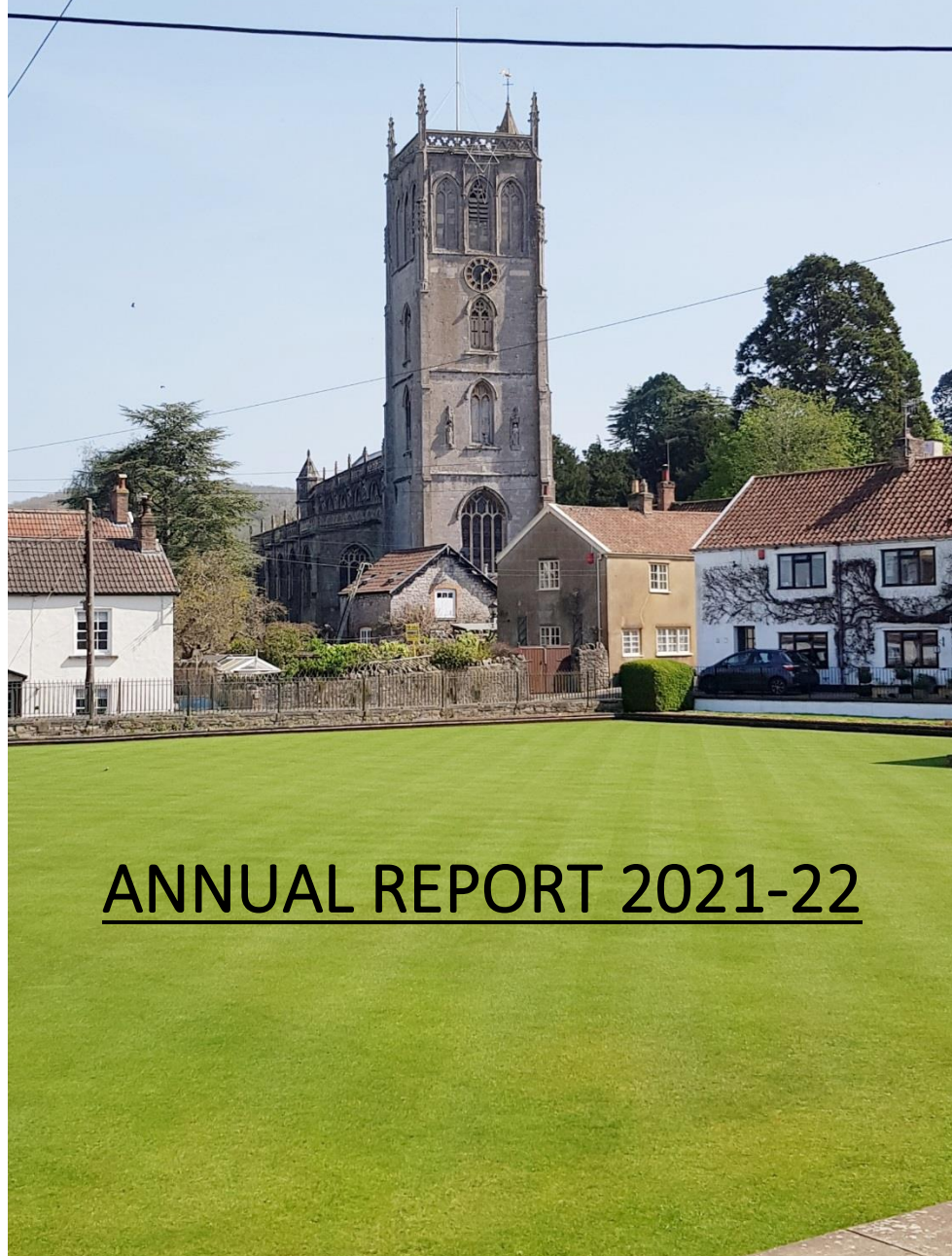




BANWELL PARISH
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Banwell Parish Council – Who We Are

Parish and Town Councils are the level of local government closest to the needs of local people. A Parish Council is the first tier of local government in England and as an elected body we are responsible and responsive to our electorate, (that's you).

Laws give the Parish Council a wide remit to improve the lives of their local community. The Council collects a precept each year (a sum collected with the council tax each year from the householders in the parish) to maintain and improve facilities and services for local people. Our work falls into three categories:

- **Representing the community**
- **Delivering services to meet local needs**
- **Striving to improve quality of life in the Parish.**

We provide a variety of local services including; bus shelters, cemetery, community safety and crime reduction measures, dog bins, events, leisure facilities, litter bins, open spaces, village orderly and youth projects among others. There are some cross overs between what the Parish Council does and what North Somerset Council does, the below guide will help you to understand the roles of each:

BANWELL PARISH COUNCIL	NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
Cemetery	Overgrown hedges/trees (not on Rec or Riverside)
Planning	Abandoned vehicles
Youth Club	Dog fouling
Streetlights (some side roads)	Fly tipping
Youth & Community Centre	Lorries breaking weight limits
Speed reduction initiatives	Noise pollution
Food Club initiatives	Potholes
Banwell Food Bank	Roads and pavements, incl. obstructions
Riverside Play Area and Rec	Streetlights (main roads)
Community Picnic	Street signs and street furniture damage
Dog Bins	Recycling and waste
Bus shelters	Street cleaning
	Footpaths

Banwell Parish Councillors & Staff

Banwell Parish Council is made up of 12 Councillor positions of which we currently have 9 councillors - all of whom are volunteers. The period of office of a Councillor is normally 4 years, but if they have been co-opted or elected at a bye-election, they will serve until the next normal election.

You can learn more about your councillors on Banwell Parish Council's YouTube Channel or visit www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/parish-council/your-councillors/

Banwell Parish Council currently employ two members of staff: The Clerk – Liz Shayler and The Communications Officer - Daisy Finniear.

Join us – Banwell Parish Council needs you!

Who is eligible to become a Parish Councilor? All members must be 18 years or more, an elector, or have lived or worked (as a principal place of work) in the locality or within 3 months of the parish (without reason for disqualification).

What is expected of me? You will need to attend one meeting of the full council per month, set aside time to read and respond to Parish Council information and champion the views of your residents. If you live or work in the locality and are interested in community matters and want to help make a difference then the Parish Council would like to hear from you.

This is an exciting time to join Banwell Parish Council with several new projects on the horizon. Support and induction training will be provided. If you would like to find out more, please contact the Clerk, Liz Shayler, by phone 01934 820442 or by email clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk

Banwell Parish Council Chairman's Report 2020-21 (Paul Harding)

Before I start, I will say that we stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine in their war against Russia.

This year we get to meet here in the Youth & Community Centre (YCC) in person, over zoom and Facebook live. How things have changed from only two years ago before most had ever heard of COVID. Last year, following the rolling out of the vaccination program we all thought the end of Covid was nigh, but as we all know sadly it isn't with it still dominating our lives.

The Parish Council (PC) continue to invest in the community we want to see in the future.

Much of this investment must be credited to Liz who is undoubtedly the driving force of the PC. I must also again thank Russ the assistant clerk (unpaid), and all the other volunteers who give their time to the parish. I must also thank Daisy our grants and communication officer who has transformed our social media presence as well as already paying for herself with funding she has obtained.

So, what have we done to invest in our community over the last year? Just some highlights:

COVID volunteers – they are still out there helping. They also were instrumental in the delivery of COVID vaccinations at the surgery.

YCC improvements – we are teched up and now have the ability to hold hybrid meetings and live stream them to reach a wider audience. The car park has been resurfaced and we have begun implementing some energy saving measures.

Digital Sessions – various sessions have been held at the YCC to offer training and know how in the use of computers/tablets/smart phones for those that need help of all ages.

Virtual Cooking Clubs – live streamed cooking lessons to help our residents and families to cook

Food clubs – we have provided food and cooking equipment to parishioners as well as Christmas meals

Banwell Walking Buddy – putting in touch local people to walk

Supporting Mental Health Initiatives – Thinking Out Loud - a charity meeting fortnightly in the YCC starting in May – contact admin@weareaware.info for more details

Window Wanderland – excellent engagement around the village, some brilliantly dressed windows

Christmas Market – our first ever and a great success. Even Santa popped in

Recreation Ground – fully reopened and the zip wire commissioned. Further improvements are in the pipeline along with improvements at Riverside

Banwell Youth Club – after a period of decline it is now booming – check it out

Local charities – we continue to support local charities and organisations through donations. If interested have a look on our website for the forms.

So, as COVID diminishes, a new threat challenges our community, that is those that are not millionaires or non-domiciled for tax purposes, and that is the increase in energy costs which will impact our poorest the most. Most have seen our bills rocket, with more to come in the autumn. We can't offer financial support, but the Parish Council are an official outpost of Weston Foodbank and also have weekly Citizens Advice Outreach appointments. If you are struggling, please contact us. There is no shame, and we will help where we can. Non-perishable food or financial donations are always welcome – contact Liz.

