

Bunbury Parish Council

Newsletter - Summer 2026

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

Serving Your Village

We have two new councillors but still need two more. If you're interested in serving your village and have a little time, please consider becoming a councillor. You can find more information at: www.bunbury-pcpc.gov.uk/news/post/21/serving-your-community/ or get in touch with the Clerk for a chat.

Play Area Public Meeting

A public meeting held by the Council in early September to seek views about the future of the play area attracted over 60 residents, including 21 young people.

The Council set the scene by explaining that a dedicated group of residents had enabled the creation of the play area (and much else) ten years ago by raising £320,000. Every year the play area undergoes a RoSPA safety inspection and this year's report revealed the need for two specialist surveys focused on the condition of timber structures. Unfortunately, those reports revealed some significant weaknesses, and so some pieces of equipment have had to be taken out of use.

In the very positive discussion that followed, residents of all ages talked about their priorities, ideas for new equipment and ways in which money could be raised for renewal. A strong theme was the community's wish to work together to raise funds for a revived play area, as well as a fund for upkeep and repair. Young people shared their wish for a pump track and a younger resident asked for monkey bars.

The Council hugely appreciated everyone's thoughtful and enthusiastic contributions, which served as an enormously useful springboard for subsequent discussions.

Subject to decisions to be made at the September Council meeting, it was decided to agree the establishment of a fundraising group led by Mrs Beth Hayward, to further investigate play area costs, and to investigate pump tracks with a view to making detailed decisions at its October meeting.

Planning update: National Policy local impact

The document summarises key updates to the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published by the Government on 17 August, alongside a policy paper aimed at creating a clearer, more rules-based planning system.

The main changes include:

Improving the planning application process by retaining policies intended to improve efficiency, quality, and coordination with other regulatory regimes.

Introducing a new framework for strategic sites, typically those with capacity for around 1,500 homes or more, allowing tailored policies for major, multi-phase developments.

Strengthening the presumption in favour of development within settlements, meaning proposals in built-up areas are more likely to be approved unless adverse impacts substantially outweigh benefits.

Expanding support for development in well-connected locations, particularly where people can access jobs and services without relying entirely on private cars.

Allowing greater flexibility around viability evidence, making it easier for schemes affected by market conditions, costs, or infrastructure needs to justify departures from policy expectations.

Encouraging more housing on small and medium-sized sites, with local plans expected to allocate land for smaller developments as part of housing delivery.

Strengthening strategic planning, with strategic plans setting housing requirements for local authorities and local plans focusing on neighbourhood and local matters.

Enhancing climate, water, and wildlife policies, including recognition of wildfire risk, stronger water efficiency expectations, and greater support for renewable and low-carbon energy.

Overall, the revised NPPF appears designed to speed up development, support larger strategic housing sites, simplify decision-making, and strengthen environmental resilience policies.

The Bunbury Jubilee Playing Field Committee

The Bunbury Jubilee Playing Field Charity is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Jubilee playing field (not the Playground). It works with field users, including the Scouts & Guides, the Tennis Club, and all football teams and groups. New trustees have been appointed. Parish Councillors Peter Gorman, Richard Slater and Matthew Randall, along with Dave Evans, have formed a refreshed user groups committee. The aim now is to stabilise the finances and restore the pavilion to greater communal use.



One of the two teams of volunteers doing the hard graft of spreading new special wood chips around the site and restoring safety levels. Four huge bags were spread over the playground over one weekend.

The 57th Bunbury Village Day

Wild Bunbury was a wonderful celebration of our village, bringing together nearly 1,000 adults, hundreds of children, performers, exhibitors, stallholders and volunteers.

Now we're planning Village Day 2027, and we'd love some new faces to join the team. If you can spare a few hours each month, or a little time, this much-loved tradition is thriving – and you'll have plenty of fun along the way!

Old notices

If you post event notices around the village, please do take them down as soon as possible. We found one from 2024 the other day. Just overlooked.

Hedge trimming season is back

If you have a hedge that borders your property along a pavement, please ensure it does not interfere with pedestrians or restrict the width in any way.

Back to School and back to congestion on School Lane

Several measures could help ease pressure during busy periods:

- Parking on driveways where space allows.
- Walking part of the journey or parking slightly further away can lessen congestion close to the school entrance.
- Avoiding short stops on both sides of the road helps maintain a clear route for through-traffic.
- Using the village car park provides an alternative for those who need to drive.
- Taking the Bunbury Lane route to the A49 may be longer in distance but can be quicker at peak times and reduces congestion.



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



