



Blockley Parish Council news by Clare Turner, Chair

Blockley Parish Council (BPC) were pleased to welcome county councillor Lynden Stowe to our February meeting, held in Paxford. One of the services that Gloucestershire County Council are responsible for is Highways and we had the opportunity to follow up on a number of issues that have been raised by parishioners in recent months. In some instances, the news was very positive, with pavement works to Brookside (Paxford) scheduled for March, extensive resurfacing of the road to Broad Campden (past Northwick) scheduled for August and resurfacing work planned, but not yet scheduled between Blockley and Paxford and also in Draycott. A number of other issues are still being reviewed and unfortunately budget constraints mean others are not possible. We would encourage residents to report any problems related to roads and pavements via <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/> (you can search the interactive map to check if something has already been reported). Do keep us in the loop if the issue is not being resolved however: our parish clerk Nikki has been doing a great job of championing issues on behalf of parishioners.

Two grant applications were considered at the meeting and the council agreed to pay a contribution of £1,000 towards some urgent plumbing repairs required at the Jubilee Hall, which is used by a wide range of people from the Toddler Group through to over-sixties exercisers and everything in between. A second application was received to make some repairs and improvements to the Book Box, the popular book swap now established in the former phone box on Station Road, Blockley. The project was a neat fit with the criteria for a county council grant, so BPC will now make an application, on behalf of the project, to fund these works.

There is also an opportunity to apply for funds to support celebrations linked to the King's coronation; please get in touch via the parish clerk, Nikki, on 01386 701602 or parishclerk@blockley.org.uk if you are considering organising a community event and would like support from the Parish Council. The theme for the bank holiday Monday is community volunteering, so it's the ideal time to partner with BPC, if you have a project that would benefit from the help of volunteers in May.

Before the meeting closed, councillors discussed the upcoming local elections (4th May) and the importance of recruiting more councillors; we need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election and make a change. While we'd love to hear from people who are interested in topics like planning and finance, an enthusiasm for the local community and an interest in shaping it for the better are really the only qualities needed to make a positive contribution to the parish council.

Don't forget that when it comes to voting in May, new legislation means all voters heading to the polling station in person will need to show photo ID. For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted and what to do if you don't have suitable ID, visit

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280. Postal voting remains unaffected by the rule change and the deadline for registering for a postal vote for the upcoming local elections is 5pm Tuesday 18 April 2023. To find out more and register, visit <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post>