



## Newsletter

November December 2024  
January 2025

### Editorial

During this past year the Parish Council has lost some councillors and gained new ones but still is not up to its full compliment, so if you would like to join please get in touch. It has taken on extra help in the Parish Office since the summer as the Council's demands become greater. It continues its work on highways and has instigated a speed watch scheme, recruiting volunteers from the village. Work on the Neighbourhood Plan has recommenced and will be one of the main areas that the Council will be focusing on in 2025. Please see articles inside.

A welcome achievement for the village has been the introduction of the on-demand bus service. Find out how to use it by reading the article inside.

On November 6th a Bonfire Night event will be held on the RAF camp. This year it is only for RAF Service staff. If you would like to attend, please liaise with the RAF, however very few places will be available for non service residents. Please also take care with pets during this time as many are fearful of loud noises.

Finally, as this issue covers the festive season, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are raising concerns about the future of the green belt across the UK, which could be felt particularly in areas bordering it such as Wendover and Halton. The UK Government's push to address the housing crisis has led to increased housing targets for local councils, with Buckinghamshire facing a 41% rise in housing quotas.

While the green belt has traditionally been protected to prevent urban sprawl, the revised NPPF allows councils to review and potentially release green belt land if housing needs cannot be met elsewhere. This has sparked fears that 'grey-belt' areas could be developed, threatening the region's natural beauty and rural character.

Local residents and environmental groups worry about the impact of such development, including increased traffic, infrastructure strain, and loss of vital green spaces. Buckinghamshire Council's leader, Martin Tett, has expressed concerns in his recent newsletters and urged local engagement with the government's consultation on the proposed changes. Halton Parish Council has responded to the consultation and awaits the result.



## Parish Councillors

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Cat Booker who will be leaving the Parish Council on 30 November. Cat joined our team in 2021 and professionalised the way we run our social media and conduct our communications. One of Cat's lasting legacies is our Halton Parish Council logo—we had never thought of the Parish Council in terms of branding. Cat worked with us to develop a design that encompasses both our heritage (Rothschild arrows and the colour blue for the RAF) and portrays the rural nature of our parish (woodland, fields, water, wildlife and bridges).

Thank You Cat for your support over the last three years, and we wish you a happy transition as you spend more of your time in the New Forest.

### **Parish Councillor Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a Communications member. The role is to oversee our communications with a focus on social media. We are a friendly enthusiastic team of volunteers so if you would like to know more about the role, please email [clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk)



## Neighbourhood Plan

After our public consultation in January 2023, work on the Neighbourhood Plan was halted so that we could apply for a new Neighbourhood Area which covered the entire Parish (including RAF Halton). We also diverted our efforts to work with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Buckinghamshire Council on the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the RAF Halton site. The SPD is now complete, and we have been granted our new Neighbourhood Area, so work on the Neighbourhood Plan is recommencing.

In August we successfully bid for £10,000 of funding from central government to employ Planning Consultants to assist us. The planning consultants will help us to ensure that our local planning policies are robust and comprehensive. This will be important when planning applications are submitted for the RAF Halton site. Our first meeting will be on 6 November at 7pm.

If anyone would like to join our Neighbourhood Steering Group and help to shape our future planning policies for the parish, then please contact [jane.mackinnon@halton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jane.mackinnon@halton-pc.gov.uk)

## Remembrance Day Service

There will be a Remembrance Day service at St Michael & All Angels, Halton on Sunday, 10 November. The service will start at 10.45am and should last about 30 minutes. Weather permitting it will be held outside in front of the Cross of Sacrifice in the churchyard. If there is heavy rain then the service will be held in the church with the wreaths being laid at the end of the service. As is tradition, after the service, the Roberts family will be providing hot drinks and food in the Village Hall— everyone welcome.

The service will be supported by RAF Halton recruits and the RAF band. Please join us.

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS · HALTON

**Remembrance Sunday  
Memorial Service**

**SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER – 10.45AM**

**In front of War Memorial in the  
churchyard**

Hot drinks and food in the Village Hall after the service

## **Fun Quiz Night at the RAFA Club**

When: Thursday 7 November from 7pm onwards. To pre-register, text 07914 353282

More details to be posted on the Halton Village Hub Facebook page.

In addition, please come along to the RAFA club every third Thursday of the month for a village pub night. The RAFA club is just inside the entrance to the Airfield.

## **Halton Socials**

After a quiet summer, we're heading into the festive season with a Coffee Morning at the Tennis Club. The date for your diary is Wednesday 11 December at 10.30 am. Please come along for a chat with others and, of course, ideas for events are welcome.

We are planning a Wine and Cheese evening and a Race Night in the new year — dates to be confirmed.

The committee can be contacted at [haltonsocials@gmail.com](mailto:haltonsocials@gmail.com)

## **Christmas Service**

On Sunday, 22 December there will be a service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Michael and All Angels church in Halton starting at 6pm. Families welcome.

