

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MONDAY, 21 APRIL 2008**  
**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (SHIRLEY BEAZER)**

Undoubtedly, the proposed closure of **Bathford Post Office**, albeit not unexpected, has highlighted the impact on the role and continuity of the Village Shop and as a first and important step, we immediately requested at least minimal "outreach" facilities, but of course the way forward ultimately rests with the BEFA Committee.

As seen from the BEFA Statement, we are fortunate in that they are more than capable of this challenge and I take this opportunity to express our gratitude for their positive approach but inevitably a successful resolution depends on maximum support from everyone.

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Applicants for the **3 Affordable Houses** (now being built at Mountain Wood) are advised to contact B&NES (*Tel: 396118*) from August 2008. Final allocation decisions are made by Somer Housing but we have emphasised that priority consideration be given to local people with local connections.

Somer also propose to provide "new for old" garages at the **Lower Garages at Mountain Wood**. The remainder will be demolished and can be used as open car parking by any resident.

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The **Parish Precept** for 2008/09 has been set at £21,391.93 - an increase of 4%. Further details are available from the Finance Committee.

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Grants from the **Parish Plan** and Stan Cherry's valiant efforts have already enabled several projects to be successfully completed – among them the installation of a loop/microphone system here in the Parish Hall.

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Copies of the **Bathford Consolidated Charities** Accounts are available.

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We continue to maintain regular liaison with **Bathford Primary School** and congratulate them on the addition of the long-awaited classrooms and to the maintenance of extremely high standards.

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**Cluster and Parish Liaison Meetings** also contribute important feedback on issues such as the latest proposals for a Park and Ride and controversial proposals by Regional Spatial Strategy for encroachment of the Green Belt. Our Planning Committee keep a very watchful eye at all times.

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Congratulations are well earned by Ian Plain and the **Bathford Bulletin Team** who have shown tremendous willingness and flair towards its continuity and success. Ideas for the future abound by the score and the future looks bright.

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**The Twinning Organisation** also continues to flourish and we look forward to a group visit from Artannes children in early July. Let's make sure they have a memorable holiday.

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I would also like to record our appreciation to the invaluable work of **Bathford Link** who contribute so much and on whom so many depend and we remember Jack Fielden who was Chairman of Link for many years and who recently passed away.

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We also remember (with affection) our oldest resident, **Doris Ingram** who died on the

29 February 2008 at the remarkable age of 100. Such a vibrant lady with a wonderful attitude to life who delighted so many in recounting old memories. She will be greatly missed.

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**And in conclusion:**

**A Parish Councillor!! Why volunteer to be a Parish Councillor?**

**Your life becomes a constant juggling act twixt family, work and seemingly never-ending problems – the answers to which make you feel you’re banging your head against a brick wall.**

**So why do it? Because we care what happens to Bathford and its residents.**

**Because of this - to all my fellow Councillors - my sincere admiration and appreciation for your back up, continued perseverance, untold patience and well-earned achievements carried out at all times with fairness, tenacity and to the highest standard. For a hard year of hard work – well done.**

**The knowledge Ruth that you, as Clerk, provide unlimited help with courtesy and efficiency and which contributes such a significant role, appreciated by the whole Council. My sincere thanks.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, may we as a Council continue to serve the needs of the Parish with an open mind, goodwill and a good heart.**

**Thank you.**

Shirley Beazer  
Chair – Bathford Parish Council