



Welcome to the Breaston Parish Council Newsletter

Since the last newsletter, the council has been extremely busy on a number of large projects throughout the village.

The walking/exercise path on Perks Park has been completed and has proved to be extremely popular. New benches have been installed with more to follow, and one of the benches will be designated a Friendship Bench with a QR code on it. This is for people to scan who are struggling with loneliness or their mental health, it takes the scanner through to a page with lots of useful advice and information about local groups and assistance available.

Work is still ongoing at the Cemetery Chapel, see later in the newsletter for more information.

We are very conscious about vehicles speeding through the village despite regular speed watch sessions. We have purchased speed indicator devices to remind motorists of the speed limit.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting, and my thanks go to my fellow councillors and the Parish Clerk.

Graham Fisher
Chair, Breaston Parish Council

Finance Committee

At the February Parish Council meeting, members agreed on a small increase in the precept for the upcoming year. The budget was carefully reviewed, with savings achieved in training, communications, and electricity costs for the parish council meeting room. However, recent information from Erewash Borough Council regarding the costs of opening, closing, and cleaning public toilets, alongside government changes to National Insurance levels, contributed to an overall increase. Additionally, the loss of the £2,000 concurrent functions grant also had to be taken into account. Despite these financial pressures, we are pleased to have kept the increase to a modest level.

The total precept request for the year stands at £134,974.71— an increase of £7,267.79 from last year. For residents, this equates to an approximate rise of just £3.30 per year for a Band D property. We believe this represents good value for the essential services we provide to the parish. These include maintaining and improving green open spaces such as Duffield Close, Perks Park, the Centenary Garden, Memorial Garden, and Queen Elizabeth Garden. The Parish Council also manages Breaston Cemetery and Chapel and leases and maintains Johnson's Meadow as a public open space.

We provide a vital link between residents and other organisations such as the Borough & County Councils, Environment Agency, Severn Trent etc.

Throughout the year, we organise popular community events, including the May Day Gala, Summer Band Concert, Carers' Support Sessions, Summer Holiday Activities, Remembrance Service, and Carol Concert.

By keeping the precept increase as low as possible, we aim to continue providing these valuable services while ensuring the best value for our residents.

Russell Beeching
Chair, Finance Committee

Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2025/6

Finance, General Purposes, Parks & Cemeteries and Highways & Lighting Committees are generally held on the 1st Wednesday of each month commencing at 9.45am.

Environment Committee 8.45am and Full Council 7pm are held on the 2nd Monday of each month.

There is a public session at every meeting and the public are welcome to attend.

There are no meetings in August.

Dates for 2025-6 are:

Wednesday Committees:

April 9th 2025 // May 7th 2025 // June 4th 2025
July 9th 2025 // September 3rd 2025 // October 8th 2025
November 5th 2025 // December 3rd 2025
January the 7th 2026 // February the 4th 2026
March the 4th 2026 // April the 8th 2026

Monday Meetings

April 14th 2025 // May 12th 2025 // June 9th 2025
July 14th 2025 // September 8th 2025 // October 13th 2025
November 10th 2025 // December 8th 2025
January the 12th 2026 // February the 9th 2026
March the 9th 2026 // April the 13th 2026

Contacts

Parish Councillors

Nick Buckthorpe	07943116226	Lisa Patrick	07792294189
Robert Parkinson	07715012459	Paul Wells	07966300380
Russell Beeching	07920714730	Kevin Miller	07590453378
Louise Crannage	07508012290		
George Mounsey	07980422039	Heather Wigglesworth	
Catherine Salt	07910006937		07711421345
Graham Fisher	07500770409		
Graham Elliott	01332874049		

Parish Clerk

Nicala O'Leary – The Parish Rooms, Blind Lane, Breaston, DE72 3DW.

Telephone 01332 870119

e-mail – clerk@breastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.breastonparish.co.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:

Ann Mills - 07810351869 Kevin Miller - 07590453378

Derbyshire County Councillor –

Robert Parkinson 07715012459

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 0115 907 2244

DCC - Derbyshire County Council 01629 533190

BPC - Breaston Parish Council 01332 870119

The BPC Environment Committee 2024

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

It's been another very challenging year particularly with further flooding issues; however, the Council have strived to tackle the causes and continue to improve the village environment in many other areas.

Planning Applications

Our local Planning Authorities, Erewash Borough Council & Derbyshire County Council continue to consult us as a statutory consultee 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, whilst encouraging improvement wherever acceptable.

Over the last year we have considered 39 EBC Planning Applications, 23 with no objections, approving another 10 in principle but with concerns and objecting to 6. Some of the most significant applications have been on Poplar Road where several homes are being re-developed. Generally, they have all been eventually approved after several iterations to ensure they are in keeping with the street scene and do not significantly affect their neighbours' amenities. We have also been assured that any damage to the paths and verges will be repaired following the conclusion of the work. Another major development has been the Severn Trent Buildings on Sawley Road. Although in our Green Belt, they are funded by the Government and deemed to be 'permitted development' to ensure the future supply of clean water to our area using a new 'carbon friendly' production method. All pending, approved, and rejected Planning Applications can be viewed using the EBC Planning website.