## Highways Report

The Parish Council has no direct authority (or money) to build, improve or repair community roads, cycle routes or pavements. All we can do is report problems and ensure that our requests are added to Buckinghamshire Council's priority list. Sadly, as you can see in the Council's spending plans, there is never enough money to cover all mandated and desired activities within the County. Equally, our elected councillors have promised that they will not create future problems by overspending in the current year.

However, what we can do, is liaise with the county councillors that regularly attend our Parish Council meetings to make our representations. We can also apply for improved facilities through both the Neighbourhood Plan and our involvement in planning for the redevelopment of Halton after the MoD/RAF Halton departs. For example, we have plans to improve the junction of Chestnut Avenue with the Icknield Way (opposite Main Point). Some other specific things that we are working towards:

**Speeding.** There are 5 speed monitoring Vehicle Activated System (VAS) cameras around the Village (3 permanent and 2 'mobile'), although the Airfield VAS has been vandalised. The average speed through the Village has decreased but individual speeding is still a problem, so we have set up a Community Speedwatch programme to help educate drivers and riders. You will notice the new yellow signs on the approaches to Halton and the trained team has a Thames Valley Police (TVP) speed camera. Beyond a certain threshold, speeders will be sent a letter by TVP with a warning that further action will be taken if they re-offend in any other Community Speedwatch areas. There are approved sites in the Village; please look out for the yellow-vested volunteers and give them a friendly wave as you drive or ride past. The volunteers are acting on your behalf to improve road safety for us all.

**Perch Bridge.** The Bridge is still hazardous for pedestrians and cyclists. Please continue to take great care when crossing. A safety study was commissioned and published in April 2022 but, although white lines were added to the Bridge recently, more permanent traffic calming measures cost money, which we do not have. Currently, an authority is close to putting in place a system to improve detection and reporting of overweight vehicles (details not for public release at present).

Residents have emailed and phoned bus companies or contacted the DVSA as well as reporting through County and TVP websites. Despite all this activity, buses continue to cross. Residents are also in touch with skip hire and other companies who promise that their drivers are told not to use that route. But still they come. We hope that the 'authority' will make a difference — watch this space.

**Potholes.** Please keep reporting them through <https://fixmystreet.com>. However, please consider that the person reading your comments is there to help. It is not a suitable forum for 'ranting'.

**Pavements.** Vehicles parked on pavements present a hazard to pavement users, particularly those with mobility problems. Vehicles moving onto and off pavements also cause damage to the pavement surface and kerbs. Please assist by asking your visitors to park entirely on the road surface. If a vehicle needs to be parked on a pavement, they should not be parked there. There are some polite notes in the Village Hall lobby that you can put on car windscreens.

The pavement on the Wendover side of Perch Bridge is in very poor condition. It has been reported on many occasions to the Buckinghamshire Council's priority system and it will be patched when (and if) money becomes available.



**Ways you can help**

- Attend Parish Council meetings to let us know about problems or suggestions
- Report potholes and highways problems via [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)
- Volunteer for Community Speedwatch for as little as 1 hour per month
- Ask people to avoid parking on pavements

**Wild Flower Verges**

Some of you may have noticed the lovely wild flowers on the verge at the end of Stable Bridge Road in Aston Clinton during the summer. A couple of members of the Parish Council met with those responsible for creating the colourful verge and, as a result, we are reseeding some of our verges in Halton in a bid to create a similar display.

The wild flower plugs and seeds that we planted a couple of years' ago have had to compete with very vigorous grass species and, in an attempt to lessen the grasses' impact, we have sown yellow rattle seed which should parasitise the grass and allow the species that we put in previously, to flourish.

Yellow rattle can take a couple of years to establish itself and so for next summer we are removing an area of grass on three of the verges and sowing wild flower seed directly onto the bare soil in the hope that we will have a show of wild flowers, whilst the earlier planted ones get established and are able to compete successfully with the diminishing grass.

**St Michael & All Angels Church - Halton**

***Nine Lessons and Carols  
Service***



**December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6.00pm**

**Everyone Welcome**

## The on-demand minibus service has arrived in Halton!

If you live in Halton you can now book an on-demand, ride-sharing minibus service (called Village Connect, Aylesbury) for travel between Aylesbury and these surrounding villages: Aston Clinton, Bishopstone, Hartwell, Hulcott, Stoke Mandeville, Weedon and Weston Turville. The service is specifically designed to improve travel options to and from these areas.

### Where can you travel?

There are no fixed routes, so you can choose to travel from the surrounding villages to anywhere within Aylesbury (or vice-versa). For example, Wendover Railway Station or Stoke Mandeville hospital. Journeys must start or end in one of the villages, specifically the village areas highlighted on the Village Connect map.

### When can you travel?

Monday to Friday, from 6am to 7pm (except public holidays).

### Booking a trip

You can book a journey in advance or on the day of travel. The minibuses will pick you up from a 'virtual bus stop' or a physical bus stop within a short walkable distance from where you are. The intelligent software works out the best way to take you and other passengers to your chosen destinations. You can book a trip:

- On the Village Connect app: available from Google Play Store or the App Store
- On the online booking portal: <https://start.villageconnect.padam.io/bookings/login>
- By phone on 01296 794607

### Fares

Fares are from £2.50 to £4.50 and depend on the distance travelled. You will be told the fare when you book your journey. You can pay in

advance when you book your journey, or pay the driver with cash, card, Google Pay or Apple Pay. If you have a Concessionary Bus Pass, all journeys after 9am are free. Village Connect is supported by Buckinghamshire Council and the Government's Rural Mobility Fund and operated by transport specialists, We Move.



## Repair Café Weston Turville

During the summer the Parish Council has been liaising with our neighbouring parishes on several environmental projects. It is especially important to work with the surrounding parishes on environmental matters as wildlife does not recognise boundaries. Weston Turville has recently opened a Repair Café (see poster) to which everyone is welcome. Repairing broken appliances greatly helps reduce waste. Aston Clinton also has one. Please make full use of them.

## Village Diary

6 Nov	Neighbourhood Plan meeting, Village Hall Meeting Room	7:00 pm
7 Nov	Fun quiz night at the RAFA Club	7:00 pm
10 Nov	Remembrance Sunday Service, Churchyard	10:45 am
21 Nov	Thirsty Thursday in the RAFA Club	7:30 pm
27 Nov	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall	7:00 pm
11 Dec	Coffee Morning at the Clubhouse, Halton Tennis Club	10:30 am
19 Dec	Thirsty Thursday in the RAFA Club	7:30 pm
22 Dec	Nine Lessons and Carols at St. Michael's church	6:00 pm
16 Jan	Thirsty Thursday in the RAFA Club	7:30 pm
22 Jan	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall	7:00 pm



Jane, Hugo, Colin and Caroline preparing the ground and sowing wild flower seed. The seeds have already germinated and are looking good.

# REPAIR CAFE

Weston Turville

Our monthly repair café will be taking place next on

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**in the Village Hall, HP22 5RW**

**10am – 12 noon**

at present we've got volunteers covering

**Bike repairs**  
**Electrical repairs**  
**Sewing repairs**  
**and Mechanical repairs**



**Do bring your bikes & gadgets along for repair**

A **Climate Action Weston Turville** initiative  
Supported by **Weston Turville Parish Council**



## Recycling Dates

Green Waste Bin	Blue Recycling Bin and Garden Waste	Food Waste Bin
	Wednesday 6 November	Wednesday 6 November
Wednesday 13 November		Wednesday 13 November
	Wednesday 20 November	Wednesday 20 November
Wednesday 27 November		Wednesday 27 November
	Wednesday 4 December	Wednesday 4 December
Wednesday 11 December		Wednesday 11 December
	Wednesday 18 December	Wednesday 18 December
Friday 27 December		Friday 27 December
	Friday 3 January	Friday 3 January
Thursday 9 January		Thursday 9 January
	Wednesday 15 January	Wednesday 15 January
Wednesday 22 January		Wednesday 22 January
	Wednesday 29 January	Wednesday 29 January

Residents on the Wendover side of Perch Bridge have different collection days. Garden waste collections will be suspended between 16 December 2024 and 24 January 2025.

## Next Issue

If you have anything for inclusion in the next Halton Village Newsletter please email it to [carolinewaddams@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolinewaddams@hotmail.co.uk) or ring 01296 624458 before 18 January 2025.

The views expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily the views of The Halton Village Newsletter.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 27 November 2024, in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Clerk to the Parish Council – Fiona Richardson	01296 626073
Village Hall Booking Clerk—Suzanne Cheshire	07565 797049
Guard Room – Main Point	01296 656211/656503
Wendover Police Office (Wendover Library) - Tues & Fri 10am-12pm	01296 621916
Police Non-Emergency Number	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Electricity Emergency	0800 316 3105
Fly Tipping Hotline	0845 330 1856
Potholes notification	08452 380882
Wendover Health Centre	01296 623452
WHC Friends Desk	01296 622565
Halton Community Combined School-Halton	01296 622264
John Hampden Infant School-Wendover	01296 622629
Wendover CE Junior School	01296 669822
John Colet Secondary School	01296 623348
Church Warden-Linda Kynaston	01296 431009

### **Parish Office**

Fiona Richardson our Parish Clerk works on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am – 3pm. If you would like to meet with the Clerk at the Parish Office, Halton Village Hall, on any matter, please make an appointment on 01296 626073 or email [clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk)