

Bathford Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 2026

7.30pm, Tuesday 5th May

Bathford Primary School Hall

Bathford Parish Council

**Annual Parish Meeting
to be held in the Bathford Church School Hall
on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Welcome by Cllr Hillary Carr, Chair of Bathford Parish Council**
3. **Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2025**
4. **Chair's Report 2026**
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Speakers
5. **BANES Ward Councillors**
6. **Bathford Repair Cafe - Martin Hobbs.**
7. **E Scooters – Jessica Fox Taylor - BANES**
8. **Wessex Water – Matt Wheeldon**

9. **Break and informal question and answer session**

10. **Open Question and Answer session**

11. **Formal closure of meeting** by Cllr Hillary Carr, Chair of Bathford Parish Council

*** All Committee Reports will be available to read in the School Hall from 7pm before the start of the meeting**

**Signed:
Councillor Hillary Carr
Chair of Bathford Parish Council**

Minutes of the Bathford Annual Parish Meeting
held on 6th May 2025 at 7.30pm in Bathford Church School Hall

Present:

Councillor Hillary Carr (Chair)
Councillor Susan Barclay
Councillor Anna Budd
Councillor Wendy Chambers
Councillor Clare Malone
Councillor Andrew Sangster
Councillor Steve Wyatt

Jon Cooper (Clerk)

Speakers:

BANES Ward Councillors
Councillor Steve Wyatt – Community Survey
Sue Moore – Bathford Village Shop
Martin Hobbs – Share and Repair
Bathford Events Team

30 members of the public signed the attendance sheet.

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Councillor John Budd

2. Welcome & Introductions

- 2.1. Cllr Hillary Carr opened the meeting and welcomed residents to the meeting, followed by outlining the agenda.

3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

- 3.1. After being proposed and seconded, the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting minutes were approved.

4. Chair's Report

- 4.1. The Chair's report was available to all attendees and any questions arising were invited in the Questions and Answers session.
- 4.2. All Councillors were introduced with specific mentions for Cllr John Lloyd, who recently passed.
- 4.3. Parish Council finances were soundly managed with Precept increase limited to 3.1%.
- 4.4. An outline of each Parish Council's Committee responsibilities was given.
- 4.5. Thanks were given to the Bathford Bulletin volunteer editorial team.
- 4.6. Thanks were given to the many volunteer groups that were present in the community.
- 4.7. The evening's speakers were introduced.

5. BANES Ward Councillors – Sarah Warren and Kevin Guy

- 5.1. Cllr Sarah Warren outlined the work she had been undertaking with the Highways Cttee. This was in relation to speed reduction, including implementation of 20mph limits on Bathford Hill/ High Street and looking into options on Bradford Road.
- 5.2. The Batheaston Bypass was due to have the rubbish cleared.
- 5.3. Other local improvements included safety measures to Bathampton canal bridge and the riverside path in Batheaston.
- 5.4. Any possible work for a crossing on the A363 to the railway path would be dependent on what the highest priority schemes were.
- 5.5. Traffic monitoring is to take place on A363.
- 5.6. Cllr Kevin Guy confirmed details of the Local Plan which involved 29,000 dwellings needing to be built in BANES by 2040. Bathford would be expected to build 40. There is a possibility that BANES could develop the site at Bathford Nurseries with potentially 60 dwellings being possible there. While the business wanted to stay, the landowners are keen to sell. An alternative local site could be found for the Bathford Nurseries business.
- 5.7. The allocation of certain sites in the Local Plan also had the advantage of being able to stop developers using any other sites for large developments.
- 5.8. For a development to be able to include something like a community centre or school, it would require hundreds of houses to be built. Money from the potential development at Bathford Nurseries would, however, be available for road and transport improvements.
- 5.9. Most of the BANES target housing is likely to be built between Bath and Keynsham on main bus routes and with possibly an extra railway station at Saltford.
- 5.10. There were no plans for a large park and ride to the east of Bath. Smaller sites in Corsham or Chippenham were being investigated with input from Wiltshire County Council and the bus companies.

