

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter from BAG

With the demise of the Bradway Bugle and understandably no one else able to take over the reins from John Baker, BAG thought it prudent to have at least a quarterly newsletter to provide an update to the local community of BAG's activities and plans, as well as those of fellow community organisations. As with this inaugural version, this will be shared in our Facebook Group, emailed to Members and letter box delivered for those without email. Should you have any views on how this can be developed, or would like to contribute, please do let us know, (see contact details at the end of this newsletter). We shall be pleased to hear from you.

In this newsletter -

- *Open Spaces*
 - *Footpaths & Bridleways*
 - *Encouraging Wildlife*
 - *Defibrillators*
 - *Bradway Fun Day*
 - *Bounds Walk*
 - *Public Transport*
 - *Neighbourhood Watch*
 - *Scouting*
 - *Community Hall*
 - *Bradway Primary School*
-

OPEN SPACES

BAG is one of over a hundred organisations in Sheffield working with Sheffield City Council, (SCC), particularly Parks & Countryside, (P&C), looking after open spaces. We are key to maintaining these, especially when one realises that the P&C budget has been reduced from £8.5m pa in 2011/2 to a likely £3.35m next year.

Village Green

A Village Green sign visible from Bradway Road has been ordered by BAG and should be installed soon. This was prompted by the number of people not knowing where it is or the official status of the Old School Field.

The seating arrangements should be improved soon as well. We are awaiting our request for funding from the Local Area Committee towards installing a vandal proof steel picnic table to replace the decrepit fixed one outside the play area. This funding request will determine how much BAG will have to contribute. Two of the standard picnic tables remain after two were stolen, which we are not going to replace. Originally, three of these were provided by BAG and one by a local resident, but we see no point in losing more money in such a way. Some of you will have noticed that the seats of the 2 side benches had rotted, although in one case it was certainly helped on its way by someone jumping on it. These are due to be replaced soon by the council.

The all weather surface between the goals has become frayed and increasingly lumpy and we are looking with the council at the cost implications of replacing this.

We are also in discussion with the council to leave the margins around the green un-mown, providing a less sterile transition to the hedgerows and increasing the potential for biodiversity.

We would however, like to hear from you as to what improvements you would like to see on this site. For example, one recent Facebook request was for a perimeter path suitable for wheelchairs and buggies etc. This has never been raised before and will undoubtedly costs £'000s, but we'd like to understand what support this would have. More equipment for older children has been mentioned, but in what form should this take? Do let us have your thoughts.

Recreation Ground

The wildflower meadow was a great success last year despite the drought conditions and lasted well through the autumn. We are in discussion with the council about continuing this and Bradway Primary School will again be involved in further sowing. We are also hopeful of extending the area covered.

One of our aims is to further improve the biodiversity of this whole area, being mainly sterile grassland. The main field is now used for regular junior football, but the council should be leaving the margins un-mown on both this and the upper field. The ecology team from the council will be meeting us in May, (the ideal time), to review what can be done to the winter boggy area in particular (e.g. create a proper pond) and to improve the overall habitat generally.

Poynton Wood

The Chair has had a meeting with the Woodlands Officer from SCC to discuss improvements for the SCC owned section between the top of the steps to the railway triangle and Prospect Place. We believe the ecology and habitats can be improved as this wood is somewhat sterile, aside from the bluebells which will soon be out. The difference in birdsong for example between the old brickworks area and this section is quite marked. This officer is unfortunately leaving SCC, with no direct replacement as yet lined up. However, he will be passing on the outcome of our discussion. What we can do in the meantime is install bird boxes, remove beech saplings, reduce the holly right down and look at improving ground cover, e.g. more bluebells on the bare patches. If you are interesting in getting involved with this, please do contact us. SCC will receive funding from the sale of the bottom section of the railway triangle to Network Rail. This funding will be reutilised in the local area as improvements for Poynton and Ladies Spring Woods, better signage and access and will include placing a bench at the top of the steps, providing a welcome respite!

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

We continue to manage these through the year and obviously of late that's been quite a job clearing fallen trees and shrubs after the snowfall. We welcome extra help, so if you can provide assistance, usually on Thursday mornings, please do contact us.

Looking ahead, some of the key improvements should be as follows:-

The steps to the railway triangle. The Chair has had a further site visit with VolkerStory, the contractors responsible for the railway improvements. They previously agreed to undertake improvements under their community support programme. This, like most of the project has been delayed, but they reaffirmed their commitment and hope to start in a month or so as workers are transferred from the Bamford site. This work will see intermediate steps installed to address the existing risers that are too high along with the provision of a continuous handrail.

The path between Twentywell Road and Beauchief Drive has suffered severe erosion and has turned into a steep gully. We will address that as a joint exercise with Beauchief Environment Group and are awaiting a site meeting with SCC Rights of Way to agree the approach we should take.

Totley Lane Bridleway. The bottom section by Mickley Lane was constantly getting eroded by overflow from the culvert. We cleared the culvert, reported it to SCC and Amey and we will keep an eye on it. Following that, Amey have said they will provide a hard surface on the final section, hopefully soon seeing that it has been marked out in preparation. We will be discussing with SCC the surfacing of the rest, which too easily becomes a morass. The top section between Longford Road and Tinkers Corner suffers particularly from a spring in the bank half way along. Apparently a drain has collapsed below this and SCC needs to draw up a revised solution. In the meantime, we'll just have to keep an eye that too.

ENCOURAGING WILDLIFE

Everyone should be all too aware of the precarious position we are in. The current Wild Isles series on BBC is timely in this respect, so it is important that we all strive to do our bit. We have mentioned where we want to improve matters in the areas of public open space, but it is vital that we ensure our gardens are as welcoming as they can be too. This doesn't require a great deal of effort or cost as some simple actions can have important consequences. Together with our neighbours **Greener Greenhill**, we are hoping to hold an event to give guidance to those wishing to make such improvements, probably at Greenhill Library; so watch this space!

In the meantime there are many places to find such information and we suggest you peruse them. The RSPB in particular have some good guidance - www.rspb.org.uk. Their specific gardening for wildlife guidance can be found at [Gardening For Wildlife - The RSPB](#).

In particular, we recommend you sign up to the Peoples Plan for Nature, a UK-wide initiative powered by WWF, the National Trust and the RSPB, where everyone can take part - www.peoplesplanfornature.org

DEFIBRILLATORS

Most of you will be aware that we have finally installed one outside the Rose Beauty Lounge in Wollaton Road. This was funded by BAG and SCC Ward Pot. This does mean that we have a very comprehensive set of devices now that hopefully we do not have to use! The other local public ones are located at The Castle Inn, The Community Hall, The Golf Driving Range, The Shepley Spitfire and Dore & Totley Railway Station. It is understood that there are 'private' ones located at Bradway Bowling Club, Dore & Totley Golf Club and Abbeydale Golf Club.

We are looking at providing appropriate training to be provided locally, so if you are interested, please let us know.

BRADWAY FUN DAY - SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.

We intend to hold this again on the usual date, i.e. the first Saturday after the schools have been back a week. Please make a note in your diaries. So far we have been lucky with the weather; let's hope that continues. We are already planning for this and making arrangements with traders and so on. We are expecting confirmation from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight any day soon.

If you are having a spring-clean and turning out any unwanted gifts that will be suitable for the tombola or book stall, please keep these to one side. We will be in touch nearer the time re where to take them.

We are reliant on volunteer help to setup and operate the day. Do please let us know if you can assist in any way, else it all falls on the usual very few suspects to make it happen and it's fair to say if we do not receive more help we may have to consider stopping it.

BRADWAY BOUNDS WALK

One for the diary – this annual event will be on **Sunday 28th May**. Meet outside the Age UK shop on Twentywell Lane at **10.30am**. This should finish for 1pm.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bradway Buses

The reduction in services that we have experienced was a significant blow to the community and unfortunately is unlikely to change, at least in the short term. BAG did make representation to the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority (SYCMA) as the responsible organisation, copied to our elected representatives. They did provide a response, but the bottom line in this instance is that First took the decision to remove the Service 24 Bradway journeys, (and others), with the minimum notice period and after SYCMA had tendered other services. This has resulted in a large number of evening and Sunday services with no supplier/operator able to provide them. Also, despite recently retendering for service M17, they are still unable to find an operator to run this route. The industry continues to see the shortage of bus drivers as a major concern in limiting the number of services possible. A new tendering exercise is about to conclude for all such supported services across South Yorkshire for contracts that will run for 4 years starting in July; however we do not know what this means for Bradway as yet.

The government has announced they have extended the fare cap scheme they have been funding since the New Year and it will now run until 30 June, meaning until then all single bus journeys in our area will continue to cost no more than £2 per ride. There are still a range of unlimited travel passes available too, which in some cases remain better value for money. Timetables and ticket information can be found at travelsouthyorkshire.com.

Peak District bus services have now moved over to their spring/summer schedules and this sees TM Travel bus 218 from Sheffield to Bakewell via Totley run more regularly on a Sunday. The service pattern is similar to the rest of the week with buses coming through Totley every half hour, alternate buses go direct to Bakewell or via Chatsworth to Bakewell.

Railways –

Update on our station developments from Friends of Dore & Totley Station (FODATS)

Chris Morgan—Chairman

Work on the tracks, station and new loop is on target to be operational by the end of March 2024. Whether services can use the new platforms before then will depend most critically on completion of new signaling. The car park in front of the West View Lane flats is currently closed until at least the 10th April in order to allow earthworks and soil nailing on the embankment next to the line. This sections activity should complete by late August/September and planting of replacement trees will then follow.

Over the weekends of 7-10th and 15-17th April there'll be a second track laid by and through the station and also a start made on the new loop by West View Lane.

