Parish Council News – July 2025

Could You Join the Parish Council?

We currently have two vacancies - one for Barlaston West and one for Barlaston Park.

Becoming a Parish Councillor means attending a monthly meeting and contributing your ideas, experience, and local knowledge to help improve village life. It's a great way to get involved, meet others, and help make a difference.

Right now, we're in the final stages of negotiating a lease for the Meadow Road play area, with the intention of reinstating play equipment. Many will have fond memories of the park there that had play equipment up until the early '90s. We're planning a full consultation to find out what you'd like to see there - for your children, grandchildren, and future generations.

Becoming a Parish Councillor means that you could be part of the working group that will shape this project, we'd love to hear from you. Contact the Clerk or complete the application form on the 'Latest News' section of our website.

Supporting Local Groups – Community Grants Available

The Parish Council is proud to support a wide range of community activities through our grant fund, available to properly constituted village groups and associations.

We have recently awarded a £1,000 grant to Barlaston Cricket Club in support of their annual fireworks event – a much-enjoyed fixture in the local calendar.

We also supported the Barlaston Guides, who used their grant to purchase two new tents. These were recently put to excellent use on a shared summer camp, where the Guides' tents were the only ones that remained completely dry during a night of heavy rain. For many of the girls, it was their first camping experience - and some are now planning to apply for next year's international camp. We're delighted that the funding helped make such a positive and memorable experience possible.

If your group has a project or a need and meets the basic eligibility criteria, we encourage you to get in touch.
Full details and a grant application form can be downloaded from our website.

Updates from Our July Meeting

We welcomed County Councillor Ian Bagguley, who reported that the missing chevron on Hartwell Lane will soon be reinstated, and that he's exploring the possibility of installing flashing lights at the school crossing to help protect children and the crossing patrol officer.

We were also pleased to hear from PCSO Davies, who updated councillors on issues raised during recent visits by the mobile policing unit. Anti-social behaviour, particularly around The Downs car park, remains a concern. Residents are urged to report incidents directly to the police via 101, so they can be properly logged and investigated. While it's natural to turn to the Parish Council or social media to express frustration, reporting to the police is the most effective way to prompt action.

We also discussed news that Government funding and technical support for Neighbourhood Planning is due to end in March 2025. In response, the Council has written to our MP and the Secretary of State to urge them to continue this essential support for local democracy.

Community assets also remain a focus. The benches near the railway crossing are to be reinstalled on level bases, the planter by Orchard Place will be replaced, and a resident has kindly offered to repaint the Village Green goalposts. The Council also resolved not to proceed with installing a flagpole on the Village Green, following consultation and a majority vote against the proposal.

If you're interested in joining the Council, applying for a grant, or just want to find out more about what we do, we'd love to hear from you.

Viv O'Dunne – Clerk
clerk@barlastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.barlastonparishcouncil.gov.uk