6. Cllr Steve Wyatt – Community Survey

- 6.1. A Community Survey questionnaire was published online and in the Bathford Bulletin, receiving 92 responses. This is to create a long-term plan, hearing from lots of people, not being dominated by the loudest voice.
- 6.2. All the ideas have been collated and would be grouped to try and create narratives, such as improving youth facilities or sustainable living.
- 6.3. Certain ideas such as protecting the village shop and better sports facilities were common themes.
- 6.4. It is hoped that residents will take on certain narratives and lead groups to try and implement them. No budget had been agreed, until there was more of an idea on what might be practical.
- 6.5. Once particular projects were adopted, there would likely be funding sources available for those specialised areas.
- 6.6. This is a new project, rather than a continuation or extension of the previous Village Design Statement.

7. Sue Moore – Chair of BEFA, Bathford Village Shop

- 7.1. Next year would be the 20th anniversary of the Village Shop. It has thrived and would not want to be lost. Most co-operatives do not last this long.
- 7.2. There are currently a number of challenges including increasing energy costs, which have risen by £4k a year.
- 7.3. Newspaper sales are down, which normally contributes 25% of the shop's income. While this was forecast, alternative revenue sources are needed to replace it.
- 7.4. There is a '20-year drop' phenomenon where co-operative businesses lose customers. The original people who set it up and were fully invested have moved on or died. People who replace them do not have the same emotional attachment.
- 7.5. While there is a group of people that still shop there, it is getting them to take the next step and volunteer and join the Committee or be able to help at a moment's notice - which those who originally invested would have done.
- 7.6. One in four families in Bathford regularly use the shop. It is important to try and reach those that don't.
- 7.7. There are also challenges about not owning the shop, so not having long term security. Any ideas for possible future locations were invited.

8. Martin Hobbs - Share and Repair

- 8.1. Martin has volunteered at the Corsham Share and Repair for 18 months. They aim to fix broken household items, which has a 75% success rate, stopping them ending up in landfill,
- 8.2. It is operated on a 'pay what you can' system, with only replacement parts having to be paid for.
- 8.3. A meeting was held to gauge interest and recruit volunteers, which was a success with 20 people signing up. A trial Share and Repair Café will be held on 14th June from 9.30 – 12 in the Parish Hall. To be a success, it should be able to at least cover costs.
- 8.4. All volunteers are insured; electrical items are PAT tested and would ideally be checked by 2 volunteers to ensure safety.

9. Heather Carter and Vicky Drew - Bathford Events Team

- 9.1. The Events Team first came together in 2022, with the Jubilee being the first event they were involved in. They have since gone on to do the Teddy's Bear Tea Party, calendars, 4 quizzes and 2 ceilidhs which all sold out.
- 9.2. Future events included a quiz in the autumn and a nearly new sale at the end of May.
- 9.3. An inaugural FollyFest will be held on July 5th on the Folly Field (Wynne Willson Recreation Ground) to include a dog show, tug of war, stalls, silent disco and much more.
- 9.4. Generous donations have been received from local businesses and residents. With grants received from BANES, Curo, The Parish Council and an ongoing application from the National Lottery.
- 9.5. Volunteers are needed for help on the day, and more people would be welcomed as group members.

10. Open question and answers, the following answers were provided.

10.1. *Questions had been asked at the end of each session, due to time overrunning, no extra session was held.*

11. Formal closure of meeting

- 11.1. The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance, including the speakers, public and his colleagues in the Parish Council.
- 11.2. Twinning Association display was highlighted, celebrating 20 years of ties with Artannes-sur-Indre.
- 11.3. £50K grant for road safety would be available for work on the A363, along with the 20mph speed limit on Bathford Hill.
- 11.4. Village Gates to be installed, thanks to a £5k grant from Avon and Somerset Police.
- 11.5. Long service councillors of Hugh Baker who recently resigned and John Lloyd who sadly died were recognised, along with a request for more people to come forward to join as councillors.
- 11.6. The Bathford Bulletin was recognised as having improved significantly over the last five years.
- 11.7. It was hoped a new date with First Bus could be arranged as they had cancelled attending today's meeting.
- 11.8. Cllr Sarah Warren was in contact with WECA, trying to get the bus displays to show the correct information. More were not planned to be installed until the accuracy improved.
- 11.9. It was confirmed that BANES Highways had stated it would not restrict parking just below the Village Shop. The cars that park there, narrowing the road, acted to slow traffic down.
- 11.10. The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed..... (Chair)

Date.....

