



# BECKFORD

## PARISH COUNCIL

- Beckford - Grafton - Little Beckford -

Newsletter

Autumn 2024

### Changes to Parish Council Membership

There have been a number of changes to the membership of the Parish Council in recent months.

Earlier this year, Nettie Mantle (our previous Chairwoman) and David Nicholds left for personal reasons. Nettie served the Parish for many years as a representative of Grafton. Her signature policies were concerned with public health and her enduring legacy is the introduction of the defibrillators. In addition to his role as Vice Chairman, David has been responsible for keeping abreast of developments concerning the proposed A46 bypass, the adoption of SmartWater security marking, working with various bodies to try and alleviate flooding, and community engagement. We would like to thank Nettie and David for volunteering their time and their tireless commitment to the community.

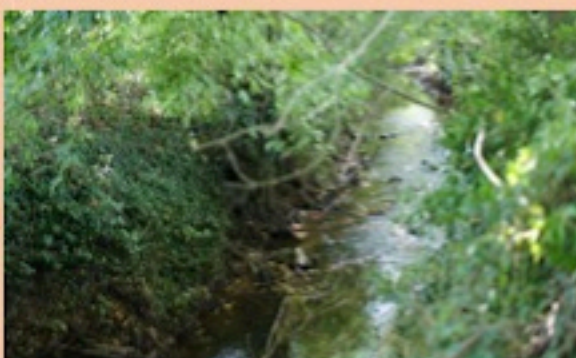
We have been struggling to find volunteers willing to donate their time to the cause of this most direct level of Local Government, and Council functions were beginning to be at risk, with only half of the available seats filled. We are therefore delighted to be able to announce that our recent recruiting efforts have been successful and we have been joined by three new Councillors: Pamela Bailey (Little Beckford), Jo Bell (Grafton) and Robert McCarthy (Beckford).

There is still one remaining seat on the Council, so please get in touch with the Parish Clerk or one of the existing Councillors if you would be interested in helping to represent our community and would like to know more about becoming a Councillor.

### Safe Avon Water Testing Project

With increased awareness and concern at both local and national levels about the frequency with which water companies are discharging effluent into our waterways, the Parish Council is prepared to fund two years' worth of water sample testing on the Carrant Brook in Beckford as part of the Safe Avon project, at a cost of £280.

We know, from GDPR request data obtained from Severn Trent and shared with the Parish Council by the Beckford chapter of the Women's Institute that sewage was released into the Carrant for 2061 hours over 107 occasions in 2020 and 1297 hours over 88 occasions in 2022.



The aim of the Safe Avon project is to monitor water quality in the River Avon and its tributaries. This data gathering will help inform a local and national picture of the impact from the regular discharge of untreated sewage into our rivers and streams

### Features:

Changes to Parish Council membership

Safe Avon water testing project

540 Bus Service

Roads Matters

### Contact:

clerk@beckford-parish-council.org.uk

07950 1168355



## The 540 Bus Service

After a brief hiatus, following Aston's Coaches' withdrawal from this route, the 540 bus service between Evesham and Tewkesbury has been reinstated under new provider, Diamond Coaches.

There are now more buses running hourly from Beckford, although regrettably Grafton remains unserved and Little Beckford continues to receive just two pick ups and no return services. The Diamond Coaches website provides a more accessible online timetable, with real time bus tracking during hours of operation.

There has been a decline in usage of the bus service over the last few years. County Councillor Adrian Hardman has spoken of this with concern. If the bus service is not being used, this subsidised facility becomes vulnerable.

## Roads Matters

The Parish Council has been asked about a number of issues concerning roads and traffic safety. Most of these are outside our remit, however nonetheless Parish Council Chairman Diane Colvin has been working with County Councillor Hardman and Barry Barnes from the County Highways department to try and get some of residents' concerns addressed.

### *Speed limit Signage on Back Lane*

After recent road resurfacing works to Back Lane in Beckford, some of the 30mph speed limit roundels had not been reinstated. This was an oversight, and these will be repainted.

### *Traffic Mirror*

A number of requests have been made for the Parish Council to install a traffic mirror at the junction of Blacksmiths Lane and Cheltenham Road in Little Beckford, as drivers are increasingly prone to driving in the middle of the road. The installation of traffic mirrors is the purview of Highways. Worcestershire CC has adopted a policy not to add new mirrors for safety reasons.

Concerns about driver behaviour have been flagged, but there isn't a straightforward solution. We would like to remind residents to drive safely around this bend: please reduce your speed and try to stay on the left hand side of the carriageway.

### *Ice on Piggy Lane*

The issue of Piggy Lane in Grafton becoming dangerously iced over in the Winter has been looked at. A blocked/damaged drain is causing water to accumulate on the road surface. There is currently no plan to address this.

### *Speeding*

Speeding through Beckford continues to be an issue – we know this from the data obtained via the electronic speed awareness signs.

The Parish Council is in communication with local policing regarding advice on setting up a community Speedwatch group/the police conducting a formal survey of driver conduct through the village.

## The members of Beckford Parish Council:

### **Diane Colvin (Chairman)**

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### **Alison Cort (Vice Chair)**

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### **Pamela Bailey**

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### **Jo Bell**

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### **Robert McCarthy**

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### **Mike Wing**

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### **Anne Worrall**

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