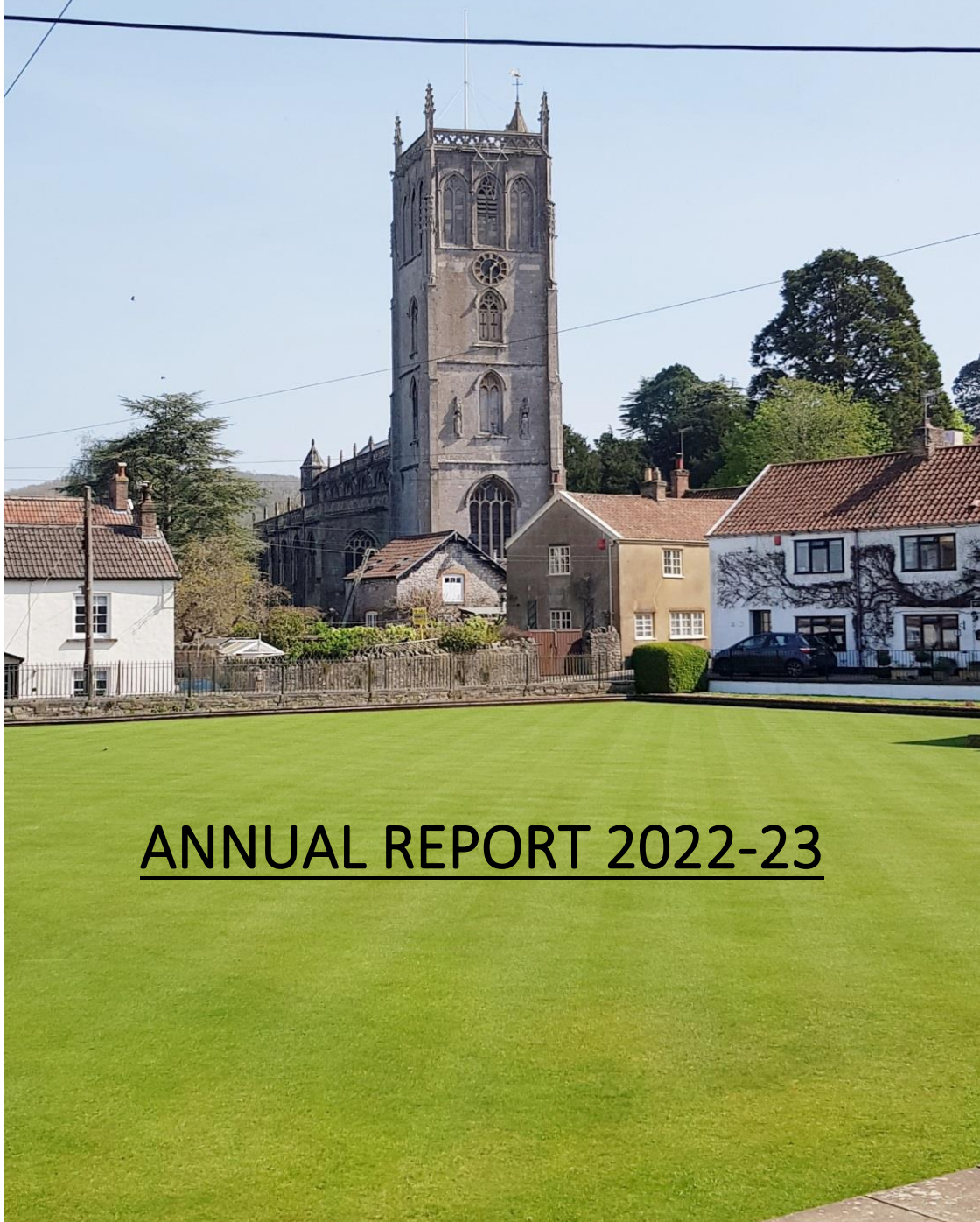




BANWELL PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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.**

You can see from the table below what your Parish Council is responsible for – and also what North Somerset Council has to do. It's helpful to know who to go to when you have a question or a problem. See our website for a more comprehensive list of who to contact when you have a problem.

https://www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/content/large/documents/parish_council_information/services_provided_by_other_bodies.pdf

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

Banwell Parish Council Chairman's Report 2022-23 (Paul Blatchford)

The post-Covid era has thrown up new challenges with the cost of living crisis and increased energy costs. While these are having a direct effect on our finances the greater concern is for our parishioners. To that end we continue to support and run the Food Bank which provides food to those most in need.

The Public Living Room, which opened last Autumn, provides a welcoming and warm space. Banwell was one of the first villages in North Somerset to offer this service and after a visit from District Councillor Mike Bell our Clerk Liz was invited to give a presentation to Ageing Well network on how to set up and organise a Public Living Room and all the other initiatives that the Parish Council have run. The public living room will remain open all year round.

Daisy our Marketing and Communication Officer worked with Liz to gain a variety of grants for the Public Living Room initiative, the Queen's Jubilee, update the Youth and Community Centre with energy efficient lighting, Riverside play area and Youth Food Club initiatives, all of which had a positive impact on the Banwell community.

Hovering in the background but never far from our thoughts, has been the progress of the Bypass. As well as participating in all the consultations the Parish Council has been in constant contact with the Bypass Team. The culmination of this was the recent unanimous Planning Approval given by North Somerset Council. Construction and changed traffic flows will undoubtedly bring new challenges for us over the next two years but the completed bypass should bring 'peace in our time' for the village.

The other major change over the past year is the increasing size of the Parish, not just from the planned 'Jubilee Gardens' off Wolvershill Road but the growing community at Weston Villages, south of Churchland's Way. Banwell is getting bigger and we must prepare for that eventuality.

Alongside the activities already mentioned we have also offered:

- Tea and Tech / You Can Do I.T.
- Village Cleans
- Continued live streaming of our meetings.
- Helping with vaccination clinics
- The Youth Club, which has increased numbers and had successful summer events.
- Affirmed a Civility and Respect Pledge
- Lobbied against the discontinuation of the 126 bus route.
- Set up a Sustainability Working Group
- Putting on a very successful Christmas Market
- Redecorating the YCC
- Finished our program of upgrading old streetlights to LED.
- And last but not least, increased and renovated play equipment at Riverside and the Recreation Ground

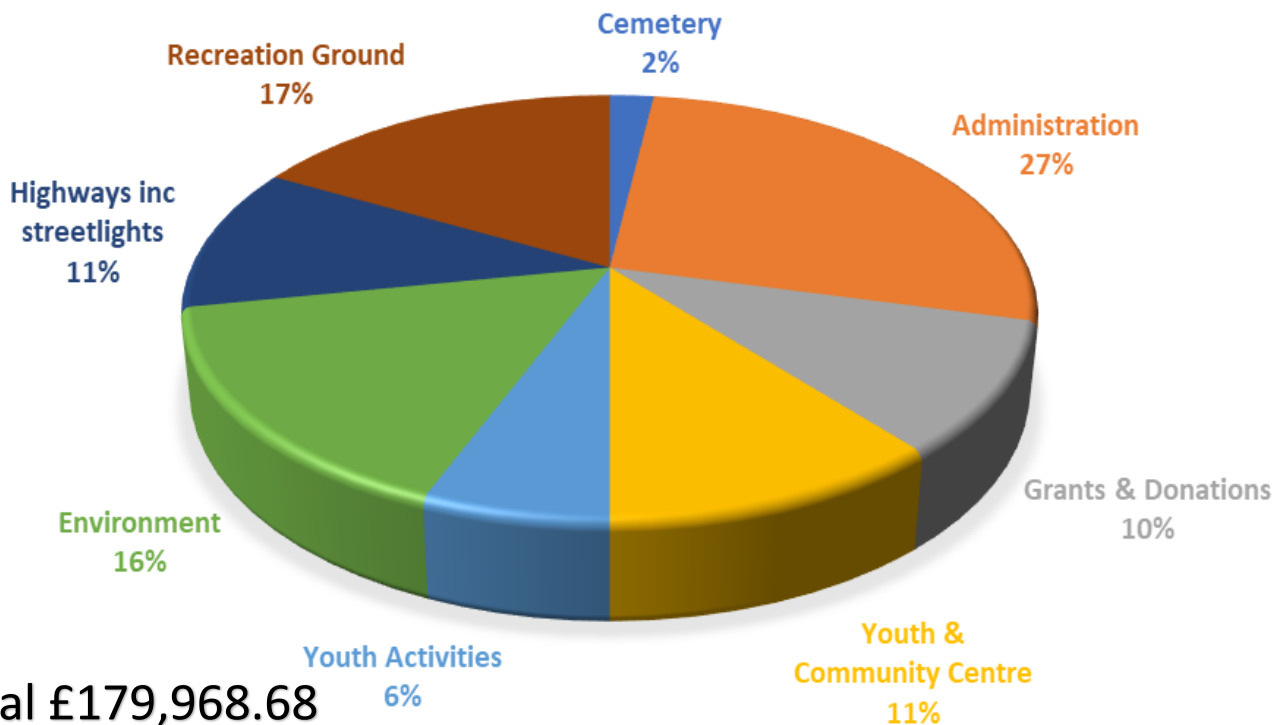
My thanks go out to the Councillors and all the volunteers who make this happen and we welcome Councillor Simon Arlidge to our team.

Daisy left us in March to take up a post with South Gloucestershire Council. She has been a great asset to the Council, helping us get through the pandemic and paying for herself with the grants that were brought in. She will be much missed and we wish her all the best in her new role. But every cloud has a silver lining, and I am pleased to report that David Murphy has joined us as our Communications, Marketing and Grant Funding Officer.

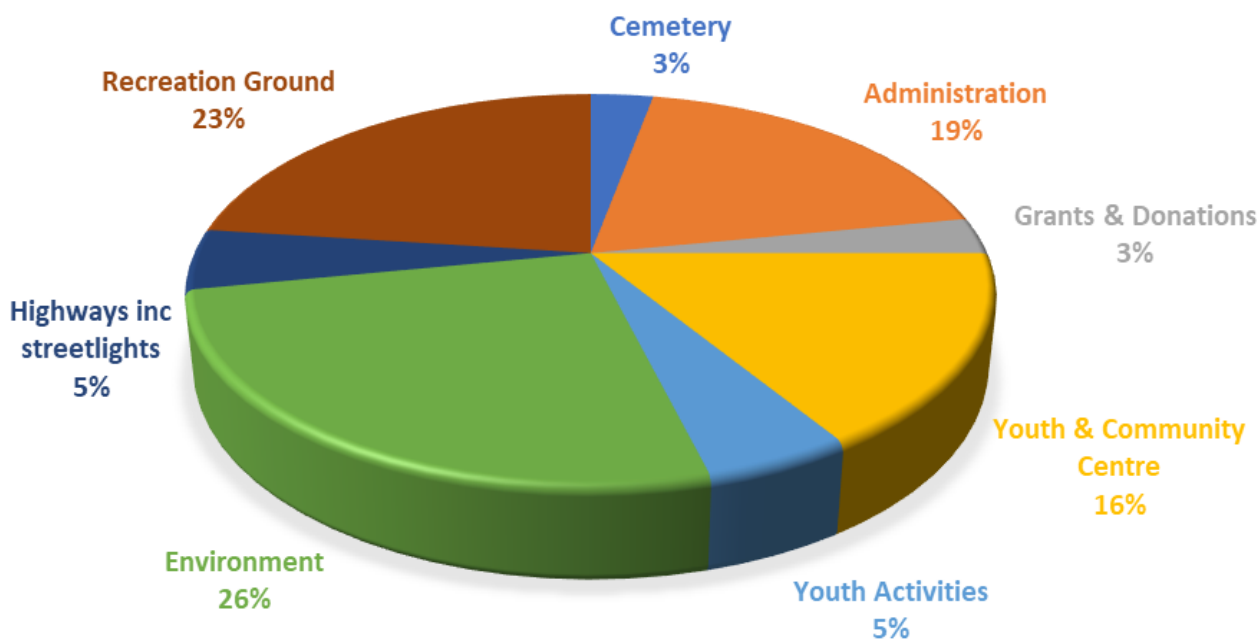
Finally, I must thank Liz who yet again gone above and beyond to keep this show on the road. The Council and the village are indebted to her. She makes Banwell a better place.

Accounts

2022/23 COUNCIL EXPENDITURE



2023/24 BUDGET



Your Council Tax Precept 2023/24 Explained

The primary source of income for most Parish Councils comes from the Precept, part of the Council Tax.

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?

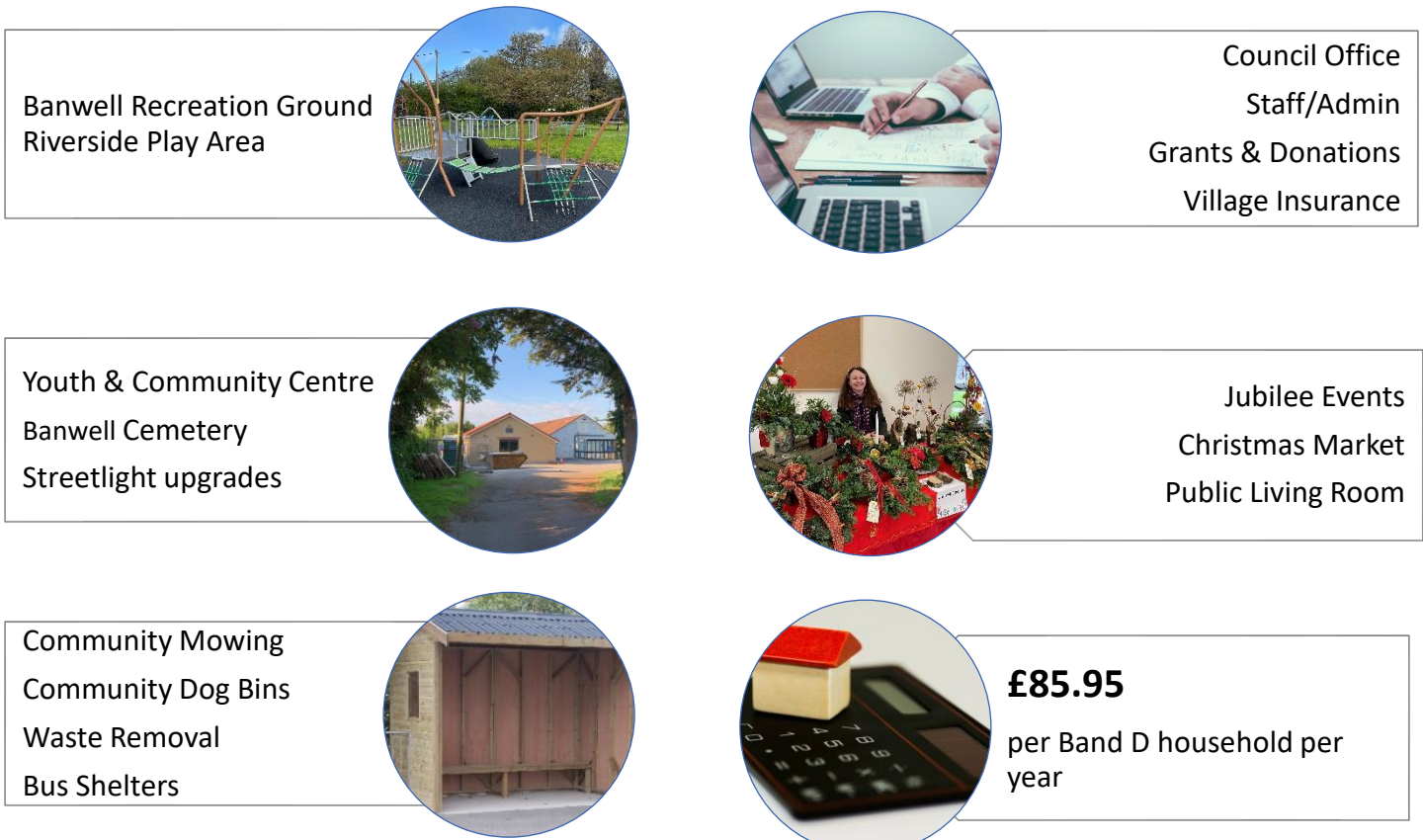
The Parish Council makes an estimate of income and expenditure for the next financial year, including some for future planned projects and/or unexpected events. It is then calculated as an amount per Council Tax Band D Property and added to the Council Tax Bill for all the dwellings within the Parish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



HOW MUCH IS IT?

We are pleased to say that due to an increase in the Council Tax Base and an influx of Community Levy contributions, whilst our budget has increased to £254,394 the cost of a Band D property is only an increase of 4p at £85.95 a year. The Council recognized that it would continue to be challenging with the cost of household utility bills.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

During the next year (2023/24) Banwell Parish Council are investing in the following:

- Reducing the carbon footprint of the Youth and Community Centre (YCC) by installing solar panels.
- An all-weather path around the Recreation Ground which can be used all year round.
- Running top up Youth Club related activities
- Continuing the Public Living Room and other Parish Council Events throughout the year

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

Nature and Sustainability in Banwell



BANWELL SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

JOIN IN & HELP KEEP BANWELL GREEN. ALL WELCOME!

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 finished a Biodiversity Action Plan and have started a Terracycle confectionary wrapper recycling scheme. If you want to join in or share your ideas, contact comms@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk

Biodiversity and Sustainability Action Plan: We have drafted created a Biodiversity and Sustainability Action Plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the Parish Council, reduce waste and help nature thrive in the village. The plan is available on www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/parish-council/parish-council-information/

Walking Buddies Scheme

May is National Walking Month and Banwell Parish Council is in full support. In 2020, the council started the walking buddy program which will continue through 2023. 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.

Public Living Room



As the weather took a cold turn and the cost of living sky rocketed in 2022, Banwell Parish Council set up a Public Living Room for all residents to use and enjoy. The Public Living Room is ongoing and free to use for all of our residents at Banwell Youth and Community Centre, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-1pm. The living rooms double up as a warm space, but the main function of them is to provide a space for people to work, socialise, use free WiFi or simply to come along and get to know your neighbours. Tablets and laptops have been made available for all to use for free. Refreshments have also been made free to all users of the living room. The Parish Council has agreed to continue this valuable space throughout the year.

You Can Do I.T & Tea & Tech

'You Can Do I.T.' and "Tea & Tech" were launched by the Parish Council to support people of all ages improve their I.T. skills over a cup of tea. Sessions have been, and continue to be held twice a month at Banwell Youth & Community Centre, **Thursdays 2-4pm** and the last Tuesday of the month 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 are free for all. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped run the sessions. We look forward to helping more people enhance their I.T. skills in 2023 and beyond!



Banwell Food Bank

Banwell Parish Council continue to run a foodbank on behalf of Weston Foodbank from the Youth and Community Centre, West Street. We would like to thank members of the community for the donations we continue to receive. 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

For Christmas 2023, the community gathered for a wonderful day of Christmas stalls, refreshments and to visit Santa's Grotto. The Parish Council teamed up with local stall holders and volunteers to run the markets. Gift donations were taken by Santa for the Salvation Army. We plan to run another market on December 2nd 2023 after the heartwarming response to the market in 2021 and 2022. 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 Wander



In October, Banwell held its third Window Art Trail: Autumn Window Wander. This followed the successful Summer Jubilee themed Window Art Trail. A huge thank you to all those who created windows, making a stunning 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.



Banwell Youth Club is open and being run by YMCA Dulverton who have been running a series of fun activities on **Tuesdays** between **6:30pm and 8:30pm**. Activities over the last year have included Halloween parties, pancake races, cooking, sports, games, music and more. New members are always welcome. See the Banwell Youth Club Facebook page for more details: www.facebook.com/banwellyouthclub.



Youth Food Clubs

The Parish Council secured funding to run in-person cooking clubs. We had two very successful 'Cooking Basics' courses which culminated in young people cooking for friends / family members for the last session. These have been followed by slow cooking courses which have seen young people learning how to use a slow cooker.



BANWELL JUBILEE WEEKEND

In collaboration with local community groups and volunteers, Banwell Parish Council celebrated the Jubilee in style! The weekend started with a bang with the Jubilee Wander, where residents decorated their houses in a regal fashion for the art trail. The hugely popular Banwell Bone Caves were opened for the special occasion, and fellow Banwellian's flocked to take a peek. The council's Jubilee Community Picnic had a fantastic turn out on the Saturday, with fun races, carnival games and fresh cakes provided by Banwell W.I. Further events were organised by community groups and organisations which the Parish Council helped to support and publicise, including a duck race with the Scouts along Banwell River, the Pottingy Town Twinning Meal, the Banwell Amateur dramatics event and the football club Jubilee Party. We had such a fantastic time celebrating this special event with you all. Thank you to everyone who made it possible and thank you to all who joined in with the festivities.



Grants Awarded to The Parish Council in 2022/23

- £500 awarded by Neighbourly Warm Communities Fund for Banwell Public Living Room acoustics.
- £1,300 awarded by North Somerset Council for Banwell Public Living Room
- £700 awarded by Griffiths to install a Happy to Chat Bench at the Recreation Ground
- £1,000 awarded by Griffiths to install Eco Lighting at Banwell Y.C.C.
- £19,644 match funding awarded by North Somerset Council to go toward a new play area at Riverside.
- £2,500 from Burnham and Weston Energy to install Eco Lighting at Banwell Y.C.C.
- £1,820 awarded by the National Lottery to fun Banwell's Jubilee events.

Grants Given Out by the Parish Council

Did you know that local community groups and organisations can apply for a grant through the parish council? The following grants have been awarded to the following groups during the last 12 months:

- Minibus society: £1000
- Banwell Scouts: £1000
- Banwell in Bloom £600
- Vision North Somerset £100

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 comms@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk / 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 or Communications Officer is more than happy to see you by prior arrangement if this is not convenient. Call (01934) 820442, email clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk or comms@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk

