

Bamburgh Parish Council
Chairperson's report May 2025

I must start by paying tribute to Barbara Brook who died earlier this year. Barbara served as a Bamburgh Parish councillor for many years, including chairing the Council for 3 years. She was involved in the drafting of our local plan and played a major role in the project to replace our war memorial. Bamburgh is very grateful for Barbara's loyal service to our community. She will be very much missed.

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors who put in so many hours of unpaid work and Joan, our Parish Clerk, who does so much work in the background. Also, to Paul, our parish warden and those residents who help look after our village. The Parish Council would also like to thank the Christmas Lights volunteers who work to make such an impressive display each year. In conjunction with the lights committee the PC contributed to the replacement lighting of the Pant this year.

The Parish Council (PC) has met on a regular basis dealing with planning applications and continuing to progress in our dealings with Northumberland County Council (NCC). We were shocked when, having asked for an extension to the consultation period for a planning application, which have always been accepted, NCC went ahead and approved a scheme to repaint a listed building before we could respond. The PC and many residents thought this was an inappropriate colour and there appeared to have been no consideration of the property being in the Conservation area. Thankfully the owners reconsidered and repainted the property in its original colour.

Having made a formal complaint about the lack of progress regarding traffic calming and parking issues in October 2022 we are not much further forward. Having dismissed our request for completion of the original scheme and for further double yellow lines on the Wynding, NCC have now relented and, following the necessary consultation which supported the Parish Council's request, we await the formal Traffic Order before the lines are painted – hopefully before the summer holidays.

Similarly, obtaining any progress or updates on traffic calming measures is painfully slow. At last year's AGM I hoped to see progress later in the year. Whilst there has been little progress, a year on and, at last, there appears to be a glimmer of hope that a scheme might go ahead this year.

A licensing application for the Castle's Walled Garden proved contentious with the inclusion of the provision of food and drink, as well as outdoor film shows, up to 11.30pm throughout the year. Adjacent residents were concerned that the area could be used for weddings and that noise from the premises would create a

nuisance, seriously impacting their ability to enjoy their own properties. The Castle estate have stated that they do not intend to hold weddings in the Walled Garden. They removed the showing of films and restricted the food and drink provision to just the café and terrace area when the application went before the licencing committee who then approved the application.

The Glebe field seasonal car park has had its entrance improved which, hopefully, will reduce the congestion caused by vehicles having difficulties entering or exiting the car park. The Links Road beach car park now has an automated barrier system installed with the first hour's parking free and the facility for overnight parking. Whilst these measures, taken by the Castle Estates, go some way to make up for the shortage of parking spaces in the village, parking along Lucker Road continues. This damages the verges, is unsightly and dangerous and we will continue to press NCC to improve the parking situation. We have made no progress in trying to get a footway up to Glororum but will continue to campaign for this.

A further defibrillator has been installed by the toilets on the Links Road beach car park and a training session held after the last Council meeting. Our request for a public toilet off the Wynding was dismissed by NCC but concerns that overnight campers are relieving themselves in the dunes remain and we will look again at gaining support for some facilities.

The beach wheelchair facility has proven to be a great asset with users really appreciating the ability to access the beach. Unfortunately, the shifting sands around the Mill Burn have blocked the normal access so we have contacted the Coastal Care team to see if they can help restore the path or create an alternative. Thanks are owed to those volunteers who both oversee the booking system and also meet & greet users and their families.

The grant which was made by Northern Powergrid (NP), to create a 'resilience hub' has been used to create a battery storage system in the Pavilion. This allows the heating and lighting in the Pavilion to remain on during power cuts and provides power for hot drinks, phone and medical appliance charging during power cuts. Thanks are due to Jamie Edgar who researched and progressed the backup battery system. Following a series of power cuts, we asked (NP) to attend a Council meeting to answer residents' concerns. Although well attended by residents no one from NP appeared. They have apologised and have said they will attend in the near future.

Following the local elections, where the present Council were re-elected, we now have to go through the formal process to fill the vacancy following Barbara's death. Whilst some of the more contentious issues have attracted a few more residents to our meetings, it would be nice to see more attend and take an active part in shaping the future of the village.