Barlaston Parish Council – October 2025

The Parish Council has been busy over the past month, working on projects and updates that affect everyday life in Barlaston.
Families and children will be pleased to hear that improvements are continuing across the village. A new bench will soon be installed at the Flaxman Close play area. The Parish Council contacted Stafford Borough Council to request permission to site one there, and they agreed a bench was needed and were able to repurpose one from another site - a great result of working together. The damaged bench at the Station Road bus stop is also set to be replaced with a recycled plastic version once the necessary permissions are in place. On the Village Green, an additional hedge cut has been approved, and extra grass cutting is planned to address the challenging growing season. Remedial works are also underway on the Downs Car Park pathway, and work will soon begin on remedial works at the Wild Play Area and the Multi-Use Games Area (including cleaning, moss treatment, and surface re-lining).

In addition, the Council has approved the purchase of a new planter for Orchard Place, replacement batteries for the Speedwatch speed indication devices, and replacement pads for the Parish Council's monitored defibrillator boxes, ensuring these assets remain safe and effective for all residents.

Meadow Road Play Area
The lease for the Meadow Road Play Area has now been signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, marking an exciting step forward for this project. The Parish Council has earmarked reserves to develop the play area and once complete it will provide a safe and enjoyable space for children and families in the village.

Site Security at Wedgwood Memorial College
The Council continues to monitor the Wedgwood Memorial College site, which had previously been left unsecured. As the site is privately owned, the Parish Council has no enforcement powers, but we contacted Stafford Borough Council, who can take action if necessary. Following this contact, the landowners have committed to improving security. At the time of writing you may have noticed activity on the site, which we hope is a positive step. A dead tree on the property has also been identified and the owners will be notified.

Remembrance Sunday Preparations
The Parish Council is preparing for Remembrance Sunday. A wreath has been purchased, and Tommy figures will be sited across all three wards from 25 October until 9 December. Please join us and the rest of the community at the War Memorial at 10:45 on 9 November to mark the occasion and take a moment to remember those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Supporting Local Groups
The Council continues to support community initiatives through grants. Recent funding has gone to the Proscenium Players for pantomime rehearsal space, the Volunteer Car Scheme for insurance and flyers, the Community Group for the Annual Golden Agers Party, Silver Surfers for equipment to support activities, and Strollers and Striders for high-visibility clothing and first aid training.

New Village Map
Coming soon - Look out for the refurbished notice board by the railway crossing, kindly restored by Dave Moran. Local artist Tim Cockin has created an outstanding new map of the village, which is currently being printed. The notice board will feature a QR code that visitors

can scan to read all about the station's history, as written by Tim. You can also explore this fascinating history yourself on the new "Village History" section of the Parish Council website.

Looking Ahead - Your Ideas Wanted!
The Parish Council's Finance Committee will meet in November to start planning for the 2026/27 budget. We would love to hear your ideas for improvements or projects that could enhance life in the village - anything that falls within the powers of the Council. Whether it's new equipment, community initiatives, or small enhancements to existing spaces, your suggestions can help shape our priorities for next year. Please do drop us a line and let us know what you would like to see.

It's always useful to have a reminder of what the Parish Council is and isn't responsible for, please see the list below.

Key items the Parish Council <u>are</u> responsible for:

- Submitting a response to Planning Applications
- The Village Green including trees and Wild Play Area
- The WW1 War Memorial
- The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), Barlaston Park
- Various Planters, benches and assets around the village
- Undertaking grass cutting on behalf of the County Council
- Defibrillator devices
- Noticeboards
- The Village Hall as Sole Trustee
- Supporting key initiatives

Key items the Parish Council are <u>not</u> responsible for:

- Maintenance of roads including potholes (Staffordshire County Council)
- Footpath maintenance (Staffordshire County Council)
- Flooding and Surface Water issues (Staffordshire County Council)
- Clearing of gutters and gullies (Staffordshire County Council)
- Tree Maintenance (with the exception of the Village Green)
- Libraries (Staffordshire County Council)
- Mud on the Roads (Staffordshire County Council)
- Removal of Fly Tipping (Streetscene – Stafford Borough Council)
- The Canal (Canal & Rivers Trust)
- Maintenance of the Cemetery (St John's Church)
- Speeding
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Public Transport
- Land and Assets owned by Homes Plus
- The former Wedgwood Memorial College (in private ownership)
- Health Services

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 November at 7:15pm at the Methodist Church Hall. Residents are always welcome to attend the public forum at the start of the meeting to raise issues and stay involved in decisions affecting the village.

Viv O'Dunne - Clerk to Barlaston Parish Council