

A photograph of a tree-lined street with a church spire in the distance. The street is paved and has a white dashed line down the center. The trees are lush green, and the sky is clear. A church spire is visible in the background, partially obscured by the trees. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

# Bloxham Parish Council

## APM

April 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

# Agenda

- Introductions and Apologies
- To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Matters arising from the Minutes
- Chairman's Report 2023/2024
- Parish Council Accounts 2023/2024 & Financial Report
- Slade
- County and District Councilors Reports
- What's happening this year
- Questions from residents who are on the electoral roll for Bloxham

# Chairmans Report

# Chairmans Report

- Village Asset and infrastructure
  - Church Clock
  - Bus shelter, bus stops, benches and bins
  - Potholes, drains and roads cleaning
  - Burial Ground
  - Anti social behaviour
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Speculative Developments
  - Ells Lane
  - Tadmarton Road
  - Bloxham/Milcombe border
- Traffic calming
- Speedwatch
- Defibrillators
- Bloxham Litter Pick
- Communication and PC meetings

# Church Clock

- **The church clock has been maintained by Alan Griffin for over 50 years.**
  - Sadly, he has decided it's time to stop climbing the 84 steps. Thankfully for us he has been training his prodigy for the last two years.
  - Our thanks go to Alan for all his years of ensuring our clock has remained in excellent order and for Tim Hart who is taking over.

# Bus stops, Benches, Planters, Dog & Litter Bins

- Refurbished Bus shelter, A361 opposite Warriner
- Programme in place to replace our benches with environmentally friendly ones:
  - Enviropol slats, recycled aluminium support ends
  - Circular bench on Memorial Green scheduled to be replaced during 2024, quote accepted
- Dog bins being replaced as needed.
  - Corner of Gascoigne Way replaced
- Programme to replace litter bins as needed.
- Planters rebuilt by Galliford Try, following the road junction improvements, village signs still to be re-instated
  - Challenges due to steep side banks.

# Pot holes, pavements, drains and road sweeping

## Shall we just say – there are ongoing challenges

### • Potholes

- Section of Ells Lane from A361 to layby passed Nursery had edging repairs carried out by the “Dragon”
- Multiple streets have serious pothole problems.
  - Residents should use “fix my street” to report potholes, if not done in 28 days, contact PC and we will follow up with OCC.

### • Pavements

- Request raised with OCC to improve sections of Courtington Lane
- Pavement widened on the corner of A361 and Cumberford (opposite the Garage)

### • Drains (Gullies and Catch pits)

- Multiple drains are still blocked which becomes evident with heavy rain.
  - Unfortunately, we can only report in “fix my street” as needing to be cleaned.
  - If they are not done within 28 days, contact Parish Council and we will follow up with OCC.

### • Road sweeping

- Not “Fix my street”. CDC responsibility
  - [https://forms.cherwell.gov.uk/xfp/form/495?council=CDC&\\_gl=1\\*17n6wyh\\*\\_ga\\*OTk3NTQwNzEwLjE2NzY2NTE2NDE.\\*\\_ga\\_ZKNRP2QC5Y\\*MTY4MjQxNzU4Mi4yNi4xLjE2ODI0MTc2MDguMC4wLjA](https://forms.cherwell.gov.uk/xfp/form/495?council=CDC&_gl=1*17n6wyh*_ga*OTk3NTQwNzEwLjE2NzY2NTE2NDE.*_ga_ZKNRP2QC5Y*MTY4MjQxNzU4Mi4yNi4xLjE2ODI0MTc2MDguMC4wLjA)

# Need for a new Cemetery

- Churchyard is almost full
  - Land would need to be purchased or donated
    - Purchase cost could be met by a Developer via S106 monies
    - Increase the precept, so the Parish Council could buy land with a loan.
    - Parish Council engaged with Consultants to help find suitable land
      - Consultants identified two sites which met all the criteria which is required for a burial ground, unfortunately no option to buy any of these sites were available to the Parish Council as they were prime development land with options on them.
    - Recent plot on the Ridgeway was beyond the Parish Council budget.
- Parochial Church Council have agreed to make a previously unavailable section of the graveyard available for use,

# Anti-Social Behaviour

- Drugs
  - Churchyard
- Graffiti and vandalism
  - Vandalism within the Church
  - Benches
  - Recreation areas

# Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan

- During the Deeley appeal on Ells Lane, the validity of the BNDP was brought into question given that it was created in 2016.
- To ensure the BNDP remains valid the Parish Council has started the process of updating in line with the CDC 2040 Draft Local Plan
  - Aim will to be close any perceived loopholes that could be exploited by Developers.