The station car park will be closed from Tuesday 4th until Friday 21st April. No alternative parking has been arranged. Rail users are being encouraged to walk or cycle down to the station if they can. If not, the best place to park is probably on the wide section of Abbeydale Road South towards the Industrial Hamlet. Narrower Dore Road should be avoided.

Work to extend the existing platform and build the second platform is planned to start towards the end of April followed by piling, (drilling work), for the footbridge lift shafts in mid-May. At the time of writing the final designs for the entrance and the layout of the platforms is unconfirmed. There'll be further partial and full closures of the car park for all this. All being well it could be completed by October after which the car park should be reopened completely.

The new signaling building on the triangle should be built by May. Concern has been expressed about tarring of the parking area in the work site on the railway triangle. This is temporary due to the amount of

mud and will be removed once the contract is completed in March next year. The conditions of planning for the scheme insist that it is restored as natural green space. It's owned by SCC and managed by their P&C department. Restoration of the triangle should start from April 2024 by which time the encampment should have gone.

Search for FoDaTS on Facebook where our active group has over 700 members, or see the website at www.fodats.net. For more information please email our Secretary - njbarnes@outlook.com.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - LES DAY .

The local neighbourhood policing team has a new Inspector Laurie Millington, who is very keen to have regular contact with local groups as well as Neighbourhood Watch (NHW). Laurie was a sergeant at Woodseats a few years ago, so knows the area well and welcomes feedback from all our residents on any crime matters and making the service from her officers the best they can provide.

We have now received the next batch of NHW and NCC (no cold calling) street signs that hopefully will be installed during April as long as the weather and our health allow.

SCOUTING - FRANK RICHARDSON

Scouts and Cubs have thrived in Bradway since 1970, and Beavers since 1990. The numbers of young people have fluctuated across those 53 years and at present they are on what we expect to be only a temporary downward trend.

The Group survived Covid through innovation and initiative in running meetings differently and was encouraged by youngsters enthusiastically resuming Scouting in the community when restrictions were lifted. The pandemic has had a longer term impact on some of the younger Sections (Beavers and Cubs), however, which means there are now vacancies for young people in all Sections after the Covid-related changes worked their way through all the age ranges.

As always there are plenty of opportunities for adult volunteers either assisting with Sections or supporting in non-uniform roles.

The Group remains well supported and resourced and is keen to provide adventurous activities for young people in the community and deliver programmes designed to deliver Skills for Life.

COMMUNITY HALL

Bradway Community Hall is situated on Bradway Road, (next to Dore & Totley Golf Club). The small hall was originally built in 1866 as a school for the children of navvies building Bradway Tunnel, (it runs under the Hall). The new hall was built in 1952, and the kitchen extension in 1965/66. Various refurbishments have taken place, and the halls are well maintained and equipped to a high standard.

Both halls are used to run various activities throughout the week. Details of the activities can be found on the website <https://bradwaycommunity.wixsite.com> They are also listed on the notice boards outside the Community Hall, or on the community notice board at Twentywell Lane, (next door to Hairy Hounds) The halls are available for hire, either individually or together. They are ideal for group meetings, parties and celebrations. Enquiries can be made via the website or please contact the Bookings Officer on 0114 2369876.

BRADWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Can you spare some time to support our local school?

READING IN CLASS

Some children need more support with school work, especially reading. One-to-one dedicated reading sessions help to build their confidence and the reward is fantastic. Providing this support allows the teacher and classroom assistant time to concentrate on the class, knowing the children are being supported.

GARDENING CLUB

The school has a dedicated garden area for the Gardening Club, where they plan to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. This project is overseen by two teachers who need help from green-fingered adults.

Do you have green fingers? Could you give an hour a week on Wednesday afternoon, 3.20 p.m. - 4.20 p.m.?

INTERESTED?

If you are interested in either of these, please contact the school office - 0114 2363723 or email enquiries@bradway.sheffield.sch.uk

Both of these support sessions will require any volunteer to complete a DBS, (Disclosure and Barring Service), check. It confirms you are safe to work with children. This is a simple form which can be completed at school or at home. The form is then verified by the school and submitted. Any fees are covered under the education umbrella. THANK YOU

AND FINALLY

Throughout this newsletter we have requested your ideas and support. Ideally, if you are not already a member, please do consider joining us if you want to make an active contribution to supporting our community. We really do need input and engagement from the wider community and have a couple of vacancies available on the committee if you wish to play a role in shaping the group.

Contact can be made via:

Our website - [Bradway Action Group - Home \(weebly.com\)](http://Bradway Action Group - Home (weebly.com)) – use the Contact tab.

The Bradway Action Group Facebook group.

Post to – 38 Longford Crescent, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LL.

Email to :-

Chair – John Sharpe – john.c.sharpe54@gmail.com

Membership & Events Secretary – Anne Sharpe - annesharpe09@gmail.com