish Council website. The meeting dates for the remainder of 2015 are May 19<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Current Parish Councillors**

Chairman	Heather Hanlon	270311
Vice Chairman	Graham Wise	273771
	David Brown	273729
	Phil Holden	272802
	Geoff Shacklock	274549
	Nick Bould	270043
	Chris Soans	
Parish Clerk	Lorna Lovell	01832 733689 or 07752 080222 lorna.lovell@btinternet.com