

Batheaston Parish Council – Council Meeting 8th September
Batheaston Remembers: 50 Years On – Book Project Proposal



Summary

Council approval is sought to support the production of a follow-up to *Village Life 1883–1940: Batheaston Remembers*, published in 1976, and to make provision for expenditure of up to £1,000 in the first instance.

Council is asked to note that if interest and demand warrant it, there may be a further request for funding for approval in due course.

Background

The original book recorded the recollections of around 50 residents and is held at Batheaston Library and Bath Archives. The proposed follow-up would mark approximately 50 years since publication by collecting memories from 1940 onwards, including experiences of the Second World War and evacuees, the development of the Elmhurst and Catherine Way estates, village shops and public houses, and changes in working and social life.

Project scope

- Seek contributions from around 50 people connected with Batheaston and St Catherine's, beginning with older residents.
- Explore collaboration with the primary school, current occupants of properties mentioned in the original book, and other community groups.
- Collect material through written recollections, recorded interviews or question-and-answer sessions, with informed consent.
- Produce a printed book so contributors without internet access can receive and use the work, with an online version considered alongside it.
- Publicise the project through the Parish Council newsletter and other local channels.

Estimated expenditure

Item	Estimated cost	Comment
Printing: 100 copies	£570	Higher-quality option suitable for photographs; quoted with no tax.
Typesetting	Approximately £72	Including VAT.
Launch and incidental expenses	Balance within initial £1,000 provision	May include a contributor launch, refreshments, local travel or meeting costs, subject to receipts.

Alternative: 150 copies	£790 printing	Lower unit cost of approximately £5.27.
Alternative: 200 copies	£1,006 printing	Lower unit cost of approximately £5.03; total project cost would exceed £1,000.
Alternative: 250 copies	£1,236 printing	Lowest quoted unit cost of approximately £4.94; total project cost would exceed £1,000.

Funding and financial controls

The project lead will not charge for research, interviewing, writing or editorial work. Possible support may be available from WERN, including for a launch event, and other funding sources will be explored. All expenditure will be supported by receipts and recorded in a project spreadsheet. Ordering a larger quantity at the outset offers a lower unit cost than placing separate subsequent orders, but the print quantity should be based on likely demand, available funding and storage or distribution arrangements.

Timetable

Data collection is intended to take place during 2026, with further contributions accepted in early 2027 where this preserves valuable local memories. The aim is to send the completed book for publication within one year of the agreed start date and, if possible, by the end of June 2027. The final timetable will depend on participation, editing requirements and any deadline attached to funding.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. approves the development and production of *Batheaston Remembers: 50 Years On*;
2. authorises expenditure of up to £1,000, subject to normal financial controls and the use of external funding where available;
3. agrees that any proposal for a larger print run or total expenditure above £1,000 will be brought back to Council, unless separately funded and within an existing delegation.

Richard Maccabee

Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

September 2026