Bournheath Parish News
Autumn 2025

Hello everyone, here is the Bournheath Parish newsletter for Autumn 2025 containing news on what your Parish Council has been working on, with an update from Bournheath Village Community Centre.

If you have moved into the area recently, we would like to welcome you. This is delivered by hand to those for whom we have no email address. If you would like to receive this update electronically please email clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk and state “opt into emails”.

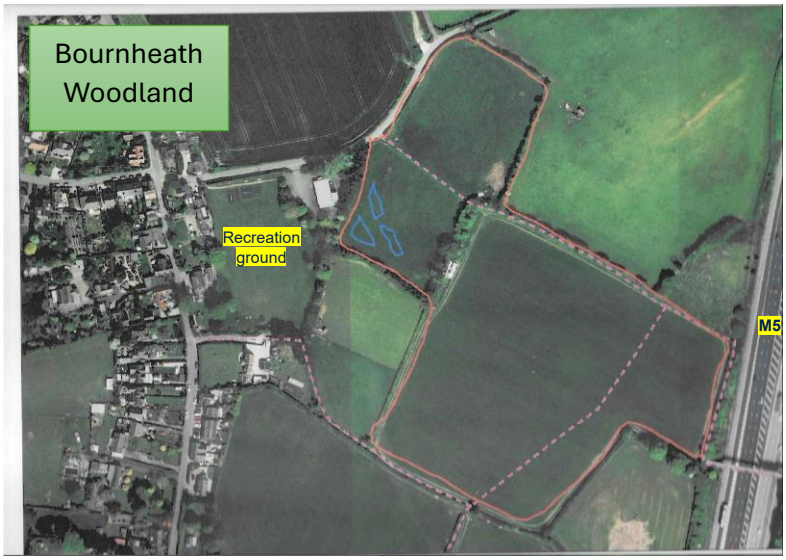
We hope you find the information in this newsletter useful. If there is anything that you would like to discuss it would be great to see you at our regular Parish Council meeting which takes place on the second Wednesday of every month (apart from August and December) at the Community Centre. The meeting agenda can be found on noticeboards/online 3 days prior. Each meeting covers a public question time, updates from our district and county council ward representatives, planning applications submitted, reports from councillors, community project updates and financial performance overview.

Bournheath Parish Council News

Your Parish Councillors (Cllr)
Gary Davies (Chair), Louise Colley (Vice Chair), Matt Guest, Philip Hughes, Karen May and Sophie Moir. To put a face to a name, please have a look at the “Councillors” tab on our website (www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk). Also, welcome to Maria Stepin who was co-opted to the council at the October meeting. Maria is a member of the Speed Watch group and we thank her for joining the council and supporting the community.

Woodland project (including new flood measure)
Our thanks to Wade Muggleton (Senior Greenspace Officer, Worcestershire County Council) for coming along to our recent residents meeting and providing an update on the woodland project. As conveyed at the meeting, the original project has been scaled back due to change in administration at Worcestershire County Council. The woodland footprint has been reduced and the second ‘closed’ area, behind Fairfield Road, is no longer being planted. Its is expected that the land will remain as part of the Council’s small holdings portfolio. The new woodland outline is shown below.

The proposal is to spread the tree planting over, possibly, three winters as the lessons (from this summer) are that the risk of significant losses is high so spreading that risk across three years lessens the likelihood of one catastrophic failure.



Bournheath Woodland

The solid red line denotes the new woodland boundary.

The blue shapes show the location of the new scrapes.

Planting is due to take place later this year.

We will notify residents when planting is due to start and encourage everyone to join us in planting the new woodland.

Planting dates will be announced just as soon as the tree nurseries are prepared to deliver the trees. The conditions need to be right for the saplings to be lifted; this is dependent on the weather and tree dormancy conditions. It is likely that the planting will take place later this year to give the saplings as much time as possible to establish themselves before the spring. The first phase of planting is most likely to be the field immediately behind the hall and, possibly, the motorway buffer strip.

You may have noticed that there has been some activity in the field directly behind the hall. As mentioned in our Spring newsletter the new 'scrapes' have now been dug as part of the flood management project. We hope these will hold water during any periods of heavy rain.

