

Bunbury Parish Council

Newsletter - Summer 2025

This newsletter covers the work of the Parish Council during the last three months, including the most recent Council meetings, and any other significant matters that the Council feels would be of interest to residents. Comments can be sent to the Clerk to the Council at clerk@bunbury-pc.gov.uk.

Police Report

The Police Community Support Officer for Bunbury reported that there has been a spate of Break-ins to sheds, garages, and outbuildings in Bunbury and the surrounding areas. She stressed the importance of securing outbuildings & homes. There has also been a massive increase in suspicious emails in our area. The senders have attempted to demand payment after claiming they have installed malware on the home computer and stolen personal information. Do NOT engage with them; instead, send the email to: report@phising.gov.uk. Then delete the email and change your password.

Planning

Cheshire East Council, on 2 April, approved in principle a planning application for the development of 9 houses on land to be accessed from Grange Close.

Residents had attended a Parish Council meeting in March to raise objections, which were then submitted to Cheshire East Planning Department. Cheshire East Council, in its Decision Notice, said it had followed guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework, which advises that the Local Planning Authority should work proactively with applicants to secure developments that improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area.

A likely further influence on the decision is the fact that the Government has increased housing targets for Cheshire East Council, meaning that the required 5-year housing land supply that Councils are obliged to hold now falls below this threshold. A crucial development, as without a 5-year Housing Land supply, planning law sets a 'presumption in favour' of granting permission unless other material considerations can be demonstrated. In this case, officers found no such considerations, and the application was granted. Further detailed applications for the development of the site will have to be made and approved before any building can commence on the site.

Keeping you better informed about Planning

In the future, the Parish Council will notify you via WhatsApp and the Parish Council Noticeboard (see the link below to join the Parish Community) of the planning applications to be considered at the next meeting. Where the Parish Council objects to an application, our reasons will be notified on the Cheshire East Planning website and will be viewable to all members of the public. Occasionally, the Council may also publish its reasons for NOT objecting to an application if the circumstances are such that the residents may not be aware of all the factors considered in the decision.

Parking issues



The Parish Council is aware that parking problems are a significant concern for many residents. Indeed, traffic management in all its aspects is a major focus of our work. There are actions the Parish Council can take, but these are no more than those of individual citizens. In addition, we can represent the village's concerns to Cheshire East Council and the Ward councillor, and request action. For example, making road repairs and requesting a 20mph speed limit across the village. Only Cheshire East can deliver these improvements.

We have identified some parking hotspots, and while the list is NOT exhaustive, it does highlight

the main areas of concern.

a. Parking on or too close to a junction. It is illegal (Highway Code 243) to park within 10 metres of a junction because it is unsafe.

b. Parking on Pavements, while NOT illegal, can obstruct if pedestrians are forced into the road to get past, and can therefore be reported to the police.

c. Inconsiderate or dangerous parking, e.g., across a road or drive entrance (and yes, it has happened recently), blocking access to emergency vehicles.

The Parish Council aims to address these issues where it can take proactive action. As a start, we are designing leaflets to remind drivers to avoid the nuisances and offences listed above. Where incidents are more serious or persistent, we will use the Cheshire Police's new 'Safe Parking' reporting system. See a prime example above that was reported.

We are also taking action to ensure that pavements are not reduced in width by **hedge growth**, as this can force pedestrians close to the road edge and, in some cases, into the road.

As you can see from these examples, overgrown hedges can seriously reduce the width of pavements.



Walking along the pavement to the Yew Tree Pub along Bunbury Lane or the footpath by Rowton Cottage has become increasingly

'challenging' as the Hawthorne hedge grows across the narrow footpath.



Postal Voting Registration:

If you have made use of postal voting in the past and would like to continue or wish to take advantage of this method for the first time, please register. You can do this online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Allotments Working Group:

The progress on the allotment proposals is slow. However, we now have a target date for a grant submission in August and hope to have a completed grant application ready for that deadline. We are contacting several village groups to request letters of support, as we must demonstrate a community benefit if the application is to have any chance of success.

WhatsApp Group

The WhatsApp group provides updates and information on matters of common interest, such as events, road closures and meetings. The Group

Bunbury Parish Community
WhatsApp group



is easy to join - if you have WhatsApp, scan the QR code above with your smartphone. If not, WhatsApp is free from your app store