

## Clerk's Report

18 March 2026

### 1 Update on road safety initiatives

#### Community Speedwatch

The group continues to conduct sessions each week, subject to the weather and availability. Since the activity started, the group has recorded 459 motorists who were found to be traveling over the prescribed speed threshold. Details below:

Location	Speeders	
Beaconsfield Road	4	Of speeders recorded, the maximum speed on a 30mph road is 56mph with the average speed being 39mph. The maximum speed was recorded on Collinswood Road. The maximum speed on a 40mph road is 52mph with the average speed being 49mph. The maximum speed was recorded on Parish Lane.
Beeches Road	3	
Collinswood Road	396	
Farnham Lane	22	
One Pin Lane	31	
Parish Lane	1	
Templewood Lane	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	In addition, we have been notified that five of the vehicles reported did not have a MOT, five were not taxed and one had a statutory off road notification (SORN).

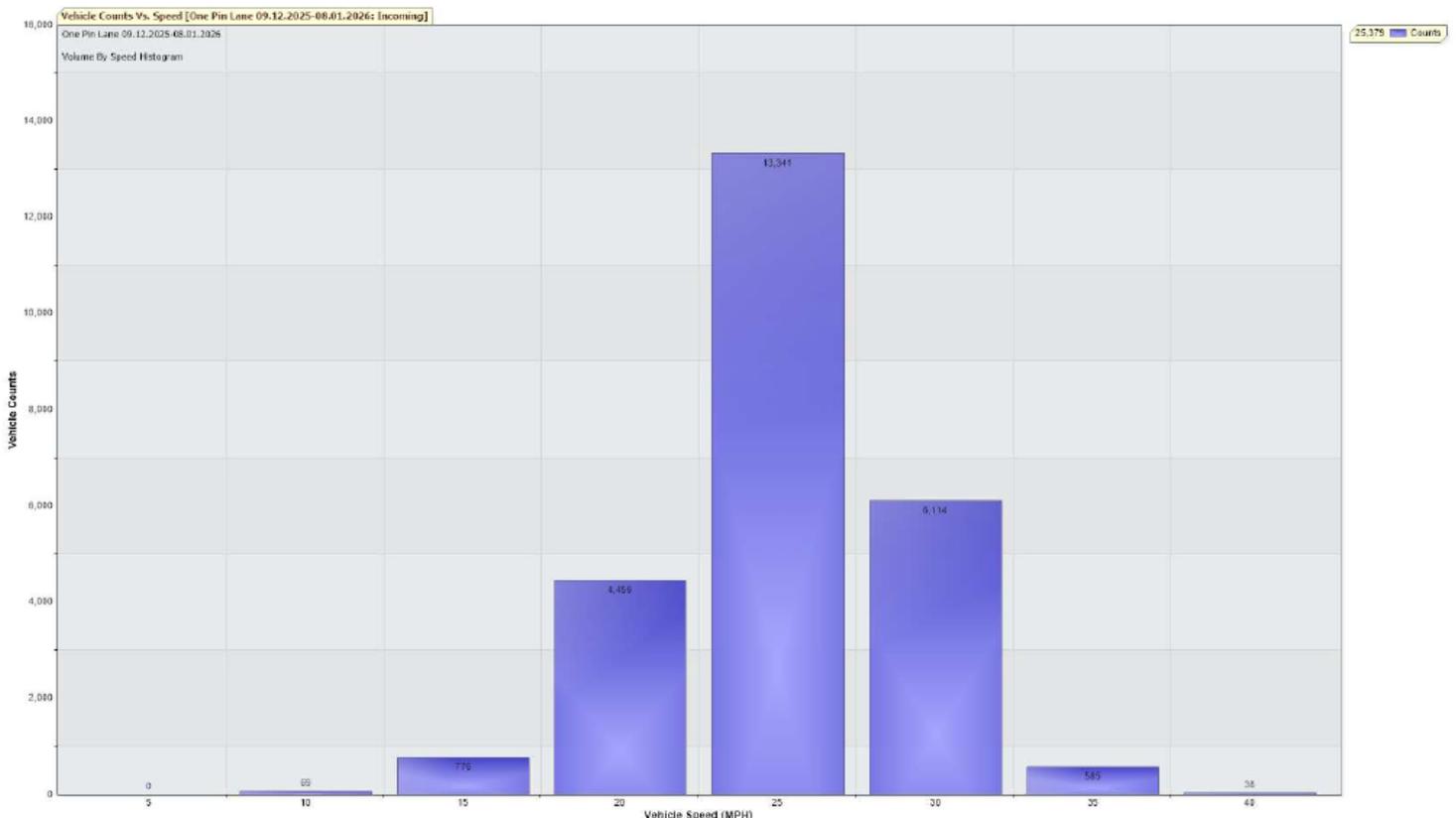
In addition, 10 motorists have been reported for offensive behaviour.

