



Parish Council News – December and January.

Thank you to Claire for her Parish update last month, so good I think she may have a future role!

It's that time of year again and the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and hearty Christmas and New year. Where did that year go, I wonder?

You may have seen in our social media that the Parish Council was so concerned about the proposed quantity of housing (**2,705 dwellings**) that has been allocated, or will have a direct impact upon the Parish in the proposed **New Swindon Plan**, that I wrote to James Coulstock, (jcoulstock@swindon.gov.uk) the Corporate Director who is in charge of Planning. I received a reply and an offer of a meeting during December and we will report on the outcome in our social media subsequently.

We seem to be spending a lot of time fighting what residents and the PC have decided are inappropriate Planning Applications at the Borough Council Planning Committee, and I must say a huge thank you to residents, whose fears we have supported, for speaking up too. If you have planning concerns about applications, please let us know and we always take them into consideration when we discuss them.

Planning Applications this month

S/HOU/25/ Erection of a single-storey side and rear extension to existing garage.

Capella 103 Ermin Street Blunsdon SN26 8AA. The PC supported this application.

S/TWC/25/1330 Works to Tree within Conservation area. **Robin Hood Back Lane** Blunsdon SN26 7BJ

S/25/1300 Erection of 9 residential dwellings and associated infrastructure, landscaping and servicing. **Land Adjacent To Ermin Street** Blunsdon SN26 8AA. This is land highlighted for development in the Neighbourhood Plan

S/HOU/25/1395 Erection of 2 storey rear extension and part single storey part 2 storey front extension, conversion of garage into habitable space. **5 Berton Close Blunsdon** SN26 7BE.

S/ADV/25/1441 Proposed Double-sided digital Bus Shelter advertising displays to replace existing Double-sided Internally Illuminated 6-sheet Bus Shelter advertising displays. Proposed Digital displays to portray static advertising images that change every 10 seconds, in sequence. O/S Unit A Stephenson Road **Cricklade Road** SN25 5AX

Planning Decisions this month

S/25/1147 Demolition of garage, erection of 2no dwellings (Class C3), detached garage and associated works. **Longways Front Lane** Blunsdon SN26 7BJ. Permission Refused.

S/TWC/25/1224 Works to trees within a Conservation Area. **Orchard House Hunts Hill Blunsdon** SN26 7BN. Application Refused. The PC were not consulted on this application.

S/25/1163 Change of use of 9 parking bays to a hand car wash and associated works. **2A Unit 2 Hyde Road Upper Stratton** SN2 7SE. Application Granted

S/HOU/25/1045 Demolition of existing garage, erection of one and half storey side/rear extension (proposed). **17 Turnpike Road Blunsdon** SN26 7EA. Application Granted despite the PC's objection at Planning Committee.

S/25/1130 – Erection of 2no dwellings (Class C3), detached garages and associated works. Land To The West Of **Woodbine Cottage, Kingsdown Lane** Blunsdon. Application Granted despite the PC's objection at Planning Committee.

S/ADV/25/1164 Display of various illuminated and non-illuminated signage. **2A Unit 2 Hyde Road Upper Stratton** SN2 7SE. Application Granted.

Speedwatch

We have two new members for the Speedwatch team, **Mamie** and **James** who have undergone their training and will be out there doing their best to improve road safety across the Parish. Welcome and thank you for volunteering. Our hardy volunteers are out regularly helping with road safety in the Parish. This has led to many prosecutions by local Police for those abusing the law. The team will always welcome anyone who thinks they would like to join them in protecting the Parish.

Date	Location	Vehicles	Speeding	%	Maximum	Speed Limit	Start	Finish	Area
25/09/2025	Turnpike	62	15	24%	52	30	09:56	11:00	Opp. No. 16
13/11/2025	Turnpike	40	9	23%	43	30	09:00	09:40	Opp. No. 16
14/10/2025	High St	107	20	19%	32	20	16:00	17:00	Heart in Hand
11/11/2025	Sams Lane	90	11	12%	32	20	08:00	09:00	Junction with High St.
07/11/2025	Turnpike	56	2	4%	37	30	15:15	<u>16:00</u>	Opp. No. 16
10/10/2025	Ermin St	241	8	3%	44	30	14:55	15:55	Minerva Heights
24/09/2025	Broadbush	225	6	3%	40	30	08:30	09:30	The Shrubbery
30/09/2025	Lady Lane	426	8	2%	43	30	16:00	17:00	Cycle Path
15/10/2025	Broadbush	290	4	1%	38	30	08:20	09:20	The Shrubbery
08/10/2025	Lady Lane	520	7	1%	42	30	16:00	17:00	Cycle Path
05/11/2025	Ermin St	99	1	1%	39	30	08:00	08:30	Minerva Heights

Ermin Street Landscape Project

Phase 1 of the project is now complete and we are pleased to say that we are moving towards phase 2 which is the Planting of significant trees. Our consultant, **Oliver**

Saunders of Bath Land Management has secured a grant to fund the planting and maintenance of the trees for the next 15 years. A major bonus for the Parish. Thank you, Oliver.

Golden Gatherings

We have had much success with the Golden Gatherings at the Community Shop and Cafe every other Wednesday afternoon. A lovely group of otherwise isolated residents have been gathered up and now meet in cheerful conversation and have been involved in fun activities. We have our fingers crossed that the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation will offer us funding to keep this worthwhile project growing in the new year. A massive thank you to Hazel Wakefield and all the volunteers that have made this possible so far. If you know of anyone who might benefit from being collected and joining the drinks, chat and fun, please let us or Hazel (07974 150250 or email goldengatheringsblunsdon@gmail.com) know. We wish the group and volunteers a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Caretaker Vacancy

The Parish Council are seeking a part-time caretaker to help keep our parish clean, safe, and welcoming.

- Hours: 10 hours per week, flexible
- Start Date: Immediate
- Locations: Parish facilities including the Village Hall, Pavilion, Recreation Grounds, Play Areas, Community Building, and MUGA

The caretaker will be responsible for the upkeep and care of parish facilities. Duties include:

- Cleaning and tidying halls, grounds, and equipment
- Opening/closing facilities and carrying out safety checks
- Minor repairs, maintenance, and liaising with contractors
- Helping ensure our spaces remain safe, welcoming, and well-presented for residents and visitors

Further details are available by contacting the Parish Clerk at [**debbie.braiden@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk**](mailto:debbie.braiden@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk)

Parish Office (at last!!)

By the time you read this we should be established in the new little Parish office in Linley Road, next to the new, and very popular MUGA. Until the Post Office register the address we will remain using the Village Hall post box for postal contact.

Parish Council Members

Our full Council should consist of **11 Parish Councillors**, we currently have only **8 members** to cover the whole of the Parish, and would welcome anyone who would like