

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter August 2026

Chairman's Notes

Moira.Brennan@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

It was nice to see so many of you at the Annual Parish Assembly back in May. Our guest speakers were really well received. It was inspiring to hear about the work the National Trust have carried out on Bathampton Meadows. We also learned a lot about beavers and their activity in the village down on the river. As usual we had a chance to chat informally after the meeting.

BANES have updated us on a trial of food bins which would be less susceptible to being opened by the local wildlife. This came about as a result of a discussion at the 2025 Annual Parish Assembly. 14 Bathampton residents took part. None reported animal access during the trial but there was helpful feedback about the design of the bins. BANES concluded that the extra cost of the bins trialled was still a barrier but tell us that they continue to talk to suppliers about an option that could be offered to residents who report persistent animal scavenging issues. So thanks to all who took part and it is probably worth reporting any scavenging incidents to BANES to keep the issue live.

I was very pleased to see that the work done to clean up the pavement by the triangular field has inspired others. Particular thanks to the person who was clearing vegetation on the A36 pavement where it backs on to Holcombe Close. It all helps to keep people safe by providing a wider walking space and the ability to stay further away from fast passing traffic.

I am looking for a volunteer to deliver these newsletters to the homes in Holcombe Close. We have a fantastic team of newsletter deliverers, many of whom have been delivering for decades. The newsletters are delivered 4 times a year – and it is an opportunity to get some exercise and provide a valued service to your neighbours. If you would be willing to take the round on please email or phone me. There are a number of other volunteering opportunities highlighted in the newsletter.

You will also see a number of safety issues in this newsletter which have been raised by residents. Many of them are caused by things we do inadvertently without thinking about their impact on our neighbours. I hope by highlighting them we can each try to keep everyone safe.

Village Hall

bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com

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

The Playground project

Liz Daly

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent community consultation. We were delighted with the level of engagement and greatly appreciate everyone who took the time to view the shortlisted designs and share their comments with us. The Parish Council has now carefully reviewed the consultation responses alongside the initial tender evaluations. This is another exciting step forward for the project and we would like to thank everyone who has supported the process so far. Community feedback has played an important role in helping to shape the next stage of the playground's design.

Following careful consideration, three suppliers have been invited to progress to the final stage of the process. The proposals were all very strong and closely matched, making the decision on which designs to take forward a difficult one. The three potential suppliers have therefore been asked to refine their designs further, taking into account the feedback received through the community consultation. We expect to receive the revised proposals by the end of August. Once these have been submitted, the Parish Council will undertake a final review before selecting and appointing its preferred supplier. We will share a further update once the appointment has been made.

Donations are still welcome to support the overall playground project and will help enhance the final scheme once a supplier has been appointed. If you would like to contribute, please contact the Clerk, Liz Daly, at clerk@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk or by phone on 07980 627391.

Keeping Bathampton safe and tidy for all

Parking

We continue to receive comments from residents concerning inconsiderate parking throughout the village, particularly on street corners, pavements, across drives and on double yellows. Most recently there have been occasions in the Holcombe Close area where refuse collection vehicles have been unable to access properties and bins have not been emptied. This could be very serious if it were to happen to emergency service vehicles. The Highway Code advises that vehicles should not be parked within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction unless in an authorised parking space. We ask all residents and visitors to help keep Bathampton safe and accessible by choosing parking spaces carefully and avoiding parking on bends and close to junctions.

Hedges and junctions / footpaths

We have a number of very difficult junctions within the village where visibility for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers is challenging. If your property has hedging or trees next to a junction please check and ensure that any growth is cut back to make these junctions easier to manage by improving sight lines. In spite of the very dry weather the growth of shrubs and hedges continues. Please make sure that hedges are not impeding the ability of people to walk along the pavement safely and comfortably, in particular those with mobility issues or children in buggies.

Dog walking

There are notices at the entrances to the playing field and playground stating that dogs are not allowed. The reason for this is one of hygiene, the risk of Toxocariasis infection and to keep children safe. The worms can grow in the soil even if the poo is picked up and NHS advice is not to allow children to play in areas where there may be dog poo. It is perfectly possible to walk on the track around the playing field in order to access different parts of the village. We are fortunate in Bathampton to have many footpaths and fields where dogs can be taken. Please do not use the children's playing field.

Refuse and rubbish

A huge thank you to those volunteers who help to litter pick around the village. This is particularly noticeable after the weekly refuse collection. We would kindly ask residents, where capable, to pick up any litter in the immediate vicinity of their property when taking their bins in after collection. Also think about helping less able neighbours. BANES ask that bins and recycling boxes are removed from the street as soon as possible after refuse collection. We are very fortunate that in this area many people have gardens or drives with space to accommodate bins. Please do not leave them on the pavement where they can be blown over and are an inconvenience for people walking along the pavement.

Footpaths Flooding and Drainage

David.Beard@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

The June heatwave ended with a thunderstorm in which 19.3mm of rain fell on Bathampton in 15 minutes making it one of the most severe local weather events of the past 125 years. Bathampton High Street flooded, with water overlapping pavements and threatening low-lying properties. Flood damage was only averted by local residents working in difficult conditions to remove debris from blocked street drains. The parish council subsequently asked BANES Highways Drainage to organise emergency cleansing of drainage gullies in the High Street and Bathampton Lane. We also contacted the National Trust about hay spillage from trailers transporting hay from their meadows which contributed to blocked street drains in the village. Climate change creates risk of further flooding and Bathampton Parish Council asks residents to report any street drainage issues on Fix-My-Street <https://fixmystreet.org/>

Footpaths and Litter – Volunteers Needed

The Parish Council relies on volunteers to help maintain 11 miles of local footpaths and to ensure a litter free environment. Please contact us if you would like to help keep our footpaths weed-free and

accessible. We also need litter pickers to look after Meadow Lane, Tynning Road, Chestertons and Hantone Hill. The commitment is entirely flexible and volunteers can determine where and when they help out.

