Breaston
PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH ROOMS
BLIND LANE, BREASTON
DERBYSHIRE, DE72 3DW
TEL: 01332 870119

Newsletter 2022-23

Welcome to the Breaston Parish Council 2022-3 Newsletter

The Parish Council is pleased to publish the sixth copy of the Breaston Parish Newsletter.

We have been very busy with numerous big projects that hopefully will get started on the ground in the coming months, projects at the Cemetery Chapel and on Perks Park are described in more detail later in the newsletter.

As always, the Parish Council continues to work hard to keep Breaston looking lovely. Thanks go again to the In-Bloom team and the Litter Seekers who have all been working very hard over the past months and I know everyone will agree that the Village is much improved by their work.

I hope that you find this newsletter interesting and informative and my thanks go to all the Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their input.

Cllr Heather Wrigglesworth
Chair Breaston Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2023

Members of the public are welcome to all Parish Council meetings. Ordinary Meetings will be held on the following dates during 2023 at 7:15pm.

9th JANUARY // 13th FEBRUARY // 13th MARCH
17th APRIL (3rd Monday due to Easter Bank Holiday)
9th MAY (Tuesday due to the Coronation Bank Holiday)
12th JUNE // 10th JULY // 11th SEPTEMBER
9th OCTOBER // 13th NOVEMBER // 11th DECEMBER

Environment Committee meetings will be held at 9am on the morning of the Ordinary meeting.

The remaining Committee meetings (Highways & Lighting, Parks & Cemeteries, General Purposes & Finance) will be held on the preceding Wednesdays commencing at 8.45am.

4th JANUARY // 8th FEBRUARY // 8th MARCH
12th APRIL // 3rd MAY // 7th JUNE
5th JULY // 6th SEPTEMBER // 4th OCTOBER
8th NOVEMBER // 6th DECEMBER

Breaston Parish Council Finance Report

Just like all our residents, over the past year the Parish Council has had to deal with the effects of the rise in inflation. As a result, spending has been more than anticipated. In spite of this, we have fulfilled all our statutory duties and have also been able to allocate funds to continue with village improvement projects.

The Clerk and Councillors have been working hard to identify and apply for grants. Successes so far include:

£1,000 grant from Derbyshire County Council for the wildflower meadow on Breaston Cemetery

£10,000 from the East Midlands Airport Zero Carbon Fund for the solar pv panels on the Parish Council Meeting Rooms

£20,000 from Derbyshire County Council towards the exercise path on Perks Park

£1,440 from Cllr Parkinson's Community Leadership Fund at Derbyshire County Council for a defibrillator at the west end of the village

Breaston's residents and businesses have also made generous donations to the projects:

£26,000 from a resident for the cemetery chapel refurbishment

£1,193.96 from residents and businesses for the wildflower meadow

£1,000 from P Wilcox towards CCTV on Perks Park

£66.55 towards costs for the Carol Concert.

We have also applied for a further £25,000 from The National Lottery for the Perks Park project and have applied for a grant from the Asda Community Fund in January when their application process reopened.

The next financial year will bring challenges: the amount the parish receives from Erewash Borough Council, the Concurrent Functions Grant (CFG) has unfortunately been reduced by a further 10% although our costs continue to rise. This grant has been reduced by more than 40% since 2010 and is never likely to be increased which puts more pressure on the council when setting the precept.

The constant cost of repairs following anti-social behaviour and vandalism cannot be forecast and causes a significant headache when setting the budget too.

We are determined to continue to progress the chapel refurbishment and Perks Park improvements including the CCTV and exercise path as these were identified through consultation as projects supported by residents. The Parish Council also has responsibility for the churchyard at St Michael's church and a recent report has identified work required which will cost over £7,000. The work will be phased over the next 5 years.

The money raised directly from Breaston residents has not increased for 2 years but given the current circumstances a rise this year is unavoidable. The Parish Council precept for a Band D property in 2021/22 was £30.71 a year and for 2022/23 it was £30.56 a year, this year it will rise to £44.06.

Please be aware that all increases to precept are expressed as a percentage increase on your council tax bill so a modest increase of just £3 a year per household on the parish precept would appear as a 10% increase.

The 2022/23 Council Tax invoice for a Breaston band D household totals £1,989.15 and is split into the following areas:

Derbyshire County Council	£1,424.56
Erewash Borough Council	£201.59
Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner	£251.60
Derbyshire Fire & Rescue	£80.84
Breaston Parish Council	£30.56

So, every service (see information later in the newsletter) provided by the Parish Council in 2022/3 cost the average household £30.56 for the year. That's £2.55 per month or £0.59 per week.

The 2023/24 increase means that this cost increases by £13.50 to £44.06 per year that's £3.67 a month, £0.85 a week for a band D property.

The Parish Council element is a relatively small proportion of the whole council tax bill and we will continue to work hard with careful review of the budgets and detailed monitoring undertaken each month to ensure that the Parish Council continues to provide excellent value for money.

Cllr Ann Mills
Chair Finance Committee

Contacts

Parish Councillors

Russell Beeching	07920 714730	Kevin Miller	07590 453378
Ann Mills	07810 351869	George Mounsey	07980 422039
Graham Elliott	874049	Robert Parkinson	07715 012459
Graham Fisher	07500 770409	Julie Rowlinson	875156
Margaret McCaig	872372	Heather Wrigglesworth	07711421345

Parish Clerk

Nicala O'Leary - The Parish Rooms, Blind Lane,
Breaston, DE72 3DW.
Telephone 01332 870119
Email – clerk@breastonparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.breastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contacting the Parish Council

The Clerk is employed on a part-time basis and will respond to any enquiry as quickly as possible in office hours. She may not always be in the office (annual leave, training, meetings and site visits etc) so please call or email, if possible, to arrange a time to visit.
The Office is open for enquiries 8.30am – 1.30pm Monday – Thurs

Other contacts

Erewash Borough Councillors -	Robert Parkinson 07715 012459 Kevin Miller 07590 453378
Derbyshire County Councillor -	Robert Parkinson 07715 012459
Police -	101 or in an emergency 999

List of useful contact numbers

Building Regulations	EBC	Neighbourhood Wardens	EBC
Bus Shelters	EBC	Open Spaces (Breaston)	BPC
Cemetery (Breaston)	BPC	Planning	EBC
Christmas Lights (Breaston)	BPC	Public Conveniences	EBC
Council Tax	EBC	Refuse Collection	EBC
Concessionary Fares	EBC	Social Services	DCC
Dog Wardens	EBC	Street Cleaning	EBC
Education	DCC	Street Lighting	DCC
Libraries	DCC	Trading Standards	DCC

EBC - Erewash Borough Council Tel 0115 907 2244
DCC - Derbyshire County Council Tel 01629 580 000
BPC - Breaston Parish Council Tel 01332 870 119

Environment Committee 2022

The Environment Committee meets every second Monday of each month with the objective of preserving, maintaining, and enhancing the Environment of our lovely village.

It's been another challenging year with the Covid virus protocol still curtailing some activities; however, through the powers of the internet and use of the Methodist Church Meeting Room we continued to function and make significant progress.

Planning Applications

Our local Planning Authorities, Erewash Borough Council & Derbyshire County Council consult us for our local knowledge on applications affecting the village.

Each one is considered by the Committee, endorsed by the full council and an appropriate response is supplied within 21 days.

Whilst our judgments and comments are generally based on the Government's 'Material Planning Considerations' guidelines, we also consider the broader picture in preserving the character of the village, particularly in protecting the Conservation Area and our Green Belt.

Over the last year we have considered 56 EBC Planning Applications, 35 with no objections, approving 12 in principle but with concerns and objecting to 9.

One of the most significant objections was the construction of a new dwelling on the Navigation car park. Despite being endorsed by EBC, regrettably after several amendments it was finally approved on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate.

All pending, approved and rejected Planning Applications can be viewed using the EBC Planning website. https://register.civicacx.co.uk/erewash/planning

Enforcement Issues

We are often contacted by residents reporting building activity that doesn't appear to have planning permission, in such cases we investigate to ascertain if planning approval is required and if so will report to the Enforcement Officer at Erewash Borough Council, so that the necessary action can be taken. So, if you are planning any significant alterations and are unsure of the planning legislation, we recommend you take advantage of the free advice service that is available from EBC Planning Dept.

Village Improvement Programme

Building on the success of previous years, the Committee have continued to identify further untidy or neglected areas of the village and requested those responsible to tidy things up.

Eighty-four problem areas have now been raised over the last seven years with seventy-three closed off to date.

Climate Change

Over the last year, the Parish Council has stepped up its activities in response to the threat of 'climate change.'

Following an Energy Efficiency Audit of all Parish Council

properties by the Marches Energy Agency an action plan was instigated. This includes more efficient heating and insulation, LED lighting installed at the Parish Rooms and solar panels, which are currently being implemented.

Other initiatives include the planting of numerous trees, particularly along the 'Sustrans' footpath, encouraging walking & cycling in the village rather than driving, the investigation of the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and publicising the 'Octopus Energy' renewable energy scheme (see BPC Facebook page).

Flooding

If Covid19 wasn't bad enough, early 2020 saw the most UK rainfall in a calendar month since records began, courtesy of Storms Ciara, Dennis, & Jorge.

With Breaston being situated in the Trent Valley, surface rainwater flows from the higher ground from the north through the village's brooks, ditches, culverts and drains through to the lagoon at the rear of Fearn Close.

This exceptional rainfall exposed every slight blockage in its path, flooding roads, gardens, and some houses, generally along the northern border of the village and the 'Sustrans' path to Draycott.

There was once a canal that afforded protection from any severe flooding. Hopefully, one day it will be restored, however until then, what is clear is that everyone with 'riparian' responsibilities needs to work together to keep the water courses clear and keep rainwater flowing through the village.

Flood Alleviation 2020-22

Over the last two years, the Parish Council have made flood alleviation a priority by co-ordinating and carrying out numerous preventative measures.

With the support of the Environment Agency, DCC, Westerman, Sustrans, farmers and residents; we appear to have made a significant improvement.

Thankfully 2022 has been less problematic; however, we continue with plans to carry out further work, particularly around the cemetery area on Longmoor Lane and with DCC's co-operation, the general clearing of drains.

During the last year the local branch of the Environment Agency have introduced a flood warning system in the Golden Brook and now offer residents the opportunity to be alerted of any impending floods in their area. (Please see BPC web site for details on how to register).

2023

As we enter 2023, we look forward to a happier, less problematic year.

However, we will continue to tackle any issues as best we are able and with your help, make our village as environmentally friendly as possible.

Graham Elliott (Chairman, BPC Environment Committee)

Parks & Cemeteries Committee

The following Councillors are on this committee –
Cllr. Julie Rowlinson (Chair) Cllr. Kevin Miller (Vice Chair), Cllr. Margaret McCaig, Cllr. George Mounsey, & Cllr. Russell Beeching

We are extremely fortunate in Breaston to have several attractive open green spaces for the public to enjoy and also 2 cemeteries within the parish and this committee is tasked with keeping the areas safe and welcoming for all residents. We contract reputable parks maintenance teams to ensure that gardens, trees, parks and hedges are maintained to a high standard. Verges are maintained by Erewash Borough Council. We also have our village caretaker Lyn who is tasked with ensuring that all smaller issues are dealt with, and benches are painted, planters are watered etc. We have a large number of trees in the village, many of which are maintained by EBC, but for those on our land we have yearly tree inspections by a qualified arboriculturist to ensure that trees remain healthy and safe for as long as possible. Most of our land no longer has room for more trees but we regularly search for new sites for tree planting and this year have donated saplings to be planted on the Field of Dreams.

We maintain football pitches and the pavilion on Perks Park for local teams and despite many problems with the pavilion pump over the years they comment that the facilities we offer are superior to those found at other places. Each week our play area equipment is also fully inspected and repaired when necessary.

We are also committed to preserving & protecting wildlife and to this end we are planning a wildflower meadow on the as yet un-needed area in the centre of the main cemetery. Please bear with us whilst this work is undertaken – it may look a bit messy for a while! Fund raising has taken place to enable this project and we are pleased to say that the groundwork has now been done. In spring we will be weeding the ground and sowing the seed – helpers will be needed so please volunteer!

The area known as Johnson's Meadow is leased by the Council for the benefit of residents. Unfortunately, it has recently been sold to a new developer and a new lease has had to be signed. We would have liked to have bought this land for the village but unfortunately we have nowhere near the funds needed and were given no advance warning of the sale. We are hoping the new owners have no plans for this area as yet!

Most of our meetings involve the discussion of dogs for some reason or another as they (or perhaps inconsiderate owners) are responsible for many complaints to the Council. Many dogs are left to roam free on our open spaces and the consequences can mean frightened children, damage to property, accidents with balls, poo left uncollected etc. We encourage all dog owners to be responsible and keep dogs on a lead. We provide free poo bags for those times when an unexpected event happens but unfortunately in recent times some owners have treated the offer of emergency bags as a right and have helped themselves to far more than is reasonable and our budget became overstretched. We have now installed 'one bag at a time' dispensers in appropriate areas but despite asking that **one** is all that is taken many people still abuse this facility, a cost that is then shared by all residents in council tax bills

Our committee is very grateful for the extra help we have from the Breaston in Bloom group and the Breaston Litter Seekers who spend many hours keeping our flower beds beautiful and our streets litter free. We support them in every way we can. Currently the 'Bloomers' are working on much needed improvements to the near corner of Duffield Close now to be called the 'Shade Garden'. This has started to be cleared and new soil and stone added. Appropriate planting will also be added in due course.

We are hoping to rename the Jubilee Garden on the corner of Sawley road as the Queen Elizabeth II Garden and a special rose is to be planted in her memory.
Work on improving Perks park has started and will continue next year.

Cllr Julie Rowlinson
Chair Parks & Cemeteries Committee

Parish Clerk: Nicala O'Leary Email: clerk@breastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Highways and Lighting 2022

Speedwatch

Over the last few months, a group of volunteers have undertaken to monitor the traffic through the village.

With a very generous donation, we were able to purchase a speed gun and the first speed watch was in February 2022. To date, 62 motorists have been reported to the police for speeding, the fastest having a recorded speed of 49mph, overtaking a bus. After the fatal incident that happened recently, one shudders to think of the implications this type of reckless driving can have. We seem to be making an impression, at the peak, in a 1 hr. session, 13 vehicles were recorded breaking the speed limit, the last session held in December, that figure was down to 1, which is still one too many, but a great improvement.

We will continue to hold regular sessions, and drivers caught speeding will be reported to the police. Speed kills, please drive carefully.

Dangerous Parking

We are all aware that many parts of Breaston were not designed for the motor car and inconsiderate parking is often an issue. This problem is not only the Green and by the Primary School, but spills over to the surrounding streets, causing problems, not only for residents but also other road users. The parish council has no control over parking issues. We do however lobby the Highways Team at Derbyshire County Council who regularly send parking wardens to patrol the area, so please consider other road users when you park, especially people with mobility issues.

Disabled Accessibility

In recent months we have been surveying the dropped kerbs and pavements around the village and sent a report of areas without the necessary adjustments for people with limited mobility. Derbyshire County Council have a list of work that will be undertaken in the coming months. Following a request from a resident about access to businesses and shops in the village we have written out to the relevant shops to investigate what measures they can take to assist those with mobility issues to access all village services.

Safer Streets

You will all be aware of the Government's initiative to make the streets safer for everyone but particularly for women and young girls. The Parish Council have been lobbying the County Council to reinstate all night lighting along Longmoor Lane between the junction with Petersham Road and the village. With a cost of no more than £20 per year for one column we hope that we can convince the Highways Authority to switch the lights back on along this particularly dark section of road.

Cllr Graham Fisher

Chair Highways and Lighting Committee

General Purposes Committee

Dementia Friendly Village.

We are trying to create places in the village that are safe and accommodating to those with memory issues. St Michael's Church holds weekly meetings where carers and those living with dementia can enjoy friendly conversation and refreshments.

The local businesses have been contacted to ask them to look out for those residents who may have problems while out shopping etc. We are investigating with other agencies the possibility of a Dementia information event where residents can come along and find out about services and groups that may help, with the view that the Parish Council could hold a library of this kind of information that people could get, either in hard copy from the Clerk or from the website.

Additional Defibrillator

We are delighted to report that we have been successful in securing funding to provide a further defibrillator at the western end of the parish. The Overdale Medical Practice have kindly agreed to let us site it on the exterior of their building, we now have equipment in the following locations:

Parish Rooms, Blind Lane.

Pavilion, Perks Park, Longmoor Lane/Rectory Road.

Leisure Lakes, on the junction of Woodland Avenue & Wilsthorpe Road.

Overdale Medical Practice, Bridgefield.

There is also a device in the Co-op Food Store in the Green which is available in store open times.

Parish Events

We continue to hold successful events throughout the year including the Gala, Summer Band Concert, Remembrance Service and Carol Concert. Last year we had an additional event the Jubilee Picnic which unfortunately had to be held indoors, however an excellent afternoon was had by all who attended.

If you would like to be involved in the organisation of the Gala please contact the Clerk and you can become a member of the Gala Committee. Check our Facebook page, website and the notice boards.

Cllr George Mounsey

Chair General Purposes Committee

Improvements to the Chapel at Breaston Cemetery

Following the floods in late 2019/2020 the Cemetery Chapel was affected by the water, which unfortunately got under the floor. Work has been undertaken to improve the drains following a report by a surveyor. Some timbers were found to be rotten, and we then found that we have a woodworm infestation. Numerous different ways to repair the situation were considered and at the same time we needed to decide the future of the building.

The chapel is an important historical building in Breaston and used for funeral services and also opened on special days for families to seek a moment of peace and to make an entry in the book of remembrance.

Before making any decisions we sent a questionnaire to ask all residents what they would like to see done:

- Make essential repairs and continue using for chapel purposes.

- Mothball the building - making only basic safety repairs when required.

- Make significant improvements to the building allowing it to be used for a community hub. install a new floor, heating, toilet facilities/kitchenette etc.

- Demolish the building and level the ground for an extension of burial space.

We received an excellent response from the survey and the majority of people wanted the Chapel to continue in use, with an equal split of opinions between repair or upgrade. Therefore, following further discussions with experts and existing users we have decided to make all the necessary repairs but also add toilet facilities and improved heating, lighting and sound system. This will mean that the Chapel will be much more comfortable and hopefully be used more often in preference to other local facilities.

The impact on Parish Council finances is great but we are extremely fortunate to have received a large donation from a resident to enable the main work to be carried out. Any further funding will need to be sought from outside sources or by increasing the precept.

Cllr Julie Rowlinson

Chair Parks & Cemeteries Committee

Dates for your diary

May Day Gala
Monday 1st May - 11am - 4pm
Duffield Close

Summer Band Concert
Sunday 6th Aug - 2pm
Duffield Close

Summer Climbing Wall School Holidays
TBC

Remembrance Service
Sunday 12th November - 11am
Memorial Garden

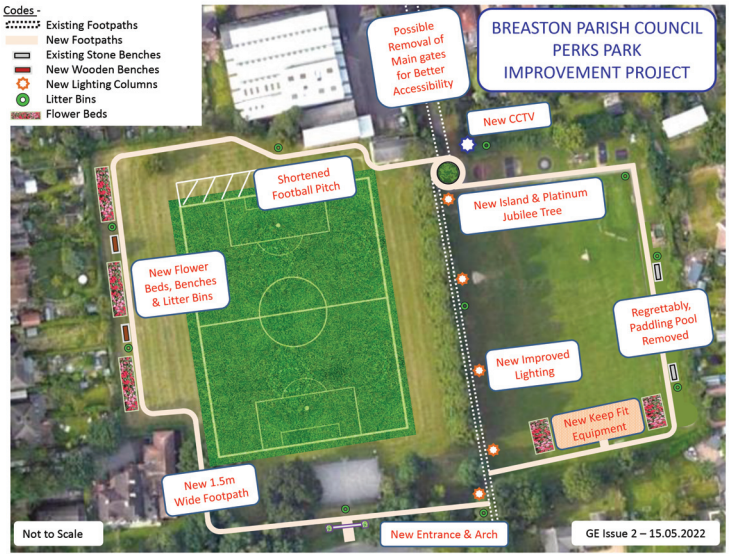
Carol Concert & Light Switch On
Friday 8th December - 7pm
Duffield Close

PERKS PARK

A Sub-Committee of the Parks & Cemeteries committee has been working hard on a major plan to improve Perks Park. (See plan).

The current state of the old paddling stream made us realise that something would need to be done in the near future or we would be creating a dangerous eyesore. Unfortunately, Health & Safety dictated that the paddling area could not be refilled with water due to the risk of Legionella and broken glass etc. We wanted to keep the structure and investigated filling the stream in with soil to create a new planting area, but surveys by contractors pointed out that the concrete was degrading and cracking and would need removing in the near future.

This was our starting point for planning new developments with the aim of removing the paddling area and adding further features to make the park more interesting and user friendly.



A questionnaire was sent to every household in the village asking for opinions on what we should do, and we have used the replies to guide our plans.

The ability to walk or run around the whole park was a priority on residents' replies so we have planned to do just that with a new path around the perimeter that can be used by walkers and runners alike. The path will be constructed with a hard-core base, and we are recycling the old concrete stream to be part of this. The top surface will be a durable compacted fine paving gravel and will be suitable for walking, running, cycling and wheelchairs. Benches and planting are also planned around the path.

The existing football pitch remains but has been made slightly smaller, more player friendly, re-lined and the goal area improved.

Another popular suggestion was to install some exercise equipment for older children and adults to use so we applied for a grant and purchased 5 pieces of equipment along the side parallel to Rectory Road. These have proved to be very popular, especially as we sited them on a special surface to enable year-round use. This area will be connected to the new path when it is finished.

Unfortunately, the central Right of Way path through the park is very dark in the evenings so we are hoping to install lighting along its length, and we have carried out work to hedges and trees to open up the area for the safety of walkers cutting through the park. CCTV that will cover the whole of the park will be installed as soon as we can raise enough money as it is important that our new improvements are not spoilt by Anti-Social behaviour.

The Rectory Road entrance is quite small, offers limited access and is not very attractive so we are planning a new entrance further along near the MUGA with an archway and planted tubs to welcome visitors. This and the Longmoor Lane entrance will be disability friendly.

Obviously all of these improvements are subject to sufficient finance being obtained. We have received a donation towards the CCTV equipment and are busy applying for more funding from many sources to enable the path to become a reality. Once the work is finished we expect the park to be used by many more residents and visitors and envisage events such as Fun Runs to be taking place in the future. If you can help with our fund raising please get in touch with the Clerk.

Cllr Julie Rowlinson
Chair Perks Subcommittee

A few of the things that the Parish Council does for you…..

We own and maintain the following green spaces in the village: Duffield Close, Perks Park including pavilion, public toilets, football pitches, Multi Use Games Area, Play & Gym equipment. The Queen Elizabeth II Garden (formerly named Jubilee Garden), Centenary Garden, Memorial Garden and we also lease and maintain Johnson's Meadow a public open space at the west end of the village. Litter picking, grass cutting, tree and hedge maintenance, poo picking, poo bag provision and bin emptying are all part of the working week. Floral displays in the village centre, hanging baskets at the PCMR, St Michael's Churchyard, planters outside the Bull's Head, Chemist and in the Green are all provided and watered by the Parish Council.

Whilst we don't own or lease the churchyard we are also responsible for the grounds maintenance of St Michael's Churchyard and boundary wall. Along with this we maintain the church clock.

We own and manage Breaston Cemetery and chapel and are the burial authority, managing burial services for the site, liaising with bereaved families, funeral directors, the local registry offices and stone masons etc.

We organise and fund numerous public events throughout the year including the Gala, Summer Band Concert Remembrance Service and Carol Concert. We provide Christmas lights at the Church and in the Green each year and bunting for summer events too!
We are responsible for 3 soon to be 4 public defibrillators.
We own and manage the CCTV system in the Green and hope to soon install a second system on Perks Park.

We provide a local link to Derbyshire County Council, Erewash Borough Council, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and others. Lobbying on behalf of residents in regard of services provided by the principal authorities. Issues raised include the perennial potholes, blocked drains, street cleaning, flooding and planning applications.

We administer and manage the local Speedwatch team, and the Clerk and Caretaker can often be seen out with the team and the speed gun!

We have been busy trying to make Breaston a Dementia Friendly place to live – and have provided funding for local groups and continue to liaise with organisations who offer help and services for those living with the condition.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY…

Are you interested in improving the place where you live?
Do you know what the Parish Council does?
Would you like to be a Councillor?

The Parish Elections are taking place in May 2023 and your Parish needs you to get involved!!

For more information and details of how to become a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk 01332 870119, clerk@breastonparishcouncil.gov.uk