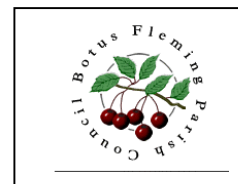


# BOTUS & HATT PARISH NEWS

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trevor.aughey@botusfleming.org.uk  
[www.botusflemingandhattndp.com](http://www.botusflemingandhattndp.com)



## What's been happening?

Well, it's been busy and interesting. Following the election in May, most of the Councillors were new to the role so there has been some fairly intensive work going on just trying to get up to speed with all the rules, regulations, duties and powers associated with being a Councillor. Our recently appointed and very experienced Clerk has guided us through our induction and his on-going guidance has been invaluable.

The Parish Council (PC) meets monthly and we have been delighted that so many residents have attended the meetings. While officially members of the public are there as spectators, we do include a section at the beginning of the

meeting when anyone can address the Council. However, if you wish to have an issue discussed by the PC then it is always better to write in advance requesting that the issue is placed on the agenda. Decisions can be made only on agenda items.

This Parish is already a great place to live but it could be better. Compared with neighbouring parishes we have few facilities and amenities and this is something we are trying to address through the Neighbourhood Plan. We aim to keep you informed through our website, notice boards and publications like this. We would welcome your feedback and ideas for the future of our very special Parish.

## Youth Council

While Parish Councillors may have the wisdom and experience that comes with age, they cannot possibly understand the pressures facing young people and their needs unless they engage with this group. If we are to make decisions that affect your lives, both now and in the future, these decisions should be informed by the voice of young people. That is why we are hoping to create a Youth Council, a sub-committee of the PC, that can meet and discuss issues and advise the PC. This is not intended to be an onerous role. It should be interesting, enjoyable and rewarding. It will give you some insights into the workings of local government and give you a say in things that matter to you. So, if you want to have a say in your future and can spare a couple of hours every month or two then get in touch using the email address above. We are looking broadly at young people in their teens but will leave it to the youth members to make the final decision. The PC will offer support in the form of manpower and financial resources. And there will be cake! Also, it will look good on your CV whatever career you choose.

# Antisocial Behaviour and crime

Who would have thought it? In our beautiful, safe parish there are daily episodes of law breaking and antisocial behaviour. And any one of us can be a victim – if we don't watch our step. Yes, you guessed it, its dog fouling. The law covering dog fouling is clear but difficult to enforce:

You **must** clean up after your dog fouls any area to which the public are entitled access (by way of payment or not). Failure to remove faeces immediately will result in a fixed penalty of £100.00 being issued to you. If you fail to pay within 14 days you may then be liable to prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.00.

Judging by our well used dog bins most dog-owners are responsible and pick up and bin their dog mess. But a few owners feel that it is okay to leave it, or worse, bag it and leave it where it is, thus demonstrating disregard for others and contempt for the law. The actions of the few reflect badly on the majority of well behaved dog owners. And this is a shame because dog ownership brings many benefits, both to the owners and the wider community. They occupy a prominent place in our neighbourhoods as they are often out and about exercising their dogs. This makes them well placed to spot and possibly deter other crimes or antisocial behaviour. They are also more likely to encounter other pedestrians and forge social links. Dogs also improve the physical and mental wellbeing of their owners.

So, our message to all dog owners is this. Follow Cornwall Council's encouragement to dog owners to:

- clean up after their dog
- be responsible and
- think about the impact their lack of action and lack of consideration has on the wider community.<sup>1</sup>

## Thank you

It's not all bad news. The past year has seen a resurgence in civic pride in the Parish. There has been a coming together of like-minded people to devote time and energy towards keeping the parish safe, clean and tidy. The seeds of this were sown when Bex Escott announced that she was fed up with the excessive litter in Hatt and Bicton and arranged an informal group of volunteers to clear these areas. Within months this had led to the creation of the Community Action Team (CAT). They have continued to collect litter and have also cleared overgrown footpaths and pavements. Look out for news about further initiatives on the Hatt Chat & Botus Banter FaceBook page and consider joining in. Thank you CAT.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/animal-welfare/dog-welfare-and-enforcement-service/be-a-responsible-dog-owner-campaign/>

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