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

5 MAY 2026

CHAIR'S REPORT

On behalf of the Parish Council, may I wish you a very warm welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting 2026. Thank you so much for taking the time out to attend and I hope you have an enjoyable evening. We welcome your active participation, so feel free to engage with the speakers, ask questions and raise any issues you have.

Committee Chairs have submitted their reports in advance so that you have had time to read and digest the information prior to the meeting, either online or copies are available at the meeting.

Thank you to all fellow Parish Councillors, committee members and the Clerk - Jon Cooper, who have worked tirelessly throughout the last 12 months.

The omnipresent difficulty is with the ever-increasing cost of living which affects us all - most evident with the economic turmoil created by the war in the Middle East and in Ukraine. We are all feeling the effects with our suppliers and services; and particularly with our energy utilities. As a Council, we are charged and strive to maintain a balance of stable financial management of parish matters whilst always aiming to improve services and quality of life for parishioners. To that end I am grateful to all Councillors and especially the Finance Committee and the Clerk for their success in 'keeping the house in order' and for a budget precept increase this year of only 5.4%.

We have been determined as a Council to address the omnipresent concern for road safety throughout the parish, as identified in our 2022 parish survey. The Highways Committee over the subsequent years has been leading the initiatives with the support from BANES to address these safety matters on the key routes through the parish and village. Speed limit reductions have now been enforced on the length of the A363 in our parish and on Bathford Hill and the High Street and in our parish (currently awaiting implementation)..

After a divisive year in 2025 on the allotments, the Amenities Committee has worked with the Allotment plot holders to restore equilibrium by the establishment of a new Allotments Management Group which will work closely with the Parish Council. The liaison to date suggests early portents suggest a very promising relationship. The open spaces throughout the village have been well maintained and a programme of planting and infrastructure refurbishment has been established.

Good communication between the Council and parishioners is paramount. The Bathford Bulletin is the Council's main conduit for liaison with residents, which has grown from strength to strength over the last six years and the Editorial Team and contributors are to be congratulated, both on its ever-improving content and as a source of information for all residents.

A clear example of the Council recognising the importance of close communication with residents was exemplified with the public planning consultation period on the Local Plan. Our residents meeting allowed local voices to raise and debate issues that arose from the proposed developments in the area and help to formulate our Council response to BANES' Local Plan. The next draft will be open for consultation this summer and we will repeat the exercise in consultation with our community.

The answers to the Community Vision Survey conducted last year will help our development of the Neighbourhood Plan for future housing developments within our parish in our aim to preserve the village as a vibrant and sustainable community that is an attractive place to live, work and visit.

Thank you to all the numerous organisations, societies and clubs who provide entertainment and activities throughout the year. And significantly, to all of you who volunteer in whatever capacity – the community owes you a huge debt of gratitude.

The Parish Council is always open to hear and address any issues that residents wish to raise. The best way to do this is to address the Clerk to the Council, directly by phone or email. The Council's Social Media policy is such that Council matters are never raised or debated online by Councillors and the Clerk is the sole online representative for the Council. All matters will be addressed appropriately and sooner by a direct approach to the Council through the Clerk

Thank you for your support for our efforts to enhance our Parish. I hope you enjoy the evening. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion and to hold the Parish Council accountable for the past year. We encourage you to interact and engage with our wide variety of speakers. Enjoy your evening. If you are unable to attend, please contact the Clerk who can make representations on your behalf.

Hillary Carr

Chair, Bathford Parish Council

28 April 2026

Parish Councillors:

Susan Barclay

Anna Budd

John Budd

Hillary Carr (Chair)

Simon Hodgson

Katherine Lush

Clare Malone

Marina Raybould

Andrew Sangster

Ken Tatem

Steve Wyatt

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:

Jon Cooper

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
TUESDAY 5th MAY 2026

A big thank you to the members of the Amenities Committee for their efforts over the last year. Following on from last year's report when we noted the sad loss of John Lloyd, I am pleased to report that a memorial bench has now been placed on the village green to commemorate John's life and all the hard work that he put in to help the Bathford community. A commemorative tree will be similarly placed on Manor Green in due course.

Allotments

After a change in structure of the running of the allotments an Allotment Management Group is now in place, and they will take over most of the functions of the previous wardens. The growing season has recently taken off and with the positive change in the weather it is good to see much activity on the allotments in recent weeks. There are a few vacant plots (whole and half) at present, and anyone interested in taking one on should contact the Clerk.

