

## Chairman's Report 2026

I would like to thank all Bryanston councillors for their hard work and support over the last year and our County Councillor, Sherry Jespersen, for her continued advice and support, and for keeping our residents informed about Dorset Council's services and decisions.

My special thanks go to the Parish Clerk, Mrs Nicky Phillips, who leaves us at the end of May, after 14 years. We have enjoyed working with her and greatly appreciate all the work she has undertaken on behalf of our council. I will personally miss her calm approach, humour, expertise and sound advice. We wish her every happiness and success in her future ventures.

The council extends a very warm welcome to the new Parish Clerk, Mr. David Green who joined on 1<sup>st</sup> May and we look forward to working with him.

BPC also welcomed a new councillor Alistair Maxwell in November, restoring the parish council back to its full complement of 7 councillors.

Bryanston PC welcomes all the new residents that have moved into Bryanston Holt this year. Bryanston PC successfully disputed the installation of 5 streetlights at the bottom of New Road as they were clearly unnecessary in a Dark Skies environment.

Bryanston PC continues to prioritise close community links with its neighbouring councils, especially Blandford St Mary PC and Blandford Forum Town Council. We are a community. BPC is an integral part of the Blandford+ Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group, now with three representatives, including Cllrs Carol Tompsett (B+NP Chair), Cllr Frank Stocks & Cllr Catherine Moxham. Briefly BPC had 4 with Mrs Sue Cowling and we thank her for her contribution.

Our statutory NP is highly regarded by Dorset Council and is being used to decide planning applications in the B+ area, alongside the NDDC Local Plan and emerging DC Local Plan. Work includes monitoring the NP policies and supporting their implementation and ensuring planning applications meet the B+NP policies and Design Code.

Any resident is very welcome to join the Monitoring Group – it is not just for councillors. If you are interested in shaping our B+ area for the future and would like to know more, please contact Carol Tompsett ([cllr.c.tompsett@bryanston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.c.tompsett@bryanston-pc.gov.uk)).

The next draft of Dorset Council's new Local Plan is due to be published imminently. Bryanston PC will respond appropriately, respecting the views of our residents and our collective identity. The next Boundary Commission Review is also due and, again, we need to make sure we retain our identity as a rural parish.

Following concerns from residents and a public consultation, BPC has applied for a 20mph speed restriction along The Cliff to Home Farm/School grounds. This has reached the first stages with Dorset Council. Other speed limit changes in New Road and Fairmile have been requested, but yet to be considered by DC – possibly when Bryanston Holt nears completion, along with other highways work.

A group of Bryanston residents is in the process of setting up a Community Speed Watch Team. Volunteers are needed to join the team. All training will be given.

The Old Powerhouse (The OP) continues to grow as an important community hub for Bryanston and the greater area, due to the hard work of The OP Team. A team (TOPIT) has been drawing up plans for improvements to the building. Proposals for these changes can be seen on display at The OP. All comments, offers of help and any input is very welcome. Planning permission is in progress as this is required to access S106 funds from the Bryanston Holt development, and to apply for funding grants. To be clear, the OP is a Community Interest Company (CIC) and not the responsibility of the parish council.

Many people have been involved in keeping Bryanston looking lovely, including at the bottom of New Road which has been a challenge with all the building work at Bryanston Holt.

BPC thanks the Parish Council's grass contractors, Langers, who continue to keep our verges cut.

The Village Litter Picks in November and May were well supported by a team of volunteers and The OP provided hot dogs as a thank you. Thanks to all involved.

The Jubilee hawthorns have been a picture along The Cliff this year, and the island beautiful with a succession of spring flowers. Sadly, a few hawthorns probably suffered in the hot dry conditions last year and have died. These will need to be removed and replaced in time.

The seat in the lower part of New Road was refurbished and a replacement commemorative plaque installed.

Sadly, we have some inconsiderate dog owners using our footpaths, especially Tappers Cut, who are not picking up after their dogs. It is a health hazard and disgusting. There are bins around the village, and these are for both general rubbish and dog waste.

Last year, the phone box was set up as a recycling point for old specs, bras, and milk bottle caps, on a trial basis. Sadly, both the specs and bras were taken before they could be sent off to their respective charities. It makes a mockery of our attempts to recycle for good causes.

The Chair was honoured to be invited by Bryanston School to lay a wreath at St Martin's Church, on Sunday 9th November, at the Bryanston School's Remembrance service. St Martin's Church commemorates the men from Bryanston parish who gave their lives in the Boer, First and Second World Wars. Also, laying a wreath on behalf of Bryanston at the Remembrance Parade in Blandford.

Cllr Catherine Moxham laid a wreath at St Nicholas Church in Durweston, our parish church.

The precept for 2026-27 was necessarily increased from £12000 to £14566, to meet the increased running costs of the Parish Council, especially for services no longer provided by Dorset Council.

BPC awarded the following grants and donations for 2025-2026:

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| • St Nicholas Church, Bryanston & Durweston Parish Church | £100    |
| • Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance                         | £100    |
| • Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau                           | £50     |
| • Blandford Forum Town Council public toilets             | £50     |
| • The Bryanston Newsletter                                | £50     |
| • Bryanston Parish Community Charity                      | £50     |
| • Community Speed Watch Team - purchase of a speed gun    | £140.00 |

Carol Tompsett  
13 05 2026