Since the last parish council meeting, sessions have been held in Beeches Road, Collinswood Road, Farnham Lane, One Pin Lane, Parish Lane and Templewood Lane.

#### Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs

Both signs continue to move around the approved sites within the parish. The latest data downloads are below.

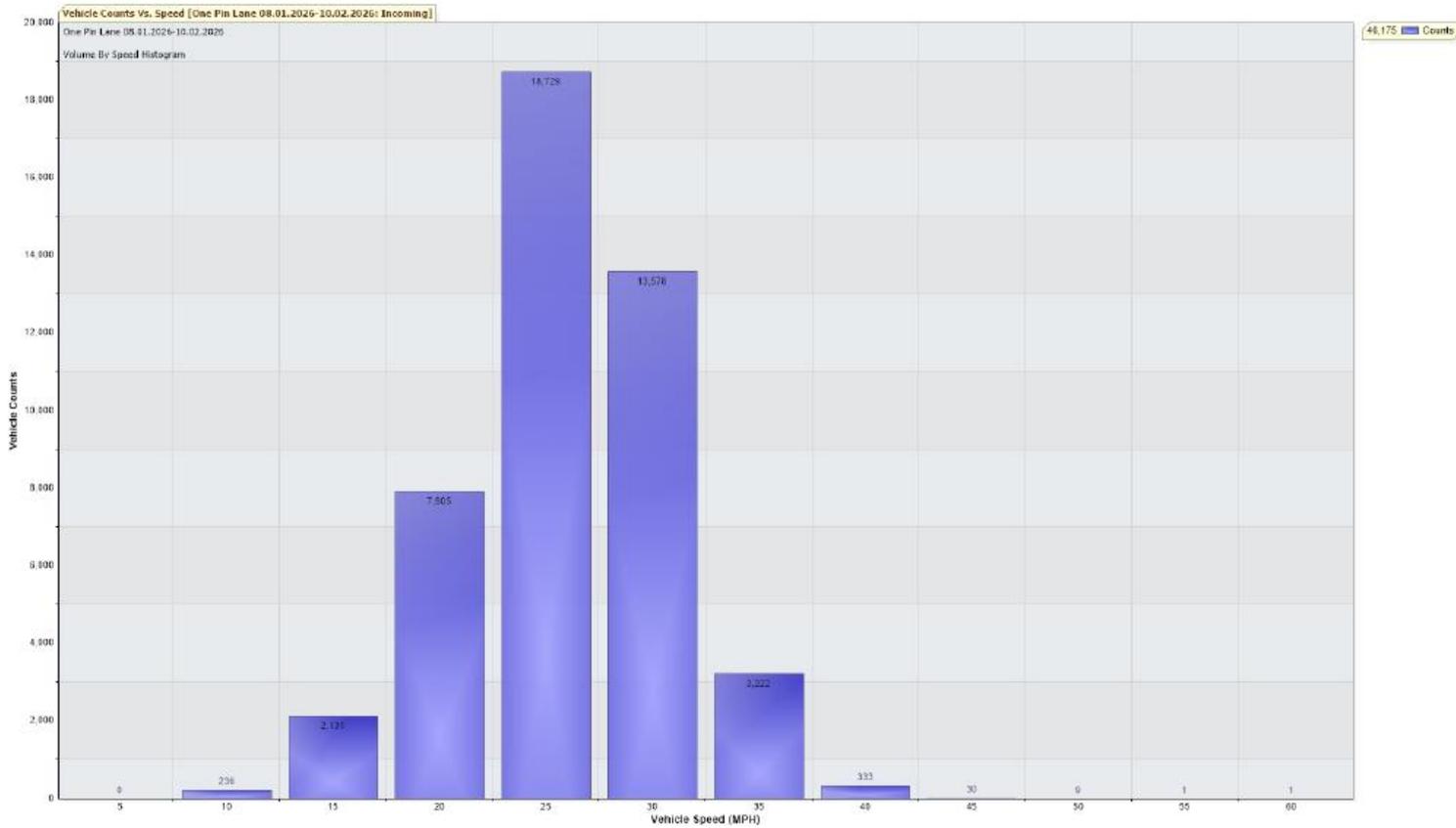
One Pin Lane (30mph) – 9 December 2025 to 8 January 2026



Maximum Speed: 40mph at 12.10pm

Average Speed: 22.73mph

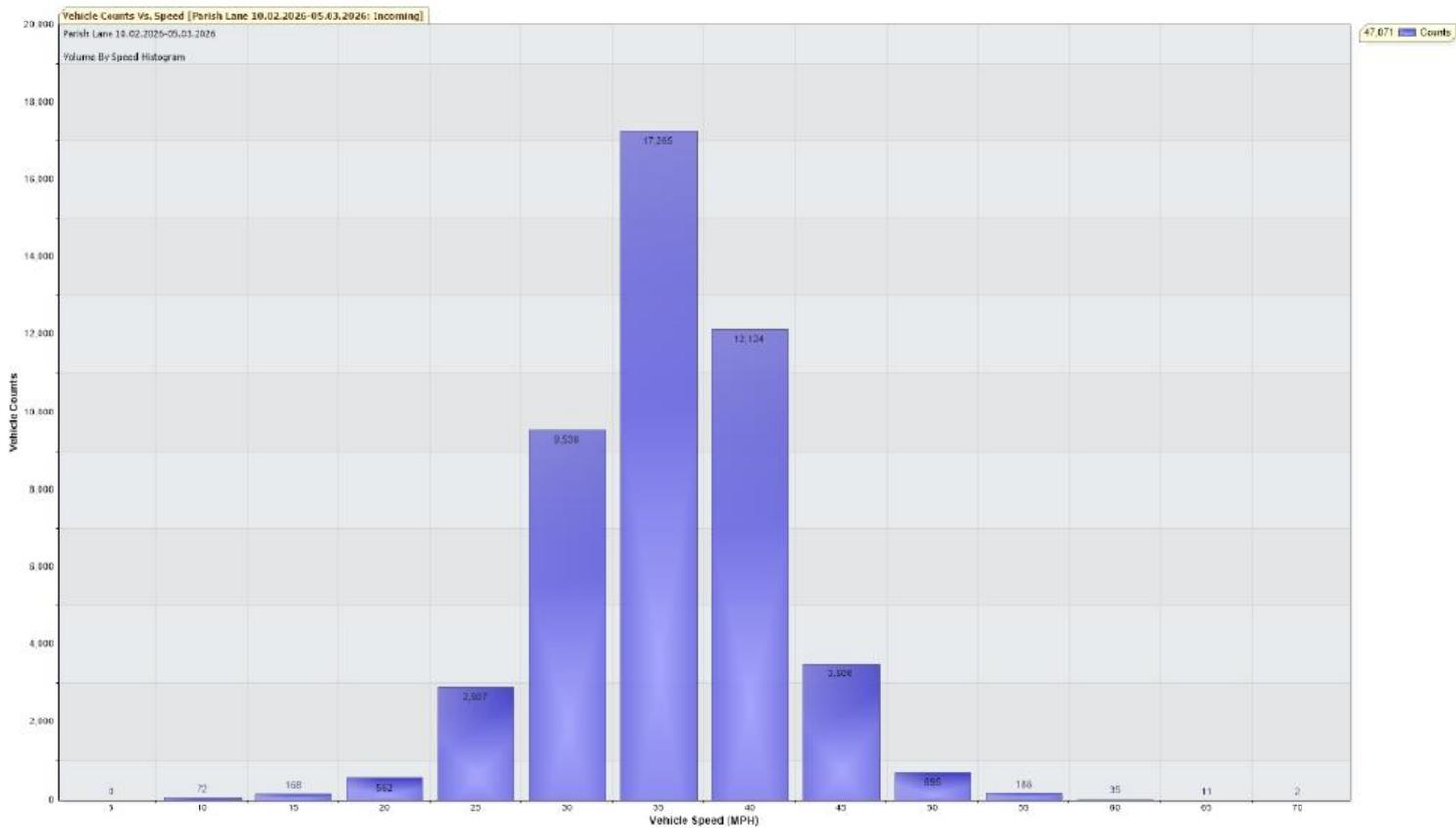
## One Pin Lane (30mph) – 8 January 2026 to 10 February 2026



Maximum Speed: 60mph at 12.45am

Average Speed: 23.4mph

## Parish Lane (40mph) – 10 February 2026 to 5 March 2026



Maximum Speed 70mph at 12.35am

Average Speed 32.9mph

## 2 St Mary's Churchyard

I have now received drawings for the surveyor and they have advised that before they can prepare the Schedule of Works, to avoid any possible abortive work, they need approval of the basic rebuild details, such as the exact length of

wall that the parish council wants to rebuild (they have suggested 4 metres in their report but note that the parish council may wish to change this) and whether Buckinghamshire Council's Conservation Officer/Heritage Officer requires any changes to their proposals.

They also note that the proposed rebuild will require quite a large amount of excavation on the church side of the wall to get down to the foundation level, which may have implications if there are any graves near to the wall, and the owner of the access path will have to approve the construction of new bases for the new piers on their side of the wall.

The surveyor has offered to send the drawings to the Conservation Officer/Heritage Officer and the neighbouring landowner for their comments.

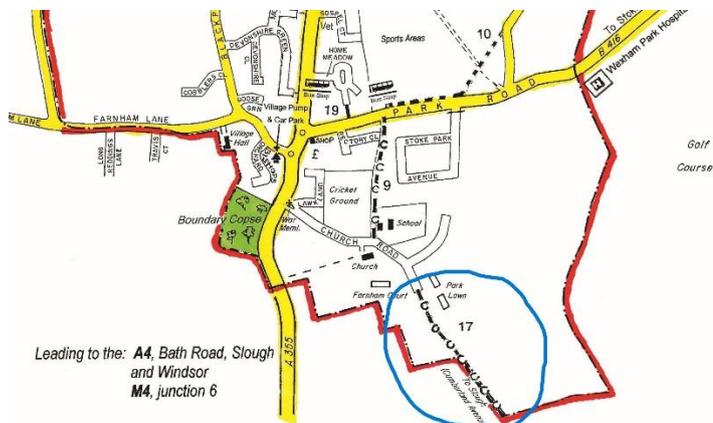
I have forwarded the drawings and comments to the Crematoria & Cemeteries Service Manager at Buckinghamshire Council together with a request for advice as to when the Parish Council needs to communicate formally with St Mary's Church (rather than informally via a Church Warden) and the Diocese of Oxford. I have also asked whether the legal team at Buckinghamshire Council has confirmed anything regarding the costs.

A copy of the drawings has been sent to parish councillors separately for information.

### 3. Resident's emails

A resident of Farnham Common has requested the Parish Council's help in securing new '30' carriageway roundels on red coloured surfacing on One Pin Lane on both sides of the bend on the approach to Woodland Glade. They also raised the condition of One Pin Lane, particularly near Mount Close with the ongoing delay in repairs to the drain cover.

A resident of Farnham Royal has requested the Parish Council's help in breaking a stalemate between residents and Buckinghamshire Council regarding the resurfacing of the Cinder Track, which is located at the end of Church Road and continues into Slough. The resident has advised that Buckinghamshire Council has been approached to repair the path but refused stating repairs are the responsibility of the owner, who appears to be the properties accessed from the Track. The resident advises that the Track was designated as a Bridleway a few years ago by Buckinghamshire Council and has significant public use by children and parents who are walking to and from St. Mary's Farnham Royal C of E Primary School and Penn Wood Primary and Nursery School in Slough. It is noted that the Track is also used by cyclists, disabled scooters and residents for access, from Church Road, Farnham Royal.



### 4. Update on 2025/26 projects

- CCTV

On 9 February 2026, I received confirmation from the Electronic Surveillance Manager at Buckinghamshire Council that the new multi sensor cameras have been installed at each end of The Broadway and that they were live and able to be viewed from their control room in Wycombe.

I also received confirmation from their contractor that they had access to the parish council's existing camera via the relevant website and were reviewing how to integrate these into the control room.

- Woodland Management Plan Work

Following my meeting with the Community Engagement Rangers from Burnham Beeches on 24 November 2025, they prepared a phased programme of works which I sent to three potential contractors, two of which were identified by the Rangers. One declined to quote for the work as they are in the fortunate position of being extremely busy on nature reserves that they have worked on for many years and therefore know what they are getting involved with. Another did

not reply to the invitation. The third, our regular maintenance contractor, met Katherine Damsell and me on site with the Rangers on 13 March 2026 to walk the site, identify ecological constraints and review the programme of works for the first phase. At the end of the visit, the contractors agreed to carry out the work in line with the agreed budget before the end of March 2026.

