

BINLEY WOODS PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER No 25
November 2011



THE PARISH PLAN GETS GOING!

We've Started, So We'll Finish...

We held an extremely well attended (the room was full to bursting and there were even people standing outside looking in through the windows) and very hot (the village hall heating system had gone into overdrive on the hottest September day for decades) Parish Plan Public Launch Meeting on 29th September. The meeting was a great success:

- Everyone present supported the idea of producing a Parish Plan;
- 21 residents came forward to join the Steering Group;
- A further 17 residents volunteered to help with tasks such as deliveries around the village.

A big thank you to everybody who came along on the night, especially to those who put your names forward to help out. It is encouraging to know that there is such strong support for the Parish Plan in the village and that we have so many residents prepared to roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. Now the hard work really starts!

We held our first Steering Group meeting on Thursday, 27th October and elected a Chairman, Secretary, etc. We agreed to take forward all three potential components of a Parish Plan:

1. The **Parish Plan** itself, which will set out a vision of how the community wants Binley Woods to develop over the next five years or so and the actions required to deliver that vision;
2. A **Housing Needs Survey**, which will collect up-to-date housing needs information which can be used to inform local planning decisions; and
3. A **Village Design Statement**, which will set out clear and straightforward guidance for the design of all development in the village based upon its character.

Sub-groups are already working on each of the above components and the Steering Group is bending its mind around a project time-line and budget.

Over the page you can find out how you can keep up to date with progress on the Parish Plan, how you can get involved and what will be happening next...

More Parish Plan News...

Want To Keep Up To Date?

We have launched our very own website where you can find out what we are up to and how it might impact you. Just go to <http://binleywoodsparish.wordpress.com>. You'll be able to sign up to receive e-mail updates when new posts are added and you can even add your own tuppence-worth should you feel inclined.

And, coming soon... For all you Facebookers, our very own Binley Woods Parish Plan Facebook page. Keep an eye on our website for details.

Of course for those of you not so technically inclined, we will also be producing regular Parish Plan newsletters. Future editions will be separate from the Parish Council newsletter (we'll even have our own logo) and will be packed full of all useful information. Watch out for one popping though your letterbox in the New Year.

We have also appointed a press liaison officer, so you might find snippets appearing in the Coventry Telegraph or the Rugby Advertiser – or even perhaps on Mercia Sound or BBC Radio Coventry & Warwickshire.

Want To Get Involved?

Whilst we had a great response to our initial appeal for volunteers, we would be grateful for more help. We are especially keen to find residents who:

- Can represent the views of the younger elements of the community – parents and toddlers, primary school age and teenagers – and other community groups;
- Have architectural experience and could spare a couple of hours a month to help out with the Village Design Statement; or
- Have a good working knowledge of Excel and could help develop spreadsheets to analyse the results of residents' surveys or would be prepared to help enter the survey responses into the spreadsheets.

If you are interested in any of the above, or just want to get involved in this key project for the village, please give Ken a bell on 02476 540422.

What next?

There will be lots happening on the Parish Plan in the New Year:

- We will be canvassing the views of residents, local clubs and community groups over what the Parish Plan should cover;
- We intend holding a Public Exhibition in the Village Hall where you can come along and share your views on the issues facing Binley Woods and tell us what you like, and don't like, about the village;
- A Housing Needs questionnaire will be issued to all residents and we would urge you to fill it in, even if you do not have any immediate housing needs; and
- Later in the year, you will receive the Parish Plan / Village Design Statement questionnaire asking for your input to help shape the village's future. Please, please, please fill this in – it is your main opportunity to have your say.

The first edition of the Parish Plan newsletter is due out early in 2012 and will have further details on the above. Stay tuned for the next exciting episode...

Other News...

Skateboard Park Gets the Go-ahead

The Parish Council has agreed to provide a skateboard park in the back field. However, following concerns about noise from residents living near the recreation ground, we have decided to locate the facility further down the field and are in the process of obtaining revised quotes for the work and seeking funding.

