



## Banwell Parish Council News and Information

### Your Parish Councillors

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### Parish Office

The Parish Office is located at the Youth & Community Centre (at the bottom of West Street Carpark adjacent to the Scout Hut) and is open to parishioners on **Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am until 12 noon** – no appointment needed. The Clerk is more than happy to see you at any other time if this isn't convenient – just call (01934) 820442 or email [clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Covid 19 – Banwell Community Response

At the beginning of the pandemic Banwell Parish Council teamed up with Love Banwell, Churchill and Langford Minibus Society, Banwell Pharmacy and local residents to help self-isolating and vulnerable people in our community. A team of local resident co-ordinators was set up for every street, assisted by volunteers to run errands, shop, walk the dog, collect medicines or just a chat on the phone. Volunteers later donated their time to support the successful vaccination clinics at Banwell Surgery.

Thank you to members of the community that donated food and or money towards the following COVID-19 initiatives:

- Banwell Food Bank
- Non-food parcels
- Christmas & Easter Chocs for Champs
- Christmas Meal
- Easter Food Club and our Summer Food Club

We have been amazed and thankful to everyone for pulling together to help the community in these troubled times.

Further information may be found at [www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/covid-19/](http://www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/covid-19/) which will be regularly updated.

### Website / Facebook Page

Banwell Parish Council would like to remind you of their website. [www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk). A new edition to this is the Bypass page which gives the latest information on the bypass [www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/banwellbypass](http://www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/banwellbypass).

The website also allows the Council freedom to create community pages. So, if you have a Community group that currently has no website and are interested in having a page please contact the Clerk on 820442 or email on the address above.

The Parish Council Facebook page provide the Parish Council with a much wider visibility in the community, so hopefully residents of all ages will be able to keep up to date and in touch with news from the Parish Council. It can be found at [www.facebook.com/banwellparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/banwellparishcouncil).

General information and Parish Council Meeting agendas will only be available on the website for the time being.

**Recognition of Service to the Community Award** Given that over 100 people stepped forward to help with the covid effort then it was impossible to single out an individual therefore the award for 2020 was dedicated to the Covid Co-ordinators and Covid Volunteers.

For 2021 our volunteers stepped up to support Banwell Surgery and their covid vaccination clinics. Again it was impossible to choose an individual so the award for 2021 was dedicated to our Covid Vaccination Volunteers with a special thanks to Nikki Linfield.

### Banwell Youth Club

A reminder that Banwell Youth Club is open and being run by YMCA Dulverton. The numbers are going from strength to strength and there is an exciting range of activities planned. They are doing a series of **taster sessions** during the **summer holidays** on a **Monday afternoon** between 2pm and 4pm. So, if you are aged between 10 and 16 then come along to the **Youth & Community Centre** (at the bottom of West Street Car Park). Alternatively, there are regular **Tuesday** sessions between **6:30 and 8:30pm** that will recommence after the Summer Holiday. See the Banwell Youth Club Facebook page for more details: [www.facebook.com/banwellyouthclub](https://www.facebook.com/banwellyouthclub)

### Banwell Children's Centre / Youth & Community Centre

As you are probably aware, with budget cuts North Somerset decided to withdraw from Banwell, Sandford and Winscombe Children Centre located at the bottom of

West Street Carpark adjacent to the Scout Hut. The Parish Council did not want to lose Children's Services entirely from the village and so in 2019 took over the running of the building as a Youth and Community Centre (YCC). The following activities currently run from the building.

Monday: 9:30 - 11am North Somerset Forest School  
Evening – Banwell Parish Council (7:30pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month) or Planning Committee meeting (7pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month)

Tuesday: 10am – 12 Banwell Parish Council Public Opening Hours  
6:30 – 8:30pm Banwell Youth Club

Wednesday: 6 - 7pm Somerset Kickboxing Academy  
7-8pm Banwell Bootcamp (on the field)

Thursday: 10am - 12 Banwell Parish Council Public Session

The Youth & Community Centre is available for hire outside of these times Monday to Friday £12 an hour Saturday and Sunday £14 an hour please contact the Clerk for more details and a booking form.

### **Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)**

Book an appointment with the Citizens Advice Bureau if you are having problems with: Paying your council tax, discrimination, paying your water bill, universal credit, managing other debts, budgeting, consumer issues or benefits.



