



Will Burton be losing its closest school?



NEIGHBOUR: Trinity Primary School, Acton Turville, may change the rules on who can attend

A PETITION has been lodged against a plan to make it more difficult for new pupils from Burton, Nettleton and West Kington to go to their nearest primary school after the summer of 2016.

The petition of 112 signatures from Burton, Nettleton and some from outside the area has been sent to a local education authority, South Gloucestershire Council, objecting to its proposed change for Trinity Church of England Primary School in neighbouring Acton Turville. Twenty of the signatories are parents of pre-school children.

The protest was rallied rapidly by Burton Community Association in the last week of consultation by the council to seek local views. The consultation, launched ten days before Christmas, had gone under the radar of local people until just seven days before it closed on February 20. BCA also alerted Nettleton Parish Council which has now written to South Gloucestershire Council in support of the petition.

Initially, the alarm was raised by Burton villager Paul Lortal. BCA committee members then quickly gathered support for a petition, drafted it and spread news of the council proposal – which, it turns out, was first suggested back in March, 2014.

“News of the consultation so close to deadline came as a shock,” said Mr Lortal.

“Anyway, thanks to the villagers in Burton Community Association we were able to get the petition together fast. The proposal is worrying for Burton, Nettleton and West Kington. If this plan goes ahead, the impact on our communities would be considerable.

“Even families with children already attending Acton Turville school would be affected.

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After the summer of 2016, any siblings from Burton, Nettleton and West Kington who wanted to join their brothers and sisters there would stand much less chance of doing so. They could well have to go to another school further away.”

In the consultation, the council said it wished to hear the views of local parents, the school’s staff and governors, local communities and any interested parties, before deciding if any changes are to be made to the criteria used in deciding which four- and five-year-olds can go to the school from September, 2016.

The consultation posed two options:

1. Don’t change the criteria – which currently mean if it’s the closest school, children get to go there.
2. Or to change the criteria – which would mean the drawing up of a new main catchment area for the school giving preference to new starters from within the parish council boundaries of Acton Turville, Tormarton and Badminton. New starters from outside that area – such as Burton, Nettleton and West Kington – would stand less chance of getting in than they do now.

The council said responses to the consultation will be reported to its Children and Young People Committee on March 4, when it meets to make a decision on the two options.

BCA chair Amanda Read said: “This is of concern for Burton, a village already low on facilities. And we can expect the influx of more families into the village with the current development of seven new homes. Further, the option to make it more difficult for young children from the Burton area to go to Acton Turville school is not in line with government policy in trying to reduce the number of miles we all travel.

“By car, Acton Turville school is only 1.1 miles from Burton, whereas the next nearest school is Yatton Keynell - more than four times the distance at 4.7 miles.”

Make sure *you* attend the village’s first AGM



BURTON Community Association is nearing its first anniversary.

The inaugural meeting of BCA was held almost 12 months ago when about 30 villagers descended on the Old House At Home pub on the evening of March 17 to form the organisation. BCA’s goals include improving community spirit, fostering pride in the village and encouraging the development of social facilities.

Now it’s time for BCA’s first Annual General Meeting which will be held at St Mary’s Church on Tuesday, March 17, starting at 7.30pm. It will be an important meeting, shaping the 12 months ahead for the community, so villagers are being encouraged to attend to have their say or even stand for one of the key roles in the association.

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One of the most significant changes will be the appointment of a new chair, as Amanda Read (*pictured*) is standing down from the role after 12 months which have seen many new successful initiatives including:

- the association's establishment with a constitution, bank account with a balance of around £500, charity status and eligibility for tax relief on donations to BCA;
- village tidy-ups in August and November;
- the bid to clampdown on speeding through the village;
- Burton's first village Hallowe'en party;
- regular monthly meetings of the Book Club;
- development of BCA's own Burton website;
- and regular quarterly editions of The Bugle.



