



Parish Post

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Balsall Parish Council

Issue 3
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Our new website

On 18 June we launched our new website, **www.balsallparishcouncil.org**.

It carries details of the councillors who represent you, how to contact the council, dates of meetings, agendas for open meetings and minutes of previous meetings.

You can discover the history of your parish council dating back from the late 1800s to 1994, (Godfrey, our Chairman will be busily scribing from 1994 onwards soon.)

You can find out about the services we run. You might be surprised considering that we operate with 12 volunteer councillors and a part-time clerk.

Next time you log onto the Net, have a look.

Balsall Common Village Plan

We recently issued a two page Interim Report to all those of you who gave us contact details. Later, we will be issuing a fuller version of the results of the survey. This will run to some 24 pages and has been sponsored by local bodies. We hope that residents find this a useful contribution to understanding the views of residents. It is important that anyone who has a view on the future of the village should make their views known. The Village Plan is an ideal vehicle.

The Topic Groups have got going on a number subjects. By the time you read this the Sport / Youth topic group will have had its first meeting, so if you have anything you wish to add, please let me know.

Other groups are Police, Environment, Shopping etc. please feel free to contact me by email at david@fyldene.co.uk or call me on 01676533839

David Deanshaw
Chairman Balsall Common Village Plan
June 2007

The Parish Council wishes to thank all those actively involved with the survey. A tremendous amount of work goes on behind the scenes and will continue for a long time to sort out matters of concern for the village and its future.
Editor.

Balsall Parish Council Meetings Full Council 2007

10 September	JC 7.30pm
5 November	JC 7.30pm
3 December	JC 7.30pm
JC—Jubilee Centre	

Newly formed Council

The Parish Council met on 14 May after the local elections and Cllr Godfrey Chesshire was elected as our new Chairman for the year with Cllr Alan Smith voted as Vice-Chairman.

The council thanked Cllr John Maltman for his chairmanship over the past three years. We were sorry to lose the experience of Cllr Rodney Crossley who had been with the council for 38 years. His particular interest was in Conservation and Planning matters. Also bowing out was Cllr Simon Lusty who was with the council for several years and has been involved with the future upgrade of the CCTV system in Balsall Common's shopping area. We thank them for their many years of service.

The council hoped that there would be some willing local residents to put themselves forward for election but alas - not one. However, Mr. Raymond Ritchie and Mr. Patrick Nash have now been co-opted to fill the vacant seats.

Balsall Parish Council Contact Details

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Parish Council Chairman
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Cemetery Committee Chairman
East Ward Representative

Cllr Alan Smith
Parish Council Vice Chairman
01676 534726
East Ward Representative

Cllr Arthur Brill
01676 534143
Y2K Club Contact
East Ward Representative

Cllr James Hope
01676 533193
Tree Warden
East Ward Representative

Cllr Mrs Caroline Johnson
c/o 01676 532087
East Ward Representative

Cllr Mrs Judy Lea
01676 534552
Editor "Parish Post"
Road Safety and Rights of Way
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East Ward Representative

Cllr Dr Peter Lea
01676 532213
Planning Committee Chairman
East Ward Representative

Cllr Michael Longfield
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East Ward Representative

Cllr Jonathan Maltman
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East Ward Representative

Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Mulroy
01564 782701
Chadwick End Village Hall
Committee Chairman
Play Areas Committee Chairman
West Ward Representative

Cllr Patrick Nash
c/o 01676 532087
PatrickJ.Nash@btinternet.com
West Ward Representative

Cllr Raymond Ritchie
01676 533283
East Ward Representative

Temple Balsall Cemetery Update

The council has purchased land adjacent to the cemetery, which will enlarge the burial ground by approximately one third of the present area. The extension has been approved by SMBC. Drawings for the landscaping went out to tender and it is hoped that work starts in the autumn. SMBC have approved a small amount of off-road parking. The burial fees have been reviewed and the new rates came in on 1 June. Although there have been increases, the rates still remain lower than many other authorities. The council issues a plea to families to refrain from placing glass vases/objects on graves as they are liable to shatter if knocked over, and may cause a safety hazard.

DAVID ELKINGTON

The Parish Council was saddened by the untimely and sudden death of Mr David Elkington in May 2007. David had, for a number of years, maintained the Council's 3 play areas. He will be missed.

BUS SHELTERS

The 4 Parish Council owned bus shelters have had some general maintenance during the summer. The shelter at Temple Balsall will be repaired and the window spaces will be filled to protect passengers against inclement weather whilst they wait for the bus.

Neighbourhood Watch

The number of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in the village continues to increase. Crime figures received from the Police show that those areas with a Neighbourhood Watch scheme experience far less incidents than those without one. In addition, many insurers offer a discount on house contents insurance to policy holders living in areas covered by a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. If the village had blanket Neighbourhood Watch coverage, there is little doubt that the level of crime experienced at present would fall considerably. Balsall Common needs more co-ordinators!

If anyone lives in an area not at present covered by a scheme and would like details of how one operates, they should contact Cedric Lea at 9 Hathaway Close: tel. 01676 534552.

Village Matters

The council has reviewed several contentious planning applications this year - the proposal for a nursing home on Kenilworth Road, an application for more dwellings in Arden Close, the proposed use of land at Riddings Hill for a new doctor's surgery, extra accommodation for whelping Police dogs at the Training Centre, Holly Lane and development of land at 175 - 179 Kenilworth Road into 42 units of accommodation - to name but a few.

In March the council studied Phase 2 of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy - scenarios quoted by SMBC for Balsall Common covering 2001 - 2006. The village has had a lot of housing imposed on it by SMBC in the last 15 years without any improvement in the infrastructure - whether medical, educational or social. If the village continues to expand SMBC must be pressed to restore the imbalance of investment. The issue of a by-pass still waits in the wings.

The council recently opposed an application for change the use of land to allow depositing of wood chippings near Chadwick End. Although the land has been used recently for the depositing of tree debris and chippings, the large lorries create a nuisance for local residents, there is noise from the processing of the wood and the area has also been a fire hazard.

CHADWICK END VILLAGE HALL

Heavy rainfall in July caused serious flooding at the Hall. The Hall will be unusable for several weeks whilst the damage is repaired. The Council hopes to resurface the car park in 2007, but this will be dependent on the costs of repairing the flood damage at the Hall, and the time this takes. Whilst flood damage is being repaired, the children's nursery, which operates from the Hall, will be using a portakabin in the car park.

PARISH COUNCIL GRANT TO JUBILEE CENTRE

The Parish Council has given the Jubilee Centre in Balsall Common a grant of £10,000 to help pay the running costs of its youth club. The extra money has allowed the Jubilee Centre to add an additional evening for its Youth Club. The Centre is seeking bookings for hire of its room, especially daytime bookings. If you would like to hire the Centre, contact Mike Longfield on 01676 533274.

FOOTPATHS

The Rights of Way committee members have been looking at some of the parish footpaths - guided by Cllr. Richard Lloyd (Berkswell Parish) who is a keen walker. The committee strives to ensure that paths are still in good condition, stiles meet present day standards, and pathways are not illegally diverted or obstructed. The task is like painting the Forth Bridge, but we will do our best. Please notify the clerk if you are aware of anything amiss.

MAKING LIFE EASIER

Balsall and Berkswell Parish Councils, The Residents' Association, and Cllrs. David Bell & Ken Meeson met with Mr David Lechmere of SMBC to discuss parking for the disabled and a means of making it easier to cross Station Road in the shopping area. Mr. Lechmere put forward some proposals which the majority of people accepted as the most practical way forward. We look forward to the scheme being implemented.

BUS SERVICES

From June 1st Central Buses has provided two extra bus journeys on a Saturday, by public request, on the 197 route: 15.35 - Balsall Common to Solihull and 16.45 - Solihull to Balsall Common.

And Finally.... to raise a smile perhaps. Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today. You might enjoy it - and if you do, you can do it again tomorrow!