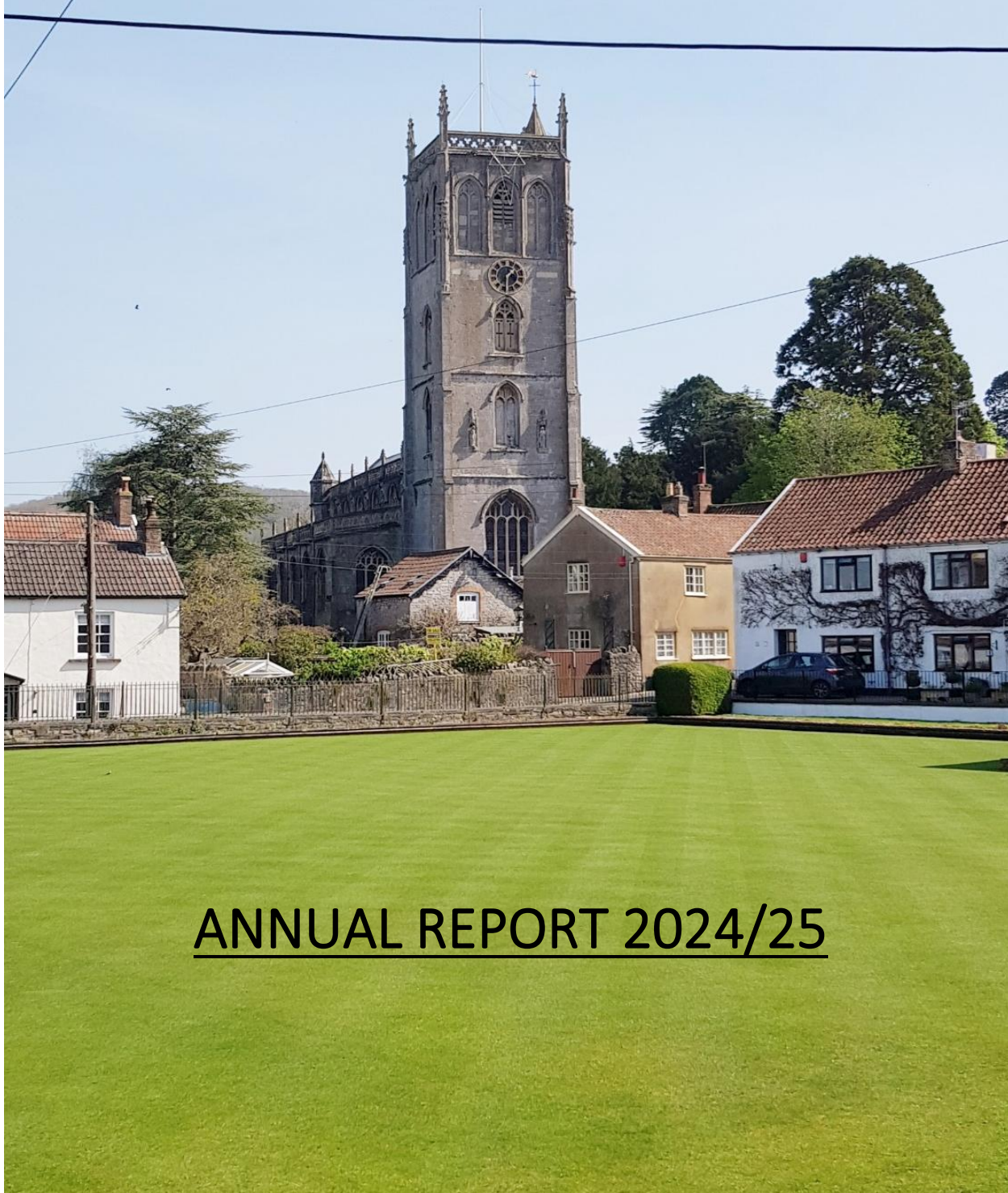




BANWELL PARISH
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

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 (YCC)	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
	Street cleaning
	Footpaths

Banwell Parish Councillors & Staff

Banwell Parish Council is made up of 12 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 councilors on Banwell Parish Council's YouTube Channel or visit www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/parish-council/your-councillors/

Banwell Parish Council currently employ three part time members of staff: The Clerk – Liz Shayler, Communications Officer – Sally-Ann Marks and new Environment & Biodiversity Officer – Amy Symonds.

Banwell Parish Council Chairman's Report 2024-25 (Paul Harding)

I think I can only start with after a hundred years, despite the nay sayers and purveyors of untruths, Banwell is finally getting its Bypass. Finance, planning and a contractor are all in place to deliver this essential piece of infrastructure and you can't fail to notice the works are progressing aplomb. Expect disruption until 2027, but in the end, a significant proportion of the traffic will be removed from the village. On the evidence from our Vehicle Activated Speed unit, we estimate more than 5,000,000 vehicles enter the village each year. We are aware that not everyone is in favour of the Bypass and BPC have been fully aware from the start of the current project that this meant the Garden Village originally proposed in the Joint Spatial Plan would become a reality. However, as the late Derek Mead once said to the Parish Council: "You can have the houses and a Bypass, or just the houses." BPC has liaised closely with NSC and the Bypass team who are here tonight. In case you were wondering - YES, there will be a party on the Bypass before it opens.

That leads me on to the Wolverhill Road development. We have had meetings with the main developers and NSC to influence the developers to benefit both current and future residents. We have held public meetings for residents to air their views. There are still areas of concern regarding the strategic green gap and placing of facilities, but we will continue to challenge where necessary. We have met with NSC to discuss the disastrous proposal to close the bridge over the M5 towards Worle for cars – now withdrawn, in no small part to the efforts of Steve Voller. We look forward to NSC putting the M5 Junction 21 relief road on the Master Plan for the Wolverhill Rd estate, and the completion of the North South link road through Locking Parklands and Mead Fields, or at the very least pedestrian access to the new Locking Parklands schools from Mead Fields.

Whilst I have started with the two biggest events affecting us, Banwell is far more than just the Bypass and Wolverhill Road development.

In the last year we have lost Cllrs Gibbons and McCarthy but gained Cllr Thain. I thank both Cllrs Gibbons and McCarthy for their service to the community. We have a vacancy if anyone is interested. We have recruited an Environment and Biodiversity Officer – Amy Symonds who will talk to you next. The Clerk and Cllrs Blatchford and Thian have attended stakeholder meetings on the Mead Fields development. We intend to hold PC meetings on Mead Fields in the future once a suitable venue is in place.

We work closely with our Ward Councillor Joe Tristram who is quick to take up matters when we raise them.

We have enhanced the Recreation Ground from CIL monies, and we now have the toddler area accessible 365 days a year, and an all-year accessible path constructed which means Banwell now has a safe place for children on bikes/scooters to safely exercise away from the traffic.

We continue to offer support to the residents through:

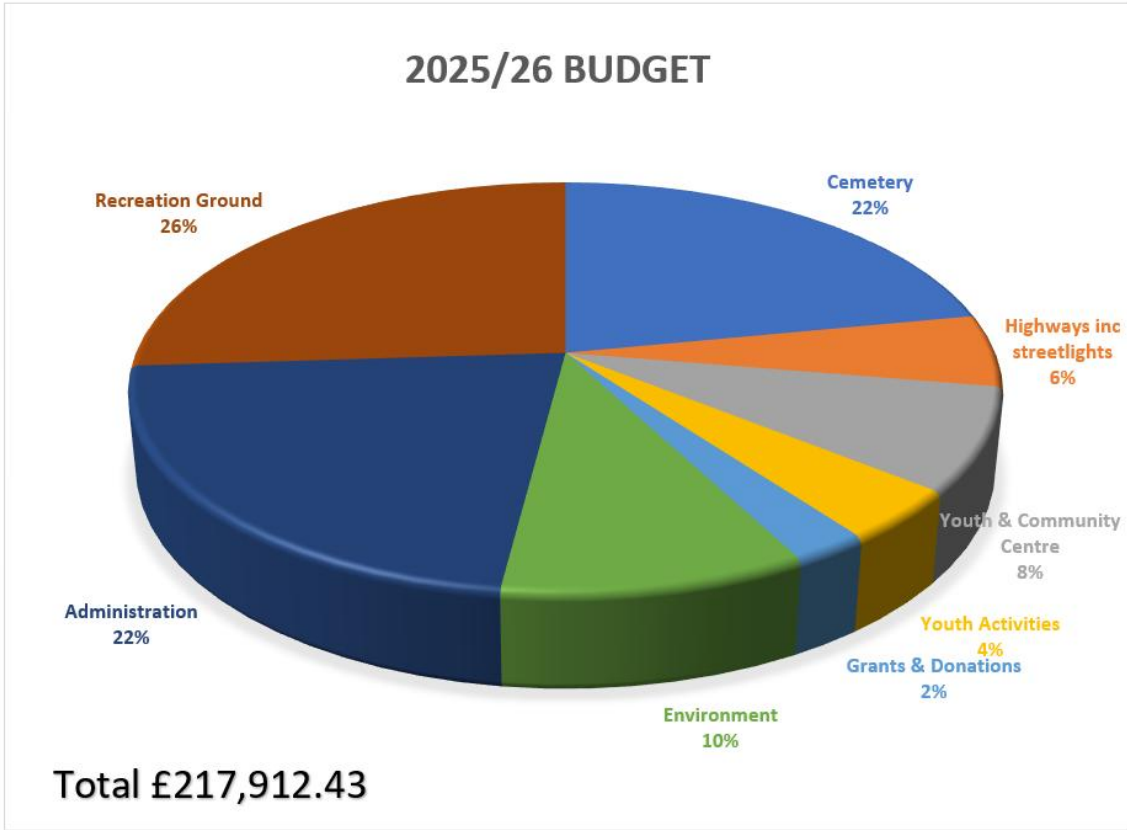
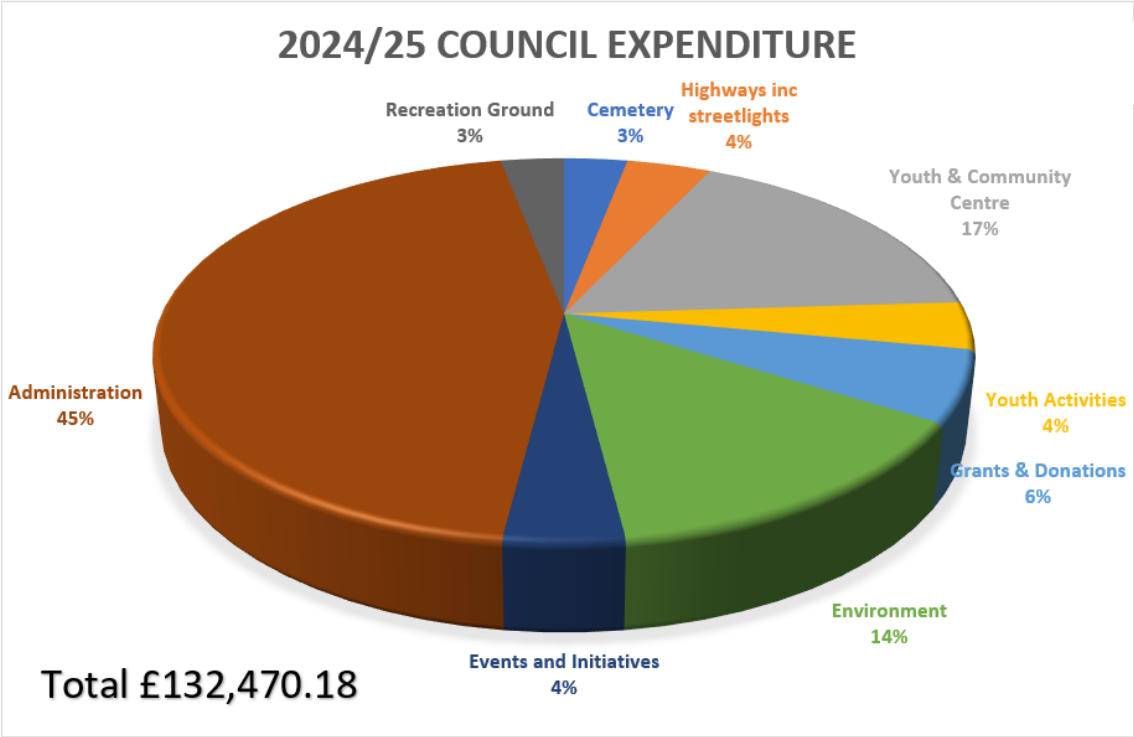
- Tea and Tech / You Can Do I.T. – at the YCC
- Village Cleans
- Provision of dog bins in Banwell and Mead Fields
- Community Picnic on the Rec – this year's will be at Banwell Football Club
- Continued live streaming of our meetings
- Continued provision of the Banwell Youth Club – meets Tuesdays 6.30 – 8.30 (10-18yr)
- Despite storm Darragh, we put on another very successful Christmas Market
- Soup and a Roll – cream teas for the summer at the YCC
- Continued support to Citizens Advice
- Continued provision of volunteers for the school crossing – particular thanks go to Jonathan and Cllr Arlidge. If anyone else can assist – speak to the Clerk
- Joined the West of England Impact Alliance initiative looking at eradicating loneliness in the parish
- Regular updates to the community by our Communications Officer Sally on Facebook, Instagram and our Website. We no longer use Twitter/X.
- Continued outpost of Weston Foodbank

Finally, much of what we do could not occur without the input our volunteers, councillors past and present and especially Liz our Clerk and her family who are always available and give up significant amounts of their time - Russ, Bella, Tom and Anne.

Thank you.

Banwell – A Community, Not Just A Traffic Jam

Banwell Parish Council Accounts



Your Council Tax Precept 2025/26 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.

Banwell Recreation Ground
Riverside Play Area



Council Office
Staff/Admin
Grants & Donations
Village Insurance



Youth & Community Centre
Banwell Cemetery
Streetlights



Christmas Market
Tea & Tech / You Can Do IT
Zebra Crossing Escort
Public Living Room / Soup & a Roll



Grass Cutting
Dog Bins
Waste Removal
Bus Shelters



£86.01

per Band D household per year



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

During the next year (2025/26) Banwell Parish Council are investing in the following:

- Running Summer Holiday Youth Club related activities.
- Continuing the Public Living Room with the 'Soup and a Roll' / Cream Tea initiative and other Parish Council Events throughout the year.
- Running more Nature Focused workshops.
- Additional dog bins / defibrillator at the new Mead Fields Estate.

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

Banwell Great British Spring / Summer Clean



Thank you to the amazing volunteers, some who are pictured here, and the WI who came last year and contributed cakes. We were litter picking, sweeping, and cleaning the village.

In 2025 it is **May 17th** and **September 20th**. We are meeting at the YCC at the bottom of the West Street carpark. All equipment and refreshments will be supplied and the amazing WI have agreed to provide the cakes again 😊. – just bring weather appropriate clothing and a can-do attitude. See you there!

Discover Banwell's Ancient Past

Special Exhibition and Memorial Unveiling - Saturday 19th July, Banwell YCC - Save the Date!

- Step back in time and uncover Banwell's rich history! Join us for a special event celebrating the archaeological discoveries made right beneath our feet.
- Memorial Unveiling at Banwell Cemetery – Witness the unveiling of a new memorial stone marking the final resting place of ancient remains uncovered in 2012.
- Archaeological Exhibition (11:00am – 3.00pm, YCC) – Explore a fascinating display of artefacts discovered during the 2012 Banwell excavation by Border Archaeology, showcased thanks to the Southwest Heritage Trust.
- Banwell Archaeological Society Display – View a stunning photographic exhibition of past excavations and browse a book stall featuring archaeology and history titles.

This is a rare opportunity to connect with Banwell's past—stay tuned for more details!

Banwell Christmas Market

Despite Hurricane Darragh, which meant the Market was delayed a week, the community gathered for a wonderful day of Christmas stalls, refreshments and to visit Santa's Grotto. The Parish Council teamed up with the Community Market, local stall holders and volunteers to run the market whilst Santa accepted gift donations for families in need. The next market will be held on Saturday December 6th 2025. We hope to continue to help support local businesses and promote #BuyInBanwell.



'Soup and a Roll' / Cream Tea in the Public Living Room

As the weather took a cold turn and the cost-of-living skyrocketed in 2022, Banwell Parish Council set up a Public Living Room. Whilst it doubles as a warm space, its main function is to provide a space for people to socialise, work, use free Wi-Fi or simply to come along and get to know your neighbours. It continues throughout the year at Banwell Youth and Community Centre, **Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-1pm**. Refreshments are available and now you can join us for lunch or cream tea (over the summer) on Thursdays between **12:30 and 1:30pm**.



Banwell Youth Club

Banwell Youth Club continues to be outsourced to 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.

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 continue to be held three times a month at Banwell Youth & Community Centre, 2-4pm, Thursdays twice a month and Tuesdays once a month.

Sessions are free for all. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped run the sessions although we are looking for more. We look forward to helping more people enhance their I.T. skills in 2025 and beyond!

Banwell Food Bank

Banwell Parish Council continues 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 of food and money that have been received. Non-perishable food items are still being accepted and can be dropped in 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.

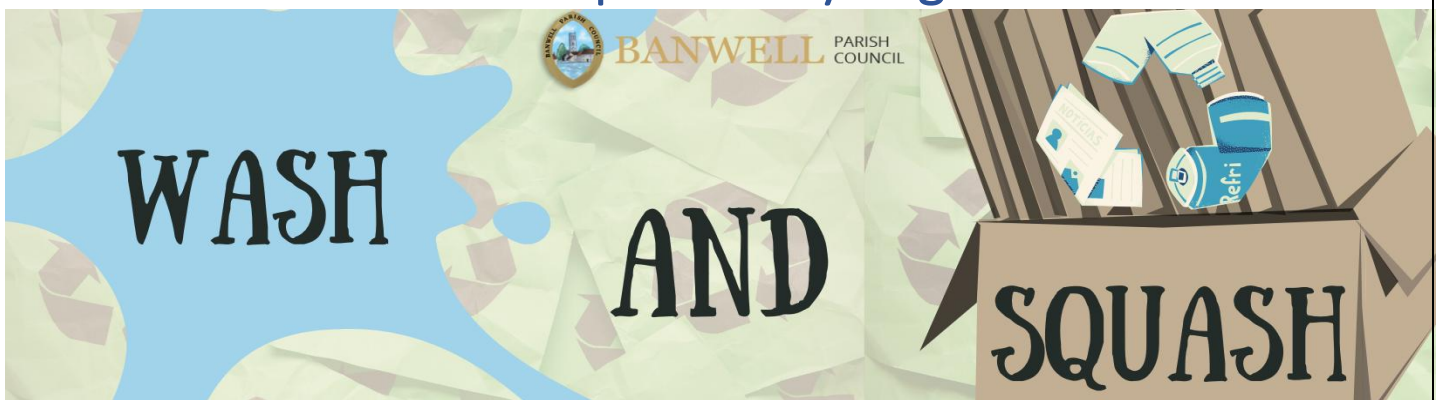
Walking Buddies Scheme

May is the National Walking Month and Banwell Parish Council is in full support. In 2020, the council started the walking buddy program which still operates although it has dwindled significantly. 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. We have also signed up Walking Buddy Volunteers' to help people in Banwell to get out and about for a stroll around the village. You can contact the Clerk to sign up to request a buddy or volunteer as a buddy.

Banwell Book & Puzzle Swap

Looking for something new to read or a puzzle to solve? Running every Thursday and alternate Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm at the Banwell Youth & Community Centre, everyone is welcome to pop in, browse the shelves, and take home a book or puzzle. Stay for a while and enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit — whether you're reading, puzzling, or just having a chat, it's a great place to relax and connect.

Wash & Squash: Recycling 101



Thank you to all our residents who are recycling everything they can! Don't forget to "Wash and Squash" your recycling. Washing your recycling not only reduces contamination at the recycling plant but could also save our wildlife and pets. Animals like hedgehogs, cats, foxes, and badgers are attracted to leftover food residue in your recycling. This can lead to cuts, injuries and even death. Squashing your recycling saves precious space in both your recycling boxes and on the recycling lorries. Squashing means we can recycle even more! Want to learn more about recycling in Banwell? Head to the [North Somerset Council recycling page](#) or contact us. Thank you for doing your part.

Wolvershill Working Groups

These new working groups have been running for a year and have met a number of times. They were established for a dual purpose. The first is to feed into North Somerset's Local Plan which has allocated the land at Wolvershill as a strategic planning site. The second is to feed into the creation of an overarching Master Plan for the new Development which will include design codes, green spaces, retail space, light industrial, schools, etc...

The Liaison Group consists of the Chair, Vice-chair, Chair of Planning and the Clerk who are working directly with North Somerset and the three main developers. The second Working Group includes more Parish Councillors and any members of the public wishing to become involved. The minutes of previous meetings can be found on our website. Keep an eye open on social media for the next meeting.

Banwell Sustainability Group

Your Parish Council has been buzzing with excitement for nature this year! Here's what we've been up to.

Communications: We've been sharing lots of nature and sustainability tips on our social media! Each month, we'll focus on different themes, from plastic reduction to wildlife gardening. We hope these posts inspire you to connect with nature and make a positive impact on the environment!

Nature focused workshop:

In February, we had a fantastic session with Banwell Youth Club, where young people got hands-on with nature-friendly crafts. Using locally sourced willow from Somerset, they skillfully wove bird feeders to help support our local bird population as we move into spring. The session was such a success that we expanded the workshop to the wider community — and over 30 people attended. Each participant had the opportunity to craft their own beautiful willow bird feeder, supporting birds during the crucial nesting season. It was a brilliant way to connect with nature, learn a new skill, and bring people together. More workshops are planned, so keep an eye out.



Banwell sustainability group

We're reinstating the Sustainability Working Group with a new focus on rejuvenating Banwell's green spaces for both nature and the community. Guided by the results of an ecological survey, we'll collaborate on ideas and present recommendations to the Parish Council. Our goal is to create long-lasting, sustainable improvements that benefit both the environment and local people. To get involved, contact our Nature and Biodiversity Officer at nature@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk or turn up for our introductory meeting at 7:30pm on the 2nd of June at the YCC or attend remotely via zoom.

Biodiversity and Sustainability Action Plan:

The Parish Council has been working towards the goals outlined in the Biodiversity and Sustainability Action Plan created by the Sustainability working group. We've already taken steps such as continuing the Terracycle scheme at the Youth & Community Centre for biscuit and snack wrappers, supporting the 'Wash & Squash' campaign, and collaborating with North Somerset Council to ensure a strategic green gap. The full plan is available at www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/parish-council/parish-council-information/.

News

Going Green: Solar Panels Battery Storage for our Community Buildings

Thanks to the support of the North Somerset Business Fund, the Parish Council has secured funding for solar panel battery storage which will service both the Youth & Community Centre and the Scout Building. Continuing the work to make our community buildings more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Building on Our Vision: Strategic Plan and Action Plan Updates (2025/26)

Last year, we proudly launched our Parish Council's Strategic Plan for 2024–2029 — our roadmap for the future. One year on, we're pleased to share that the Strategic Plan and accompanying Action Plan have both been reviewed and updated to reflect our progress and evolving priorities.

We've also refreshed our annual 2025/26 Action Plan, which outlines the specific steps we'll be taking this year towards our longer-term goals. These continue to focus on enhancing Parish Council-owned infrastructure, protecting our environment, engaging with our community, and supporting local businesses. You can find the updated plans on our website at <https://www.banwellparishcouncil.org.uk/parish-council/strategic-plan-2024-2029>, or contact the Clerk for a printed copy. We'd love to hear your thoughts as we continue this journey together — shaping a thriving and resilient future for our community.

Banwell Recreation Ground All Weather Path

Work on the brand-new all-weather path at the Recreation Ground is now complete — and we're delighted with the results! The path, along with the new all-weather surfaces under several pieces of toddler equipment, means the space is now even more accessible and enjoyable year-round, whatever the weather. We've already received lots of positive feedback from residents, and it's great to see the improvements being so well used and appreciated.

Saving Lives: Community Defibrillator Training

In March, we held two defibrillator training sessions at the Youth & Community Centre — part of our commitment to community health and resilience. Sudden cardiac arrest claims around 100,000 lives a year in the UK, but with timely use of a defibrillator, survival rates can dramatically improve. These sessions were designed to build knowledge and confidence in using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and we're thrilled by the positive response. A huge thank-you goes to Pam Harris (St. Johns Ambulance), our fantastic trainer, for delivering such informative and engaging sessions. We're now planning to hold further training in Mead Fields this September.



Celebrating Community Spirit: Volunteer of the Year 2025

We are delighted to announce that the 2025 Recognition of Service to the Community Award has been presented to Jade Longmoor. This annual award honours those who go above and beyond to make Banwell a better place — often quietly, consistently, and without seeking recognition. Jade's long-standing commitment as a bell ringer and now Tower Captain has helped preserve a treasured tradition at the heart of village life. More recently, when North Somerset Children's Services withdrew the toddler group in early 2024, Jade stepped forward to fill the gap. Thanks to her initiative, we now have a warm, welcoming toddler group once again — a lifeline for local families and a joyful space for little ones. Her dedication embodies the spirit of our community, and we are proud to celebrate her contribution.

Grants Given Out by the Parish Council in 2024/25

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:

- 1st Banwell Scouts: Free Battery for their Solar Panels
- Minibus society: £1000
- Older Peoples Service: £2000
- Citizens Advice £3857.50 to enable an outreach service for the Parish.
- Air Ambulance £200
- Vision North Somerset £450
- St Johns Ambulance £50

Grants Awarded to The Parish Council in 2024/25

- £3019.50 awarded by North Somerset Council for solar panel battery storage for the YCC and Scout Building.
- £610 awarded by North Somerset Council to serve food as part of the Public Living Room initiative.
- £1,000 from Winscombe Parish Council to support activities in Banwell Y.C.C.

Banwell E-Newsletter

As well as the Parish Council's quarterly update in the parish magazine, we 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 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 Environment & Biodiversity Officer are more than happy to see you by prior arrangement if this is not convenient. Call (01934) 820442, email clerk@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk or admin@banwellparishcouncil.org.uk