We hope to have the skateboard park up and running in the spring.

Neighbourhood Watch Re-launched

The Parish Council has been working towards restarting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village. As the first step, Neighbourhood Watch reports received from Julie Dale, the Watch Coordinator at the Community Protection Team, will be posted online at <http://binleywoodsneighbourhoodwatch.freeforums.org> where anyone will be able to read them. You do not need to register to browse, but unless you do, you will not be able to receive any important or urgent messages.

For people without internet access, it is hoped to get a localised message service operating on part of Rugby Road. The ultimate aim is to extend this facility to the rest of Binley Woods.

Binley Woods Library to Close

As expected, Warwickshire County Council has confirmed that the Binley Woods library will close at the end of March next year. However, we are optimistic that the Children's Library at least will move into the Youth Club building (see below).

We will be meeting with WCC in the near future when we expect to hear their proposals for an alternative library service for the village. We will keep you posted.

The Future of the Youth Club

The good news is that the Binley Woods Community Youth Club Management Committee has been successful in obtaining two grants totalling £10,965 to fund the staffing and activities of the community run Youth Club for the next year or so. Another positive is that a number of volunteers have agreed to help support the Club for the future, but we still need several more.

On the down side, the decision on whether the County Council will let us take over the building has slipped to December. However the County Council is likely to run the Club until the matter is finally decided one way or the other. Also, the effects of employment legislation have yet to be clarified, but it is encouraging that half of the barriers to success have been overcome.

In the light of the closure of the library, part of our bid included money for shelves for a small children's library in the Youth Club building and to explore whether in the short term we could also base a 'virtual library' outlet there, but this would depend on others volunteering to run this activity.

If you know of anyone who you think would be interested in volunteering to support youth work staff please encourage them to contact Shan Dobinson (07799 668800), Councillor Heather Timms (02476 543643) or Roger Manning (02476 544548). And, of course, if you yourself are interested please take the plunge and give us a ring.

Proposed Funeral Home at 135 Rugby Road, Binley Woods

The proposal to establish a funeral home at the former Pope's Garage on the Rugby Road was withdrawn by the applicant before it was due to go before Rugby Borough Council's Planning Committee. The Parish Council has received the following letter from residents in the vicinity of 135 Rugby Road...

"We would be grateful if you could thank the residents of Binley Woods on behalf of those campaigners who were against the proposed Funeral Home at Pope's Garage on the Rugby Road. The support received from the residents was tremendous with 153 written objections and almost 600 people signing a petition against the proposal. With support from every side of the village, we certainly felt we were not alone.

"The residents living around the proposal were horrified at the prospect of a funeral home and were astounded that so few people in the community knew about it. We decided to draft a leaflet to inform the community not only about the proposal but the ramifications of having a funeral home in our village. If anyone was offended by the leaflet then we sincerely apologise as our intention was only to inform and make the community aware - never to upset anyone."

The Pavilion

Did you know the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground can be hired by residents for £6 per hour? The building is heated and there are toilet facilities and a kitchen. If you are interested, please contact Paul on 02476 542340.

A46/A428 'TGI Fridays' Island

The Highways Agency has confirmed that work is due to commence on the installation of traffic lights at the A46/A428 roundabout on 28th November. The work is expected to last until the end of May next year, so we can all look forward to six months of even more chaos than usual! Let's hope the end result will significantly reduce the rush-hour queues along the Rugby Road and make all our lives easier.

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 from the library and our website: www.binleywoods.org.

Chairman:	Paul Salisbury	02476 542340	Vice Chair:	Dave Jones	02476 540101
Councillors:	Norman Brinton	02476 542178		Peter Claisse	02476 543932
	Ken Crawley	07958 721735		Pat Docker	02476 543786
	Linda Harbour	07958 244784		Paul Howells	02476 542611
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