

Your Newsletter

For residents of Braysdown, Carlingcott,
Peasedown St John and Woodborough

Published by Peasedown St John Parish Council

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Treat for the “Mini Police”

The “Mini Police” had a fantastic end of year treat recently, when PCSOs Louise Jones and Tony McIntosh arranged for two Police horses to visit the Recreation Ground. The children asked lots of questions and enjoyed learning from the Avon and Somerset Police mounted section about how the horses are trained and what sort of work they do. Police horses ‘Somerset’ and ‘Windsor’ had a treat too, because the children came ready-prepared with carrots and apples for them to eat.



Mounted police officers & police horses “Somerset” and “Windsor” with PCSO Louise Jones and the Mini Police from Peasedown St John Primary School



Cllr Conor Ogilvie-Davidson (R) with PCSOs Louise Jones and Tony McIntosh and the Mini Police with their new litter picking equipment

Avon & Somerset Police Force has been running Mini Police since 2018 in conjunction with Peasedown St John Primary School. The scheme aims to enable children and young people to have a confident voice and some enjoyable experiences associated with policing. The Parish Council recently provided the group with a grant to purchase litter picking equipment, which they have used to clean up litter around the village. **If you run an organisation that might benefit from a community grant, the second phase of applications is now open, the closing date for which is 30th September 2021 and application forms can be downloaded from our website.**

Summer Planting

Thank you to our wonderful planting volunteers Charlotte, Dianne and Mike who together with Parish Council staff, did a great job at getting everything planted-up for this summer’s floral displays. The new mining cart planters located at Ashgrove, Braysdown Lane and the Recreation Ground are looking really beautiful and are a fitting tribute to the mining heritage of our community.

The next task will be the floral display in the BT telephone kiosk on Bath Road, which will be installed in the coming weeks.

If you would like to volunteer to help with future planting, please contact the Parish Office.



Thoughts from the Chair



I am extremely proud to have been selected by Councillors in May to be the Chair of Council for the new Council year. I wish to say a huge thanks to Cllr Kathy Thomas for all her hard work and for chairing the council for the past 6 years, especially during the last 18 months, whilst we have all been dealing with the pandemic. It's been a challenging time for all.

I have lived in the village all my life, I attended the local primary school. I have been a Parish Councillor for over 8 years, and have been the Vice Chair for the last 6 years, during which time I have seen many changes. I am proud of what the Parish Council has achieved over the last few years and excited about plans and projects for the coming year; there certainly a lot to do. I'd like to thank the Councillors and staff for the time they put in and for all their hard work.

I trust that you and your families remain safe.

Best wishes, Jonathan.

Defibrillator Refurbishment

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the defibrillator at Peasedown St John Co-operative, having taken over the responsibility from the Rotary Club in 2018.

A new cabinet and light were recently needed to ensure that the defibrillator was in full working order. The Parish Council purchased these items and is very grateful to local electrician, Tony Denning, who installed the new cabinet free of charge, as a service to the community.



Crop Drop 2021



The Parish Council Allotments at Braysdown Lane will once again be taking part in "CropDrop" a scheme which aims to provide surplus fruit and vegetables to those in need in the local community. This year, the organisers are encouraging gardeners to consider planting an extra row for CropDrop. CropDrop is a community organisation connecting growers with community food projects to share abundant produce. Last season they helped to share 1700kg of produce from B&NES growers with 21 local projects. In the Somer Valley these included Peasedown food bank, Radstock FOOD club and Paulton village larder.

Their 2020 recipients told them they loved receiving fresh local vegetables: "Its a really good way to talk to children about how food is grown" and "our members can cook healthy food for their children and teach them all about where food comes from."

The organisers' message to allotment holders is: "Whatever you like growing will be appreciated: vegetables, herbs, fruit and seedlings.

If you can grow it, we can share it!" For more information please email: hello@cropdrop.org.uk

Taking Action on Climate Change

The Parish Council is currently looking at ways to take action on Climate Change, and has recently established a Climate and Environment Advisory Panel to review what we are already doing on this area and consider what else could be done.

The Parish Council has already made a number of changes in relation to improving the environment and reducing the impact on climate change, including:

- Upgrade of our streetlights, Christmas lights and lights in and around Beacon Hall to LED to reduce power usage;
- Recycling bins at Beacon Hall and the Recreation Ground Changing Rooms and a clothing bank at Beacon Hall;
- Encouraging composting through the installation of a compost bin at Ashgrove Cemetery so that visitors can recycle their floral tributes and a composting toilet at Braysdown Allotments.
- Registering as a 'Tree Charter Branch' and implementing a programme of tree planting.
- Flexible working arrangements for office staff to reduce commuting and minimise the associated carbon footprint.
- Braysdown Allotments which provide space for residents to 'grow their own' reducing food transport miles and packaging, and supporting the "CropDrop" scheme where excess produce is donated to the local food bank.
- Recycling paper and cardboard waste and aiming for paperless council meetings, where possible, to reduce use of paper and printer ink.