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

Climate Change

Over the last 2 years, 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 in 2023 an action plan was instigated and now mostly implemented.

This included more efficient heating and insulation, LED lighting and Solar Panels installed in the Parish Council Rooms and energy efficient lights fitted to the 'MUGA on Perks Park.

Other initiatives that we continue to work on include, the planting of numerous trees and plants with the assistance of 'Breaston in Bloom,' Spring Valley and Firfield School children. A new 'Village Footpath Map' has been installed in the Green to encourage more walking and less traffic, plus we are investigating the provision of an 'Electric Vehicle Charging Point' in the village.

Flooding

Further to Storms Babet and Ciaran in autumn 2023, Storm Henk came early in 2024, followed by a particularly wet spring and early summer.

With Breaston being situated in the Trent Valley, surface rainwater flows from the higher ground in the north through a network of the village's brooks, ditches, culverts and drains, to West Park and into the River Trent via the Erewash canal.

This exceptional rainfall exposed every slight blockage in its path, flooding roads, gardens, and some houses, particularly along the course of the Golden Brook, the area around the Cemetery on Longmoor Lane and along the northern border of the village.

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

Flood Alleviation 2020-24

Over the last four 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, Sustrans, farmers and residents; we appear to have made some improvement; however, we still continuously lobby those responsible for maintaining any ditches or drains that may cause blockages. Some agencies and landowners have not been as responsive as we would like, so we have enlisted the help of our local MP Adam Thompson.

In 2022 the local branch of the Environment Agency introduced flood alert monitors 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 and lots of other useful information and contact numbers regarding Flooding).

Biodiversity Net Gain

In January 2024, in response to a UK Government directive under the Environment Act 2021, the Council drew up an action plan to achieve a target of '10% Biodiversity Net Gain'. This is currently being implemented, with the progress reviewed every 6 months. This involves managing our green spaces to improve Biodiversity, carefully considering

what chemicals we use, reduce the use of energy and water, plus improving how we manage buildings.

*Graham Elliott
Chair, Environment Committee*

Parks & Cemeteries

Residents who follow the Parish Council on social media or attend our meetings will be aware of the challenging weather we've faced over the past few years. Storms Babet, Chiara, Henk and Darragh were just a few that battered our village, leaving numerous projects on hold - most notably, worsening conditions at the Cemetery Chapel. However, we're pleased to report that things have finally improved, allowing us to complete much-needed work!

Perks Park Improvements

- **Circular Exercise Path** – Completed in summer 2024, the path has been a great success, with many residents using it for daily exercise.
- **New Benches** – Installed along the western perimeter, with additional memorial benches coming soon to the east.
- **Streetlights & Lighting Bollards** – Now completed, making the public right of way safer and more accessible in the evenings.
- **LED Lighting for the MUGA** – A cost-effective and eco-friendly upgrade, benefiting both the Parish Council's budget and the environment.

We're planning improvements to disabled access along the Rectory Road boundary. The current entrance, which aligns with the public right of way, is not particularly welcoming. To enhance accessibility and create a more inviting gateway, we are exploring plans to open up the area and position the entrance more centrally. Stay tuned for updates on the Parish Council website.



Cemetery Chapel Restoration

The Cemetery Chapel suffered severe setbacks due to flooding, originally in 2019 and then again during the storms of 2023/24. Despite the challenges, we persevered, thanks to a generous resident donation and a public consultation.

- **Drainage improvements** and removal of boundary planting helped reduce future flooding risks.
- **Structural repairs** included replacing the damaged floor, reinforcing the ceiling (which partially collapsed in strong winds), and restoring the pews.
- **Modern upgrades** such as new LED lighting, sockets, outdoor lighting, and heating were installed in February 2025 - a full five years after the first flood!
- **Floral Displays** - A huge thank you to A.W. Lymn for their generous donation of beautiful new floral arrangements.

We were delighted to celebrate these achievements with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late February, attended by residents and councillors.

Next on the agenda is the installation of an accessible toilet for chapel visitors, alongside further flood protection measures, supported by a Flood Resilience Grant from Derbyshire County Council.

A huge thank you to all the contractors, volunteers, and community members who supported these efforts - your patience and dedication have made these improvements possible!

For updates, visit our Parish Council website.

Kevin Miller
Chair, Parks & Cemeteries



Highways & Lighting

2024 was another challenging year and the weather gods have not helped. Roads in Breaston are of varying quality but the Parish Council continues to lobby for both reactive and proactive work on our roads and to fix potholes promptly.

If you spot any issues with blocked drains, potholes, street lighting (permanently on or permanently off!) they can be reported on the Derbyshire Report It system <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport-roads/roads-traffic/report-a-road-fault/report-a-road-fault.aspx>

Alternatively you can let the Clerk know and she will make a report.

The Speedwatch team continue to hold regular sessions around the village, encouraging drivers to adhere to the speed limit. If you would like to get involved, please contact the Clerk. 01332 870119 clerk@breastonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Furthermore, the Parish Council has obtained four solar powered, speed indicator devices. Part-funded by grant applications, these devices have been installed at sites on Longmoor Lane, Risley Lane, Sawley Road and Draycott Road so that each road has a reminder to drivers of the speed limits.

Paul Wells
Chair, Highways & Lighting Committee



General Purposes Committee

The Parish Council is dedicated to supporting our residents, particularly those caring for friends and family members. To that end, we've organised regular Carers' meetings at the Parish Council Meeting Room and St Michael's Church. These sessions have featured specialists in Dementia care, offering advice, leaflets, and information to those who need it.

Annual Breaston Gala: Scheduled for May, this much-loved event promises to be another great success. Let's hope for good weather and another fantastic turnout!

Play Scheme: During the school summer holidays, children can enjoy the ever-popular Climbing Wall and additional amusements again this year.

Christmas Carol Concert: Due to December's inclement weather, the concert was moved to St Michael's Church. This proved popular, and we plan to use the church again for future services.

Speed Watch: Spring Valley School children recently participated in a speed watch session. They've shown great enthusiasm

and will be involved in future sessions. A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our village safe.

Knitted Poppies: In a community effort to reduce single-use plastic, groups like Pins, Hooks, and Pom Poms contributed to knitting poppies for Remembrance Day. Thanks to everyone's efforts, 121 lamp posts were adorned with poppy wreaths!

Safe Spaces Scheme: The Derbyshire County Council Safe Spaces initiative is now active in our village, providing support to anyone feeling vulnerable while out. A special thanks to The Chequers Public House for joining the scheme.

New Portrait of King Charles: Following the coronation, a complimentary portrait of King Charles has been unveiled in the Parish Council Meeting Room.

Summer Band Concert: Save the date! This year's concert will be held on Sunday, August 3rd, at Duffield Close.

Village Walks: We bid farewell to Mr. Marshall, who unfortunately has stepped down as walk leader due to family health issues, we thank him for his efforts and wish him well.

We hope to resume village walks later this year with a new leader, keep an eye on the Parish Council website, Facebook page and the noticeboards for updates.

New Councillor: We were sorry to see Cllr Mills leave and thank her for all of her hard work during her time on the Parish Council. Thankfully after the usual advertising of the vacancy we have been able to co-opt a new Cllr; Nick Buckthorpe who joined us during February. Welcome Nick!

George Mounsey
Chair, General Purposes Committee

WORRIED ABOUT ENERGY BILLS?

We can help!

Warmer Derby and Derbyshire is your local energy advice service and our friendly team is here to help with all of your energy related queries.

- In-depth advice and support, including home visits and free energy saving measures.
- Support with resolving issues like energy debt and supplier disputes.
- Help to access funded home energy efficiency grants and crisis funding.

Get in touch today for free, impartial advice from a friendly local advisor:

0800 677 1332
wdd@mea.org.uk

marches energy adviser

Parish Council Carers' Support Sessions

On 30th October and 27th November last year, we held two Carers' Support Sessions in the Parish Council Rooms. These were for carers of all ages in Breaston who are caring for a family member or friend.

Following on from previous Dementia Information Drop-in sessions held in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Society and Derbyshire All Ages Carer Support Service

(DAACSS), we felt we could offer a more regular supportive session to the many residents who are caring for a family member or friend.

The Parish Council hold a library of information, and this is an opportunity to come along for a drink and a chat, meet other carers and discover information relating to local organisations and services.

Both occasions were successful with some very useful information and advice available.

Going forward, and before we plan further sessions, we would like to know your thoughts and ideas regarding our future sessions and how we can shape them, whether that is gaining service information and advice, finding out about support available and/or conversation in a relaxed, informal and friendly atmosphere.

We would like to know your thoughts so contact either myself, Cllr Patrick or the clerk.

Cllr Catherine Salt

May Day Gala

The Gala in 2024 was a brilliant success for Breaston Parish Council.

The weather was amazing, and the sun definitely shone down for us on the day. The Gala was extremely well attended by people from the local area.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Gala, local groups, stall holders, ponies, fun fair rides and of course who could possibly forget the Spitfire flypast.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed into our collection buckets on the gates. Some of the money raised paid for the bouncy castles at our fun days on Duffield Close in the summer. We are also hoping to buy some new Christmas lights for the Village.



Plans for the Gala are in progress and if anyone would like stall or if you could offer help in any way, please get in touch with us.

Lisa Patrick
Chair, Gala Committee

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 get involved?

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

Road Safety in Breaston



You will have seen the Speed Indicator Devices have now been installed in 4 locations around the parish; Longmoor Lane, Risley Lane, Sawley Road and Draycott Road. It is hoped that a further device can be provided for Wilsthorpe Road, and funding availability is being investigated further.

In the first week that the Speed Indicator Devices were installed data was downloaded by the clerk and the details provided are extremely useful. Average Speeds, Maximum Speeds, Number of vehicles, percentiles and data sheets. All of which provided for vehicles travelling in both directions. The data will be forwarded to the teams at the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Highways Road Safety Team at Derbyshire County Council.

We are still keen to expand the Speedwatch Group's activities and are always looking for further volunteers to join the group. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