The way the AGM will work is that all members of the BCA committee, including – Amanda Read (Chair), Alistair Caie (Secretary), Pip Gilbert (Treasurer), Paul Bird, Paul Lortal, Trystan and Victoria Hitchens, Jonathan Smith, Freddie Clark and Moya Webb – will stand down, but they can put themselves up for re-election for another 12 months.

Who is elected to the committee is decided by villagers attending the AGM. And villagers can also nominate themselves as candidates to stand for the committee. The committee can also co-opt new members during the course of the year.

The following week, on Monday, March 23, the new committee will meet to elect the chair, deputy chair, secretary and treasurer for the next 12 months.

Opening for gates to the community

A PLAN for small, white picket fence-style gates on the roadside verges at the entrances to Burton on the main route through the village is taking shape.

The 'Burton in Bloom' enthusiasts of Burton Community Association are working together with Nettleton Parish Council and Wiltshire Council on the proposal which, if it goes ahead, would see the same style of ornamental gates and flower tubs at the B4039 entrances to Burton as currently grace neighbouring village Yatton Keynell.

And the ambition goes further, with, hopefully and eventually, red tarmac



A GRAND ENTRANCE: Yatton Keynell-style

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approaches to Burton to better highlight the speed limits white-painted on the road and to tie in with the Community Speedwatch Scheme to reduce traffic through the village to the legal speed limits. But, for the moment, the focus is on trying to secure the white gates and the flower tubs alongside them.

Costing of the gates and tubs project currently totals £3,400. That's made up of £3,000 for the manufacture and installation of the four gates, £150 for the manufacture and installation of the flower tubs, £100 for the initial supply and planting of the flowers, plus ongoing annual costs of £100 for the supply and planting of flowers twice a year and £50 for the general upkeep of the fences and tubs.

Burton in Bloom's Trystan Hitchens said: "Funding for the project is anticipated to come from a number of sources including Wiltshire Council and Burton Community Association. Nettleton Parish Council has already committed to contribute £500, and we have also received donations, and promises, from interested local residents who are supportive of the project. Additionally, an application to Wiltshire Council's Chippenham Area Transport Group has recently been submitted and an update is awaited.

"It is our desire to fully fund the project in 2015 with the view to moving ahead quickly with the acquisition and fitment of the picket fences, and for which we intend to take guidance and assistance from Wiltshire Council Highways Department.

"This is a much more important project than it might at first seem. Burton has speed limits which are not adhered to, the village lacks identity and looks a little "un-loved" – and this is when it is an entry point into the Cotswolds and the beautiful county of Wiltshire. Currently, its look is just not good enough.

"We want Burton to be a good advert for Wiltshire county, the parish of Nettleton and neighbouring villages in the parish including West Kington and Nettleton. Similar projects have been implemented across the country and county including our neighbouring villages like Yatton Keynell, where they have succeeded in fulfilling this vision.

"While Burton Community Association is keen for this project to proceed in Burton, the scheme could be equally applicable to our neighbouring villages of Nettleton and West Kington, too. With sufficient interest and support, this could clearly deliver widespread enhancements across our parish."

Burton briefs...

FUND RAISING: An evening of mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas garland-making, hosted by Ruth Murphy in Church Rise in December, raised £50 for St Mary's Church and £30 for the BCA. And Ruth hopes to run a similar event this December.

WAITING FOR THE SUN: Burton in Bloom enthusiasts are planning another Village Tidy-up to be held once the spring weather is here. A date has not yet been fixed, but it is hoped there will be a Village Tidy-up every two to three months.

GOOD OL' UNCLE SAM: Villager Missy Sell, who played a key part in organising Burton's first village Hallowe'en party, is looking into the idea of holding an Independence Day celebration in the village on July 4. It is also hoped to stage another village Hallowe'en party this year.

DO YOU HAVE ANY NEWS? Email The Buale at davidwebb357@btinternet.com