



Resident Communications: I have received emails and other contacts about blocked drains, potholes and fly-tipping. In all cases, I am liaising with B&NES' Officers to address the problems.

I have also had more contact about the **Riverside Car Park and Parking more generally**, the latter raised in connection with the possible siting of a pre-school nursery in the Church of the Good Shepherd. In consultation with members of the Highways, Transport and Planning Working Group, we have replied that we would like to tackle both issues but have limited capacity to do so.

I understand that Wraxall Builders will hold a public consultation meeting on the plans for the **Church of the Good Shepherd** on 10th June, 5-8pm, venue tbc.

Copy for the Summer Edition of the **Batheaston Times** was submitted last week. It is expected to be available in the stands around the village by 29th May. The new **Noticeboards** are on order, for delivery and installation late May/early June.

Catherine Way / Steway Lane Access was opened 28th and 29th April while Northend was closed for Telecomms works. We have just been notified of a closure for water supply works over the summer, for up to 6 weeks. We will be informing residents of Catherine Way of the need to open the route as an alternative diversion.

High Bannerdown bus stop: we are liaising with B&NES and the landowner, regarding improving this bus stop, ideally by providing a hardstanding to provide a safer place to wait.

The replacement **streetlight** in West View Road is now complete and the light is working. Councillors may recall that this was the cause of a **complaint** to the Council (December 2025 meeting). I have spoken to the person who raised the complaint, and they have agreed that it can be closed. I have also reviewed the complaint report, and the actions included in it.

Playground Repairs I have commissioned the urgent repairs to playground equipment, which I hope will be completed within the next two weeks.

Prompted by the second **"river clean"** of **St Catherine's Brook** by Grow Batheaston volunteers, and the need to remove the rubbish they collected from around Stambridge, I arranged for **the disposal of the accumulated rubbish** in the Rhymes Pavilion basement, and in and around the Toilet Block at the Riverside. My next task is to commission confidential disposal of old Council papers.

A **survey of badger activity** in the woodland area by St Catherine's Brook has been undertaken, and confirmed the presence of badgers, and advice on the constraints that this places regarding the creation of the woodland walk. These are not substantial, and do not represent a major obstacle to proceeding.

B&NES will be carrying out a **tree survey** and then **tree surgery** for our properties during this month (these are already approved and commissioned; I will seek further approval if the survey highlights additional work to that already approved).

I have commissioned an **overhaul of the electrical services** in the Riverside Toilet Block, to take place on 28th/29th May (in time to provide electricity to the party).

The **Open Afternoon in the Secret Garden**, 25th April, was very successful: with lovely spring sunshine, and scones kindly provided by Cllr Squire. At least two possible recruits as Secret Gardeners coming forward.

The works to **repair the Secret Garden Wall** have been granted planning permission (26/00912/LBA), and the work is now scheduled to take place by the end of July.

The residents who had volunteered to lead the **Elmhurst Growing Spaces** project have indicated that they are not able to continue. I **propose to pause the project indefinitely**, to be restarted if others come forward interested in progressing it, or there is some other reason to re-start it.

I met B&NES and BWCE staff on 27th May along with others involved in the Energy in your Community project, to discuss running an event in the **Energy at Home** strand of the project. There is a tentative proposal to event for residents on the afternoon of Saturday 7th November, providing advice from various partners on cutting energy usage and bills. I will bring a formal proposal to the next Council meeting.

I attended a **Training Session on Planning Policy** with B&NES Officers on 28th May. The key things I learned were: the importance of Parish Council comments; how decisions are made; and how best to present comments. The changes in the National Scheme of Delegation included in legislation progressing through Parliament now were discussed: the system is “tilted balance” in favour of permission, with far fewer applications are expected to be decided at the Planning Committee.

B&NES Local Plan Consultation: the period for public consultation has been delayed, and will commence on 16th July, which falls 2 days after our meeting, before our break for meetings in August. In my role as Chair of the B&NES/ALCA Group of Councils, I have asked B&NES to ensure we have a chance to respond, and they have confirmed that allowance will be made. They are still aiming for the Plan to take effect in mid- to late-2027.

The **Freedom of Information** request regarding the Bathampton Meadows Alliance has been completed.

And I am pleased to say that I completed the clear out and disposal of **accumulated rubbish** in the Rhymes Pavilion basement and in the Riverside Storeroom and behind the building.

... and finally, it's [Local Council Clerk Week](#) (8th to 12th June), “which celebrates the vital role clerks play in parish and town councils and the communities they serve”.

Richard Maccabee

Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

4th June 2026