Planning

Lin.King@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

Padel Tennis

We have still not seen a decision for this application but BANES tell us that they are investigating the access from/onto what is already a very busy junction. Full details and all comments/responses can be found on the BANES website under Planning, application number 26/00259/FUL.

National Trust

Joanna Rolfe / Lin King

The 10,000 trees planted on Bathampton Meadows in the new wood pasture and 1.5km of hedgerow are in a phase of tree aftercare. This includes weeding, securing the stakes and tree guards, checking for diseases and watering if needed, replicated here 10,000 times and through two heatwaves. There is a 15% natural mortality rate of newly planted trees under normal seasonal conditions. We are doing our best to give these trees their best chance under very difficult circumstances.

Local Ecology

Dan.CossinsWhite@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk

Wild Waters Festival 2026

In June Bathampton hosted 2 events as part of the 2026 Wild Waters Festival. The festival aims to link parishes along the River Avon to raise awareness for biodiversity loss and climate change. Both our events were well attended. On June 5th 25 people enjoyed a beaver, otter and bird watching walk. We were delighted to see 3 beavers during the walk, as well as many exciting birds, topped off by a sparrowhawk nearly catching a sand martin over the weir. On June 25th 40 people attended a film night where 2 films made by local budding wildlife film maker, Liam O'Mara, were screened. The first film featured our local swift population and talked about the challenge they face and how we can protect them. The second film (which featured a small section which has been since used by BBC Springwatch) was about the wildlife we have on the river in Bathampton and how easy it is to see if you just go and have a look. With both events being so successful we hope to be part of the festival which will be back for a 3rd year in June 2027.

Swift Population In Bathampton

Signs are good that the swifts in Bathampton have done well this year. A group of around 40 individuals has been seen in recent weeks which could suggest that our breeding pairs have been successful in producing fledglings. This bodes well for their future. It's important that we use citizen science as objectively as we can to gather data and so we can support them (through things like putting up nest boxes in suitable locations). One important element is keeping records of nesting sites. There are 5 confirmed nests around the Spar on Holcombe Lane but I suspect there are other less obvious sites in the village. I'm particularly interested in knowing about nests on houses on Holcombe Close and on houses closer to the canal. If you know you of a swift nesting site (or sites used by starlings, house martins or house sparrows) please let me know on 07508 722345.

Tree watering

Curo and the Parish Council planted a number of new trees this winter and spring. They are now suffering in this heat. Our handyman is doing his best to keep the trees on the recreation ground watered as he can access water nearby. If you live on Holcombe Vale would you consider giving the new saplings an occasional water? If several people do it they will have a chance. Curo will have contracted for a fixed number of waterings but they are probably just not enough in this weather.

Invasive weeds

We have discovered Himalayan Balsam on the allotments and it is also prevalent along the canal. It is incredibly invasive and can out compete native plants. It spreads by seed from July onwards. Please checkout what it looks like and make sure you are not admiring its admittedly attractive flowers while it spreads. There is also a lot of ragwort in the village (again google it). Whilst there is an argument that it supports caterpillars it is also extremely invasive. It can disperse widely and if it reaches agricultural land it is a risk to livestock and the environment.

Bathampton School

Is your child going to school for the first time in September 2027 or do you want to find out more about our fantastic local school. Bathampton Primary School is holding an open day on the 26th September 10 to 11am.

There will also be parent/carers tours on 17 September – 1.30pm, 23 September – 9am, 06 October – 2.30pm, 19 October – 1.30pm and 30 October – 2pm. Please call the school to book your place.

North East Somerset library service - volunteers needed

Several residents in Bathampton use or want to use the Home Library Service. As a result of the existing volunteer moving out of the village the service is looking for some new volunteers to help support local readers. Volunteers meet and chat with the service users, collect and return books and find out what sort of books they like to read. If you would like to find out more or get involved, please contact Hilary Cox on 01225 477054 or Email hilary_cox@bathnes.gov.uk

Bathampton Junior Table Tennis Club

Ray Bennett/Tim Francis

The Bathampton Junior Table Tennis Club for 10 to 18 year olds has been meeting at the Bathampton Scout HQ for over 25 years from 5.30 to 7.30pm on Saturdays during the Autumn and Spring school terms. The club attracts several village teenagers who enjoy a social Saturday evening. Others come from further afield for coaching. Ray and Tim have run the Club together but now are unable to continue. Consequently there is an urgent need to find volunteers to run the Club and to share responsibility on Saturday nights, perhaps on a rota basis. A minimum of 2 are required each Saturday night. Tim will be one of the team initially. We would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in helping to run the Club starting in September. Please let one of us know as soon as you can. Thank you. **Tim bathamptontim@gmail.com and Ray ray@classicsights.co.uk**

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Parish Council website www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook (Bathampton Community) and Twitter (Bathamptonpc).

The latest copy of What's On in Bathampton is available on the Parish Council website.