Looking to the future: **More of the same** – plus:

The Queens Platinum Jubilee will happen in only a few weeks. Events are planned over four days. Look out for fliers.

Green initiatives – we are looking at funding for LEDS for inside and outside the YCC and this year we will replace the last of the old streetlamps with LED ones.

Face to Face Cooking Clubs – Banwell Youth Club will be offering face-to-face cooking sessions for young people which focus on skills that act as building blocks for a variety of meals and recipes. At the end of the course, the participants will cook for a social occasion, highlighting the important social aspects of eating with others and its benefits for reducing isolation. The aim is that this will provide a start to a healthier and more positive relationship with food, for young people.

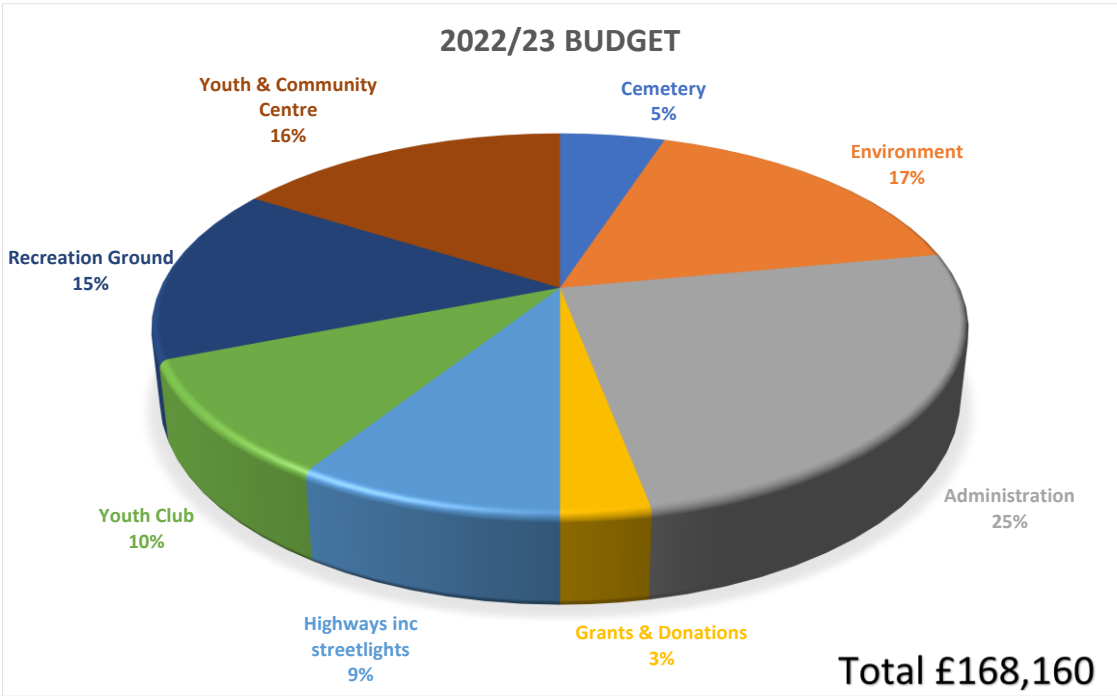
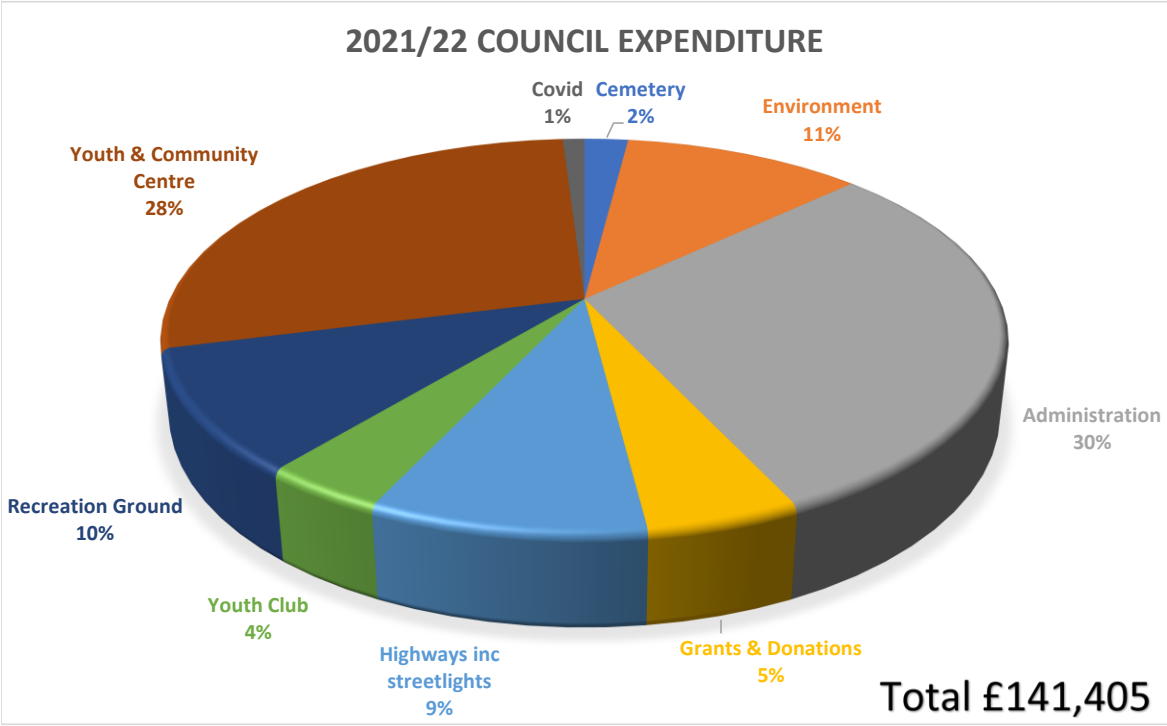
I think that's about it. Maybe not.....

Banwell Bypass – a party and a half worthy of a host of government ministers attending when it opens in 2024. We appreciate not everyone in the parish is in favour of the bypass, and it will bring a large housing development as outlined in the North Somersets 2038 Local Plan, but as Derek Mead once told us, you can have a bypass and the houses, or just the houses. More houses are inevitable. We have already seen that. We are working closely with NSC to get the best outcome for the village. They do listen – an example being we suggested a strategic gap between the bypass and the current settlement.

There are many organisations within the village who need you to support them. The Parish Assembly is an opportunity for our organisations to say what they have achieved. Again, I offer my thanks to these organisations and hope they grow and continue to prosper in the next year. Similarly, we wish all the businesses in Banwell a prosperous year. Use them or lose them.

Covid will dominate for some time, and even after it has subsided, we will continue to build on community spirit that has grown since Covid arrived. If you want to become a Councillor, we have vacancies. If you want to help support our volunteering work either financially or in person, contact Liz.

Accounts



Your Council Tax Precept 2022/23 Explained

The primary source of income for most Parish Councils comes from the Precept, part of the Council Tax. We hope to explain the contribution you make to the Parish Council through your Council tax and how it is spent.

WHAT IS A PRECEPT?

The Parish Council receives a small proportion of the local Council Tax. It does not receive any direct funding from Central Government. The funding collected pays for the running of the Council and the services it provides.

HOW IS IT CALCULATED?

The Parish Council makes an estimate of income and expenditure for the next financial year, including some for future planned projects and/or unexpected events. It is then calculated as an amount per Council Tax Band D Property and added to the Council Tax Bill of all the dwellings within the Parish area.

HOW IS IT RAISED?

North Somerset Council collects your Council Tax on behalf of themselves, Police, Fire and the precepts for any Parish/Town Councils in their district. It is important to note that Banwell Parish Council's precept is just a small percentage of your overall Council Tax Bill.

HOW IS IT SPENT?

Your precept is spent on maintaining the provision of all facilities and services the Parish Council offers.

Banwell Recreation Ground
Riverside Play Area



Council Office
Staff/Admin
Grants & Donations
Village Insurance



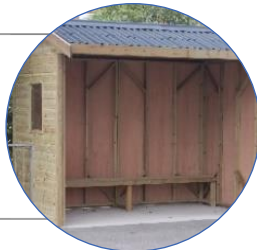
Youth & Community Centre
Banwell Cemetery
Streetlight upgrades



Jubilee Events
Covid Support
Christmas Mini Market



Community Mowing
Community Dog Bins
Waste Removal
Bus Shelters



£85.91

per Band D household per year



HOW MUCH IS IT?

We are pleased to say that due to an increase in the Council Tax Base, that whilst our budget requirement has increased to £168,160 the cost to a Band D property remains the same at £85.91. This is in recognition of the increases likely in household utility bills.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

During the next year (2022/23) Banwell Parish Council are investing in the following village improvements:

- Reducing the carbon footprint of the Youth and Community Centre (YCC).
- Redecorating the YCC
- Sourcing Grant Funding for play equipment at Riverside
- Additional play equipment for the Recreation Ground using Section 106 money.
- Finishing our programme of upgrading old streetlights to LED.
- A new 'Village Information Board'.
- Running top up Youth Club related activities

We hope to continue to maintain our village to the highest standards, whilst keeping costs as low as possible.

Nature and Sustainability in Banwell



Your Parish Council have been going wild for nature this year with the following:

Communications: we have been sharing nature and sustainability information all over our social media and newsletter. We are, and will continue to, run monthly themes from 'No Mo May' to green energy support. We hope the posts will help you engage with nature and the environment.

Banwell Sustainability Group: We have started a new Sustainability Group in Banwell. So far, we have nearly finished an action plan, are planning to run Teracycle recycling schemes and are investigating ways to rewild areas in Banwell. If you want to join in or share your ideas, contact Daisy on comms@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk

Biodiversity and Sustainability Action Plan: We have drafted a new Biodiversity and Sustainability Action Plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the Parish Council, reduce waste and help nature thrive in the village. Keep an eye on our website for the final plan.



BANWELL PARISH COUNCIL

EVENTS & INITIATIVES 2021/2022

National Walking Month: Walking Buddies

May is National Walking Month and Banwell Parish Council is in full support. Last year, the council started the walking buddy programme which has continued ever since. The scheme was set up to help pair residents up with a walking buddy. If you do not want to walk alone, we will be by your side. The scheme is ongoing, and you can contact the Clerk to sign up for a walking buddy to walk with you. We have also been signing up 'Walking Buddy Volunteers' to help people in Banwell to get out and about for a stroll around the village. We are still accepting volunteers, you can contact the Clerk to sign up.

Summer & Christmas Food Clubs

Over the Summer and Christmas holidays in 2021, the Parish Council organised food club events with live online cooking lessons taught by local chefs and teachers. All sessions were free, and some families were given the opportunity to have a food and equipment box provided to take part in the sessions. Thank you to Churchill School, Banwell School, North Somerset Council, Banwell Garden Centre, Trussell Trust and Stonebridge Farm for supporting these events, from providing equipment and ingredients to volunteering to run cooking sessions. The events would not have been the same without such strong community support.



Citizens Advice & Zoom Booth

Telephone or virtual appointments with Citizens Advice have been made available instead of face-to-face sessions over the last two years. Banwell Parish Council have organised pre-arranged appointments every Tuesday between 9:30am and 1pm to help Banwell residents skip the queues when contacting Citizens Advice. For those who have had no or limited access to the internet, the Parish Council provided a Zoom Booth at the Youth & Community Centre on West Street. This has provided a safe space to use the internet to access Citizens Advice. This service will continue until further notice and appointments can be arranged by emailing clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk or phoning Liz on 820442

COVID-19 Response

As restrictions continued throughout 2021, the Parish Council continued to support the community of Banwell through COVID-19 schemes. Thank you to members of the community that donated time, food and or money towards the following initiatives:

- Banwell Food Bank & Christmas Food Parcels
- Seasonal Food Club
- Vaccination Clinics
- Christmas Meal & Chocs for Champs

Thank you to everyone who has donated food, expertise, and time to ensure the above initiatives could continue throughout 2021 & 2022.

You Can Do I.T

'You Can Do I.T' was launched by the Parish Council in 2021 to support anyone of all ages improve their I.T skills over a cup of tea. Sessions have been held twice a month at Banwell Youth & Community Centre, **Thursdays 2-4pm**. Session topics have included using apps, online shopping, using google and more. The Parish Council made laptops & tablets available for people to use if they did not have their own. Sessions were, and will continue to be, free for all. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped run You Can Do I.T sessions. After receiving funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, the Parish Council will be able to continue the sessions throughout the upcoming year. We look forward to helping more people enhance their I.T skills in 2022 and beyond!

Tea & Tech: Over 50s Digital Support

In 2021, the Parish Council teamed up with Alive and WERN to pilot "Tea & Tech" digital support sessions for the over 50s age group. The sessions were a huge hit, as such the council is continuing with the monthly sessions. Volunteers have made the sessions possible, and the Parish Council wishes to thank everyone involved. Tea & Tech has helped residents in Banwell learn digital basics with experts on hand to answer questions. Equipment has been made available by the Parish Council to ensure that even those who do not have their own tablets, smart phones or laptops can still take part. The sessions will be continuing throughout 2022 and new group members are always welcome.