It is envisaged that the second phase will commence in September 2026, after bird nesting season.

- Website Improvements

Following the decision at the November 2025 parish council meeting, Gurdeep Grewal and I met to discuss a scope that could be sent to potential developers with a request for a proposal and quote. Two developers were asked to prepare a proposal that could then be considered with the proposal already received. So far, I have received one further proposal. This together with the original proposal have been sent to parish councillors separately as a decision on how to proceed is being sought at the meeting.

- Farnham Royal Playground Licence Renewal

Following the decision at the November 2025 parish council meeting, Katherine Damsell and I have continued to liaise with Buckinghamshire Council regarding the licence renewal for the playground at Farnham Park Playing Fields. The draft licence has been amended to confirm that Buckinghamshire Council is acting as Trustee of Farnham Park Sportsfield Charitable Trust.

I have also received an email from Wycombe Wanderers Football Club advising that they are fully supportive of the new licence and that the leasehold interest to be granted to the Club by Buckinghamshire Council will be subject to and with the benefit of the licence. A copy of the licence has been sent to parish councillors separately as a decision on how to proceed is being sought at the meeting.

- Dropped Kerb at Spring Lane in Farnham Royal

I have been contacted by a Project Manager at Buckinghamshire Highways regarding the Parish Council's request for a quote for the installation of tactile paving and dropped kerbs at this location. They have consulted with the Local Area Technician to better understand the reasoning behind prioritising this specific location, as there appear to be several crossing points along the route without dropped kerbs or tactile paving. They have asked for further justification for prioritising this location over others nearby that currently lack these features. I have asked Clive Robinson for help with this as he carried out the original survey into dropped kerbs within the parish.

- Protecting Physical Assets

Further to my last report, I have forwarded the title numbers for the freehold and leasehold titles regarding Farnham Common Sports Club to Maria Mowberry a partner in the Property Team at B P Collins LLP who has agreed to review the title documents on a time spent basis to ensure the ownership is correctly understood and registered. In addition, she has also agreed to review the lease to understand the parish council's rights and obligations should the Sports Club look to sublet a proportion of the land to a third party offering additional sports facilities. The lease file was delivered to her on 13 March 2026.

Katherine Damsell and I are continuing to investigate the options identified for protecting the land at Farnham Common Sports Club for community recreational use for generations to come prior to a follow up meeting with the solicitor.

- Traffic Calming in Farnham Common and Farnham Royal

At the last parish council meeting, it was resolved that the Parish Council would utilise some of the ringfenced CIL receipts to fund the following traffic calming measures:

1. Gateways and Dragons Teeth markings, '30' carriageway roundel on red coloured surfacing; and mounting the speed limit signs on yellow backing boards (to increase their conspicuity) on Collinswood Road, Farnham Common near the village name plates, if not a little further north.
2. A nearside gate, Dragons Teeth markings, '30' carriageway roundel on red coloured surfacing; and mounting the speed limit signs on yellow backing boards (to increase their conspicuity) on Park Road, Farnham Royal to slow traffic heading into Farnham Royal from Stoke Poges.
3. A nearside gate, Dragons Teeth markings, '30' carriageway roundel on red coloured surfacing; and mounting the speed limit signs on yellow backing boards (to increase their conspicuity) on Farnham Lane, Farnham Royal near the junction with Crown Lane where the speed limit changes to slow the traffic heading into Farnham Royal from Burnham.

Buckinghamshire Highways have received the required payment and will shortly visit the sites with Tony Birkett. A detailed design package is expected during April 2026.

In addition, as previously reported, Buckinghamshire Highways have advised that establishing a new MVAS site (instead of installing a fixed VAS) on Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Common northbound carriageway just south of Kennedy Close is a possibility at a low cost (Estimate: £0 to £5,000). As requested, I contacted the Local Area Technician for an assessment to be carried out to determine the suitability of the requested location. He has confirmed that he has no issue with this location being used as a MVAS site as there is plenty of room on the verge and the traffic management required to install and remove the sign will be minimal. I have reported this to BH Commissioning and await their response.

