

# **BARROW PARISH COUNCIL**

## **PARISH PLAN**

**Spring 2023**

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL	1
FUTURE MEETINGS	2
COUNCIL POLICIES:	
Policy: PUBLIC ROADS AND PAVEMENTS	2
Policy: STREET LIGHTING	2
Policy: TRAFFIC CALMING	3
Policy: WILLEY VILLAGE HALL	3
Policy: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	3
Policy: FLY TIPPING	4
Policy: COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS	4
Policy: SITES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY	4
Policy: TOURISM	4
Policy: TRANSPARENCY	4
Policy: NOTICEBOARDS	5
Policy: PROMOTION OF HEALTH & WELL-BEING	5
Policy: ALLOTMENTS	6
Policy: BARROW CHURCHYARD	6
Policy: FINANCES	6
Policy: RESPONSE TO INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR	6

## Foreword by the Chair:

The Parish of Barrow is a mostly rural one. It covers a large area, bordering the river Severn between Coalport and Apley Forge, towards Broseley and Benthall Edge, on towards Much Wenlock, Shirlett, Willey, Linley, Rudgewood, and Caughley. Barrow, after which the council is named, is roughly in the middle of the parish.

The largest concentration of people is in the Benthall area with the rest of the parish made up of small hamlets, farms and cottages dotted around the fields, meadows, woods and narrow lanes.

We have parish boundaries with Broseley, Much Wenlock, The Gorge (Ironbridge), Astley Abbots, and Morville, and have good relationships with them all.

The Parish Council meets every other month at Willey and District Village Hall and will, if required, also meet on other dates. All meetings are advertised on our parish notice boards and on the Parish website. The council has five elected members and a clerk who is our professional and legal representative. Members of the council also sit on other trusts, boards, committees and organisations which are relevant to the council's work and duties. The Clerk is salaried, but the five councillors are volunteers who receive no money for the work they do or the time they give.

The Parish Plan is a document that has been in place for many years and is a guide to how we consider, recommend and apply the decisions to issues and applications made within the parish. The plan has been updated in the spring of 2023, and will be updated again at a future date.

We believe this plan is a very good reflection of how this lovely parish of Barrow should be managed now and into the future.



**Nick Downes,**  
**Chair of Barrow Parish Council.**  
**March 2023**

## **FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Notices of all Meetings are displayed at Willey Village Hall, Shirlett Holdings, Barrow School, Floyer Lane and Brook Cottage, Bridge Road. In addition the agenda is displayed on the Parish web site. The usual venue for all meetings is Willey Village Hall.

### **Parish Council Meetings:**

Full Council meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of alternate months commencing at 6.30 pm; those held in May are the Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting. In addition, extraordinary meetings may be held from time to time. Time is given at the start of meetings for matters to be raised by Parishioners.

Meetings are held in the following months: January, March, May, July, September, November.

### **Planning Meetings:**

The planning committee normally meets at 5.15pm, when necessary. These meetings will only take place when planning matters arise which need attention before the next full Council meeting.

## **COUNCIL POLICIES**

Note: In the Policy section of the document, the word 'Council' refers to 'Barrow Parish Council'

### **POLICY: PUBLIC ROADS AND PAVEMENTS**

The Council will strive to improve the maintenance of highways and pavements in the Parish, in particular where the safety of residents is concerned, by discussion with the relevant Shropshire Council Officers. This includes encouraging the cutting back of hedges and trees which obstruct pavements and roads.

The Council aims to prevent the obstruction of footpaths by parked vehicles and will continue to bring problems to the attention of West Mercia police; police representatives have agreed to monitor and take action against persistent pavement obstruction.

*Parishioners should report such obstruction by emailing to [bmw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bmw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) or by using <https://improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk/>*

Discussions will be continued with Shropshire Council regarding the condition of the roadside footpaths.

### **POLICY: STREET LIGHTING**

All the street lights within the parish are the responsibility of the Council. The Council will consider requests for alterations and additions to street lighting taking into account: the quantity of pedestrian traffic during lighting-up times; the proportion of such traffic that could be considered to be from vulnerable groups;

the safety of the site either due to its terrain (trip hazards etc.) or if it is a high crime area; the environmental cost of the changes; and the financial cost of making the changes.

The Council has a five year plan to upgrade all street lights to environmentally efficient LED units. The savings in power charges will compensate for the high capital cost. In addition the Council has actively sought out the cheapest supplier and will continue to do so in order to achieve best value for money. As part of the replacement policy, lights will also be configured to switch off for a period in the night.

## **POLICY: TRAFFIC CALMING**

To work with Shropshire Council to identify places in the Parish where traffic calming measures are needed.

Under Shropshire Council policy, traffic calming measures within the parish need to have the approval of the Council as well as the police, our Shropshire Council Member, and the Shropshire Council Engineer before any progress can be made.

*For financial reasons, the system of bids for such measures has been suspended by Shropshire Council until further notice.*

The Council will continue push for traffic calming measures where they are needed within the parish and will liaise with West Mercia Police when problems occur.

*Budgetary constraints on West Mercia Police and Shropshire Council make it more difficult to obtain implementation of such measures.*

## **POLICY: WILLEY VILLAGE HALL**

The Council will support, wherever feasible, the use and maintenance of Willey Village Hall. During the past twelve months all Parish Council meetings have been held at Willey Village Hall.

## **POLICY: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

The Council will continue to maintain its opposition to the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes; the whole parish is considered open countryside and therefore no open market development can take place. The provision of new houses should be limited to those that will provide affordable local needs housing, be replacement dwellings or for agricultural or forestry properties.

Where a suitable site is identified within the development boundary the Council will consider the application based

on the suitability within the environment, including access to local services and the provision of public transport.

The Council will always maintain this policy when considering planning applications.

### **POLICY: FLY TIPPING**

The Council encourage all parishioners to be vigilant and to report to Shropshire Council any occurrence of fly tipping within the Parish.

<https://improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk/>

### **POLICY: COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS**

The Council will encourage Shropshire Council to maintain all existing rights of way and will review any claims submitted for new access, or claims for the change of use of existing rights of way. The Council will encourage the use of rights of way by local people and visitors to the area and will liaise with appropriate organisations concerning bridleways.

### **POLICY: SITES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Whilst encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, where projects are considered detrimental to, or intrusive to the quality of life of the residents of the Parish, the Council will oppose such plans.

### **POLICY: TOURISM**

Applications for sites for all types of camping and caravanning, chalets and mobile homes will be considered on the basis of their effect on residents. The Council will oppose any plans that are considered to be detrimental to and intrusive in the quality of life of parish residents.

### **POLICY: TRANSPARENCY**

To comply with current legislation on access in order to give parishioners the tools and information that they need to participate in local affairs the Council maintains a website: [www.barrowparish.org.uk](http://www.barrowparish.org.uk)

## **POLICY: NOTICEBOARDS**

The Council has three Notice Boards located at: the end of Floyer Lane in Benthall, at Willey Village Hall and at Shirlett.

By courtesy of Mr & Mrs King we also display notices on the gate at Brook Cottage (Bridge Road)

The use of the notice boards is predominately for the purpose of the Council to meet its statutory duty to display notices and information concerning the running of the Council for the benefit of its parishioners.

The Council recognises that it needs to support community groups, local organisations and local businesses who reside or operate within its boundaries and whose work and efforts may benefit parishioners. The Council will therefore allow the above mentioned groups access to display suitable information, notices and promotional material that will be of benefit to them and provide useful information of benefit to parishioners.

Use of the notice boards will be monitored by Members of the Council and the Clerk and should the Clerk or Members require space on the notice boards for notices necessary to conduct the council business, they will remove such items as necessary to create sufficient space to fulfil the Council's needs.

Members of the Council and the Clerk have the right to decline or remove any such notices that are deemed unsuitable for display on these notice boards and to remove notices that are out of date.

A notice advertising a fête or other event run by a political party would be acceptable but a notice promoting a political party would not be acceptable. Notices giving contact details or informing of meetings with elected representatives are permitted.

No notices may be displayed on street furniture belonging to the Parish Council.

## **POLICY: PROMOTION OF HEALTH & WELL-BEING**

The Council will facilitate and assist with funding installations which promote the health of parishioners. Six benches are installed at locations around Benthall and Shirlett.

Following successful funding bids for a Defibrillator and suitable case, a device has been installed near Leo Farm, Benthall. The Council is seeking additional funding for further installations.

There are also defibrillators installed at Shirlett Heights

and at Willey Village phone box.

### **POLICY: ALLOTMENTS**

The Council will continue to lease the allotments on Floyer Lane. Although open to anyone resident within the Parish or anyone living within three miles of the allotment site, priority for a vacant space will always be given to Barrow Parish residents. Tenants have signed written tenancy agreements agreeing to a few basic rules.

Two councillors have been appointed to have particular responsibility for the promotion and development of the allotments but all enquiries should be made through the Parish Clerk.

### **POLICY: BARROW CHURCHYARD**

The Council presently has responsibility for only part of Barrow Churchyard and a maintenance plan has been agreed for this area. There is no responsibility for the the more recently closed graveyard.

### **POLICY: FINANCES**

Each year the Council will set a budget for the following year, taking into account likely major requirements. It will also seek to make use of any outside funding which can be targeted at improvements to Parish infrastructure. As laid down in the regulations for parishes, reserves are maintained to cope with emergencies.

### **POLICY: RESPONSE TO INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS COUNCILLORS & AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES**

Any form of abuse towards councillors, the clerk, or their authorised representatives will not be tolerated by the Council. Where such behaviour is identified the council reserves the right to take appropriate and corrective action in support of those affected by such action.

The Council will monitor social media and other public communication medium to identify such instances of abuse and to bring forward knowledge of such actions to the Council's attention for debate and discussion at scheduled Parish Council meetings.

Barrow Parish currently consists of the following Members

Steven Churchill      Benthall Lane, Benthall  
Councillor  
Responsibility for allotments  
01952 883330  
s.churchill@barrowparish.org.uk

Nick Downes            Hem Farm, Linley  
Chairman  
01952 882069  
n.downes@Barrowparish.org.uk

Lisa Hancox            l.hancox@barrowparish.org.uk

Philip Knott            Benthall Lane, Benthall  
Vice chairman  
01952 882462  
p.knott@barrowparish.org.uk

Anne Skinner           Hem Farm, Linley  
Councillor  
Responsibility for allotments  
01952 882069  
a.skinner@barrowparish.org.uk

Parish Clerk:           Jayne Madeley  
Cherry Oaks Farm  
74 Lower Monkhall  
Monkhopton  
Bridgnorth  
WV16 6XF  
01746 785175  
clerk@barrowparish.org.uk