Appointments at Banwell Youth & Community Centre can be booked via the Parish Clerk on (01934) 820442 or email: [clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk) for **August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**. Alternative weeks can be booked via the Clerk but are held in Winscombe.

### **Recreation Ground additional play equipment**

As you might be aware Banwell Parish Council were entitled to a Section 106 developer contribution from the Taylors Field Development. Based on the public consultation responses in April 2019 the first of two payments were used to install a table tennis table, climber, see-saw, zipline and more picnic benches. The 2<sup>nd</sup> payment is due and the Council are looking into additional equipment that could be installed in future.

A quick reminder that Banwell Recreation Ground is covered by a **Public Space Protection Order** which means dogs are prohibited. If caught owners can face a fine of up to £1000. We have some beautiful walks around the Parish so please take advantage of these instead.

### **Riverside**

Thank you to all those who responded to the consultation for Riverside Play Area. Given the responses the Parish Council have decided to install a multiplay unit and several more picnic benches. We are currently applying for grants to help pay for this but unfortunately due to Covid grant opportunities are currently limited.

### **Grants and Donations**

**Environmental Fund** – Provided by New Banwell Solar Banwell following the installation of the solar farm near Towerhead will / has helped the following:

- Resurfacing a local footpath leading from the football club, regularly used by walkers and the football club.
- Banwell Primary School for an environmental area around their pond.
- Banwell Scouts for their outside area around their new building.
- Youth & Community Centre works to improve the energy efficiency of the building by replacing the doors.

**Further grants and donations** from Parish Council funds have also been made to the following:

- Churchill & Langford Community
- Dial North Somerset
- Vision North Somerset
- Marie Curie

If you have any suggestions for further projects that the Parish Council can support, please email the Clerk.

### **Current Council Events and Initiatives**

**Banwell Great British Spring Clean** - postponed to 2022

**Community Picnic** - postponed to 2022.

**Tea and Tech 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021** - Want to brush up on your digital skills for smart phones, tablets or computers? Come along to our Tea & Tech session on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2-4pm to learn some digital basics over a cup of tea and a cake. Equipment will be provided for you to try, but you are also welcome to bring your own digital device. Places are limited so contact the Parish Office if you are keen to come along.

**Summer Holiday Food Club** – Got some time to fill over the summer holidays? Join us **online** with local Banwell chefs to learn how to cook a new recipe. You can watch the sessions live for a cook-a-long or playback on the Banwell Parish Council's YouTube channel. Sessions will be **every Friday between 4-5pm** over the summer holidays and are free. Find more details on the Parish Council Website [www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/news/summer-food-club/](http://www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/news/summer-food-club/)

**Walking Buddies Programme** – As Part of National Walking Month and beyond, the Parish Council set up its own scheme called the ‘Walking Buddy Programme’. If you lack motivation to go for walks, are nervous to begin walking on your own or simply want to walk in company, then contact the Clerk to sign up for a walking buddy to walk with you.

Want to support your community? You can sign up as a ‘Walking Buddy Volunteer’ to help people in Banwell to get out and about for a stroll around the village. You will be matched up with an individual who has requested a walking buddy to provide company and support whilst out on walks around Banwell. Contact the Parish Office to sign up as a volunteer – all welcome.

**Window Wanderland** – This October you can have fun by making an illuminated window display in your home as part of Banwell’s first Window Wanderland. Window Wanderland is a family-friendly event where communities create illuminated displays in windows. This year it will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October. Contact the Parish Office to sign up or visit <https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/banwell-2021/>

**Speed prevention initiatives** - As you may be aware, the Parish Council is concerned about the speed cars travel through the centre of Banwell. Evidence suggests that most people are not aware that they are speeding due to complacency and familiarity. The Parish Council has therefore two initiatives aimed at reminding drivers of local speed restrictions.

The **Vehicle Activated Speed Sign** purchased by the Parish Council is continuing to be moved around the village. At present we have agreed three sites and the sign is rotated between these locations. The following data have been received; East Street 3042 Castle Hill 3038 Knightcott Road 4111 These readings are the average daily amounts that vehicles are travelling over 30mph. These readings are then passed to the Police and North Somerset.