## 5. Feedback from Councillor Meetings

- South Bucks Association of Local Councils

Paul Rowley attended this meeting on 28 January 2026 on behalf of Tony Birkett. Each parish briefly updated the group on initiatives and issues. Paul Rowley advised that Farnham Royal Parish Council was focused on defending the Green Belt, the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire, building community spirit, business viability and crime prevention. The next meeting is scheduled for 22 April 2026.

- Burnham, Farnhams and Taplow Neighbourhood Policing Team

Tony Birkett and I met with PCSO Angela O'Connell on 13 February 2026 to discuss issues within the parish. The topics discussed were:

1. Recent burglaries on Mayflower Way and the steps residents could take to protect their homes. We also discussed whether any steps should be taken at Farnham Common Sports Club.
2. Gaining access to the Stag & Hounds Public House for the purpose of relocating the defibrillator.
3. Voyeurism at the public conveniences, which resulted in an arrest.
4. A resident's concern about speeding vehicles on a private road.
5. A resident's complaint about the behaviour of some parents and children at school pick up time when parked near Bishops Orchard.
6. Two instances of fly tipping near Egypt Lane, which resulted in the police issuing tickets.
7. Tickets continue to be issued to drivers parking on the zig zag lines on The Broadway
8. Cautions were given to three older children causing a nuisance in Farnham Royal.

The next meeting is schedule for 20 April 2026.

- Meet Your Local Councillor

Tony Birkett and Gurdeep Grewal were joined by Dev Dhillon, Thomas Hogg and PCSO Angela O'Connell in Farnham Common Library on 7 March 2026 for the latest surgery.

One resident joined them to raise their concerns about Blackpond Lane being used as the diversion route whilst gas works were being carried out on the Beaconsfield Road.

- South East Bucks Community Board Meeting

Paul Rowley attended this meeting on 11 March 2026 on behalf of Tony Birkett at which two parish councils, a heritage society and community youth co-ordinator gave updates on priorities previously identified. There was then a conversation which explored how the Community Boards can better support the towns and parishes it covers.

- Farnham Common Sports Club Main Committee Meeting

Katherine Damsell, Gurdeep Grewal and I attended the Main Committee meeting on 16 March 2026. The previous treasurer presented the draft annual accounts for the year to 31 December 2025 and the various sections gave updates followed by the bar. Ongoing and future maintenance requirements were reviewed and Katherine Damsell gave an update on the plans for the Parish Picnic. She also advised that B P Collins LLP were reviewing the lease following the Club's interest in subletting some land to a third party who wanted to build some padel courts and discussed the burglaries on Mayflower Way.

- Buckinghamshire Highways meeting to review solutions for emergency works on A355

Following the concerns raised during the recent gas works on the Beaconsfield Road, Tony Birkett, Dev Dhillon and I were invited to a meeting with Andrew Smith, the Strategic Streetworks lead for Buckinghamshire Council on 17 March 2026 to discuss areas of improvement in relation to roadworks on the A355. This meeting was very constructive and he understood the concerns and committed to going away to talk to the heads of the various utility companies to explain

the necessity for more suitable diversion routes and better signage.

After the meeting, he inspected a site that had been raised by residents as a concern on the corner of Christmas Lane and Parish Lane reporting back that it had failed the inspection with regards to the use of signing, lighting and guarding. The contractor will now be contacted by Buckinghamshire Council.

- Buckinghamshire Highways

Tony Birkett and I meet regularly with Buckinghamshire Highways but unfortunately our meeting on 10 February 2026 was cancelled due to their heavy workload.

Our next meeting was scheduled for 7 April 2026 but due to their heavy workload and preparations for changing over to their new structure on the 1 April this has been postponed to 19 May 2026.

## **6. Farnhams & Stoke Poges Ward Settlement Spatial Plan and the Response to the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire**

Firstly, a Settlement Spatial Plan is a strategic document guiding how towns or villages grow, providing a blueprint for sustainable development, housing, and infrastructure over time. It shapes decisions on where to build, protects key environmental features, and serves as a tool for local councils to influence planning. It looks at settlement boundaries, spatial strategy, settlement hierarchy and infrastructure planning.

