

Chair's Report 2025/2026

It seems like just yesterday we were sitting down to the last AGM. The year has flown by, so we must have been busy as a Parish Council, although when are we not?!

Bamburgh, and the Parish Council have seen quite a few changes this year. After many years of service Andy Bardgett stepped down as Chairman of the Parish Council. We are very grateful to Andy and would like to thank him for all of his tireless hard work and dedication over the years. We have also introduced 2 new Parish councillors this year; Nicole Taylorson and Ralph Baker-Cresswell, and we look forward to working together on our many projects. Following Andy's retirement, I was voted in as Chair, which is a real honour. I will do my best to do what's right for the village, I am very aware I have some big shoes to fill!

So, what else is new?

The Parish council attended the opening of Bamburgh Walled Garden by Si King in April 2025. With its Café and safe space for children to play, it's Sensory Garden and Changing Places area, as well as space for people to walk around and even shower their dogs! It has proved very popular with locals and tourists alike, and we wish them well for the future.

Bamburgh also saw the opening of 2 new shops: Stag Rock and Oswalds, giving both villagers and tourists some more lovely places to spend their money. We also wish them both the very best for the future. All of the businesses in the village work incredibly hard to give our locals and visitors an array of offerings and are a credit to the village. Thank you!

The Glebe field seasonal car park was finally given planning permission and has been very well used by our many visitors. We hope to be able to direct more people to the car parks with tasteful signage at the entrances to the village which are currently being worked on with Northumberland County Council.

We have continued to push Northumberland County Council for dates for our traffic calming scheme in the various parts of the village. For a variety of reasons it has taken a long time for someone to press the green button, but I

am absolutely thrilled to say that it has all finally started. They are starting with the road crossings, dropping kerbs and installing tactile paving, and the speed tables will follow in due course. A positive and long-awaited step, but nice to be able to say that it's underway.

Additionally, we have made some other requests which have been approved quickly and some already implemented. We have requested that the main car park be renamed Bamburgh Village Car Park. Firstly, because that's what it is (and also sounds a little more welcoming), but secondly, as all agreed, having 'The Links Carpark' and 'Links Road Car Park' in the same village is confusing as a geographical marker, especially if it were to involve emergency services, this has been agreed and will be changed in due course.

We requested signs at both ends of the Glororum road to warn drivers that there are pedestrians in the road. These were installed very quickly, pedestrians on this road are not what we want, but at least now we do have some warning for drivers. We have also asked for verge cutting to align with timings of hedge cutting. This of course leads me on to the subject of the Glororum path. Sadly, we are yet to have an offroad path all the way up to Glororum. There are a variety of reasons and constraints which have prevented progress in this area, but we continue to work with Castle Estates to look at, and review possibilities.

Castle Estates plan to trial parking in the Moorfield on the Wynding later this year for the permitted 28 days to see how it goes, monitor traffic flow, and see what can be learned. We are really pleased that this is happening. It is something the Parish Council and Castle estates have been discussing for some time, and so it's great that they have taken the time to do it. We hope it will make a big, and positive difference, on the Wynding.

Castle Estates have also supported our idea of exploring an alternative and more sustainable path to the beach for our visitors, especially those who have accessibility issues. We hope to make good progress with this, and it will make life so much better for our wheelchair users.

Our Wheelchair Hut has had another really successful year. We now have 5 wheelchairs and the whole Beach Access scheme continues to be very well used. Thanks go to all of our volunteers who keep this wonderful service running.

The playpark also continues to be a great success and is a real asset to the village, it is lovely to walk past and see so many families and children of all ages having fun in there. Paul, our warden, has now taken on our weekly inspection rota which has lightened the load for our busy Parish councillors.

We have some very smart new bike racks in the village on the site of the old bus shelter. These were funded and installed by National Landscapes (formerly the AONB), as part of the Northumberland Rural Asset Multiplier Programme (RAMP) and are a great improvement.

We have seen very positive outcomes from the use of the Fix My Street Website <https://www.fixmystreet.com>. This is an excellent tool for reporting all the little things that make village life interesting — from potholes to broken streetlights, blocked drains to overhanging branches and so much more these, are then directed to the correct department at the council or correct authority and flagged until the issue is resolved. It has proved very successful, and it would be great if everyone could spread the word.

We are currently in the process of making some changes to our admin and the Parish

Council section of our website, which now has to be completely separate in order to be compliant. The Parish council will soon have its own website, separate to the Village website, although the village website will still have a link to it. This also means that all councillors and the clerk now have new email addresses. All correspondence should now be sent to the new email address which is clerk@bamburghparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Christmas Lights committee produced another fantastic display last Christmas, and we thank them for their continued hard work. Bamburgh Heritage Trust continue to maintain the phone box and added to the Christmas display last year with a Christmas tree in the phone box which was spotted on social media far and wide. They continue to work on projects to try and preserve local history and add to archives.

We've replaced some of the bins in the village with bigger and better bins, the newest is at the Post Box which has the much-needed bird proofing attached. We are aware of the problem that the birds create, and are looking to try some new ways of 'Bird Proofing' them.

Thanks of course need to be given to all the people who keep the village the way we like it ; Paul our Village Warden, the Pavilion Committee who keep the Pavilion active and in great condition for all of its users, our team of Green keepers who make such a fantastic job of mowing the village green, our regular litter pickers, and those who litter pick on their daily walks all help to keep the village a lovely place to be.

Last, but not least; our Parish council team (and we really do work well together as a team!). Thank you: John, Sue, Kirsty, Nicole and Ralph. Although not new to the Parish Council, I am new to this role as Chair, and there is no way I could do this alone. Our councillors work extremely hard to preserve, maintain and appropriately make progress within our village. Thanks for all their hard work. And, of course, our fantastic Clerk Joan, who works incredibly hard and keeps us all right! I couldn't do this without you all, Thank you!