Play Area

The play area is fully functional, and it is good to see it being used and enjoyed by all the youngsters. A number of relatively small repairs on various bits of equipment in the play area have recently been undertaken.

Playing Field

The playing field continues to be the focus of various sporting activities including rugby and cricket. I would like to re-iterate the ruling that no dogs (except assistance dogs) are allowed on the playing field at any time.

After a number of issues last year, we have recruited a new contractor (Greenways) to cut the grass on the field this year. If there are any concerns as to the adequacy of cutting/strimming in any particular areas, please contact the Clerk immediately.

General Village and Village Green

We have also awarded the village grass cutting contract to Greenways for this year and similarly, please report areas of concern. Please note that dog fouling is still a major problem around the village and it is unfair to expect contractors to cut grass in areas continually fouled. Please pick up your dog's mess and either put it into a nearby bin or take it home with you.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with general maintenance around the village. If anyone has a bit of spare time that they would like to fill helping us out that would be much appreciated. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

It has been lovely to see the Village Green take centre stage for some of the events arranged over the past year by Bathford Events and hopefully this will continue.

The PC have continued in their quest to replace any unserviceable benches around the village and will continue to do so.

The Parish Council has decided to purchase another defibrillator to be located at the top of the High Street and a number of bleed kits. The defibrillator at the rugby club will be relocated outside to make it more readily available.

Village Stocks

After consultation with residents, it was agreed that the stocks which have recently been renovated by the 'Brunel Shed' in Corsham, should be put on display in the village as they are part of the heritage of the parish. The Brunel Shed has offered to construct a lych gate as part of the presentation. All this requires a planning application and laying of some foundations, so we will not see the stocks on display in the immediate future.



Amenities Committee

Cllr Simon Hodgson (Chair)

Cllr Sue Barclay

Cllr John Budd

Cllr Hillary Carr

Cllr Marina Raybould

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

6 May 2025

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their contribution throughout the year. Please remember that all councillors give of their time voluntarily, without remuneration.

Bathford Bulletin

The Bathford Bulletin continues to thrive as a well-admired publication not only for information on the many local activities, services and societies but also insights into local history and personalities that make up our vibrant community.

The fact that the magazine has grown from strength to strength over the past five years since its relaunch in its present format is in no small measure due to the excellence and dedication of the Editorial Team, with fellow editor Maureen Breeze, designer and art director Kathryn Shayler, and the team of Adrian Raybould, Catherine Tait and Claire Woodhouse; and for our other regular contributors for articles on the Shop, Church, clubs, gardening, recipes, books, and other features.

The magazine has been making a conscious effort to focus on aspects related to teen/youths in our community with our 'Bulle-teen +' feature, and we encourage all adolescents who want to contribute to get in touch.

We produce 10 issues a year. The fact that we can do this is because we are deeply indebted to our advertisers who provide us with the financial lifeblood which means we can produce, print and deliver 900 copies each month to all the residents, Church and School within the parish – for free. And thanks, are of course due to the many voluntary distributors who kindly post each copy through your door.

Everyone is welcome to contribute articles or photos to cover local events; we encourage you to voice your opinions or make suggestions for future issues at bathfordbulletin@gmail.com

Website www.bathford.net

The Bathford Parish Council website has now been updated and populated with information on the many facilities and services, clubs and societies that operate within the parish and beyond. Information is also available as to the various committees who manage the Council's business and the relevant documents on our *modus operandi*.

Social Diary

A digital calendar of events has been created on the parish council web page. When organising events, please enter your function on the calendar so that we can, hopefully, avoid clashes. It can only function successfully if everyone jointly advertises their events. <https://bathford.net/local-information/events/>

Hillary Carr

Chair, Communications Committee
28 April 2026

Committee members: Cllr Hillary Carr (Chair), Cllr Simon Hodgson, Cllr Steve Wyatt

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday May 5, 2026

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to the Committee members for their support and commitment shown throughout the year.

I will now refer to the Budget and Actual Spend sheet.