# Standing up against Speculative Development

- Planning application for 30 houses on the corner of A361 and Ells Lane.
  - Parish Council fought against this and the application, speaking at the Planning Committee Meeting. Application was refused by CDC.
    - Developer went to appeal, which they won.
- Planning application from Gladmans for 60 houses on Tadmarton Road.
  - Parish Council fought against this and the application, speaking at the Planning Committee Meeting. Application was refused by CDC.
    - Gladmans have taken this to appeal, scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024
    - Residents encouraged to attend if possible.
- Planning application for 90 houses on the Milcombe/Bloxham border.

# Ells Lane Appeal by Deeley Homes

- Key reasons why we lost (Inspectors Comments):
- Location:
  - Whilst the development would extend beyond Ells Lane in the direction of Banbury, I do not find that the proposed development would harm the existing gap between Bloxham and Banbury. Furthermore, given the form of the settlement at its northern end, in particular the residential development on the western side of the A361, I consider that the scheme would not harm the setting of Bloxham.

# Ells Lane Appeal by Deeley Homes

- Key reasons why we lost (Inspectors comments):
- Quality of agricultural land (Agricultural Land Classification):
  - The ALCR has been produced specifically for the site and concludes that the site has a classification of subgrade 3b. In the absence of substantiated evidence to the contrary, I have found no good reason to conclude that the ALCR is unreliable in this or any other significant respect.
  - For the above reasons, the proposed development would not harm the availability of best and most versatile agricultural land. Therefore, the scheme does not conflict with the agricultural and economic aims of LP Policies BSC2, V2 and the requirements of the Framework.

# Ells Lane Appeal by Deeley Homes

- Key reasons why we lost (Inspectors comments):
- Housing land supply:
  - LP Policy Villages 2 (V2) surrounds ‘Distributing Growth across the Rural Areas’ where the first part of the policy confirms that ‘A total of 750 homes will be delivered at Category “A” villages and that sites will be identified through, amongst other things, applications for planning permission. From the evidence, I find that it is highly likely that this number will have been exceeded. However, this figure is not a ceiling, and I am mindful of the Government’s objective to significantly boost the supply of homes. I am also satisfied that the number of dwellings involved in the scheme would not harm the Council’s housing strategy

# Quarry Close, Appeal by Gladmans

- Following an active campaign within the village and the Parish Council speaking at the Planning Committee meeting, the original application made by Gladmans was refused.
- Gladmans have taken this decision to appeal, which will be heard at Bloxham Mill, Barford Road, Bloxham, Oxfordshire, OX15 4FF on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at 10.00AM. The Hearing is expected to last for 2 Days.
  - Cherwell District Council Appeal reference link [24/00005/REF](#)
  - Parish Council has already updated their objections which have been submitted to the Planning Inspector, to include the additional 30 houses approved for Ells Lane and the subsequent positive impact this has on CDC exceeding their 5.4 year housing land supply target.

# Bloxham/Milcombe border

Proposed 90 homes, Bloxham Road, Milcombe (opposite The Dovecote)

- Planning Application - 23/01144/OUT
  - Milcombe Parish Council has objected
  - Bloxham Parish Council has objected

# Traffic Calming/roads and pavements

## Primary school area.

- Hedge cut back on Cumberford corner
  - Almost two years to get cutback properly
- Pavement widened on Cumberford corner
- Miller Homes Car Park
  - Built as specified in the Planning approval
  - Not owned by Parish, so unable to improve
  - Very large hole across the entrance has been repaired
- County and District Councillors still to meet Head to discuss safety

# Traffic Calming

## **A361/Ells Lane/Bloxham Grove.**

- **Ells Lane parking.**
  - During term time several vehicles parked all day from Crab Tree Close to Nursery. With additional vehicles at school pick up
    - This area will have yellow lines as part of the Ells Lane housing development.
    - This will only move the problem to Chipperfield Park or Bloxham Grove Road
- **Bloxham Grove Road parking**
  - Lay by parking instead of the previous diagonal parking, so overall less parking spaces
    - Result - more cars in Chipperfield Park
      - Difficult to take action, unless dangerously parked or causing an obstruction
      - Neighbourhood Police Team monitor

# Traffic Calming

## **A361 speeding into village from Chipping Norton**

- **Parish Council requested an ANPR device as part of the 20mph submission (not actioned by OCC)**

## **Courtington Lane**

- **Parking on the corner from A361 to Workhouse Lane**
  - Village survey undertaken regarding yellow lines between A361 junction and Workhouse Lane was in favour of yellow lines. OCC will organise a formal Consultation.
  - Neighbourhood Police Team monitor the area and have issued several fixed notice tickets for parking on the bend.

# Traffic Calming

## Stone Hill

- **Village survey undertaken regarding yellow lines on sections of the road**
  - Concerns raised regarding parking at the top end
  - Pavement parking
  - Parking on the corner with A361
- **Outcome of the survey was not in favour of yellow lines.**
  - If parking continues on the pavement, blocking dropped curbs and parking on the corner with A361 decision will be reviewed

## Pavement Parking

- Some streets you have to, but not on the estates

# Traffic Calming

## 20 mph in force

- OCC formal consultation took place (68 responses).
- An informal village survey took place (180 responses), alongside a themed Drop In and Chat to help the Parish Council develop its response
- There was general support for 20mph speed limits in the village, survey results were mixed on where these zones should be
- OCC implemented their original blanket proposals

# Traffic Calming

## 20 mph in force – residents' concerns since implementation

- Why the speed limit remains at 30mph outside Warriner.
  - Parish Council proposal was 20mph flashing ambers at school times. This proposal was disregarded by OCC.
- Village entry points
  - Tadmarton Road and Milton Road have 20mph signpost roundels and 30mph painted on the road
- SID device on Barford Rd to be adjusted to activate at correct speed.
- **The Parish Council have raised concerns with OCC regarding the way the 20mph project was managed by the Project Team.**
  - **OCC have today confirmed a planned review of the 20mph in the village.**

# Traffic Calming

## 20mph monitoring

### Monitoring impact and effectiveness

- Air quality comparisons from tubes located on Church Street and historical data from High Street
- Portable Speed indication device (currently on Courtington Lane)

### Relocation of disabled bay

- Following consultation by OCC with businesses and residents in the area the disabled bay has been relocated and is also now an official “blue badge” bay.

# Community Speed Watch

- The group is set up and registered with Thames Valley Police
  - Several operations have been conducted
    - A small minority of motorists have been abusive towards operators
  - We have a few trained operators, but we need more volunteers to make it successful
    - If we stop operations TVP will request their equipment be returned
- Equipment available to us for monitor speeding
  - Speedwatch operations/check points
  - Mobile speed indicator device, with data capture
  - Fixed speed indicators, with data capture

# Community Speed Watch locations

- A361 from Banbury
- A361 from Chipping Norton
- Tadmarton Road
- Barford Road
- Milton Road
- High Street
- Courtington Lane

# Defibrillators



## **Current 24/7 locations:**

- Side of Warriner main hall access from Bloxham Grove.
- Jubilee Hall, Facing carpark
- ExServicemans Hall.
- CofE Primary School

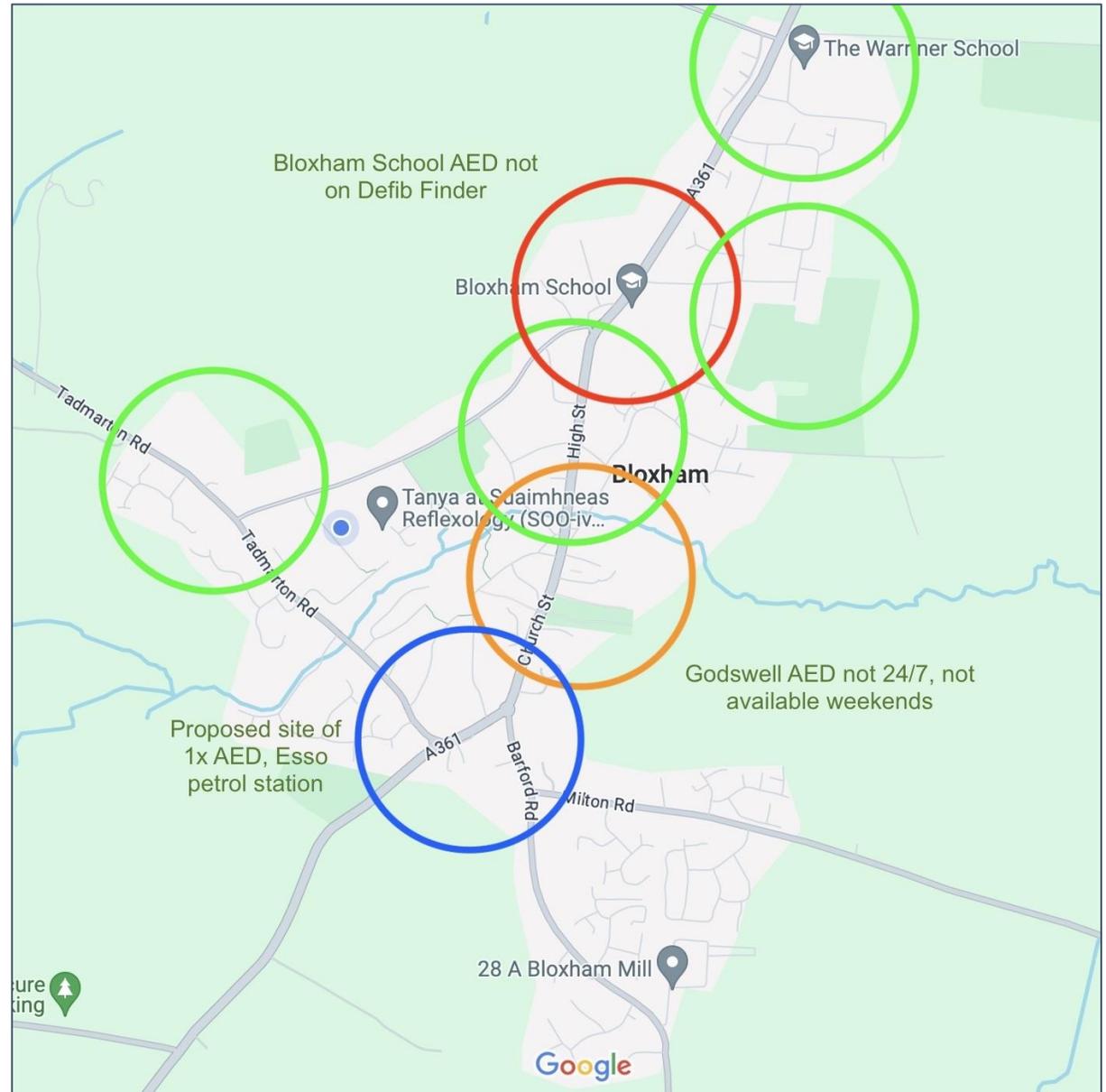
## **Proposed additional 24/7 location:**

