



# Bournheath Parish Council

## Newsletter, March 2015

### Elections

The Bournheath polling station at the Village Community Centre (BVCC) will host at least two elections on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. One will be for Bromsgrove's parliamentary representative and the other will be for two representatives of the new district council ward of Belbroughton & Romsley.

There may also be a third election on that day, which will be for the Parish Council. But this will only take place if the number of nominations exceeds the number of seats (there are 7 seats).

The current parish councillors will retire en masse on 11<sup>th</sup> May at which point the new parish council will take over and their first meeting will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at BVCC.

Why not consider taking on the role of a parish councillor and see what you can do to improve your local community? We comment on planning applications, care for our environment through the Lengthsman scheme, footpath maintenance, tree warden scheme, lobbying for better services, and support the community in whatever way possible.

Nomination packs can be obtained from the Clerk and from Bromsgrove district council's Elections Office and must be handed in to the Elections Office in person by 4pm on 9<sup>th</sup> April at the latest. Further information can be found on BDC's new website:  
<http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/elections>

### Speeding traffic

As a parish council we are aware of drivers disregarding the speed limit as they drive through Bournheath which, along Fairfield Road, Dodford Road, Parish Hill and Doctors Hill, is covered by 30mph restrictions. To raise awareness of speeds we have installed a Vehicle Activated Speed sign on Rocky Lane and purchased 30 mph stickers for residents' bins (see below). Additionally we are keen to adopt the Community Speed Watch scheme.

We would love to hear from you if you know of any other effective measures in persuading drivers to slow down.



### 30 mph stickers

We have a quantity of these for Bournheath residents, to stick on to the side of your domestic waste bins.

The aim is to provide at least one sticker for all residents' bins within the 30mph zones. We are hoping that the sight of so many repeater signs on bin-collection day will cause drivers to reduce their speed on at least one day each week. If you would like one or two stickers please contact the Clerk or collect them from the Annual Parish Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April (see below).

### Annual Parish Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> April

Each year the parish council is legally required to arrange a meeting for all residents to discuss parish matters. Even though it is organised by the parish council, it is not a parish council meeting.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April** starting at 7pm in Bournheath Village Community Centre, Claypit Lane. If you have an item for discussion then please send an email to the Clerk so that it can be added to the agenda – just remember it must be a topic that is specific to the parish!

The meeting will be followed the same evening by the last meeting of the current parish council before the elections. We look forward to seeing you! Refreshments (tea/coffee/biscuits/maybe cake) will be provided.

## ANNUAL PLAN

The Parish Council has been thinking about a plan for the year and has come up with the following topics:

- ✚ Adoption of the telephone kiosk, Dodford Road;
- ✚ Installation of a community-use defibrillator and associated training;
- ✚ Monitoring of the planning application for an Incinerator Bottom-Ash facility at Sandy Lane and possible funding requirements in the event of a legal challenge;
- ✚ Support adaptations of existing meeting room;
- ✚ Community Speed Watch;
- ✚ Lobby for motorway noise attenuation measures at Wildmoor;
- ✚ Support completion of flood alleviation measures via Severn Trent Water;
- ✚ Continue with general 'housekeeping' around the parish – hedging/ditching/grass cutting/attention to lamp posts;
- ✚ Provide support to BVCC lease arrangements.

It would help us to know what you think. Please contact us via the website, by email or by phone – or come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April, or any of the parish council meetings which are usually on the last Tuesday evening of the month in Bournheath Village Community Centre.

### Finances

Most of the parish council's income is derived from the precept. This is money collected from residents by Bromsgrove District Council as part of the council tax. For the 2015/16 financial year the total amount that a Band D council tax payer will contribute to Bournheath Parish Council is £48.87. This supports the total precept of £10,333 and with a few other pockets of income and money held in reserve, we expect to cover the costs of the above annual plan.

The parish council's finances are scrutinised by an independent auditor each year and by a government-appointed external auditor. All residents are entitled to inspect the parish council's accounts and the inspection period for this year is from 13<sup>th</sup> April – 11<sup>th</sup> May. More information about electors' rights can be found on our website, [www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk) and the public notice boards at (1) BVCC, (2) Fairfield Road/Dodford Road crossroads, (3) Five-Ways crossroads, (4) next to Whitings, Wildmoor Lane.

Parish council minutes and finance records are now also available on the website.

### Moon Mission

Team Bournheath Parish Council has signed up to this initiative which will see Worcestershire residents collectively travel 477,714 miles to the moon and back over the 18 week-period beginning on 20<sup>th</sup> March! Any physical activity, be it walking, dog-walking, running, pedalling, swimming, toddling, rowing or jogging, will be happily counted towards the total.

This is billed as a "fun and focussed way to help people be more active".

We would welcome you to join us and add your miles to the Team Bournheath total.

More information can be found online at [www.worcester.ac.uk/moonmission](http://www.worcester.ac.uk/moonmission)

### Welcome Pack

The Parish Council is to produce a Welcome Pack for new residents to Bournheath and Wildmoor. This will be available on the website and as a paper copy from councillors and the clerk.

**Bournheath Parish Council** contact details: ☎ 07813 671899 ✉ [clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk)

📍 Parish Council Office, Catshill Village Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill B61 0JZ

💻 [www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk)