Bleadon Parish News



Autumn 2026 Issue 138

Ways to Contact Bleadon Parish Council (BPC)

Personally Contact Councillors	
Cllr Andy Scarisbrick (Chairman)	andyscarisbrick@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Steve Sugg (Vice-chairman)	stevesugg@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr ID Clarke	idclarke@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Jo Gower-Crane	jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Cllr Andy Reay	andyreay@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Co-option Vacancy	
Co-option Vacancy	
Co-option Vacancy	
Co-option Vacancy	
Contact the Clerk	
Craig Bolt	parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk Tel: 07453 358 318 (Tues, Wed & Thurs am) C/O Coronation Halls, Bleadon. BS24 0PG
Weekly Opportunities to Visit the Clerk	
Bleadon Café every Tuesday, 9am-12pm	
Monthly Opportunities to Raise Questions and Listen to Discussions	
Full council meetings every second Monday of the month at the Coronation Hall at 7pm. Residents have 3 minutes each to speak with the council.	
Extra-ordinary Meetings – ad hoc dependent on issues raised	
Can be called by residents or BPC. Dates will be displayed in advance on noticeboards and BPC website	
Residents Annual Parish Meeting 2026 (APM)	
26th April 2027, 7:00pm at Coronation Hall - A meeting held for residents to openly discuss any parish issues and concerns, likes and dislikes. (This is NOT a council meeting) Key issues raised can be fed into the council's AMPC in May.	
Bleadon Parish Council's Annual Meeting 2026 (AMPC)	
10th May 2027, 7pm Similar format to the monthly meetings.	

Parish Council Chairman's Address

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Parishioners,

After what seems to have been a long and very hot summer we are now moving into Autumn, though an Indian summer as I write this. This edition of the Parish News has some positive news, it is good to see the revamped Children's playground being used and the feedback has been very positive. The Gym equipment has proved popular and the free classes continue into the Autumn. The refurbished public toilets have also been well received despite some initial misuse by an individual.

There is also some detail on the work to the Parish pumps and though not included in this edition the Council is in the process of letting a contract to renew the auto-winder for the Church Clock, which is life expired and failed for a time earlier this year stopping the clock.

The Parish Council continues to engage with North Somerset Council regarding highways issues. Whilst this isn't moving as quickly as we'd like there are signs of things starting to happen.

We have a number of vacancies for Parish Councillors and would welcome new members. Please come along to one of our meetings or reach out to the Parish Clerk or a councillor if you are interested. The whole Parish Council is up for re-election next May.

Cllr Andy Scarisbrick (Chairman)

Deadline for 01 Dec 2025 to mid-Mar 2026 edition is **01 November 25.**
Please contact: jogc@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
Views published are those of the contributor or editor and may not be those of the Parish Council.

This newsletter can be found in colour with links, on the BPC website at www.bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk/news-and-events/newsletters, with editions from Issue 1 onwards on Bleadon BOB at www.bleadon.org.uk/villagenews

Be a North Somerset Councillor events - for prospective candidates

With elections for all North Somerset Council seats scheduled for May 2027, North Somerset Council is organising two "Be a Councillor" events to provide information and guidance for anyone considering standing for election.

The sessions will help attendees understand:

- What it's like to be a councillor
- How decisions are made
- The expected time commitment
- What candidates need to do to stand for election
- How councillors can make a difference in their communities.

The events will take place on:

- **Thursday 8 October, 6.30pm to 8pm** online via Microsoft Teams
- **Saturday 14 November, 11am to 12.30pm** Weston-super-Mare Town Hall (with optional networking until 1pm).

The sessions will be chaired by our Chief Executive Mandy Bishop and will feature councillors from across North Somerset Council's political groups, together with a representative from the Local Government Association.

Booking links:

- **8 October:** https://www.ticketsource.com/north-somerset-council/t-xdyrnvd
- **14 November:** https://www.ticketsource.com/north-somerset-council/t-ldxalxr

Rhiannon Jones
Engagement & Partnerships, Corporate Services, North Somerset Council

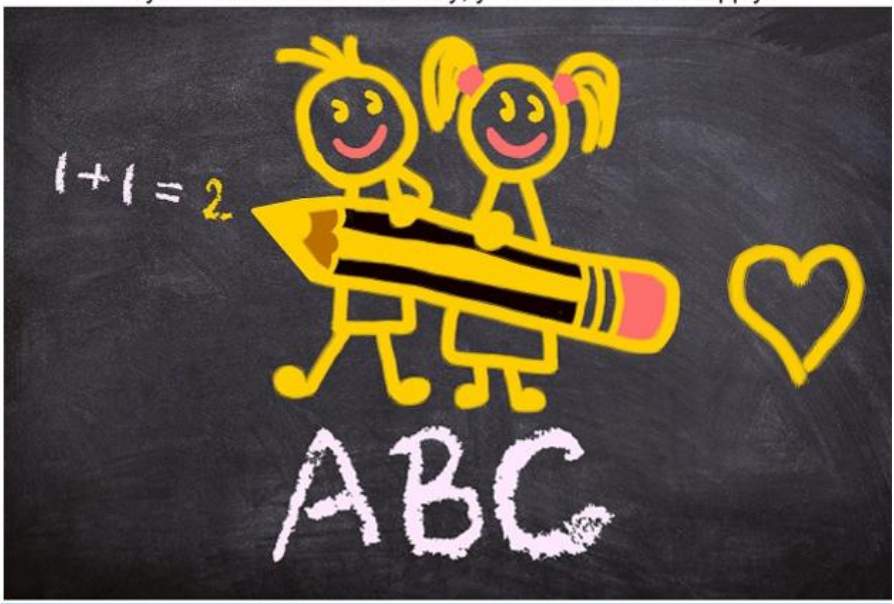
North Somerset Council

Open, Fairer, Greener

Time to start school

Was your child born between
1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023?
If so, it is time to apply for a Reception place for September 2027

Applications open by **12 September 2026**
and close at **11.59pm** on **15 January 2027**
If your child attends a nursery, you will still need to apply.



You can apply online at:
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions

School Admissions, North Somerset Council, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ
Email: admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk

Play Area and New Outdoor Exercise Equipment

Hopefully, you'll have seen – if not played in! – the new play areas.



As well as some improvements to existing equipment, the children's play area includes new swing sets, carousel, climbing net and see saw. For the older children (and adults!) there are the 6 new pieces of outdoor exercise equipment next to the newly refurbished toilets.

We were successful in securing additional external funding – including a grant from Sport England - which has paid for all of the new equipment.

Unfortunately, the installation of the play equipment wasn't without incident. One night, a section of the high fencing was damaged during the theft of a small dumper truck being used by the contractors. The fencing has been made safe and will be replaced in the next few weeks – at no cost to the Council.

Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk & RFO)

Bleadon Farm Shop



It's great to see so many people enjoying the cafe and shop over the summer, both valued existing customers and new faces.

We have been improving our outside spaces with a canopied deck area at the back and freshened-up tables and planters at the front.

Despite the heat waves necessitating closure of cooked breakfasts after 11.30am, hot lunches and our wide range of salads, quiche, scotch eggs and pork pies - all homemade - offer plenty of choice.

We have lots of new products in the shop including local artisan items such as honey, wines, cider and homemade gifts. Our new range of colourful scarves are selling well, alongside pet products. The chicken rotisserie chicken is beginning to taking off.

If you fancy an easy super, just order a whole roasted chicken before 12pm and we'll do the work! – for collection after 4.30pm. Let us know on Saturday if you'd like one for Sunday lunch and we can have it ready for 12.30pm collection.

Another new feature…want to treat a loved one to a birthday or celebration gift - but aren't local? Easy, just give us a call and we'll make up a bespoke hamper with all their favourites - and we'll even deliver it if you like. Just as efficient as well-known online suppliers, but a lot more personal!

Hope to see you soon and thank you for your continued support.

Charlotte & Alistair House

Church Repairs update

Following on from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in June where repairs to our church was discussed at some length, we thought it might help if we (the PCC) gave an update, so here goes.

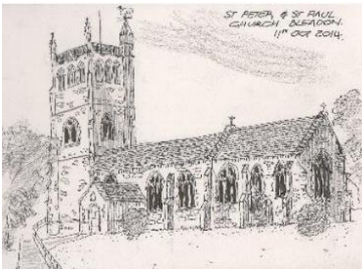
In Feb 2025 we had a tower review and report done. A significant list of tower top and tower stonework repairs was sent to the PCC on 8th March 2025. A lot of these repairs were prioritised as 'needs doing within 12 months. It's now 18 months later and little progress has been made.

In November 2025 the church roof repairs (tiles and guttering) were fixed. Some of these were damaged in Storm Darragh in Nov 2024 and the rest were listed in the last Church Quinquennial (5 yearly) repairs list done in 2022. We also had pay for a 5-year Electrical Review of the Church Room and some electrical repairs in the church that year.

Before any work can be done on a Grade I listed church such as ours, permissions (Faculties or Archdeacon's Permission Letters-APL) have to be applied for and agreed at Diocesan level before work can progress. We applied for 2 APL's, one for the Tower Top repairs (repairing the tower roof, straighten the flagpole, etc.) and the second for repairs to the balustrade and other most urgent repairs to the tower stonework. We didn't get a green light to crack on for months! When we did there were a lot of caveats that meant changing the specification and combining costing sheets. We have recently had the pricing sheets returned by our chosen contractor; JPC Ltd. They have chosen to do 4 sets of repairs in the first tranche, at £10.5k + VAT, as soon as practicable, and the second tranche of urgent stonework repairs, hopefully before the end of 2027, if we can find the funding (it should be a bit cheaper).

In the meantime, we still need to have the organ serviced and repaired, pay for the annual fire extinguisher checks, and do something about replacing the chairs in the Church Room.

Churches get a 5 yearly fabric report with our next one due in March 2027. There are still some items to be done on the last one from 2022. **Willing volunteers will be able to help with some things, such as the church doors, repairing latches, clearing the gully around the church. Is this something you might be able to help with?**



Previously I have said, in an earlier article, about the need to replace/repair the bell tower frame, at an estimated £45k. Also, the weathercock repair and remounting at an estimated £12.5k and the rediscovered effigies that are in the Bier House should probably be returned to the church. This is probably the cheapest of these 3 projects. We have asked for help to get grants, and, depending on which project is most likely to get grant funding, will probably determine which one we move forward with next.

None of these can be started until we find the money for the 2nd tranche of stonework repairs! This is not all about the money. **We need your prayers, your skills, help with grant applications, research and fund raising. Is history your thing?**

Please pledge any support you can offer to Sue Arnold (Churchwarden) or me or put your details and pledges into the porch safe in church or into the CR letterbox!

We look forward to hearing from you with funding offers and/or offers of help. Thank you.

Churchyard Wild Area

For those in our local community and visitors we would like to address the comments of late that some areas of Bleadon Parish churchyard is not looking at its best particularly in the area at the top by the east wall and on the north side of the church.

Perhaps, not everyone probably realises that this area was set aside some years ago now, to develop into meadow to encourage the growth of wild flowers and a variety of insects including bees, butterflies, moths etc and has been largely successful. We did have willow hoops to separate the area to show where it is, but these have deteriorated over time. We do have some parishioners who scatter wild flower seeds there to help create a summer flowering meadow and very much encourage this.

It does however, require good management in terms of cutting and raking grass at the end of growing season (around August/September) and keeping

apart from the graves which are closest to the wild area. This has not always been the case and nature does seem to have overtaken us.
The RHS Bleadon in Bloom judges were very pleased with our churchyard management. A big thank you to Bleadon Parish Council, who are responsible for grass cutting and maintenance of the grounds and walls, who are always ready to help where they can to maintain our churchyard looking at its best.

This year has been a difficult one with the lack of rain as all gardeners will know, but churchyard management requires us to balance the respectful care of consecrated burial grounds with conservation of local heritage and wildlife. Initially the Church had a regular group of volunteers to help with this work and also keep those graves tidy where there are no longer families to do this. **Usually we meet on the last Saturday of the month and could always use more help.** The churchyard is for everyone to enjoy its quiet space and bringing nature into our village.

Sara Hughes MBE MCIPS Churchwarden Tel 01934 811008

Bleadon WI

After a sweltering summer, we are now heading into autumn and the festive season, with plenty to look forward to in the village over the coming months.

Bleadon WI

Last edition, I mentioned the WI community 'chat bench' — which, ironically, then had to be taken out of use because of unrepairable wear and tear. It has now been removed, and the WI committee is discussing a replacement, so hopefully a new one will be in situ soon.

The poppy-making for the remembrance garland around the playground is coming along nicely, so thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. We are lucky to live in such a lovely village with such a strong sense of community**. Please do continue to help if you can, as we still need more poppies. Completed poppies can be dropped off at The Escape salon, or you can join us for another knit and natter on 5th October at 7pm in the village hall**. We will be attaching the poppies and finishing the piece.

The new garland will sit alongside the poppy sheet around the monument, the poppy cascade on the children's playground fence and the post box toppers.

The WI Choir, The Bleadon Belles



The popular summer tea party in July was a sell out and a most enjoyable event for all. There was great singing from the Bleadon Belles, the talented guest performers and audience. Delicious cakes supplied by WI members were enjoyed during the interval. Thanks to all who supported this event and the raffle. Nearly £400 was raised for Weston Hospice, this year's WI charity.

The Belles are back to rehearsals in September to prepare for autumn events including mini choirs singing in local nursing homes, and the full choir singing for groups and charity fund raisers. They will also be contributing towards the **remembrance service in Bleadon Church on Sunday 8th November**.

Christmas starts with the **WI Carol Service on Friday 4th December at 6.30 pm** in Bleadon Church; then they'll be singing carols at Waitrose on Saturday 12th December.

Don't miss the **Christmas Singalong with mince pies on Sunday 13th December from 3-5 pm**. Tickets for the latter will be available from Bleadon Post Office in due course.

Keep an eye on Facebook (In and Around Bleadon and The Bleadon Belles), plus village noticeboards for more information.

The choir is open to all WI members (not just from Bleadon).

Bleadon Friendship Club - a good news story

This Club has been in existence since 1968, and we didn't want it closed down on our watch! It nearly ceased in February 2026. Celia, who had led the group almost single-handed decided it was time to retire after 10 years at the helm. At the same time, the Bank that had the account said that a different kind of bank account was needed, and it seemed that on-line banking was the only option.

Most of the membership were very sad about this but felt they were not young enough or energetic enough to take it on. A Friday afternoon meeting was hijacked as a crisis planning meeting and we were able to separate out the various roles required to be able to run it, and, thank goodness, enough people have volunteered to do these tasks so we have been able to keep it going! Lloyds Bank required us to have a constitution, key role holders and a Diversity, Equality and Inclusion statement. To agree all these things, we had an AGM where a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were voted into their tasks and a multitude of meetings with the Bank was needed to set up a Lloyds Community/Business Account. This was the only bank who has an account that enables the use of a chequebook (which was a prerequisite of the Treasurer taking on the role!). We continue much as we did before but with a group of volunteers sharing the load.

Our concern is that there are a lot of new people in the village and some who have lived in the area who have only recently retired who, for whatever reason, now need to join in things locally but, do not know what is available. The Bleadon Friendship Club meet each Friday (except during August and two weeks over Christmas and New Year), in the big Coronation Hall, from 1.45 to 3.30 pm.

The Club has a Programme that includes visiting speakers, trips out, live music and singing and quizzes and games to bring people together who may otherwise not come out to socialise. It is for adults who need to get out and chat, share experiences and have some fun. We are very grateful to Joyce who has made a really good job of putting together the activities and events for the bulk of this year. Thank you Joyce!

There are no fees as such. Members pay £2.50 when they arrive and there are also a Sales Table and a raffle most weeks. These enable the Bleadon Friendship Club to be self-supporting financially. The money is needed for venue fees and to pay visiting speakers expenses.

If you, or someone you love spends a lot of time alone at home why not give them details of the Bleadon Friendship Club below or give us a call for more details? We starts back on the 4th September and new people get their first visit free! You do not have to live in Bleadon to attend!

If you would like to know more about this important Club please contact the Club Chairperson, **Chris Brueford**, on 07484 775 532 or the Club Secretary, **Sara Hughes** on 01934 811008. (This is not a church group).

Parish Pump

The two Parish Pumps (which are opposite the play area) are in need of some attention and the Council has authorised a restoration project.



The pumps are Grade 2 Listed monuments, so the restoration works have been the subject of discussions with North Somerset Council's Conservation Team. The team have been extremely helpful – as they were with the restoration works to the Market Cross last year.

In order not to damage the metalwork, the pumps will be shot blasted in situ using a soft wet blast approach and painted with a specialist primer and topcoat. The wet blast technique will help avoid generating dust – which can be a feature of blasting.

Unfortunately, the process can be quite noisy as it involves using a large air compressor but should be completed within a two-day period at the end of September.

The restoration works should protect the pumps for many future generations but won't see them return as fully functioning water pumps – that would be a much bigger project with lots of issues to consider relating to ensuring water quality.

Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk & RFO)

New Ward Councillor Election Results

DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

Election of a District Councillor for

Hutton & Locking

on Thursday 10 September 2026

I, Philippa Penney, being the Deputy Returning Officer at the above election, do hereby give notice that the number of votes recorded for each Candidate at the said election is as follows:

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of Votes*
BARRY, Georgina	Liberal Democrat	612
JONES, William	Reform UK	706
PARKINSON, Yue He	Labour Party	133
STANDFIELD, John Edward	The Conservative Party Candidate	281
WILLIS-BODEN, James Gavin	The Green Party	104

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:		Number of ballot papers
A	want of an official mark	
B	voting for more Candidates than voter was entitled to	
C	writing or mark by which voter could be identified	
D	being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	2
	Total number of rejected ballot papers	2

Vacant Seats: 1

Electorate: 6986

Ballot Papers Verified: 1838

Turnout: 26.31%

And I do hereby declare that William Jones is duly elected.

23:25

Dated: Thursday 10 September 2026

Mandy Bishop
Returning Officer

Printed and published by the Returning Officer, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset, BS23 1UJ

Our New Ward Councillor



It's the honour of my life to have been elected to represent our community! While it's easy to get swept up in an election, it's important to remember why it happened in the first place. Councillor Terry Porter was a dedicated and passionate Councillor for Hutton & Locking for many years, and he's left some mighty big shoes to fill.

If you have any issues or would like to get in touch, please feel free to email me at will.jones@n-somerset.gov.uk
Best wishes,

Councillor William Jones (North Somerset Council)

Highways Issues

We've explained in previous articles that the Council submitted a number of proposals to North Somerset Council to improve highways related issues across the Parish.

The proposals covered a number of issues relating to the safety of junctions, road surface conditions, signage and excess speed at a number of locations. North Somerset Council introduced a process by which Parish Councils could submit concerns/proposals and we duly submitted a number of schemes some 18 months ago.

It would be fair to say that we have raised a number of questions and concerns regarding the process introduced by North Somerset Council and whether it was having the unintended consequence of missing out on local funding opportunities. As a consequence, we have had a series of meetings with North Somerset Councillors and senior officers over recent weeks to explore a different way of working and to try and move forward some of the concerns which you – as parishioners – have told us about over the last couple of years.

Whilst there is still a lot more work to do, we can share some positive news:

- A package of signage related works is in the process of being collated,

with a view to contractors undertaking works early in the New Year – you may have already noticed that the large sign on the A370 between the Bleadon Road and Bridge Road junctions which had started to fall apart has been removed in readiness for replacement.

- Sections of Purn Way will be resurfaced as part of a scheme of works to improve drainage.
- A proposal to address road surface conditions from the junction of Bridge Road and the A370 through the village centre and out through Shiplate Road will be included in North Somerset Council Local Transport delivery plan. It should be stressed that this does not guarantee that any works will take place as the delivery plan will still need to be the subject of scrutiny by North Somerset Council's scrutiny panel before being considered by the Cabinet Member for Highways. However, inclusion of a proposal is a marked step forward. If progressed, the works would be spread over two years, with the first year involving patching works in areas worst affected and work to address problems with edging deterioration along sections of Shiplate Road. The second year would then see sections of resurfacing and new road markings/signage – including the intersection of Celtic Way/Coronation Road/Shiplate Road. We should stress again that this potential scheme of works isn't yet guaranteed but we are grateful for the positive way in which North Somerset Council officers and elected members have responded to the points we have raised. We should also be clear that – if the proposal does progress – a two-year programme does not mean that there will be two years of continuous works. However, there will inevitably need to be points within the two years where roads will need to be temporarily closed to enable works to take place.

As mentioned above, there is still further work to do – including on the two other issues we raised as part of the process introduced by North Somerset Council. By way of a reminder, these related to the following issues:

- The safety of the Bleadon Road and Bridge Road junctions in relation to the A370
- Excess speed at various locations with the Parish

Please rest assured that we are continuing to work with North Somerset Council on these issues and hope to be able to provide some further updates in the Spring of next year.

Councillor Steve Sugg (Vice-chairman and Highways & Transport Lead)

Outdoor Exercise Equipment – Free Trainer Led Sessions



A reminder that **free exercise classes are taking place at 9.30am every Thursday** adjacent to the Youth Hall. The sessions are being delivered by Dani Attwater from Elite Coaching.

Whilst the primary focus is to help people understand how to use the new outdoor exercise equipment to best effect, Dani can also talk through things you might be able to do at home or in your daily lives to achieve your fitness goals.

The sessions have been well attended over the Summer and will continue into the Autumn/Winter – with the sessions moving inside of the Youth Hall if the weather is bad. There are also free refreshments so come along and have a coffee and a chat – as well as a workout!

By way of a reminder, the Council successfully applied for a grant from North Somerset Council's Better Health imitative, so the sessions are not being funded from the Parish Precept and are completely free of charge for parishioners.



Craig Bolt
(Parish Clerk & RFO)

News from the Coronation Halls (Charity No. 1042602)

It has been a very busy few months in the halls this year. A new 'up to date' heating system has been installed in both halls, hopefully keeping our users nice and warm during the winter months.

In July it was the turn of the flooring in the Coronation Hall. Unfortunately, things haven't quite gone to plan as we have had a few problems, which has caused a lot of headaches for Ian Gibson, our retired Treasurer, who has been managing the whole project. At this point I would like to thank Ian for his dedication and perseverance over the past few months, and I am sure the problems will be sorted out soon.

We have also had a new water boiler installed in the Jubilee Hall, no more boiling kettles! In June we were pleased to welcome James Doulton, our new Treasurer, to the Committee.

A date for your diary… Want a clear-out?....

TABLETOP SALE

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER
CORONATION HALL, BLEADON
2PM-5PM
£10 per table
To reserve a table contact:

Kevin Barret 07855 225049 kevinbarrett240@btinternet.com
Betty Paterson 02980 357032 betty.p.paterson@gmail.com

Our meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday in the month. If you would like to help with the day-to-day running of our lovely halls, please contact either Kevin or myself on the above numbers. New faces with fresh ideas are always welcome.

Betty Paterson (Chair – Hall Management Committee)

CORONATION HALLS SUPERVISOR

Are you looking for a paid position in the village for just a few hours a week? We are looking for a community minded person to take on the role of Hall Supervisor for the Village Halls.

You would oversee the day to day use of the Halls, which could include arranging minor repairs and maintenance, and to occasionally act as the first point of contact for enquiries from users (other than bookings).

A basic requirement is for someone who lives locally with average fitness and common sense. Some DIY skills would also be useful. No fixed hours are involved but the role only requires a few hours per week, depending on circumstances.

If you are interested and want further information, a job description is available on request from the Hall Secretary,

Kevin Barrett.

07855 225049 or kevinbarrett240@btinternet.com

Toilet Refurbishment

It seems like a long time ago now, but the toilet refurbishment project was completed over the Summer and we now have two 'state of the art' fully accessible toilet cubicles. Both cubicles are unisex, wheelchair accessible/disabled access friendly and have baby changing facilities.

Unfortunately, within a few days of being open, we experienced what turned out to be the start of a string of acts of vandalism/criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. We wanted to share with you a bit more about what took place and the subsequent actions taken by the Council and the Police – and to dispel a few myths.

Young people generally tend to be the assumed culprits when it comes to acts of vandalism and criminal damage. Whilst we have had some issues which can be attributed to young people, the bulk of the incidents related to one individual old enough to know better. Whilst we can't get into specifics, by checking CCTV footage, we were able to identify a pattern of behaviour with the same individual turning up on the same day/time each week. All of the individual incidents were reported to the police and over a period of weeks we were able to provide enough information to enable the police to identify the individual and intervene. We're pleased to say that, following the police intervention, there have been no further incidents involving the individual concerned.

As mentioned above, there have been some incidents which have involved young people. These have included climbing onto the roof of the toilets and a couple of occasions where the toilets have been used for the purpose of taking drugs. CCTV footage has been shared with the Police and these incidents are being investigated. We've genuinely no wish to vilify young people but can't condone a situation where parishioners are entering the toilets and finding drugs paraphernalia – particularly given the proximity to the play area.

Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk & RFO)

Gas Upgrade Works - Burnham Drive, Bleadon Hill

Our work is due to start on 21st September, and all going to plan, we aim to finish during February of next year.

What this means for you

As part of the work it has been agreed with North Somerset Council that the project will be carried out in phases and traffic management, including traffic lights and road closures, will be in place as works progress.

- This initially includes three-way traffic lights on the junction of Totterdown Lane and Burnham Drive (21 September – 9 October).
- Work will then progress to Bleadon Hill and onto Brunel Close.
- Work will be suspended for the Christmas break before returning to Bleadon Hill in the new year.

Motorists are advised to allow sufficient travel time.

Why we're doing this work:

Every day at Wales & West Utilities, our team of more than 1,300 skilled and dedicated colleagues do their very best to keep our 7.5 million customers safe and warm, with gas connections and a gas supply they can rely on combined with a level of service they can trust.

Our 30-year gas pipe upgrade program means we're changing old metal gas pipes within 30 metres of buildings to new, long lasting plastic ones. It means the gas keeps flowing to your home today and means the gas network is ready to transport green gases like hydrogen and biomethane in the future.

Many thanks

Simon Lee, Programme Controller Wales & West Utilities

Public Consultations

All general and planning policy consultations can be found on the North Somerset Council's (NSC) website at https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk

North Somerset Local Plan 2041

NSC has now submitted its Local Plan 2041 to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. Details of the examination and the examination documents will be available to view at https://www.hwa.uk.com/projects/north-somerset-local-plan-2041/, The dates for the hearing sessions are w/c Monday 9 November 2026 up to, and potentially including the reserve week, w/c Monday 18 January 2027

NSC has submitted has submitted its DP53 and EB45 - Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land Background paper. Section 4 of EB45 shows the types of land that have been reclassified and used for non-food growing purposes. NSC have yet to publish any specific food production or food security policies, detailing land requirements that need to be protected for rural communities, farming and future generations. https://n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-05/best%20and%20most%20versatile%20agricultural%20land%20topic%20paper%20update%20-%20May%202026.pdf

In April NSC, led by Cllr Bell, decided to join WECA. Based on 722 out of 1,273 region-wide votes across the 4 council areas, local powers have been given to WECA. https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/news/clear-majority-backs-north-somerset-joining-combined-authority/

On 24th August, Cllr Mike Bell posted on facebook "There is a bigger issue behind the Government's latest plans to give elected regional mayors new powers over major planning applications: who actually gets a meaningful say when development is proposed in our communities? The Government has already legislated to restrict the ability of local councillors to bring planning applications before a planning committee. From October, the new national system will mean that the existing right in many councils for a ward councillor to require an application to be considered by elected councillors will no longer be possible. More decisions will instead be delegated to planning officers, with tighter tests governing which applications can reach committee.

Now the Government wants to give elected regional mayors another power to step into major local planning decisions, including developments of more than 150 homes, and direct councils to approve or refuse them.

That needs to be seen alongside the powers that already exist elsewhere in the system. If a council refuses planning permission, the applicant has a right of appeal and the decision can ultimately be overturned. Local residents do not have an equivalent right of appeal when permission is granted. The Secretary of State also already has the power to call in planning applications and decide them nationally. So, at the same time as the Government is restricting the ability of local councillors to bring applications before locally elected planning committees, it is preserving powers to intervene from Whitehall and proposing significant new powers for elected regional mayors.

I absolutely believe we need to build more homes, including genuinely affordable homes. But good development is about more than simply getting permission granted. It means homes in the right places, with the schools, GPs, roads, public transport and other infrastructure that communities need. And it means local people having a meaningful voice in shaping the places where they live.

Devolution should bring decisions closer to communities. Taking powers away from local councillors and giving more power to institutions further removed from the neighbourhood affected risks doing the opposite. We need a planning system in which local democratic accountability still means something."
https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1857772475182293&id=100028486766145&rdid=kvGE3lMiZRNw3y3r#

The types of powers that can be given to WECA, as of 2024, are seen in Appendix 1 of this House of Commons devolution briefing (page 42)
https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn07029/

On 7th September it was announced that Local Government Secretary Angela Rayner MP has halted devolution plans due to legal challenges
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2zkj09dy4o

Electoral Boundary Review
https://www.lgbce.org.uk/news/press-release/have-your-say-new-political-map-north-somerset-council-0



New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in North Somerset. The Local Government Boundary Commission will be publishing its final report on 29th September https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-somerset Any new arrangements will apply to elections from 6th May 2027, which may include 16 & 17 year olds, if passed through the House of Lords https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/4080

Cllr Jo Gower-Crane (Public Consultations / Engagement / Food Security)

Would you like to be a Parish Councillor?

We currently have 4 vacancies on the Council and would love to hear from you if you might be interested in standing for the Parish Council.

To be able to stand as a candidate at a parish council election you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

    - You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
    - You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
    - Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish area.
    - You have lived in the parish area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

You'll see from the above, that being new to the Parish isn't a barrier to becoming a Parish Councillor – any new perspectives and ideas are always welcome.

There are some formal processes we need to go through as some of the three vacancies have arisen as a consequence of resignations. You will see some notices published in June which will provide some more detail. However, please feel free to contact either the Clerk or any Councillor, if you might be interested in joining the Council and we can talk you through the process.

Craig Bolt (Parish Clerk & RFO)

Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Talk to us

Join your Neighbourhood Policing Team at

Drop in and speak to PCSO Steve Hemmett, whether you want advice on how to protect your belongings, arrange for free bike security marking, more information about the work we are doing in your area, or you want to raise a concern about an issue in your community.

Time: 12:00 TILL 13:30

Date: 4/2/26 4/3/26 1/4/26 6/5/26 3/6/26 1/7/26 3/8/26 2/9/26 7/10/26 4/11/26

Location: Bleadon holiday village

8338@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Regards PCSO Steve Hemmett

For more information please visit:
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area

Follow us on



Cllr Roles & Responsibilities for the New Financial Year

Portfolio Responsibility	
Affordable housing	All Councillors
Allotments	Cllr Reay
Bus Stops	Cllr Sugg
Churchyard/Church Walls	Cllr Sugg
Climate Change & Biodiversity	Cllr Gower-Crane
Community Activities/Events	Vacant
Drains	Cllr Sugg
Finance	Cllr Scarisbrick
Food Security	Cllr Gower-Crane
Highways (Safety/Signage/Parking/PC laybys)	Cllr Sugg
Historic Structures – Market Cross, Pump/Well	Cllr Sugg
Life Saving Equipment – Defibs & Bleed Kits	Vacant
Neighbourhood Watch & Community Safety	Vacant
Open Spaces Working Group Chair	Cllr Sugg
Parish Clock	Parish Clerk
Planning	Cllr Clarke
Planting schemes	Cllr Scarisbrick
Play/Recreation – All ages	All Councillors
Public Engagement/Consultations	Cllr Gower-Crane
Public Rights of Way	Cllr Reay
Public Toilets	Vacant
Outside Organisations	
ALCA North Somerset Group	Cllr Gower-Crane
Bleadon Youth Club	Cllr Scarisbrick
Coronation Hall Management Committee	Cllr Clarke
Church Liaison	Cllr Clarke
NSC Standards Sub-Committee	Cllr Clarke
Play Area	All Cllrs as Trustees
District Councillors & MP	
District Cllr Will Jones Email: will.jones@n-somerset.gov.uk Mobile:	District Cllr Mike Solomon Email: mike.solomon@n-somerset.gov.uk Mobile: 07768 631 702
Member of Parliament for Weston-super-Mare / Bleadon	
Dan Aldridge MP (Labour) daniel.aldridge.mp@parliament.uk	


Bleadon
VILLAGE MARKET
Local • Handmade • Unique
MARKET DATES
19th September
17th October
21st November
5th December
Crafts, Gifts,
Jewellery,
Homemade Treats
and much more!
SUPPORT LOCAL
At the
CORONATION HALL
9.30 till 12 noon
COME ALONG & SUPPORT LOCAL

Outreach and mobile library

Bleadon

Alternate Fridays

Location: **Bleadon Rd / Bridge Rd Junction**

Time: **2:05-2:50pm**



For more information including timetables visit
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/mobilelibrary
mobile.library@n-somerset.gov.uk • 01275 888 864

North Somerset Council

https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/libraries-leisure-open-spaces/libraries/library-services/bringing-library-you/mobile-library