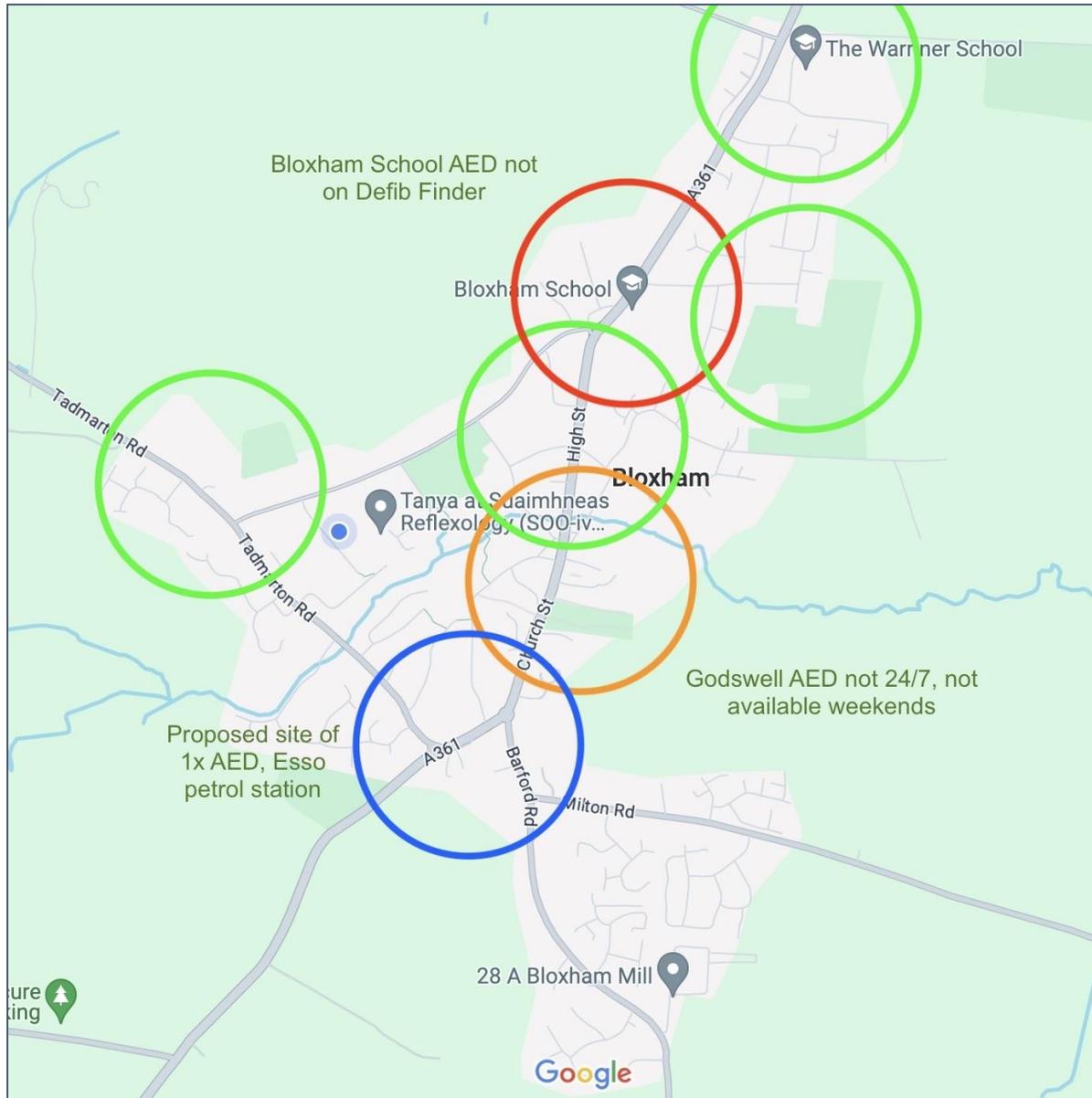
Bloxham Surgery

# The issues:

- GP surgery not 24/7 available
- Only 4 AEDs 24/7 available for whole village (Green circles)
- All in North
- Milton Road estates approx. 8 minutes round trip by car to nearest 24/7 AED
- 1min delay = 10% reduction in survivability of CA

**NOTE: Circles = Approx' 200m radius**



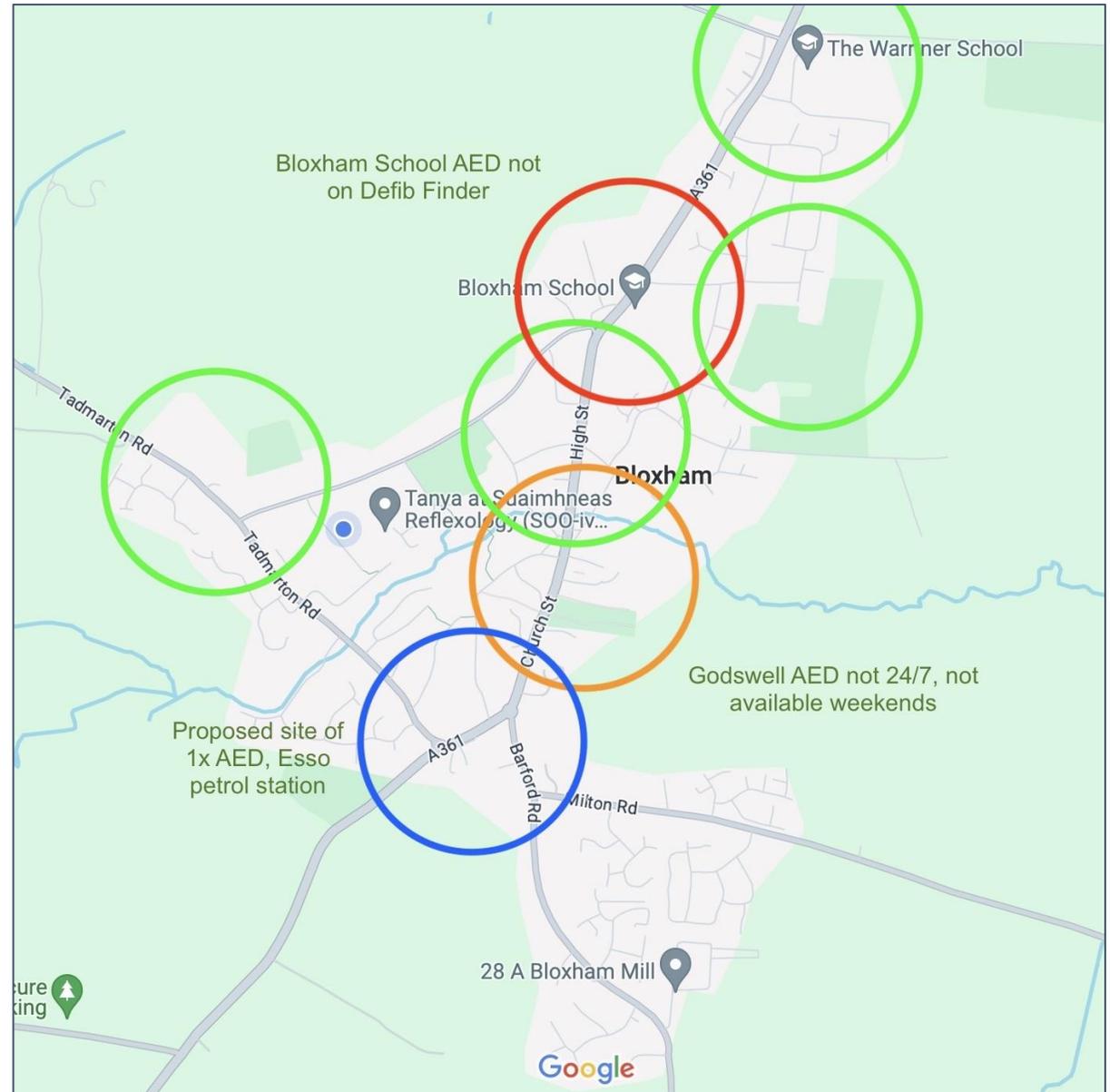


## Progress to date:

- GP surgery now 24/7 available
- In discussion with MFG re: Esso
- In discussion with Bloxham School re: Courtington Lane
- Fact finding re: potential sites Milton road;
  - BT Exchange
  - The Loft (if Esso not work out)
  - Bloxham Mill
  - Lamp posts?
  - Private residencies?

## Points to note:

- Defib finder
- What 3 words
- Defibrillators for Bloxham working group
- BLSAT courses (SCA-Charity)



# Village Litter pick

- Village Litter Pick due to take place during the Great Big Green Week (8-15 June).
- Parish Council are co-ordinating the activity and are looking for any volunteers who want to participate.
- Cllr Neil Hegarty will provide advice and guidance to any would be volunteers
  - Volunteer safety is paramount at all times.
- Litter pickers available from the Parish Council stall at the Bloxham Funday (8th June).

# Communication and PC Meetings

- Making Parish Council meetings more interactive, within the guidelines of how we must manage a public council meeting
- Drop in and Chats
  - 2nd Saturday of the month 10:30-11:30, Ex-Servicemans Hall.
  - We held our second themed DIAC on Neighbourhood Policing.
  - Open to receive suggestions from residents on additional themed DIAC's
  - Great opportunity to get concerns off your chest
- The Clerk has created a newsletter for the Bloxham Broadsheet
  - Minutes are still available to view online and on village noticeboards
- Use of informal village surveys to help with decision making along with DIACs, PC mtg, concerns raised to Cllrs etc.
  - Used as part of the 20mph submission from the PC
  - Used to determine support for yellow lines Courtington Lane and Stone Hill to address parking concerns
- Working hard on how we communicate to keep residents updated on concerns raised.
  - If you raise a concern, we'll let you know how its progressing
  - Escalate to District and County Councillors, where we can't resolve
    - This takes time

# Parish Council Accounts 2023/2024 & Financial Report

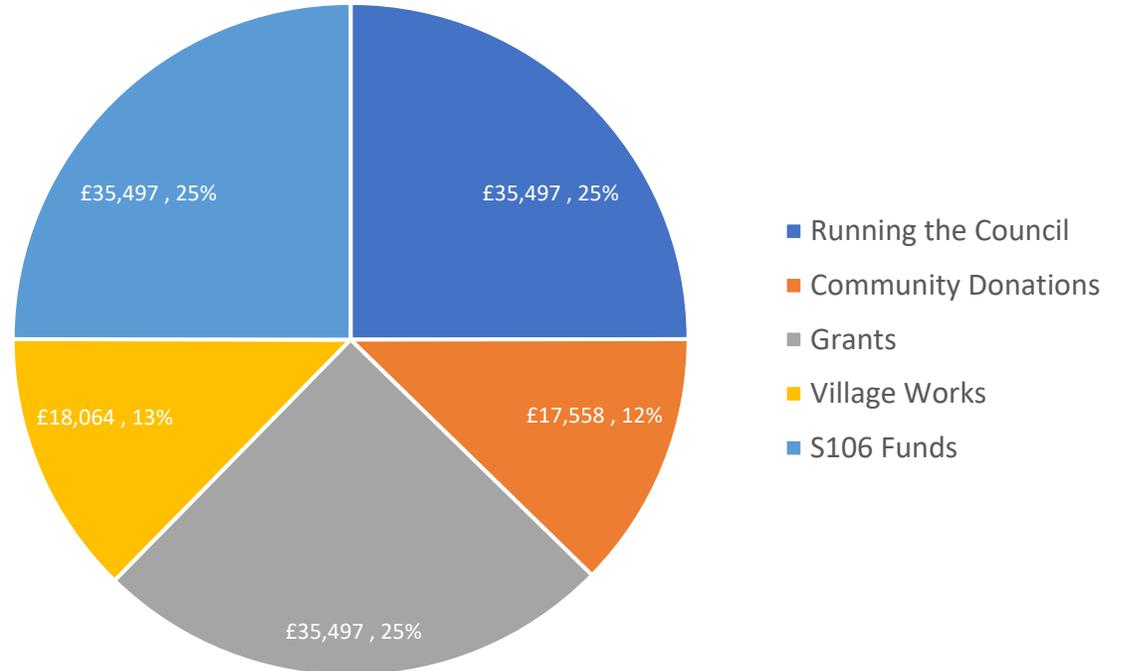
# Financials

- Overview
- Donations and Grants
- Village Works
- S106

# Financial Overview

- Precept has been kept the same for the last 4 years
  - Increased by 5% for 2024/2025
- Remained on budget for 2023/2024
- Main budgets:

Running the Council	£35,497
Community Donations	£17,558
Grants	£8,430
Village Works	£18,064
S106 Funds	£35,497