Severn Trent projects

As part of the recent residents meeting, Severn Trent and Forkers (reservoir build contractors) provided an update on the progress of the new reservoir development project. Following the meeting we have compiled some questions from the community and the responses from Severn Trent:

Q: Have there been any water quality issues in the area? Is the water safe to drink?
A: The water is absolutely safe to drink. We take regular samples from all our drinking water sites. If any concerns were identified, they would be addressed immediately.

Q: What's happening with the access road and the store road – why are they being kept?
A: To improve access to the site for maintenance purposes, we would like to retain the new access road. This is subject to approval through the appropriate channels. The application can be viewed on the Bromsgrove Planning Portal.

Q: What's happening to the land and the reservoir after you have left?
A: The concrete tank will be surrounded by grass seeded earth embankments and topped with a gravel roof. All temporary compound areas will be returned to their original state.

Q: What's happening with the old DSR (reservoir)? Why wouldn't we demolish it?
A: Once the new DSR is commissioned, the existing DSR will be isolated for inspection. A decision regarding its future will be made based on the outcome of that inspection.

Q: Where does their water come from?
A: Bournheath is supplied from multiple sources including Bellington WTW (water treatment works), Wildmoor WTW (which consists of Wildmoor Borehole water blended with Sugarbrook Borehole water) and Bellington resilience main.

Q: What's happening with the chain link fence?
A: The new site will be enclosed by a 1.8m security fence, similar to the existing site. All temporary fencing will be removed once construction is complete.

Q: Will there be someone on site when the road is closed?
Yes, someone will be on site during road closures. Residents will continue to be notified of any future road closures.

Severn Trent will also be starting a second project in 2026; connecting the reservoir to the new building developments in Bromsgrove. A second project manager and a new contractor will be announced in due course. Severn Trent will be holding a residents drop-in session to discuss the new work. The project is currently being finalised and will be announced during the winter. As soon as we have any further information from Severn Trent we will provide an update.

Traffic management in Bournheath Village

The Parish Council, in conjunction with the Community Speed Watch team, continue to look at ways of managing traffic in the village. The following measures have been raised by Council and we are waiting on Highways department to fulfil our existing requests:

- Doctors Hill: the current road narrowing sign has been raised to make it more visible to drivers. We are still waiting on Highways to complete a request to paint new white lines to denote where the road narrows. This work is scheduled to take place in the near future

- Monitoring of traffic volumes: with the introduction of the new VAS sign on Dordale Road, we are now monitoring volume of traffic and the speed of vehicles. The council regularly reviews the information from the two VAS signs in the village (the second sign is located on the Fairfield Road). We have also submitted a request to our County Councillor for funding to replace the old VAS sign on Doctors Hill with a new VAS sign. The current sign is obsolete and does not provide any information on traffic; a new sign, similar to the ones we already use, will help provide a more complete picture of traffic (volume and speed) traveling through the village.

- New speed and horse-riding signs: we are still waiting on the signs. We continue to work with County and Highways and aim to have the signs installed as soon as possible. We will keep you updated on progress.

If you have traffic concerns or an issue requires immediate assistance please contact Highways online at Travel and highways | Worcestershire County Council. If you wish to discuss any highway concerns then please contact Mark Dunkley, mdunkley@worcestershire.gov.uk, our county councillor.

Ongoing community projects

Planters

The new planters have now been installed on Rocky Lane and Valley Road. We will be refreshing the planters shortly with winter displays. Our thanks to Phil Hughes and Gary Davies for installing and maintaining the new planters.

Village Noticeboards

Fairfield Road/Claypit Lane – our thanks to Peter Crewe for restoring the existing noticeboard and to District Cllr May for covering the cost of the repair. Due to water damage, the noticeboard has now been painted to provide a more durable finish and sealed to prevent any future water ingress.

Doctors Hill/Dordale Road

The new noticeboard is currently in production and will arrive in November. Cllr Guest will be arranging installation once received.

New Defibrillator (Dodford Road)

A new defibrillator has now been acquired and will be installed shortly. The cost of the replacement has been covered by a charity grant, council funding and a grant from Cllr Dunkley.

Date for the diary – 2026 Summer Fete

We are pleased to announce that the next Summer Fete will be held on Saturday 13th June, 1-4pm.

Neighbourhood Watch and community updates

For community news and to receive updates of any suspicious activity, residents can request to join the following groups for information:

Facebook: *Bournheath, Bromsgrove, B61* - Neighbourhood Watch and community news group

WhatsApp: *1. B61 Neighbourhood Watch*
This group is for the residents of Bournheath Parish and is used to inform others, and the Neighbourhood Watch team, of suspicious activity, crimes and other concerns

2. Bournheath B61 Residents
Please use this Bournheath group to contact other residents within the parish. about anything that may be helpful (not crime related).

Only residents of Bournheath and people with connections to the village are permitted. Please be aware that by entering any WhatsApp groups, you are agreeing for your number to be visible to others.

To be added to either or both of these groups please log into your WhatsApp and add Cllr Guest's phone number 07802 373636 with a message requesting which groups you would like to be join.

Bournheath Village Community Centre Update

Since the last newsletter was issued in Spring, we have continued to be busy at the Community Centre.

Our main event in April was the Spring Fair, which was very well attended. We expanded the number of stalls there and also included a range of family-friendly games (things such as Treasure Map/Name the Teddy/Garden on a Plate competition/Colouring competition). It was great to have the support of stallholders and of residents.

At the Summer Fete organised by the Parish Council we were able to support the event by serving refreshments and, of course, making the facilities available for everyone.
We have continued with our fortnightly coffee mornings, which have been well attended so far this year. If you haven't been along, please do drop in on the first and third Wednesdays of the month between 10.30 and 12.00, or, if you're not keen on chatting, just come along to borrow books or DVDs from our well-stocked mini-library. With the winter months coming up, the hall is also a warm space for people to use, and we hope that everyone in the village finds that it is place where you can feel welcome.

We have also continued the Wednesday evening social table tennis sessions (first and third Wednesdays from 7.30-9.00). Numbers have increased, and we now have a second table allowing more play to take place. The emphasis is on fun – so feel free to pop in and have a go. All standards welcome and it's still free.

The aim of both of these activities is to foster community spirit, so please come along and join us.

Can you help?
In July we distributed flyers to all houses in the village asking for more volunteers to come forward to help us in running the hall. We are a very small group and it would be ideal if we had more people on board. If you didn't notice the flyer, we, essentially, were asking for new committee members but also for people who may be able to help us in a practical sense. If you have skills in managing a website, or if you would be interested in coming on to the committee to help us to provide a service to the community (for example, by helping us with coffee mornings or with other events), then please email bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk or phone Louise on 07989 769229 for a chat. You may have recently moved into the area, or you may have recently retired and have a little time available. There are many ways in which you can help, and we'd love to meet you. No special skills are really needed – just a willingness to get involved. Alternatively, perhaps you would like to run a particular group in the village that doesn't already exist – such as a book club - or perhaps you would like to run a one-off community event such as a quiz. The hall is for everyone in the village, so if you have any ideas please email bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk and someone will get back to you.

Vandalism
Unfortunately, over the summer we have had incidents of vandalism at the hall. Security lights have been broken twice, and the locks on the gate and one door were damaged and had to be replaced. We know that the hall is in an isolated spot and that it is very difficult for residents to see anything going on there, but this is just an appeal for people to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious.

Coming Up

Pumpkin Trail
The ever-popular Pumpkin Trail will be back on Sunday 26th October from 5pm-7pm. We hope that as many people as possible will carve pumpkins and put them outside houses so that everyone can walk around the village to look at the display and then come to the Village Hall to vote for their favourite. If you haven't taken part before, look out for information on our Facebook page or via the Parish Clerk's emails, or if you are not able to walk around the village, please come to the Hall anyway for a hot or cold drink and some Pumpkin-themed nibbles.

Christmas Fair
This year's Fair will be held on Saturday 22nd November from 10.00-13.00. Look out for reminders nearer the time. Last year we had a waiting list for tables, so if you know you would be interested in having a table, please email us on bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk. We already have 13 tables booked, so it could be a great way to get your Christmas shopping sorted!

Regular Activities
Here is an update on the regular activities taking place at the hall in which you can participate:

Mondays	10.00-10.45	Zumba
	11.00-11.45	Pilates
	16.00-16.45	After School Ballet (Key Stage One)
	18.30-19.15	Pilates
	20.00-22.00	Country Dancing (Morris Dancing)
Tuesdays	Seasons Art (externally run with tutors) Morning or afternoon sessions are available	
Wednesdays 1st and 3rd of the month	10.30-12.00	Coffee morning
	19.30-21.00	Table Tennis
Thursdays	9.30-10.30	Chair Yoga
	11.00-12.00	Tai Chi
	1st and 3rd of the month (afternoons)	Bournheath Art group
	18.30-19.00	**New: Legs, Bums and Tums**
	19.05-19.50	Pilates
Fridays	10.00-10.30	Baby Ballet
	10.45-11.30	Zumba
	11.45-12.15	Stretch and Tone

For contact details for any of these activities please email bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk. Bournheath Village Community Centre uses the Parish Clerk's email distribution list to communicate with residents – so please ask to be included if you are not already on it.

Hall Improvements and Hall Hire
After purchasing new chairs and curtains last year, our project for this year was to improve the exterior lighting. This was carried out over the summer and we would like to thank Richard Tromans and Darren Sidwell for their help in this. However, as mentioned earlier, we have had some incidents of vandalism which have proved costly and which also take up a lot of time.
We have a setting that is ideal for all sorts of activities, so please consider using the hall for children's parties or for meetings/courses that you might be interested in running. If you have a look at our website (bournheathvcc.co.uk) or Facebook page you will see that there are reduced rates for those living in the Parish. It is, for example, only £30 to hire the hall for four hours in the daytime during the week, and only £35 at the weekend, which we think is good value for money.

E-mail contact list
We would like to stay connected with you about the work of your Parish Council and Bournheath Village Community Centre. We will never sell your data and we promise to keep your details safe and secure. The council's privacy notices which explain how we use and look after your information can be found on the website www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk

Data policy
Under the General Data Protection Regulation, we have a legal duty to protect any personal information we collect from you. Information contained in this email and any attachments may be privileged or confidential and intended for the exclusive use of the original recipient. If you have received this by mistake, please advise the Clerk immediately and delete the email, including emptying your deleted email box.

Key Contact Details		
Worcestershire County Council	Remit for social care, highways, education, health, libraries. Full list of services available via the website	General enquiries: 01905 765765 Emergency out of hours: 01905 765765 https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/
Bromsgrove District Council	Remit for waste management, parking, street cleaning, environmental services (noise and pest). Full list of services available via the website	General enquiries: 01527 881288 Emergency out of hours: 01527 871565 https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/
Bournheath Parish Council	Remit for village upkeep (lengthsman service) benches, signs, defibrillator, notice boards, litter, graffiti and fly posting	clerk@bournheath-pc.gov.uk councillor@bournheath-pc.gov.uk https://www.bournheath-pc.gov.uk/
West Mercia Police	999 in emergency situations	https://www.westmercia.police.uk/
National Grid	Issues in relation to electricity supply	Emergency 0800 6783 105 or 105 https://customer.nationalgrid.co.uk/getswitchedon
National Gas	Issues in relation to gas supply. In an emergency, smell gas or suspect a leak; carbon monoxide emergency; or if a pipeline is struck (even if no leak has occurred)	Emergency: 0800 111 999
Severn Trent Water	Agency responsible for water supply and public drains and pipes	Emergency: 08007834444
Environment Agency - flooding	To report collapsed/damaged river bank; flooding from rivers; fallen tree causing risk of flooding; unusual changes in river flow; concerns or incidents at a reservoir which may cause a failure/flood	Emergency:0800 80 70 60
Bradley Thomas MP	Member of Parliament for Bromsgrove	bradley.thomas.mp@parliament.uk 01527 872 135
Mark Dunkley	Worcestershire County Councillor For support any issues with County Council services	mdunkley@worcestershire.gov.uk 07885 605901
Karen May	Bromsgrove District Councillor For support with any issues with District Council services	k.may@bromsgrove.gov.uk 07818 085140
Bournheath Village Community Centre	For any information and queries for the village community centre	bournheathvillage@yahoo.co.uk https://bournheathvcc.co.uk