CLRs Andy Larcombe (L) and Jonathan Rich (R) planting trees on Ecewiche Green

What will be our next steps?

We have also been considering what to investigate for the future in relation to improving the environment and reducing our impact on climate change. Some of the more ambitious ideas under discussion are:

- Revisiting the idea of solar panels and rainwater harvesting at Beacon Hall. We plan to look again at feed-in tariffs for solar panels and find out if there are any grants available.
- Considering electric charging points for cars – could this be something that could be located at Beacon Hall?
- Looking at whether it would be worthwhile adopting a Neighbourhood Plan which might provide a framework for considering future planning applications from an environmental perspective.

Some of the more straightforward ideas we are looking at include:

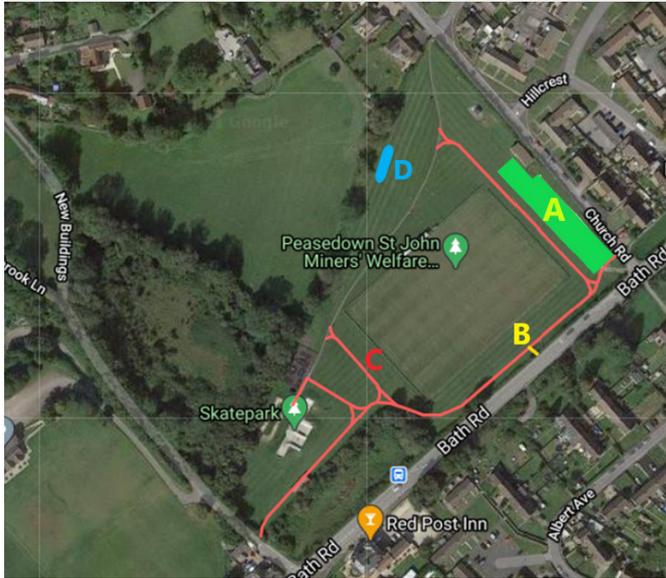
- Discussions with B&NES Council about how the Parish Council can work with them on their environmental initiatives such as not mowing verges on Orchard Way to encourage wildflowers/bees. This has been trialled this year, and we have received some mixed feedback from residents, perhaps because some were unaware of the reason behind it. **Please give us your views on this - is there support for this type of initiative?**
- Ensuring that there is a Parish Council representative on Peasedown Environment Group so that we can work together more closely on projects and environment-related issues.
- Continuing our programme of tree planting on Parish Council land and open spaces.
- Encouraging local residents to become more climate aware by signposting them to relevant information on things like planting a biodiverse garden to encourage wildlife, increasing their recycling, opting for green energy etc.
- Obtaining up to date usage levels and charge rates for Parish Council utility providers so as to obtain quotations from green energy suppliers.

If you have any ideas or would like to become involved as a volunteer on future projects such as tree-planting, please get in touch with the Parish Office on the contact details given at the front of this newsletter.



Some verges have been left longer to encourage wildflowers and bees

Forthcoming Projects



We have some exciting projects in the pipeline to improve our open green spaces in the village.

On the Recreation Ground, we have been looking at ways to improve the area to make it more accessible for all residents. With this in mind we hope to extend the tarmac pathways on the Recreation Ground so that everyone can walk from one end to the other or around the space on a circular route, without getting their feet wet or muddy. In particular, this should make it much easier for those with prams, pushchairs or wheelchairs to make good use of the space. We are also looking at “formalising” the informal (but well-used) entrance from Bath Road to improve its appearance and provide an alternative access point for pedestrians. Lastly, we hope to provide an area of reinforced grass matting which will avoid damage to the grass between the gate and the changing rooms when cars are parked for sporting or other events.

Another project is looking at the area next to Beacon Hall where we have plans to install a “Philosopher’s Garden” with a similar character to the Memorial Garden at Ashgrove Cemetery pictured on the right.

The garden will include ornamental trees, stones and perennial planting with pathways and seating to provide an area to wander around and enjoy nature or a quiet area to sit and relax. Plans are in the early stages at the moment, but we hope this idea may be ready to take forward in 2022.

If you have any ideas for the garden that you would like to share with us, please get in touch.



Benches get a Make-over

Benches around the village have been sanded back and treated as part of the on-going maintenance of Parish Council assets. The photos below show a bench at the Cemetery before and after treatment.



Celebrating 50 Years at Braysdown Allotments

Braysdown Lane Allotments have provided a great place for local residents to escape the stress of the Covid pandemic and to grow their own fruit and veg. Plot-holder Dave Jones (on the left in the picture below) celebrated 50 years at the allotments this year and, at the recent Allotment Holder’s Barbecue, was presented with a small gift from the Parish Council to mark the occasion, by Cllr Andy Larcombe. The barbecue is an annual event for allotments community, and was supported by a Community Grant from the Parish Council and a donation of bread rolls from Peasedown Co-operative.

