

Annual Parish Meeting - Monday, 16 April 2007  
Chairman's Report (Shirley D Beazer)

Proposals to withdraw the **No 713 Bus Service** on Sundays and Bank Holidays as of July 2006 were averted by the immediate action from the Parish Council and it was accordingly reduced - not discontinued.

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Plans for 3 **Affordable Houses at Mountain Wood** were disappointingly withdrawn by Somer last September. At the present time, B&NES have refused to support the bid for these units as they have insufficient funds. However, Somer Trust are preparing a new bid for the Housing Corporation in the next financial year and will elicit the support of B&NES.

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**Tyndale** (owned by B&NES and until recently occupied by the Carrswood Day Centre) has now been sold to BUPA. Its use remains unknown. Our request for its use as affordable housing has once again fallen on deaf ears.

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We are pleased to report the **Parish Precept** for 2007/08 has been slightly reduced from last year's £20,475.00 to £19,537.00 for 2007/08 (*a decrease of approx 4.5%*).

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**Garden waste and cardboard collection** increases for wheeled bins and paper sacks would appear to deter their purchase by the otherwise careful collector - emphasised by discarded rubbish in our laybys and hedgerows.

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Unnecessary and great concern was once again caused by the announcement by B&NES that **Refuse** would only be collected from edge of property or nearest highway. We drew their attention to the effects this would have on the elderly and disabled residents of the parish. Appropriate form filling eventually eased the situation.

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Plans for the expansion of **Bristol Airport**, and with it additional aircraft, understandably caused great concern. As a result of campaigning by the Parish Council and many other bodies and individuals, the flight path directly over Bathford to Bristol Airport was re-routed over Marshfield and Keynsham. The height was also raised to 4,000 feet.

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After many years, the Parish Council wreath was once again laid at the morning service on **Remembrance Sunday**. It is hoped this reversal to the morning service will enable all groups and individuals to participate fully in the future.

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Our **Post Office** is still under constant threat of closure. It is imperative that we all endeavour to support it on a continual basis. We have written to the Minister responsible for Post Offices (Jim Fitzpatrick) and enlisted the support of Don Foster to lobby against the closure of Post Offices.

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The **Village Shop** continues to flourish with its myriad volunteers and unique Committee but once again (as with the Post Office) we must bear in mind that it's future depends on our support. Its greatest reliance rests on as many volunteers as possible – with no commitment (and this is guaranteed) to regular hours or days. Just the occasional slot (on your terms) is so very much appreciated. Just talk to Paul Faulkner.

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I would also like to praise the day to day efforts given by every volunteer involved with **Link, the Flower Show** and the **Parish Hall**. So much hard work behind the scenes, with very little acknowledgement, but who nevertheless play such an important role in our village life.

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We are indeed privileged to have Steve Mackerness as a co-opted member of the Planning and Environment Committee and his excellent and professional input on our behalf and in particular in support of Batheaston Parish Council's **Charmy Down Park and Ride** application. Steve has also prepared a separate report on this issue.

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**First Bus Company** eventually agreed to extend the route of the 13D school bus to include Bathford. As of 20 November 2006, the bus now leaves Dovers Park at 7.43 am to Hayesfield School.

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My congratulations to Stan Cherry and his Steering Committee for the immense success with **Parish Plan** projects. You will see very clearly from the display just how much has been achieved. The most recent has been a full grant of £1,350.00 towards a hearing system in the Parish Hall.

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**Bathford Primary School** continues to maintain its vital role in the Parish and communication is regularly maintained via our School Governor representative – Jean Vesey. Jean also successfully acts as the **Neighbourhood Watch** representative.

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**Tony Cox**, one of our District Councillors for the past 20 years, has understandably decided to retire. His invaluable advice and support on our behalf was sincerely appreciated and he will be truly missed.

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There is still a very strong feeling of the continuing injustice of **Double Taxation** ie play areas, playing fields, grass cutting etc. B&NES Executive rejected the Joint Working Party's report in February 2005. A new Working Party is urged for establishment after the May elections.

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Thankfully, the tentative introduction of Christmas lights and tree on the Green was generally well received. Spontaneous private donations towards costs were heartwarming and deeply appreciated. With a little more time, we hope to do even better.

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**And finally, my sincere thanks to all my fellow Councillors with special thanks to Ruth our Clerk. For their total and professional support, continued commitment (clearly shown in each Committee report) and for just being there! A truly remarkable council who have undoubtedly achieved the ability to work together as a team towards the expectations and sustainability of Bathford and its parishioners.**

**Thank you.**

Shirley Beazer  
Chair – Bathford Parish Council