1. BUDGET 2025/2026 AND FORECAST BUDGET FOR 2026/2027

Although the expenditure in 2025/26 was higher than the income received (£3,533.31) adequate funds still remain in the PC Business Current account for any unforeseen expenditure that might occur. Much of the overspend relates to staffing expenses as a result of the regrading of the Clerk and introduction of National Insurance payments. These were not included in the precept calculations for the year but have been taken into account in this year's precept.

You will see that the forecast budget for 2026/27 shows a precept requirement of £40,856. This is an increase of 5.38% and represents a smaller increase in comparison to last year (which was 6.84%) despite incorporating the increased salary figures this year.

2. EXPENDITURE

As always, the Parish Council is ever mindful of the current economic climate and continues to strive to reduce costs wherever possible. Other than the increased salary expenditure, the other main 'overspend' was related to the 'village road gates'. The income (from Avon & Somerset Police) was received in the 2024/25 budget, but they were paid for in this last year's budget, hence the relative overspend – but the costs were fully covered. The council made donations to a number of village organisations during the year and continues to encourage applications from any village society/organisation that requires support.

3. INCOME

As there were no major building projects in the Bathford parish council area during the year the PC has received no further CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payments this year. These are paid by building developers and must be used to improve the village infrastructure. We have not allocated any CIL monies to PC projects over the last year and therefore £3,684.82 still remains available and has been ring-fenced for future village projects.

If anyone has any ideas for a village project, please let us know so that we can discuss the suggestion and, if we are able to give financial support, we will do so.

I hope this report and the Income and Expenditure summary have provided you all with a full breakdown of the Council's finances during the past year.

John Budd

Chair of Finance and Administration Committee

Committee Members:

Cllr John Budd (Chair), Cllr Susan Barclay, Cllr Hillary Carr,
Cllr Katherine Lush, Cllr Marina Raybould, Cllr Andrew Sangster

Bathford Parish Council

	Budget	Actual
	2025 - 2026	
Playing Field Rents	£2,124	£1,845
VAT Recovery	£3,000	£2,421
Bulletin advertising	£6,000	£6,718
Allotment Income	£2,150	£2,343
Bank Interest		£725
Allotment Deposits		£505
Additional Funds Received		£586
Total Income:	£13,274	£15,144
Precept required	£38,601	£38,841

Ringfenced Funds	
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	£3,865

Ideas for Reserves	
	£6,480
Community Survey	£800
Speedwatch - extra camera A364	£180
Stone	£500
Stocks	£3,500
Planning Survey	£1,500

	Budget	Actual
	2025 - 26	
Amenities		
Village Maintenance	£3,700	£4,788
Village Improvement Contingency	£500	£70
Asset Repairs (inc. benches)	£1,000	£1,690
Wynne Willson Maintenance		
Play Area Repairs	£500	£900
BANES Play Area Inspections	£500	£0
Field Grass Cutting (TL)	£2,700	£1,536
Lighting and Repairs	£200	£61
Pitch Maintenance	£330	£0
Tree Maintenance	£500	£875
		£0
Field Strimming	£2,600	£0
Bridleway Clearance	£165	£0
Fencing Repairs	£500	£0
Highways/Footpaths/Lighting		
A363 Maintenance (CL171)	£2,000	£0
Auto Speedwatch License	£450	£493
Highways Projects	£2,700	£5,547
Communications		
Bathford Bulletin	£5,750	£6,616
APM	£250	£146
Website	£500	£589
Events/ Xmas Lights	£2,500	£2,139
Office expenses		
Stationery	£275	£372
Telephone/internet	£800	£690
Software	£1,200	£2,575
Ink cartridges	£550	£465
Postage	£175	£125
General Office contingency	£550	£508
Premises Expenses		
Insurance	£1,900	£1,828
Office rent	£2,220	£2,220
Legal and Professional		
Audit Fees	£450	£438
ALCA Affiliation	£520	£516
CPRE, SLCC, ICO Professional		
Subscription	£450	£671
Bank Charges	£400	£331
Legal Contingency	£1,000	£0
Personnel		
Staff Costs	£8,670	£9,980
Training	£750	£474
Expenses and Donations		
Clerk's Expenses	£70	£45
Councillors Expenses	£400	£394
Grants	£2,000	£1,898
Unbudgeted Costs		£500
Allotment spend	£2,150	£2,409

