Batheaston Parish Council
Noticeboards and Flyposting Policy

Policy approved at the Council Meeting of 13th October 2026

Objectives

This policy seeks to set out a clear approach to the use of the Parish Council's noticeboards, and to provide a framework for intervention in cases of fly-posting, especially Parish Council land.

- To inform residents of Parish Council and other community news, especially those who do not access social media or other online sources of information
- To ensure that the Parish Council fulfils its legal requirements for publication of important documents
- To enable appropriate advertising within the Parish
- To support the appearance and environment of the area

Legislative Framework

Outdoor advertisements are controlled under:

- Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended)
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (Section 43)
- Highways Act 1980
- National Planning Policy Framework (2024)

B&NES is responsible for formal enforcement of advertisement control.

The Parish Council may, where practical, pass significant concerns to B&NES or provide local information. Formal enforcement remains the responsibility of B&NES.

Parish Council Noticeboards

The Parish Council has 9 noticeboards, one of which on Stambridge is designated for community use. The locations of others are as shown in the Appendix.

Subject to available space and by agreement, the Parish Council may display notices from charitable, voluntary and community organisations.

- Priority will normally be given to local events within or near the Parish
- Local businesses may advertise occasional events or activities of community interest
- Other notices may be considered where they are relevant to residents and space permits

General Guidance

- Notices may be sent to the Parish Clerk for display, subject to available space
- Display periods may vary according to demand and relevance
- The Council may remove outdated material as part of its normal administration

Fly-Posting

Fly-posting is the display of advertising material on buildings, structures or land without permission. This includes:

- Telegraph poles
- Lamp posts
- Street furniture
- Trees, fences and walls
- Public or private structures without consent

The Parish Council discourages unauthorised fly-posting. It may consider significant concerns where there is a clear safety or environmental impact, or a persistent local issue.

Where a significant issue is brought to its attention, the Council may decide whether any proportionate response is appropriate. This could include contacting the organiser, passing the matter to the relevant authority or, where lawful and straightforward, arranging removal.

The Legal Context

- Fly-posting is a criminal offence under:
  - Section 224 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
  - Section 43 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
- Enforcement action may include:
  - Fixed penalty notices (issued by B&NES)
  - Removal of advertisements
- Recovery of removal costs

Temporary Signage and Event Advertising

Temporary signage for events will generally be supported where:

- It relates to a local or community event
- It complies with permitted development rights under advertisement regulations
- It does not exceed permitted size limits (typically 0.6m^2 for temporary notices)

Practical Guidance

Signage should:

- Be positioned with reasonable care for public safety and access
- Avoid damage to trees, hedges or structures
- Have the relevant landowner's agreement
- Be removed after the event within a reasonable period

Optional Advice

The Parish Clerk may offer informal guidance on temporary signage where time and resources allow. Seeking this guidance is not a Parish Council approval process.

Anyone seeking guidance should provide enough information for the query to be understood.

'A' Boards and Advertising on Highways

'A' boards should normally be placed on private land with the landowner's permission.

Placement on Public highways or Footpaths is generally not permitted under the Highways Act 1980. Any such obstructions may be removed by the relevant authority.

Advertising on Premises

Advertisements on business premises are permitted where:

- They comply with advertisement regulations
- They relate to goods or services available at the premises

Where advice is needed, advertisers should contact B&NES directly.

General Expectations for Advertisements

Advertisements should, so far as reasonably practicable:

- Be reasonably maintained and securely fixed
- Have the landowner's agreement
- Avoid creating a hazard or obscuring traffic signs
- Be taken down when no longer relevant

Reporting Fly-Posting

Residents may report cases of fly-posting on Parish Council land to the Parish Clerk. In all other locations, residents should address significant concerns to B&NES directly. The Parish Clerk may also pass on concerns where appropriate.

The Parish Council is not expected to investigate or enforce individual reports but may offer local information or refer a matter to B&NES.

Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically, and sooner if there is a significant change in legislation, local circumstances or operational experience.

Date of approval/adoption 13th October 2026

Indicative review date May 2027