

## Newsletter - Winter 2026

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](mailto:clerk@bunbury-pc.gov.uk).

### Carols Round the Tree raises support for local charities



The annual carol event at the village Christmas Tree achieved a splendid collection of £450 for local charities. Proceeds will be shared between the Alive project and the local foodbank. Thank you to all participants and donors.

### Changes to the Planning System

In December last year the Government issued changes to the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPF) to 'speed up' the planning process in order to meet their housing target of 1.5million new homes in this Parliament. As apart of this process they have increased the additional homes required in Cheshire East from 972 to 2,530 per annum.

Already we are seeing the impact of this increase in the number of planning permissions being granted across the Borough in locations that would previously have not been allowed.

In addition, the Government has rolled back nature protections to boost house building and, as we all know, many new developments are built with no additional infrastructure to support the increased population.

We will know more in March when the Government release the results of their consultation on the NPPF; however, the voice of Parish Councils in the planning process is likely to be reduced and, without a new Local Plan for Cheshire East for at least 3 years, planning applications for new developments outside the village boundaries are likely to be approved.

### Planning news

At its October meeting the Parish Council objected to four 'Permission-in-principle' applications from The Peckforton Estate. Two of these have now been given approval; Land off Sadlers Wells for up to 2 dwellings (25/3510/PIP) and Land west of A49 for up to 3 dwellings (25/3507/PIP). The remaining two applications have yet to be decided. As Cheshire East does not have a sufficient housing land supply (see above: 'Changes to the Planning System'), policies relating to developments are greatly weakened, hence the increase in applications that would not normally be made, as they would certainly fail. However, the remaining two PIP applications from the Estate may be less easy to pass as they are in or next to the Upper Bunbury Conservation Area and subject to additional protection.

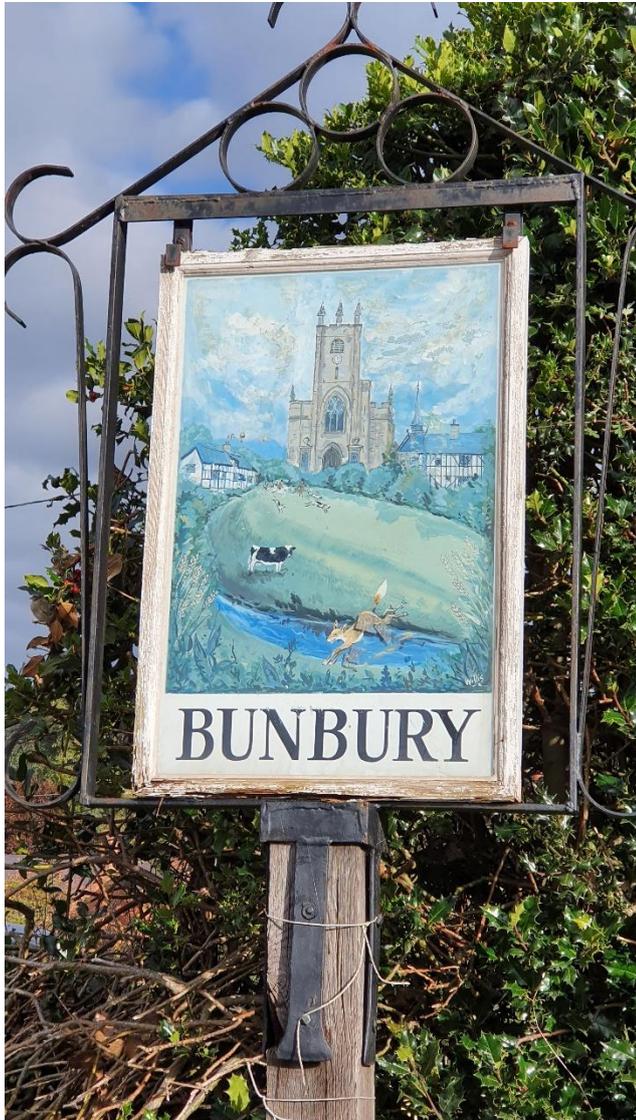
### Parking Notices

The Council plans to introduce polite parking notices from February, following delays caused by cancelled meetings. Resident feedback will be

welcomed via the WhatsApp Group. (see below)

## The Village Sign

The village sign will undergo restoration, including cleaning, repainting, and structural checks. The Council is also considering relocating nearby litter bins to enhance the area's appearance



## Council Membership

Recent Council meetings were cancelled due to insufficient attendance. However, all vacancies have been filled, restoring full Council membership. The Council appreciates the community's support and interest in these roles

A big thank you to everyone who came forward, including those who are now co-opted and those who are not currently able to join the Council.

## Jubilee Playing Field Charity

At the January PC meeting, the council resolved to appoint a new chair and trustees to the

Bunbury Jubilee Playing Field Charity. Councillors Slater, Gorman and Randall agreed to step forward as trustees and will join the remaining Trustees and user group representatives. They will be looking at all aspects of governance and the daily running of the BJPC.

## Cheshire East Council introduce new reporting system

To report matters that are the responsibility of Cheshire East Council (CEC), the Parish Council has encouraged the use of the free smartphone app 'FixMyStreet'. You took a photo or typed in your message, when and where you spotted a problem. The app dispatched your report to the appropriate department, and you could expect an update. That will no longer work as CEC has withdrawn from the FixMyStreet system and introduced TrACE, its own limited reporting system. You will need to be on the internet and search for 'TrACE' once on the CEC website. Currently, it only deals with reports of potholes, faulty streetlights, litter, abandoned vehicles, blocked drains and gullies, and fly-tipping. Anything else must be reported to the appropriate department through the website.

## Bunbury loses PCSO

Cuts to the number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) from 87 to 27 have resulted in our local team being reduced, and PCSO Sharon Jones will no longer be serving our area. The Parish Council regrets this decision and is concerned about the long-term impact on the village. We have also sent a note to Sharon thanking her for her many years of service to the community.

## 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