Banwell Food Bank

Banwell Parish Council teamed up with Banwell School, Love Banwell and Langford Minibus Society to run a foodbank on behalf of Weston Foodbank from the Youth and Community Centre, West Street. Having a child at Banwell school has not been a requirement to receive a food parcel, instead parcels have been made available to anyone in need of support. To request a food parcel application form or for more information, please email jo.arnold@banwellprimary.co.uk

The Food Bank has received a huge number of donations, so thank you to all of those who have contributed. Non-perishable food items are still being accepted and can be dropped between 10 and 12 Tuesday and Thursday morning to the Youth & Community Centre or by phoning Liz 01934 820442 to arrange a more convenient time.

Banwell Christmas Market



Last Christmas, Banwell gave us it's heart for the Christmas Market! The community gathered for a wonderful day of Christmas stalls, refreshments and to visit Santa's Grotto. The Parish Council teamed up with New Creations Church, local stall holders and volunteers to run the markets. Gift donations were taken by Santa for the Salvation Army. The event was funded through HMRC and European Union funding.

The feedback for the event was overwhelmingly positive, and we hope to run similar events in future to help support local businesses and promote #BuyInBanwell.

Window Wanderland

Last October, Banwell held its first 'Window Wanderland' event. Over 40 households decorated their windows to create an after dark art trail. The streets of Banwell were transformed into galleries for everyone to enjoy. The event was completely free and organised for the community by Banwell Parish Council. The displays were incredible, and the organisers were blown away by the creativity of the Banwell community. You can view all the "wonderful" displays on the Banwell Parish Council Facebook page. Thank you to everyone who took part making the first Window Wanderland in Banwell a great success. If you enjoyed our Window Wanderland, consider taking part in the Jubilee Wander this June (visit www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/community/jubilee-working-party for more info).



Banwell Youth Club



BANWELL PARISH COUNCIL

YMCA

Entry £1

**BANWELL
YOUTH CLUB**

TUESDAYS 6:30-8:30PM (TERM TIME) AGES 10-18

Since the end of the last lockdown, the Parish Council reopened Banwell Youth club. The club is open and being run by YMCA Dulverton who have been running a series of fun activities on **Tuesday** sessions between **6:30 and 8:30pm**. Activities over the last year have included NERF wars, cooking, parties, sports, games, music and more. New members are always welcome. See the Banwell Youth Club Facebook page for more details: www.facebook.com/banwellyouthclub. The Parish Council and youth club have also secured funding to run an in-person cooking club in June. Spaces are now available to book on the free 6 weeks cooking course, where participants will cook for friends and family at the final session. Contact us if you are interested in coming along, no experience necessary.

Grants

The following grants have been awarded to the following groups during the last 12 months:

Beneficiary	Amount
Wellspring Counselling	£100
1 st Banwell Scouts	£1000
Churchill Langford Minibus Society	£500
Banwell Women's Institute	£200
Vision North Somerset	£100
Total:	£1900

Banwell E-Newsletter

We have gone digital! As well as the Parish Council's update in the parish magazine, we now have a digital E-Newsletter to keep you up to date on Banwell news. To sign up, head to www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk and fill in the pop up form. We always welcome feedback, so do let us know what you think of the newsletter.

Keeping You In The Know

As a Parish Council we are always looking to ensure our parishioners are kept up to date with the latest decisions by the Council and are aware of the wider issues impacting those who reside and work within our Parish. There are multiple ways you can contact your Parish Council:

- Call us on 01934 820442
- Email us on clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk
- Website www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk
- Visit us at Banwell Youth & Community Centre Tues & Thurs 10am-12noon
- Follow Banwell Parish Council's Facebook (@banwellparishcouncil)
- Follow Banwell Parish Council on Twitter (@banwellpc)
- Follow Banwell Parish Council on Instagram (@banwellparishcouncil)
- Send us a letter to Banwell Parish Council Youth and Community Centre, West Street, Banwell, BS29 6BD
- Attend a Council meeting online or in person (watch on Facebook live)
- View the village noticeboards (entrance to West Street Carpark and the Rec)
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

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 by prior arrangement if this is not convenient. Call (01934) 820442 or email clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk



Banwell Parish Council 2022