Bathford Parish Council

	2026-27
Playing Field Rents	£2,169
VAT Recovery	£3,000
Bulletin advertising	£7,250
Allotment Income	£2,170
Total Income:	£14,589
<hr/> Precept required <hr/>	<hr/> £40,856 <hr/>

Ringfenced Funds	
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	£3,865

	2026-27
Amenities	
Village Maintenance	3900
Village Improvement Contingency	1200
Asset Repairs	500
Wynne Willson Maintenance	
Play Area Repairs	500
BANES Play Area Inspections	500
Field Grass Cutting (TL)	3000
Lighting and Repairs	100
Tree Maintenance	800
Fencing Repairs	500
Highways/Footpaths/Lighting	
A363 Maintenance (CL171)	2000
Auto Speedwatch License	450
Highways Projects	2400
Communications	
Bathford Bulletin	6975
Website/Communications	500
Events	3000
APM	300
Planning	
Neighbourhood Plan	1500
Office expenses	
Stationery	275
Telephone/internet	600
Software	2000
Ink cartridges	550
Postage	175
General Office contingency	550
Premises Expenses	
Insurance	2000
Office rent	2220
Office Electricity	
Legal and Professional	
Audit Fees	450
ALCA Affiliation	535
CPRE, SLCC, ICO Professional	
Subscription	450
Bank Charges	400
Legal Contingency	1000
Personnel	
Clerk's Salary	10100
Training	500
Pension	110
NI	765
Expenses and Donations	
Clerk's Expenses	70
Councillors Expenses	400
Grants	2000
Allotment spend	2170
	£55,445

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

5 May 2026

HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATH & LIGHTING COMMITTEE

Thanks

I would like to start by thanking my fellow Committee Members for their contribution to what has been a significant workload throughout the year. Please remember that all members give their time voluntarily, without remuneration.

Litter-Pickers

We owe a debt of gratitude to the team of voluntary litter-pickers who work tirelessly throughout the parish, whatever their age, and despite inclement weather keeping the parish litter-free. We thank you most sincerely. We always need more volunteers for the parish. If you are willing to give up just a couple of hours a week, the Council can provide you with the equipment to help keep your neighbourhood clean and tidy. Contact clerk@bathford.net

Road Safety

The Road Safety Plan was formulated by this Committee following our 2023 survey to address parishioners' major concerns on our roads and byways. *The attached report gives an update on progress made and ongoing projects since the survey.*





The major issue has always been speeding vehicles throughout the parish, both on major routes and side roads in estates. The Committee has worked tirelessly, pressing our Ward Councillors and BANES Highways for the installation of infrastructure to slow speeding vehicles.

A pedestrian crossing on the High Street. There are now VAS signs on the Box Road and High Street as well as speed cameras at both locations which supplement the Community Speedwatch (CSW) Teams. The Box Road team under Maureen Breeze, has now been operating for more than 6 years. Two life-size cutouts of the Speed Enforcement Officer are placed at strategic points on the Box Road and High Street and have been shown to have a remarkable impact on reducing speeding traffic when positioned.

There is still much work to do to improve the safety of our pedestrians and road users alike. It is obvious that our task is endless. The speeding vehicles and accidents continue –



Recent and current developments

- ‘**Village Gates**’ have been installed on the A4 Box Road, approaching the High Street from Kingsdown and approaching Warleigh Lane along the A363
- **Speed limits** have now been reduced on:
 - A363 from Dry Arch - **40mph** to the Roots allotments 
 - A363 **No overtaking** from Dry Arch to Roots allotments 
 - A363 - **30mph** from Roots allotments to A4 roundabout 
 - Bathford Hill/High Street - **20mph** throughout (awaiting installation) 
- At the same time, we are consulting with BANES as to how to address the problem with **speeding cyclists** on the High Street/Bathford Hill
- We are reviewing the feasibility for **structural improvement at the junction of A363 with Bathford Hill**. At present our preferred option is for a small roundabout to slow traffic down approaching along the A363. We are pressing for urgent funds to further the ‘audit’ for the roundabout
- We are recruiting volunteers to join **Community Speedwatch Teams** throughout the parish main arteries. Please apply via clerk@bathford.net
- Regularly frustrated from autumn to spring by flooding of the Avon and By Brook, we are looking to develop a Flood Plan for Bathford and to install flood warning signs either side of Bathford Bridge
- Box Road/A4 remains a key priority for pedestrian and vehicle safety measures to be implemented. B&NES Ward Councillors have invited us to propose a plan of action that can be implemented immediately or in the likelihood of housing development at the Bathford Nurseries site
- We have negotiated an arrangement with Portals who have kindly permitted overflow parking for vehicles attending Avonvale RFC events, to reduce Bathford Hill parking congestion

We are well aware that our work is not finished by any means. Please be assured we will not rest until **ALL roads** throughout the parish are safer for all pedestrians and road users alike. Updates on all projects will be reported via the Bathford Bulletin.

Hillary Carr: Chair, Highways Committee

Committee members: Cllr Anna Budd, Cllr Clare Malone, Cllr Ken Tatem

Bathford Parish Council Highways Committee

Road Safety Action Plan Outcomes and Projects to April 2026

Following the Road Safety survey in September 2022 ,this plan shows what issues have been designated as key throughout the parish, the suggested remedies and the action taken by the Parish Council Highways Committee to address the issues and the resulting outcomes, plus the status of ongoing projects.

High Street and Bathford Hill		
Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Speeding traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mph mandatory speed limit • Physical traffic calming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mph mandatory speed limit now law – currently awaiting contractors to implement • Village Gate installed at top of High Street May 2025 • Community SpeedWatch team in operation • Speed camera installed • Use of life-size cut out of Police Road Safety Enforcement Officer
Speeding cyclists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Means of reducing their speed need to be introduced 	Ongoing consultation with BANES
Pulling out onto A363 at the junction close to the Crown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic lights • Roundabout • Traffic slowed on A363 	Included in the B&NES road safety scheme on A363 planned 2025/26 Feasibility study underway for roundabout or lights
Obstructed view at Paper Mill entrance	Double yellow lines on hill near entrance	Double yellow lines now in place
Vehicles wanting to enter Ostlings Lane blocked by queuing traffic waiting to enter A363	Road markings needed	‘Keep Clear’ painted on road

Bathford Hill/High Street between Church St and Dovers Park

Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Parking at the corner junction of Church Street and Bathford Hill - making visibility difficult and dangerous	Double yellow lines	Double yellow lines now in place
Drivers ignoring 20mph limit		Pedestrian crossing in place helping to reduce traffic speeds
Speeding traffic, dangerous to cross the road	Pedestrian crossing	Pedestrian crossing installed

Garstons

Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Parking at the top of the road.	Double yellow lines for statutory distance at top of Garstons	Double yellow lines now in place

New Road

Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Traffic entering New Road from High Street too fast	Paint 20mph roundel on entry Double yellow lines Reshaping pavements to slow speeds	Roundels and double yellow lines now in place

Ashley Road

Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Parking obstruction	Yellow lines, particularly opposite allotment gates	Double yellow lines now in place
Visibility at exit to High Street and parked cars on corner	Reshape corner	Corner redesigned and pedestrian crossing installed

Mountain Wood / Dovers Park

Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Cars parked too near bend at top of school - bad visibility and hazardous		'School Buddies' purchased and in regular use

A363 Bradford Road including Pump Lane/Warleigh Lane/Church Street junctions		
Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Speeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rumble strips repainted The road narrowing sign and advisory 30mph sign too close to the corner and should be further away Need for measures that reinforce a residential village area – signage/village gates etc ‘Please drive carefully’ VAS in both directions 	<p>£50K fund allocated to address issues by B&NES</p> <p>30mph enforcement - A363 from A4 roundabout up to Pump/Warleigh Lane</p> <p>Village gate installed ‘Please Slow Down’</p> <p>Community Speedwatch Team to enforce speeds</p>
Section from junction of Bathford Hill to A4 roundabout, narrow and too busy with speeding traffic	Slow traffic down	<p>£50K fund allocated to address issues by B&NES</p> <p>To be implemented 2025/26</p>
Dangerous exits	<p>Both Church Street/Pump Lane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No right turns from either junction Slow traffic on uphill approach before junction Hazard road markings Hidden entrances signs on A363 Widen the corner, cut verges short <p>Pump Lane junction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse the one way on Pump Lane from its junction with A363 up to the junction with Mountain Wood to make it northbound Close Pump Lane exit to vehicles Widen the corner, cut verges short <p>Church Street junction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mirror opposite 	<p>Issues being addressed by B&NES + Bathford PC</p> <p>To be implemented 2026/27</p> <p>37 Church Street owners to improve the corner at this junction</p> <p>Not possible due to Insurance liability</p>

