Birlingham News online

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Editorial

As Birlingham quietly relaxed in the early summer, the previous two editions of *Birlingham News* were brief. If it were not for last week's Parish Council, the current edition would be almost non-existent.

However, all that is about to change. Following a well-earned, three-week break, future editions of *Birlingham News* look set to be re-invigorated with reports of the '20 is Plenty' campaign and Community Project Funding, the long-awaited response to the recent *Birlingham News* survey, and maybe even a further instalment in the Swan's Neck Common Land saga.

So if you are planning a mid-August holiday by some distant, sunny pool and forget to take a good book to read, have no fear: *Birlingham News* will be there to fill the gap!

Cuppa & Chat

Wednesday 6th August

by Sue Hermon



Cuppa & Chat will be held on Wednesday 6th August from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Birlingham Village Hall.

Everyone is most welcome to come along. There will be tea, coffee and a selection of cakes and the cost is still only £3.00 per head, which includes a chance to win the mystery prize!

For more information, or to request transport, please contact me on 01386 750096 or email sue.hermon@me.com.

Birlingham Bystander

Copy date 15th September

The copy date for the Autumn edition of the *Birlingham Bystander* is Monday 15th September.

If you have any articles or photographs that you would like included in the next edition, please email them to:

bystander@birlingham.org.

The *Bystander* will be distributed in October.

St James' Church



Churchwarden: Adrianne Woodward (Tel. 01386 750936)

An invitation is extended to all to attend a 'Hymns and Pimms' service at St James' on **Sunday 24th August** at 3.00pm. The service will be led by Angela Gerrard.

Glasses of Pimms and nibbles will be served and replenished during the service and other non-alcoholic drinks will be available. It will be a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon with the added bonus of singing a selection of favourite hymns.

Date for your diary:

Harvest Festival on **Sunday 14th September** at 10.30am – details to follow later.



Parish Council Report

by Ian Yates

Birlingham Parish Council held its meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16th July in the Village Hall. A summary of agenda items follows:

- **Addressing concerns over speeding, residential disruption and pedestrian safety**

  It is over a year since the start of Birlingham's '20 is Plenty' campaign. Beginning with the residents of Upper End and then including residents in the middle of the village, Pierre and Denise Nayna received overwhelming support for the action from the majority of the residents asked. There have been a number of ongoing actions, headed by Councillor Rupert Day, to address residents' concerns over speeding traffic, disruption by HGVs and tractors, and the safety of children and walkers.

  Three members of the Parish Council met with Red Star Growers on 2nd June as a follow-up to previous meetings and to highlight recent issues. It was agreed that Red Star would write to hauliers reminding them of the Traffic Policy first published in 2018 which makes clear the correct route to enter and exit the village, the need for drivers to be careful and considerate and avoid damage to verges and roadside posts, that no vehicles should park on access roads to the village and that HGVs must not arrive in the early hours of the morning as the farm does not open before 6:00am. In addition Red Star will ensure through its regular training that tractor drivers limit their speed to 20mph to reduce noise and vibration. Red Star are happy to receive from residents any photographic evidence where the policy has not been followed so they can take it up with the specific haulier or driver. If you have such information then please send it to June Hiden, PC Clerk, at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk, so we can forward it on. A follow-up meeting will be held in October to monitor progress.

  In conjunction with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Highways department you will have noticed that new 'road narrows' and 'pedestrians in road' signage has been erected before Court Barns and at the junction with Shorthill.

  The Parish Council approved a letter that will be sent to Karl Perks, the new Cabinet member responsible for highways and transport at WCC, asking him to explain why our proposal for a 20mph limit was rejected. Also that under the last administration it appeared that WCC was not, in any way, aligned with the National Guidance on the issue of assessing speed limits and the Parish Council wondered whether this is something that he might review. We have discovered that in discussion with WCC, other villages have had similar rejections and this will now also be raised by Councillor Adrian Hardman (see his report below).

  In addition to the above, it was also agreed that 20mph advisory signs will be erected at key points on access roads. An advisory sign shows 20mph in a green circle. This is now common practice in many local villages and we were pleased that it had the full support of Red Star with their direction signs being updated to include the advisory limit. The budget for these signs was approved at the meeting. The Parish Council is conscious of maintaining a balance between extra signage and the rural nature of the village. Details of the signs and their proposed location will be covered in a separate article by Councillor Rupert Day in a future *Birlingham News*.

- **Community Initiatives**

  As a follow-up to previous Community Project Funding discussions, Councillor David Glover outlined a range of community cohesion initiatives that could be promoted, supported and possibly subsidised by the Parish Council, whilst potential community grants are explored. More details will be outlined in a later *Birlingham News*.

- **Wychavon District Council Report – Paul Middlebrough**

  See separate item on next page.

- **Worcestershire County Councillor – Adrian Hardman**

  See separate item below.

- **Footpath Warden's Report – Bruce Hayward**

  FP 506 (west from village green) – finger-post cleared
  FP 509 (near Hall Farm) – finger-post replaced
  FP 511 (Withy Walk) hedges cut back (by landowner and warden)
  FP 520 (from Nafford Lock up to Nafford Road) – strimmed

- **Parish Council Vacancy**

  A reminder that there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in joining, please contact June Hiden, the Parish Clerk, at birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk.

Full minutes of the Parish Council meeting will be posted on the village website shortly.

Worcestershire County Councillor – Adrian Hardman

Just a very short report from me. Reform continue to amuse and horrify in about equal proportions. This month they cancelled a special school for autism on the edge of Malvern, which was entirely funded by the DfE, and the County's only contribution was the land which we owned; surprisingly they've had to perform a U-turn since no one turns down £31 million of taxpayers' money from the centre. They continue to be extremely unclear as to the future of County Hall and also the new secondary school that Worcester will need post expansion of houses. They are also proposing to close the personal replacement care centre in Pershore, which I know one resident of Birlingham has very close links to.

I am going to put down a question which hopefully you would support; to ask if the cabinet member for highways would clarify what the position is on 20mph limits. I am going to table this question on behalf of Ashton Under Hill, Eckington and Birlingham Parish Councils.

I know what a pain the roadworks have been and I'm in the minority of one when I say that the disruption could have been worse but it's done now and hopefully it will only be the utilities that disturb your lives.

Demand-responsive transport is going to be rolled out in Wychavon by the end of August following our notice of motion at the last council meeting. I am somewhat nervous about this until I have seen the detail but I should be able to update you in September because the officers are talking about something called the nine-mile rule and I am slightly unclear as to exactly what this means.

Wychavon District Council Report – Paul Middlebrough

Armed Forces Day

Cllr Mark Goodge, Chairman of Wychavon District Council, raised the Armed Forces Day flag high above the Civic Centre in Pershore as a visible show of support of Armed Forces Day.

Armed Forces Day is an opportunity to thank the Armed Forces community, which encompasses service personnel, service families, veterans, reservists, cadets and volunteers, for all that they do.

Across the world, the country's armed forces are busy promoting peace, delivering aid, tackling drug smugglers, providing security and fighting terrorism.

The ceremony provided an opportunity to reflect on their contributions and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Reorganisation of Local Government

On 23rd June a well-attended presentation was given on the implication of the 2028 local government reorganisation on town and parish councils. From experiences of parish councils where unitary authorities are well established, the role and workload of parishes and our unpaid parish councillors is going to increase. This will present a real challenge for individuals and communities.

The council continues to engage with the public and staff and other organisations using Mutual Ventures to independently assess views.

Initial analysis of the public survey results reveals:

- 48% backed creating two unitary councils
- 29% supported one unitary council for the county
- 19% didn't support any reorganisation of local councils in Worcestershire

Wychavon Council will meet on September 3rd to submit its views to the government.

Neighbourhood Plans

The Government had pulled some of the money with regard to neighbourhood plans but Wychavon had included within its promises to put money forward to continue to support neighbourhood plans, as the Council felt that they played a significant role in the Local Government Review to support local areas and this will continue.

Recent Council Meetings

- Civic Centre in Pershore. The former police station is being revamped into offices suitable for future use. Further solar photovoltaic are being put on the roof which will achieve payback in under six years.
- Financial Performance 2024/25. The council's finances remain in a sound and healthy condition. Balances at the end of 2024/25 increased from £15.119m to £17.930 million.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Update. The total UKSPF budget for Wychavon District for April 2022 to March 2025 was £4m, with £2.8m of the total in 2024/25. All allocated funding was reported as spent. The total REPF budget for Wychavon District for the period of April 2023 to March 2025 was £819k, with £753k of the total in 20245/25.
- Section 106 contributions. The following schemes were approved:
  - Honeybourne Parish Council up to £65,085.00 to fund the improvement of drainage to the sports fields at the Sports and Recreation Ground, Honeybourne.
  - Bredon Parish Council up to £4,556.48 to fund the installation of an outdoor table tennis table at Bredon playing fields.
  - Sporting Club Inkberrow Ltd up to £31,021.00 to fund the installation of two permanent two-lane fully enclosed cricket net structures on land at Sands Road, Inkberrow.
  - Pershore Riverside Centre up to £81,222.66 to enable the Riverside Centre to install new windows and flooring together with associated decorative works at the Pershore Riverside Centre.
  - Pinvin Parish Council up to £165,385.02 to enable Pinvin Parish Council to fund the construction of extensions to the changing rooms and kitchen together with general refurbishment of Pinvin Memorial Hall.
  - Saleway Parish Council up to £3,415.87 be allocated to fund the purchase and installation of two pieces of play equipment at the recreation ground located adjacent to the Cricket Club.

This serves as a reminder to parishes to make sure any Section 106 money is allocated as soon as practical in the light of reorganisation.



Bumble bee on teasel at Nafford, 16th July *(Photo: Nikki Hollier)*

Jayne Brassington

Beauty and Complementary/Holistic Therapist
Animal Angelic Reiki Practitioner

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www.animalholistichealing.co.uk
mob 07770401359
Email jebrassington@btinternet.com

Summer reflections in the Avon (looking towards Great Comberton), 19th June

(Photo: Peter Luff)



Letters to the Editors

We welcome brief letters to the Editors on any subject relating to Birlingham. The Editors reserve the right to shorten letters and we cannot guarantee that all letters will be printed.

Please send letters to:

news@birlingham.org

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Personal Ads

Bicycle. I have a bicycle that I no longer use and it would be good to get something for it that I could forward onto a charity.

The frame is welded steel , 21-inch (535mm) with 21 gears, so it is an 'all terrain' type of bike, although at present the tyres are 'road style'.

If you are interested, please email: dsisersvices89@gmail.com

Personal adverts should consist of a maximum of 100 words, and will be included in a single issue of Birlingham News. Please note that advertisement text will be published exactly as received. Personal ads should be sent to news@birlingham.org no later than the Monday before publication. Birlingham News is published on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Dates for your diary

July

Sat 26	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Avoncroft CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm

August

Wed 6	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 9	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Feckenham CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Thu 21	Birlingham IW – details to follow
Sat 23	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Cookhill CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Sun 24	Hymns and Pimms, 3.00pm, St James' Church

September

Wed 3	Cuppa & Chat, 3.00–4.30pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Sat 9	Birlingham CC 1st X1 vs Feckenham CC 2nd XI, 12.30pm
Sun 14	Harvest Festival, 10.30pm, St James' Church
Wed 17	Birlingham Parish Council, 7.00pm, Birlingham Village Hall
Thu 18	Birlingham IW – details to follow

Birlingham News online is available at www.birlingham.org. Details of future editions will be emailed to subscribers of *Birlingham News*. These emails are available to residents of Birlingham, their families and friends. If you know anyone who would like to receive these emails, or have any comments or items for inclusion in either the email or online edition of *Birlingham News*, or wish to be removed from the mailing list, please write to news@birlingham.org.

Birlingham News online is open to any organisation or business within the parish to promote events. Inclusion of an event does not imply that Birlingham Jubilee Committee supports either the event or the views of the organisation promoting it.

The copy date for the next edition is Monday 11th August (for publication on Wednesday 13th August). We regret that we cannot guarantee to include any items submitted after that date.

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