Happy New Year!

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year! As we start the year, we'd like to share that the Parish Council has set our budget and the level of the precept for 2025-2026. We are pleased to inform you that it will remain unchanged.

Thank You
We would like to extend a warm thank you to the new owners of the Old School House and Sanjee at the Village Stores for their generosity in allowing the Christmas lights to be connected to their properties. A special thanks also goes to Terry Smith for his time and effort in connecting the electricity for the lights. Additionally, we'd like to express our appreciation to the mystery decorator who adorned the tree by Orchard Place with lights and ornaments. Thank you all for spreading joy and community spirit.

Grants
The Parish Council was pleased to provide support in the form of a grant to cover half the cost of printing and distributing the Christmas issue of this Gazette to everyone in the Parish. The second grant issued covers half of the annual cost of maintaining the village cemetery.

Vacancy
A vacancy has arisen in the Barlaston Park Ward of the Council. If you are interested in the role, we invite you to contact the Clerk in the first instance on or before the 4th February 2025 (clerk@barlaston.staffslc.gov.uk or 01782 373348).

Maintenance Works
The Parish Council works within specific powers and budget, we focus on maintaining and improving areas where we have the power to spend. In January, you may have noticed some remedial work taking place on the Downs Car Park and the blocked culvert on the Green. We would like to extend our thanks to Chris Roberts and Councillor Chris Hurst for their efforts in ensuring these essential repairs were carried out.
Additionally, the Parish Council has also commissioned tree works on the Village Green following our bi-annual tree survey, which helps ensure the safety and health of the trees in our community spaces.

Civic Amenity Lorry Visits in 2025
The Parish Council funds four visits by the Civic Amenity lorry each year. Here are the dates and details for 2025:
📍 **Location**: Ivyhouse Drive, Barlaston Park
🕥 **Time**: 10:00 - 12:00
📅 **Dates**: 25 January, 12 April, 26 July, 25 October
Residents of the parish are welcome to dispose of excess waste, with a few exceptions: items not accepted include soil, rubble, fridges, freezers, televisions, liquid waste, paint waste, and hazardous materials. Please note that Stafford Borough Council is no longer able to accept sofas or armchairs during the Civic Amenity visits.
While we would love to alternate the location of these visits, there are currently no suitable places in the Barlaston East or West wards for the lorry to park.

Report It – Staffordshire County Council's Online System
Did you know that Stafford County Council has an online system for reporting issues that need attention, such as potholes, damaged road signs, and much more? When these matters are brought to our attention, we use this same system to follow up.
It's important to remember that reporting an issue to the Parish Council doesn't necessarily speed up the process. If you're aware of something that needs fixing, we encourage you to

report it directly through the online system. The more people who report it, the more likely it is to be addressed quickly: https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Report/Report.aspx
If you don't have access to the internet, please feel free to contact the Clerk, who will report the issue on your behalf.