Danger crossing road to access bus stops and footpath to Bathampton	Light-controlled, or zebra crossing	Crossing to be requested in 2026/7 fiscal year
Morris Lane		
Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Parked cars opposite Barnfield Way obscuring view down Morris Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double yellow lines opposite junction • Give priority to through traffic • Install double yellow lines 	Double yellow lines now in place
Box Road A4		
Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Speeding traffic plus multiple other issues	<p>Village Gates</p> <p>Pedestrian awareness signs at Nursery crossing point</p> <p>Road hazard markings</p>	<p>Village Gates now installed</p> <p>CSW Team</p> <p>A & S Police Speed enforcement site visits</p> <p>Auto Speedwatch Camera</p> <p>2 x VAS speed awareness signs</p> <p>Use of cutout Police Speed Enforcement Officer</p> <p>Speeding buses/vans reported to traffic managers</p> <p>Pedestrian sign installed – awaiting repositioning and westbound sign installation</p>
Meadow Park		
Issue	Suggested remedies	Status
Speeding traffic through Meadow Park	Speed restriction reminders	20mph repeaters and roundels now in place
Steep steps on Meadow Park footpath and sloping path	Install handrail for the steps and level up the footpath	Requested to BANES 2025/26 and again 2026

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT

May 5, 2026

During the year Cllrs Ken Tatem and Katherine Lush have joined the Committee bringing new areas of expertise and ensuring we are always quorate.

This 2025/26 year we have received a similar level of applications as the previous year. We had no objections to most of them. In the case of Jamie's Farm at Shockerwick, we have continued to leave the numerous applications for extensions and conversions to the BANES Planning Officers. The remaining applications were for extensions and tree work, both felling and pruning, in the conservation area. We have not objected to any of them. In the last year there was only one application for a new building, not surprising in an area as protected as Bathford with its conservation area. The one application was for a self-build construction on the south side of Box Road, without objection.

Local Plan

Last autumn BANES produced a revised **Local Plan** Options consultation. Three sites in Bathford were identified for development, Bathford Nursery, Ashley Road and the branch of the Bathford Hill next to the Rugby Club.

In early November we held a meeting to enable residents to express their views on the three selected sites. The meeting was attended by our Ward Councillor Cllr Sarah Warren who answered many of the questions. The Parish Council based its response on the outcome of that meeting noting that affordable housing needs to be defined; improvements are needed to the footpath between the Bathford Nursery South site and roads leading to the school.

Our stipulations/recommendations were that all housing developments, without exception, must contain 40% affordable/social dwellings, no four-bedroom houses but small two-bedroom houses for first-time buyers and people downsizing; two off-street parking spaces together with adequate provision for visitors; all dwellings to be fitted with air source heat pumps, PV panels to generate electricity and solar panels to provide hot water.

Also, developers must work with Highways to mitigate the impact of additional traffic and to address difficult junctions/access. A Draft of the Local Plan is expected this summer when a further consultation with residents will take place before the Parish Council submits its response.

Neighbourhood Plan

To pursue the development of our Neighbourhood Plan we have had a consultation with BANES Planning Department, seeking advice on how to progress. We were directed to review the Neighbourhood Plans for *High Littleton & Hallatrow*, and *Freshford*. We have recently developed a list of objectives for our own plan based on these and on the feedback drawn from our **2024/25**

Community Vision Survey.

In some weeks there are no planning applications, so we have difficulty in arranging a regular schedule of meetings; sometimes we have too few applications to warrant a formal meeting, but we have to meet the deadline for returning comments on applications. In law we are required to hold meetings to which the public have access.

We believe the role of the Planning Committee is to facilitate all reasonable development that residents wish to undertake, but also to protect the character of the village and surrounding AONB; and to provide a voice for the residents to support or challenge applications.

We are a watching eye only occasionally called upon to act. But that makes our work worthwhile.

Andrew Sangster

Chair, Planning Committee

Committee Members:

Cllr Anna Budd

Cllr Hillary Carr

Cllr Katherine Lush

Cllr Andrew Sangster

Cllr Ken Tatem