

BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2025 - 2026

Working together to keep our village a safe, vibrant and welcoming place to live

In a year of progression for Barton-le-Clay Parish Council, the highlight has clearly been the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, following a convincing referendum result on 19th February 2026, with over 96% voting 'Yes'. This means the Parish Council has greater powers to challenge inappropriate development and maintain our Village's character. The work put into this over the years by councillors, staff and residents cannot be underestimated and I must thank Cllr Abby Fletcher and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee whose hard work and energy led to the excellent result.

Whilst we are positive about the future of the village, the year has been tinged with sadness following the passing of long-standing Councillor Gill Gardner. As well as being a Parish Councillor, Gill was involved in the Women's Institute, Bowls Club and St Nicholas Church. She was heavily involved with the Planning Committee, and I know she would have been delighted with the referendum result. Gill led the Horticultural Show Sub-Committee for many years, as well as being a key member of the Leisure Committee. I would also like to thank Councillor Barbara Thomas who recently stepped down from the Parish Council after many years, including two spells as Chair. Barbara has been a good friend and support for me on the council over the years and we all wish her well.

In September 2025, we welcomed two part time Rangers to the team. Phil Horton and Simon Jennings are sharing the role and are developing their skills and knowledge to keep the Village in good order. Whilst Phil and Simon have joined the team, we sadly said goodbye to Ian Nichols our weekend Groundsman in August 2025. Ian had dedicated many years of service at the Sports Field and has left to follow a new path. We also said goodbye to Jim Pope, part time Groundsman. Jim hung up his tool kit and strimmer in December 2025, to enjoy his well-earned retirement. We thank both Ian and Jim for their commitment and years of hard work. Our Ground staff work incredibly hard for the Village so if you see them out and about carrying out their many duties, please say hello.

Key highlights in the past year were the VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations in May 2025. It was good to see so many people enjoy the refreshments in the library and congratulations to all those who entered the cake competition.

The commemoration ended with a beacon lighting on 8th May, and we thank everyone who attended the events, helped with the organisation, performed or took part in any way. A few months later in August, we joined



BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL

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together to commemorate the VJ Day 80th Anniversary with a tea and cake event in the library and wreath laying at the War Memorial. Remembering those who served, abroad and at home and those who lost their lives is so important and must never be forgotten. The year of commemoration ended with the Remembrance Sunday Service on 9th November 2025. These events take a lot of organising and are only possible with help from volunteers. If you have some time, and are willing to help at this years event, please let the Parish Office know.

The Coronation Community Garden has continued to grow and offers a great space for villagers to enjoy. The Garden is maintained by a small number of volunteers and weeding sessions are held regularly. If you would like to join the weeding sessions or other activities, please contact the Parish Office.

The Grounds Staff have been busy throughout the year maintaining our green spaces. Two new picnic benches were purchased for the play areas and offer visitors additional seating and a place to relax whilst visiting.

In September 2025, a new fence was installed at the Sports Field. It was installed to tackle ongoing issues of dog fouling, antisocial behaviour and dogs off lead, which are not permitted on marked out pitches. The Sports Field is hired by over 20 youth football teams, Sunday League adult teams, Football Academy and One to One training, and we are fortunate to have such a fantastic facility in the Village. Since the fence was installed, it has made the facility a safer place to use.

Over one weekend in April 2026, we held a very successful Allotment Open Day. The event attracted several visitors, many of which have decided to take on a plot and join the Allotment community. We still have a small number of vacant plots available to let so if you are interested please contact the Parish Office for more details.

As ever, my gratitude goes to our incredible staff for working so diligently and effectively to maintain our Village, and to my fellow Councillors for giving up their time to facilitate meetings and help make Barton le Clay a great place for us all to live.

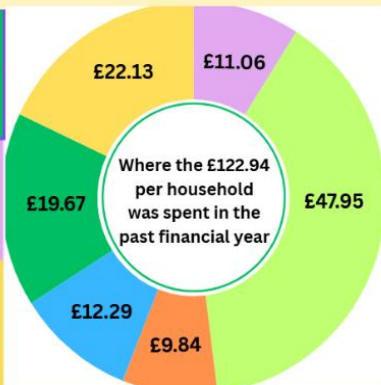
Please visit the Parish Office to share any views you may have with regard to the Village. If you find yourself with some spare time and have an interest in what happens within the Village, and want to shape its future, please consider applying to become a Parish Councillor. There are currently vacancies to be filled, so contact the Parish Office for further information.

Councillor Jonathan Paxton
Chair Barton-le-Clay Parish Council



HOW YOUR MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT

 <p>LEISURE Recreational Ground, Parks & Allotments</p> 
 <p>HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT Trees, Hedges, Green Spaces, Street Furniture</p>
 <p>SPORTS FIELD Maintaining 9 Pitches & Changing Facilities for Youth & Adult Football</p> 



 <p>ADMINISTRATION Planning, Accounts, Legal & Property Management, HR & Maintenance</p>
 <p>CEMETERY SERVICE Maintenance of the Burial Ground, War Memorial & Closed Churchyard at St Nicholas</p>
 <p>Community Events, Christmas Lights & Grants to assist local non-profit & charitable groups</p>