



BECKFORD

PARISH COUNCIL

- Beckford - Grafton - Little Beckford -

Newsletter

Spring 2025

Outdoor Adult Gym and Children's Play Equipment

To help promote public health and physical activity in all age groups, Beckford Parish Council has been pleased to support Beckford Village Hall with a £5000 funding contribution towards a free to use outdoor adult gym and new children's playground equipment. In addition to Parish Council and Village Hall contributions, the project received a £22,118 government grant administered by Wychavon District Council Rural Fund and £1,000 from the Highfield Trust CIO.

The equipment has now been installed behind the Village Hall and is available for all to use. The new installation comprises 9 pieces of adult equipment and 2 large multi purpose children's play systems. New equipment includes: a double health walker, a double slalom skier, a sky stepper, an arm and pedal bicycle, a waist twister, a rower, a set of wheelchair accessible tai chi discs, a combi pull down challenger and power push, a double squat push, a toddler tower, and a climbing frame.

Rubber grass mats have been fitted around all pieces to allow for year-round use and the adult equipment pieces all have usage instructions.



Village Category

In a new revision to the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Beckford has been downgraded from a Category 2 village to Category 4 following the latest round of Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey (2024).

The updated status acknowledges the loss of Key facilities within the Parish of a general stores shop and Post Office, with the closure of The Beckford Stores in 2020.

The reduced sustainability score will come into full effect when SWDPR is passed into effect by the Secretary of State but can be considered as part of the emergent policy when planning applications are assessed.

Hedges and mowing

As we head into Spring and Summer greenery around the Parish is starting to flourish. The Parish Council works responsibly to protect the environment whilst keeping the area looking at its best.

Between 1st March and 31st August hedges maintained by the Parish Lengthsman are not cut to protect eggs, chicks, and fledglings during bird nesting season.

Between April and September the A46 triangle is only mowed at its perimeter. This is to help maintain visibility whilst not harming the growth of protected Bee Orchids which grow in this location.

Features:

Adult Outdoor Gym and Children's Play Area

Village Category Change

Hedges and Mowing

Newsletter

Roads Matters

The next Parish Council meetings will be on 17 Mar and 19 May at 7pm in Beckford Village Hall. All are welcome to attend

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Newsletter

Like many Parishes around the country we have struggled with finding the best way to share our Newsletter. We are aware that for many these days a paper version is simply not wanted, and that unnecessary printout is not very environmentally friendly – but not everyone has online access or looks at the Parish Noticeboards.

We have decided to trial a hybrid model, with the newsletter published quarterly on the Parish Council website, with issues on 1 June, 1 September, 1 December, and 1 March. Links will be shared on the Facebook Noticeboard. From the next issue (June 2025), instead of printing copies for every address we will print small numbers of copies and make these available from collection points and events around the Parish, including the community libraries, Simply Soup and the Old Post Office shop. If you know someone who wants a physical copy but can't easily get one, please be neighbourly and take one for them. If you subscribe to the Council's email alert (details in footer) you will receive an automatic notification when the new issue of the newsletter is released.

Roads Matters

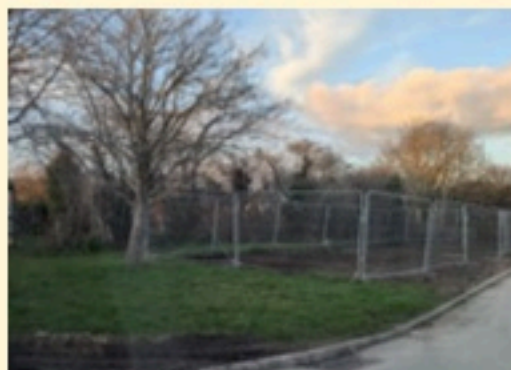
Speed on Court Farm Lane

The Parish Council has received a number of approaches from residents regarding the possibility of reducing the speed limit on Court Farm Lane to 20mph. There are safety concerns over the nature of the road and its mixed use with frequent interactions between motor vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, and horses.

Speed limits are the province of County Highways and Worcestershire policies strictly limit the circumstances in which 20mph limits can be adopted. We have consulted with County Councillor Adrian Hardman but Court Farm Lane does not meet any of the criteria to be considered for a 20mph limit. Parish Councillor Mike Wing has identified some road signage which could potentially be helpful in reminding drivers that the road is mixed use and we are waiting to see if the County Council will consider adding signs.

A46

A number of residents have also made known concerns regarding current and increasing levels of traffic on and speed of the A46. Councillor Robert McCarthy has been in contact with local MP Harriett Baldwin, who is already on the case, and has stated that "with more traffic on this road, it could be much harder for people to join and cross the road, so I want to make sure that National Highways is on top of this matter and ensuring that the right speed restrictions are in place to mitigate any extra risks."



Sweden Lane

Rooftop Housing's development in Little Beckford is now well under way, with the 4 derelict Swedish built post-War prefabricated homes at the end of Sweden Lane/Blacksmiths Lane already demolished. Residents will have noticed that a large section of The Green has been dug up. Although at public consultation the developers engaged not to impact this public green space, it seems the reality is that the work can't be confined to the development site. Aqua Construction have agreed the use of The Green with Wychavon.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is in place which should help to minimise environmental disruption by, amongst other things, prohibiting site traffic from driving right down Sweden Lane, controlling parking and access to the site, and maintaining the top soil removed from The Green to create a gravelled work area.

The agreed management plan can be viewed at: <https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/Planning/Display/W/24/02495/CCO>

The members of Beckford Parish Council:

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