# Community Donations and Grants 2023/2024

## Community Donations

- Jubilee Park Grass Cutting
- Cherry Tree Centre
- Church Clock
- Community Christmas Lunch
- Royal British Legion
- Recreation Ground
- St Mary's Thursday Club

## Grants

- Biodiversity Group
- Standing the Gap
- Friends of Primary School
- Bloxham Bowls Club
- Ellen Hinde Hall
- Bloxham Pre School
- St Marys Curchyard
- Flower Club

# Community Donations and Grants 2024/2025

## Community Donations

- Jubilee Park Grass Cutting
- Church Clock
- Community Christmas Lunch
- Royal British Legion
- Thursday Club
- Fun Day
- David Tyrrell Rec

## Grants

- Ellen Hinde Hall
- Bloxham Pre-School
- Flower Club
- Cherry Tree Centre
- 1<sup>st</sup> Bloxham Scouts
- Friends of Bloxham Primary School
- St Mary Church

# Village Works

- Tree Management
- Grass Cutting
- General Planting and weed control
- Hedges and bushes
- Litter and Dog bin waste services
- Christmas tree and street lights
- Queen Street site
- Slade
- And more.....

# S106 funds

- Play equipment maintenance
  - Ongoing.
  - New swing set installed at the David Tyrrell recreation ground
- David Tyrrell Recreation Ground
  - New roof for the Pavilion,
    - Delayed due to sodden ground and consequent risk to damage to grassed surface.
    - Due to be completed Spring/Summer 2024

# Slade Nature Reserve

# The Slade Nature Reserve



Marie Jones and Natalie Dayer

## Overview

- Short history
- Measuring Biodiversity
- Working parties
- Community Engagement
- Tree Survey and appropriate works
- Future projects



# History

- 1969 purchased from Mr Coles the farmer by OCC
- Used by The Windmill School in Deddington as an educational resource
- 1986 – 2011 Leased by BBOWT
- 2015 Acquired by Bloxham Parish Council
- 2018 Gained LNR status

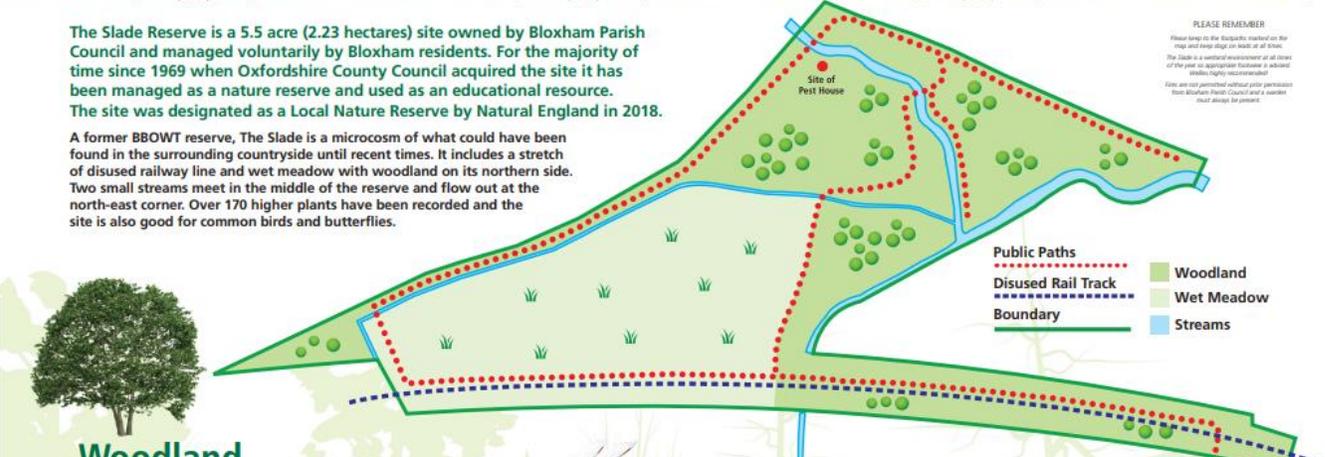
# The Slade Local Nature Reserve



**The Slade Reserve is a 5.5 acre (2.23 hectares) site owned by Bloxham Parish Council and managed voluntarily by Bloxham residents. For the majority of time since 1969 when Oxfordshire County Council acquired the site it has been managed as a nature reserve and used as an educational resource. The site was designated as a Local Nature Reserve by Natural England in 2018.**

A former BBOWT reserve, The Slade is a microcosm of what could have been found in the surrounding countryside until recent times. It includes a stretch of disused railway line and wet meadow with woodland on its northern side. Two small streams meet in the middle of the reserve and flow out at the north-east corner. Over 170 higher plants have been recorded and the site is also good for common birds and butterflies.

**PLEASE REMEMBER**  
Please keep to the footpaths marked on the map and keep dogs on leads at all times. The Slade is a natural environment at all times of the year so appropriate footwear is advised. Wildlife lights recommended.  
Flora are not permitted without prior permission from Bloxham Parish Council and a permit must always be gained.



## Woodland

The woodland has two sections, the main body is a **wet alder wood** and there is an area of mixed woodland in the eastern corner. The mixed woodland is coppiced to encourage an understorey to form. The alder wood is not managed and has a high canopy of mature alder trees. Species recorded in this area include **siskin, greater spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, tree creeper, nuthatch, kinglet, marginals and muntjac deer**.

In the north western area of the woodland there is the remains of a **Pest House** built to isolate members of the parish of Bloxham with infectious diseases such as smallpox. The earliest record of its use is 1765 and was last used in the 1890s.



MUNTJAC DEER



GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER



PEST HOUSE



COMMON SPOTTED ORCHID

## Wet Meadow

The meadow is a wetland habitat predominantly populated with **meadowsweet**. The meadow is managed in sections to create varied habitats and therefore increase biodiversity. The meadow is a great environment for invertebrates and three species of dragonflies have been recorded: **broad bellied chaser, migrant hawkker and beautiful demoiselle**. **chiffchaff** use the meadow as a nest site.

The willow boardwalk along the north-western boundary is an area where you can see **common spotted orchid, ragged robin, snipe and bullfinch**.




BULLFINCH

## Railway

This is a section of the **Barbury and Cheltenham District Railway** line. The line was opened in 1887 and was used for moving limestone from Bloxham pits and during the war for transportation of troops between Barbury and Barford RAF base. The line was closed in 1962. It includes patches of thick **blackthorn** perfect for nesting birds. Species recorded in this area include **chiffchaff, goldcrest, blackcap, grey wagtail and willow warbler**.



BLOXHAM RAIL STATION

# Measuring Biodiversity

- Species recording
- Increasing meadow species
- Nesting bird surveys
- POMS surveys
- Small mammal surveys
- Progress from District Wildlife Site to Local Wildlife Site



# Working Parties

- Generally held once a month
- Range of tasks including
  - Keeping footpaths clear
  - Habitat management
  - Maintaining board walks
  - Pollarding willow trees
  - Clearing fallen trees
  - Cutting meadow



## Working Parties

- Regular group of around 12 volunteers, aged between 17 and 80
- Generally includes a DofE student



# Community Engagement

- Wild About Bloxham
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Bloxham School (Crake House)
- Studied as part of a Nottingham University MSC project



## Tree Survey & Ongoing costs

- Ash die back survey and felling
- Fencing materials
- Boardwalk materials
- Chainsaw sharpening tools



# Future Projects

- Pest House sign
- Tree labelling
- Nature trail
- Regular surveys



# County and District Cllr Reports

Cllr Kieron Mallon

Cllr Adam Nell

Cllr David Hingley

Cllr Rob Pattenden

# Councillors Reports

## High Level responsibilities (the big buckets)

- District
  - Planning
  - Environmental – Bins, recycling,
  - Housing allocation
- County
  - Highways
  - Education

# What's planned for 2024

# What's happening this year?

- Replacement roof for the Recreation ground changing rooms, store and hall
- Feasibility study of having 1 or 2 electric vehicle charging point in Jubilee car park
- Standing up against Speculative development - Gladmans appeal
  - Bloxham Mill, Barford Road, Bloxham, Oxfordshire, OX15 4FF on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at 10.00AM.  
The Hearing is expected to last for 2 Days.
- Additional 24/7 public defibrillators (budgeted for an additional 3)
- Parish Council submission for the CDC 2040 Draft Local Plan
- Review of the Bloxham Neighbourhood Development Plan

# What's happening this year?

- Monitor 20mph
  - Continue to engage with OCC on the implementation and outstanding residents' concerns
- Continue with Traffic Calming initiative
  - Monitor 20mph zone effectiveness
- Air Quality
  - Work with District Councillors and CDC to re-instate monitoring tube near the shops
- Re-launch Community Speed Watch
  - Use it or lose it, is the message from TVP
- Continue search for suitable site for Burial Ground

# Residents support

- You don't need to be a member of the Parish Council to support the village
  - If you have ideas to improve the village and want support/funds making them happen, come and talk to the Parish Council
    - We may not be able to take ownership, but we can support.
  - Areas where we have villager driven activities and support.
    - Litter Pick
    - Leaflet distribution
    - Additional defibrillators
  - If you have 2 hours spare 1st Monday of the month and want to hear what's happening come and attend a PC mtg. Even better join the PC

**Still 3 vacancies,  
but going fast(ish).  
Dip your toe in....  
The water's warm!  
Come and join your  
Parish Council**



# Questions