A **Community Speed Watch Team** has been set up. Speed Watch is only undertaken during the day, in dryish weather for maximum of an hour. At present we have identified speed watch sites along Knightcott Road and Wolvershill Road and are looking for volunteers to monitor both areas. The initial training is now online at <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/services/watch-community-schemes/community-speedwatch/community-speedwatch-knowledge-check/> It is a short video followed by multi-choice questions which in total takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Additional training will be given on site enabling you to use the equipment and meet other volunteers. So, if you or anybody you know has an hour a month to spare then please contact the Clerk. The more people we can encourage to participate the better coverage we can have.



### **Footpaths**

The Parish Council have been approached by local landowners in relation to concerns about walkers not sticking to local footpaths crossing private land and about dogs being under control. Given it is lambing season it is particularly important that everyone follows the Countryside code.

- Be safe—plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property **as you find them**.
- Keep dogs under close control (where there is any livestock /shooting please keep dogs on the lead and be especially careful of cows with calves)
- Protect plants and animals.
- Take your litter home.
- Consider other people.

And two that we have added.

- If a field has crops in it and the path goes through the middle, please walk around the outside of the field.
- Always pick up after your dog, faeces can cause a variety of complications in children and livestock.

There are three Banwell walks which can be found on our website under Local information.

### **Current consultations**

There are 3 North Somerset and 1 Government consultation running currently which directly affect Banwell.

**Banwell Bypass consultation** – At last after almost 100 years there is a real possibility that the bypass will become a reality. Whether you are for or against it, the consultation of the three proposed routes will be running until Monday August 16<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you have your say. So go to <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/banwellbypass/consultationHome> and fill in the consultation or phone (01934) 888802 to ask for a paper copy. Alternatively paper copies will be available at the Youth and Community Centre during public opening hours (Tues & Thurs 10am until 12) until August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Banwell Conservation Area Consultation** – North Somerset working with the Parish Council and Banwell Society of Archaeology has produced a draft consultation area appraisal and management plan for the Conservation Area. Please have a look at the document and share your views with North Somerset until August 16<sup>th</sup>. So go to <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/BCAAMP/consultationHome> and fill in the consultation or phone 01275 888169 to ask for a paper copy.

**Waste Strategy Consultation** – North Somerset are on a mission to become zero waste. With over half of the black bins being filled with recyclable waste they want to understand why this is happening and come up with a plan to increase recycling. So go to [https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/waste\\_consultation/consultationHome](https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/waste_consultation/consultationHome) and fill in the consultation or phone 01934 888802 to ask for a paper copy.

**Mobile Network Improvements Survey** – The department for digital, culture, media and sport (DCMS) are currently researching mobile coverage in rural areas, the aim is to increase mobile network coverage across the UK to 95% so help make this a reality by filling out this survey and having a say on network coverage. Fill out the survey online at [dcms.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7QWty9OUU4PNnmK](https://dcms.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7QWty9OUU4PNnmK) or email [Laura.Hensel@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Hensel@dcms.gov.uk) to request to complete the survey over the telephone.

#### **Just for clarification – Bilbie Grange Section 106 Developers Contribution**

It was advertised that £221,000 will be given to the village. Just for clarification these contributions were agreed by North Somerset with Bellway Homes over four years ago. The only payment coming directly to the Parish Council is £38,000 for the Recreation Ground paid in two phases; the first paid for the equipment installed before Christmas the second when 50% of the houses have been sold. Directly coming into the village is the following;

- £11,000 for Banwell Football Club
- £1,800 for the YMCA Dulverton to organise Youth Club Activities (see our Summer Youth Club)
- £4,000 for Godding Lane (undertaken by North Somerset)

The rest of the money will be given to North Somerset to be used for the following;

- Children's Services
- Churchill Academy
- Library Services
- Travel Packs

#### **Vacancy: Thought about Becoming a Parish Councillor?**

Have you ever thought about giving something back to your community by becoming a Parish Councillor? The Parish Council aims to make a difference to the area we live in and can be a rewarding experience by improving our local environment. We currently have four vacancies on the Council and would welcome applications from anyone in the village with an interest in getting involved.

Residents aged 18 and over can apply. The Parish Councillor role provides excellent voluntary experience in local government. If you would like to know more, check out our YouTube channel, Website and Facebook page to find out about the Parish Council, the role of its officers and how you could contribute as a Councillor. Alternatively, please ring the Clerk on **820442** for an informal chat or email

[clerk@banwellparishcouncillors.org.uk](mailto:clerk@banwellparishcouncillors.org.uk) or contact one of the Councillors whose details are above.