

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter February 2026

Chairman's Notes

Moira Brennan

This time last year I wrote that we had decided to increase the parish portion of Council Tax (the Precept) by an amount that would allow us to add £20,000 per year to the playground renewal fund. At the time our playground funds stood at just under £60,000 and we needed at least £100,000 to upgrade the play area. I am delighted to say that with this one year of extra funding, the receipt of £20,000 from a lottery grant application and various other donations we have now gone out to tender for new play equipment. Given this, in our January meeting, the Council approved a reduction in the Precept which will be reflected in the bills you will receive from BANES for 2026/27.

I am delighted to welcome Dan Cossins White as a new Councillor. Dan has a particular interest in protecting local wildlife and we look forward to him contributing to all things environmental. It is great to have 8 Councillors to call on and it means that when we discuss subjects affecting the village we are getting a diversity of views which hopefully improves our decision making. There is still one vacant position so if you are interested you would be welcome to come along to a Council meeting. We meet at 7.30pm every third Thursday in the Village Hall.

Over the next few months the council will need to set up new email addresses including our Clerk Liz's address. This is part of a process to help us to meet more rigorous governance rules surrounding Freedom of Information and Data Processing requirements. We will publicise the new contact details in the next newsletter, but as the change may occur sooner than that please check our website if you need to email Liz in the coming months.

Village Hall

bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com

The hall is available for private events. If you want to book an event, contact Katie at bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com. Prices for parties are from £36 for a 3 hour booking (including time for you to set up and clear away).

The Playground project

Liz Daly

Following our last update, we are pleased to announce that the Playground tender has now been published on Find A Tender. This is the formal procurement route required under current legislation and ensures a fair, open and transparent process.

Playground suppliers have been invited to submit their design proposals and quotes by 20th February. After this date the Parish Council will review all submissions and shortlist a small number of designs to take forward. These shortlisted options will then be shared with the community, giving residents the opportunity to view the proposals and provide feedback before any final decisions are made. We encourage playground users to take part in the consultation to help ensure the final design reflects the needs and wishes of the community.

The Parish Council will promote this consultation through its online channels and will also look to arrange drop-in sessions at the Village Hall so residents can see the designs in person and share their thoughts.

Further details will be shared once the designs have been shortlisted.

In the meantime, donations are still welcome. If you would like to contribute please contact the Clerk Liz Daly at bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com or by phone on 07980 627391.

Planning

Lin King

The window for input into the Local Plan Reset closed in November and BANES are now in the process of producing the Draft Local Plan. The consultation period with opportunity to comment on the draft plan should start in the summer.

Padel Tennis

The Parish Council recently had a presentation from Smash Padel of a proposal to build five Padel tennis courts at Bathampton Junction, along with a small pavilion and parking spaces. They have been in discussions with BANES and a formal planning application is expected later in January.

Beavers

Anyone who has walked along the river paths recently will have been amazed to see the evidence of beaver activity. This is very obvious and fascinating. We have been assured that the National Trust, BANES council ecology team and the Friends of Bathampton Meadows don't have any concerns that their activities are doing any damage. They are merely coppicing trees which will re-shoot.

If you have any concerns or queries Avon Wildlife Trust's Beaver Advice and Support Team can be contacted via this page <https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/beavers> (which also has a link to guidance on beaver management).

Drainage and Footpaths

David Beard

During summer of 2025 Bathampton Parish Council and ward councillor Kevin Guy facilitated a multi agency approach to address long-standing flooding issues on the A36 by the triangular field, caused by water run-off from footpaths leading to Bathampton Down. Various BANES teams worked on the problem and the new drainage system has been thoroughly tested by recent winter rains, proving effective in reducing flooding along the Warminster Road.

There have been complaints about dog fouling on Bathampton pavements. The problem appears widespread and affects the whole village. Irresponsible dog owners are reminded that the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 allows for fines of £1,000 and that many local residents are now recording incidents. Bathampton Parish Council would like to remind dog owners of their personal responsibility to clean up after their pets.

During 2025 the network of local litter-pickers was supplemented by students completing the volunteering part of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. We would like to thank them all for doing a great job and would be very happy to accommodate new Duke of Edinburgh volunteers in 2026.

Playing Field and Allotments

Jan Helps

We have recently planted three young hawthorn saplings on the edge of the playing field. The trees were provided by More Trees BANES. We hope this will help to fill the gaps left by trees that have died in recent years. They are well supported by posts and guards and hopefully they will grow into sturdy native trees providing flowers for bees and berries for birds.

Allotments

For the first time in many years we have had a number of allotments become available. We quickly found new tenants and have reduced our waiting list significantly. If you would like to add your name to the waiting list please contact the parish clerk.

Protecting our local bird population

Dan Cossins White

With spring approaching we look forward to nature returning in all its glory. In Bathampton we are fortunate to have a small population of swifts nesting under roof tiles particularly around Holcombe Lane, Holcombe Vale and Holcombe Close. They return in late April and nest until early July. Swifts are a declining species, largely due to roof replacements that remove nesting sites. Please help protect our local swifts by scheduling roof works outside this period and if you do work on your roof, please consider installing a swift box under the eaves.

House sparrows and starlings (also declining) nest in roofs in Bathampton while many other species use garden hedges and trees. It is illegal to disturb nesting birds so please be considerate when cutting hedges or trees during spring and summer.

For questions about swifts, nesting birds, or installing swift boxes, feel free to contact me.

The National Trust team at Bathampton Meadows have the goal of planting 10,000 trees. Over 6,000 trees have now been planted in the new wood pasture and in hedgerows across the site helped by the community, volunteers and visiting groups. More events are planned for the coming months just to the west of Mill Lane on a part of land previously not open to the public. The creation of a wood pasture on this site will provide a new area for visitors to wander through as well as further improve the biodiversity of the area. The public are invited to help plant the trees and contribute to the site’s legacy. The event is planned for Sunday 22nd February 2026. The drop-in event will take place 10am-4pm. Spaces must be booked in advance to be secured and visitors are encouraged to come by foot, bus or bike as there is limited parking (not owned by National Trust). All ages are welcome. The tree planting is being funded by Forest of Avon, one of England’s Community Forests, using the Trees for Climate Grant. Forest of Avon is planting trees, improving habitats and connecting people with nature.

Parish Council Website

Richard Schofield

We have made changes to the parish council website, which mean it is now readable by, and optimised for, search engines. This means you can now find the site more simply and locate specific content via Google or other search engines. At the same time we have completed an audit and made changes to ensure the site is compliant with the latest accessibility standards, meaning it can be easily accessed by all users, including those for example with impaired vision. There are still a few tasks to be done to complete this exercise but, alongside the search engine optimisation work, it gives us the foundation to further develop and improve the website.

Dry Arch Growers

Celebrating 15 years in Bathampton

Founded in 2010, Dry Arch Growers is a volunteer-led not-for-profit organisation operating on the site of a former market garden, orchard and nursery where members “sow together, grow together and share together”. We are a community allotment who, collectively, grow a huge range of vegetables and fruit throughout the year thanks to a wide range of growing techniques, poly tunnels and green houses. Thanks to grants from local organisations and our councillors we are able to provide an array of produce all year round and have developed our watering systems and growing techniques to reflect our organic approach to growing. The social element of membership is not to be underestimated. With qualified nutritionists, experienced gardeners and enthusiastic cooks amongst our members there is no shortage of help and advice for less confident newcomers taking their first steps into community growing. A comfortable wooden cabin provides the opportunity for coffee breaks and lunchtime chats which are not always about vegetables! If you are interested in what membership offers then take a look at www.dryarchgrowers.co.uk, email info@dryarchgrowers.co.uk or call Phil on 07718 072532 to find out more and arrange a visit.

<p>Parish Councillors</p> <p>George Ardrey 07986 958396</p> <p>David Beard 336722</p> <p>Moira Brennan 07850 037737</p> <p>Jan Helps 336656</p> <p>Lin King 460998</p> <p>Tony Purpuri 335978</p> <p>Richard Schofield 423033</p> <p>Dan Cossins White 07508 722345</p>	<p>Parish Clerk (Liz Daly): 07980 627391 bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor and What’s On Jan Helps can be contacted on</p> <p>Telephone: 01225 336656</p> <p>Email: newsletter.bathamptonPC@gmail.com</p> <p>Your BANES Councillors</p> <p>Kevin Guy 07365 916114 or Kevin_Guy@bathnes.gov.uk</p> <p>Sarah Warren Sarah_Warren@bathnes.gov.uk</p>
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Website bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk. You can also find us on Facebook (Bathampton Parish Council) and Twitter (Bathamptonpc).

What's On in Bathampton

Organisation	Times	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups Village hall	Monday 1.30pm Monday 6.30pm Thursday 9.30am	Brent King	07967 167300
Bathampton Village Show	bathamptonvillageshow.co.uk bathampton.show@gmail.com	David Mayo	07779 545956
Bell ringers	Mondays 7.30pm Sundays 10.15am	Stuart Burroughs	07092 944007
Bridge Club Village hall	Monday 1.30 – 4.30 pm	Ken Jefferies	07968 050467
Brownies	Wednesday 6.00 -7.30 pm	57thbrownies@girlguidingbath.org.uk	
Cricket Club	Tuesday & Sunday	Stephen Dalley Smith	01225 460395
Dance, Ballet and Modern Curtis School of Dance	Friday pm – call for times Village hall	Deborah Curtis	01761 437004
Dry Arch Growers. Bathampton community co-operative	Thursday mid morning and pm (while light) Sundays 11 – 3pm	Alex Robertson	07793 056448
Chair Keep Fit Standing Keep Fit Village Hall	Wednesday 3pm Wednesday 4pm	jackiebrangwyn@yahoo.co.uk	01225 840850
Mr Wilkins' Shilling Northwest Clog Morris Dancing Village Hall	Thursday 8 - 10 pm	www.mrwilkinsshilling.org.uk mws_morris@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/mrwilkinsshilling	
Outdoor Fitness Classes Bathampton recreation ground	Thursday 9.15am Friday 9.15am	Nikki Andrews	07717 175149
Pilates (mixed gender) Village Hall	Tues 7.15 - 8.15pm	Renu Khosla Renu.physio@hotmail.com	07815 868252
Playgroup Village Hall	Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday	Lisa Nash bathamptonplaygroup@ yahoo.co.uk	07716 600269
Scouts Beavers Cubs	Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm Monday 6 – 7 pm Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm At Scout HQ	www.bathamptonscouts.org join@bathamptonscouts.org	0345 300 1818
Scottish Country Dancing Village hall	Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm	Jane Hammond	01225 833411
Senior Table Tennis Scout HQ	Tues mornings 10.00-12.00	David Plumbridge George Malcolm	01225 429979 07789 961848
St Nicholas Church	Sundays 10.45am. Other times see stnicholasbathampton.org. uk	Jonty Frith – minister rector@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk Natalie - office office@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk	07905 883075 01225 442311
Table Tennis Scout HQ	Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm	Ray Bennett	01225 866880
Bathampton WI Village Hall	First Saturday of the month 10-12am. £5 for non members	Enquiries to vgsurgey@gmail.com	07788 117875
Yoga Village hall	Friday 12.30 – 2.00	Suzy Lovegrove suzy@lovegrove.com	07980008672

BATH AND RURAL
— ESTATE AGENTS —
01225 320032

Bath and Rural Estate Agents are proud to support Bathampton Parish Council & Bathampton Village Show by funding the printing of this newsletter.