

Bunbury Parish Council

Newsletter - Autumn 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.

Your council needs YOU

The September meeting of the parish Council scheduled for 17 September had to be cancelled due to a lack of enough Councillors. Due to absences due to trips, illness and resignations, the meeting could not take place. Currently, we need FOUR more residents to come forward and join the council so that it can do its work and become more resilient.

Being a village councillor is an opportunity to help your community:

- Be a voice of the village
- Influence:-
 - planning matters
 - community projects
 - parking issues
 - playing field use

You need no previous experience – just enthusiasm.

For more information, contact our clerk, Max Clay: clerk@bunbury-pc.gov.uk

Why not attend our next meeting on 12 November and experience what the Council does for the village?

Parking Notices

The Parish Council is regularly asked to 'do something' about parking. In reality, we have NO power to do anything. We can talk to Cheshire East and the Police and request their help, but we can't insist. So what to do?

We are going to trial the use of advisory leaflets for those parked on pavements or near junctions. While the former is legal (at present), it can be a nuisance. If the path is blocked, forcing pedestrians into the road, it becomes illegal and can be reported to the police. Parking within 10 metres of a junction is illegal.

Our approach will be a clear note asking the driver to improve: keep off pavements and away from junctions. We will focus on clear breaches, not on marginal cases. If incidents are more serious or persistent, we will use the Cheshire Police's new 'Safe Parking' reporting system. See a prime example of what would be leafletted.

An example of inconsiderate parking:

Morning chaos on School Lane, with parking on both sides of the road; only one car at a time can proceed. Some large vehicles can't get through at all. How are children and parents walking to school on this side of the road to ensure their safety? If you have work done on your property, consider where tradespeople can park without creating hazards for walkers and other drivers.



Planning: Peckforton Estate plans for Bunbury.

In the last 10 days, the Parish Council has received notification of 4 planning applications from the Estate for a total of 12 properties around the village. Three dwellings to the west of the A49 (25/3507/PIP), two next to Sadlers Wells wood (25/3510/PIP), up to five off College Lane (25/3508/PIP), and two houses in the conservation area of Upper Bunbury in the meadow behind the Chantry House (25/3509/PIP). The full details can be found on the Cheshire East Council website <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/>, click on search all applications, then from 'Community' select 'Bunbury' from the drop-down list, click search, and that will bring up all the planning applications in date order.

At the last meeting of the Parish Council on 8 October, it was agreed to OBJECT to all these applications. They break numerous policies designed to stop the creep into the countryside, building on 'green field sites – absurdly referred to by the agent as 'undeveloped'. Apparently, farmland is just a space waiting to be built on.

You might wonder why we are seeing such a spurt of applications. The reason is the same as the last time there was a rush to build in Bunbury. Cheshire East Council must have at least a 5-year supply of land available for building. It currently only has 3.8 years. The rules say that in those circumstances, all housing policies (including our Neighbour Plan) are 'out-of-date', i.e., that they have little or no weight in determining the outcome of any application.

The village 20 mph zone:

It is disappointing to report, although not unexpected, that our campaign to have a 20 mph zone across the village has been refused – or to quote the leader of the Road Safety Team, 'given low priority'. That should not be taken to mean that the campaign has ended. We are appealing against the decision and asking several key questions about this decision. Why, in making their decision, do they claim we refused any engineering work to support the introduction of the speed limit? Untrue, we simply said we did not want **major** works undertaken. Additional footpaths, 'gates' at the entrance to the village, road colour switches, were all possibilities we would have been happy to discuss, but we did not want the character of the village altered. Secondly, we were offered a speed survey to see if we met the criteria Cheshire East Highway Authority uses to determine if speeds are already low enough to warrant the introduction of the new lower speed. That survey has not taken place so far as we are aware. That means they have no evidence of the average speed of vehicles through the village to base their decision on.

We continue the fight to make Bunbury a quiet, clean and safe place in which to live.

Playground maintenance:

Everyone agrees that the playground in Bunbury is excellent and indeed attracts visitors from outside the village. And we would like to keep it that way. Perhaps what is often not appreciated is

the cost of maintenance. Our playground is inspected annually by ROSPA, and a list of work that needs attention or MUST be done to keep the playground open follows. Only certain registered companies can undertake this work, and they can be difficult to get to agree to do the work and are very expensive. Some examples to illustrate the problem may help. The seat on the zip-wire costs £300 to replace. A new bearing on the spinner cost £800. Surface repairs, new posts, and new softwood chips are further annual costs. How are we to maintain this really attractive facility and keep it safe? That is the question your Parish Council is charged with, even though we are fast running out of funds to do so. Suggestions welcome.

Hedges: The great reveal!

Yes, we have noticed the excellent response to our request for our limited footpaths to be fully accessible to walkers. Many thanks to all who responded so well. And a special thanks to the landowner who has trimmed back many of the fine shrubs along Footpath 17 (coming off Bunbury Lane), making it much easier to walk.



WhatsApp Group

The WhatsApp group provides updates and information on matters of common interest, such as events, road closures and meetings. The Group is easy to join - if you have WhatsApp, scan the QR code above with your smartphone. If not, it is free from your app store.

Bunbury Parish Community
WhatsApp group