Following the last parish council meeting Clive Robinson continued exploring with neighbouring parish councils whether it would be possible to work together to create the Plan. He has prepared an update regarding this piece of work and the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire, which is produced below:

*'After Cllr Robinson had several meetings with representatives of Stoke Poges, Wexham, Fulmer and Burnham Parish Councils, it became clear a full consensus could not be agreed by all. So Stoke Poges, Wexham, Fulmer and ourselves (Farnham Royal) who could find common ground, have joined together to jointly hire Leani (O'Neill Homer) to assist on our joint (customised responses) to the emerging Buckinghamshire Council Local Plan.*

*Burnham and Taplow Parish Councils have now joined together and also hired Leani separately.*

*This is very important for all of us as the threat to our local green belt is immense. If we lose the green belt, we lose the village and we will see all our house prices drop significantly.*

*Representatives of the four Parishes held their first meeting 'virtually' on the 2nd Feb, attended on our side by the Clerk and Cllr Robinson. This was primarily for Leani to outline the way forward, timetable and stages.*

*Buckinghamshire Council then issued their next version of the draft Local Plan, 25 documents containing over 1,000 pages. Cllr Robinson reviewed all these documents and pages and extracted the sections relevant to us and circulated to all.*

*This second draft Buckinghamshire Local plan (issued Feb 2026) included their assessment of 'potential grey belt' sites and included a review of the eight sites previously identified in the HELAA (Oct 2025) plus a new site Dair House School. The Buckinghamshire assessment said 6 of these sites were NOT GREY BELT and unsuitable for development, this included the Berkeley Homes site, Allerds Farm and Bishops Nursery sites.*

*The three sites identified as requiring possible further review to see if they are "grey belt" were Miles and Miles Nursery, Dair House and Cobblers Close. Cllr Robinson noticed that the Miles and Miles Nursery was recorded as NOT IN THE GREEN BELT when it is (and also within 500m of Burnham Beeches) and that the Dair House site was also listed as NOT IN THE GREEN BELT when it is.*

*A letter pointing out these inconsistencies was written by Cllr Robinson and sent officially to Buckinghamshire Council requesting they correct their report (circulated to all).*

*The official reply from Buckinghamshire Council corrects their position, confirming both these two sites are in the green belt, not grey belt and unsuitable for development (circulated to all).*

*The four Parishes held a follow up meeting 'in person' at Stoke Poges Village hall on the 24th Feb, attended on our side by the Clerk and Cllrs Birkett and Robinson. Leani went through what she intended to do and the high level issues. It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council are saying that in their latest draft Local plan that they have identified 90,000 of the 93,000 potential sites for new homes required without releasing green belt land, however it was not clear if this was achieved by reclassifying any land as grey belt. Cllr Robinson has produced a map showing the areas 'at risk' for*

*the four parishes, Stoke Poges and Wexham have the biggest challenges. If all the 'green belt land being reviewed as possible grey belt' is released for housing, then Slough would effectively stretch up to Stoke Poges shops. While not an immediate threat to us, it would make us a green finger enclosed by large urban areas to west, south and east, making us a prime target down the line, so it is in our interests to support them.*

*The next 'in person' meeting is scheduled for the 14th April at Stoke Poges Village hall.*

*So in summary for our parish, ALL IDENTIFIED AT RISK sites in the green belt are for now safe except land to the north of Cobblers Close, we will work on that one - we knew it was the site where our position was the weakest (it is green belt but meets the definition of grey belt). If we can maintain this status, even if we lose Cobblers Close, we will have done well for the Parishioners.*

*But all could still change, so we need to keep on top of this.'*

At the last parish council meeting, it was agreed that the Parish Council would contribute up to £5,000 towards the cost of the Settlement Spatial Plan based on the expected total cost being divided by the number of electors in each parish. When the arrangements were finally confirmed, the costs were recalculated (on the same basis) and the Parish Council was asked to contribute £5,470.

The response to the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire, which was prepared by Clive Robinson, was sent to the Planning Policy Team on 3 March 2026. A copy of the response and the Planning Policy Team's subsequent email was sent to parish councillors on 5 March 2026.

## **7. Farnham Common Defibrillator**

The defibrillator cabinet on the wall of Ashford Kitchens and Interiors is currently blocked by a fence erected by the landlord of the Stag and Hounds Public House. Leigh Electrical (the Parish Council's streetlight contractor) has been instructed to move the cabinet along the wall to a position in front of the fence and efforts are ongoing to arrange access with the landlord.

## **8. Arboriculture Work**

Pyramid Consulting have completed their latest report on the trees at Farnham Common Sports Club, Jubilee Copse, Temple Dell, St. Mary's Churchyard and Kingsway Green. A total of 24 trees/tree groups have been recorded for attention.

I forwarded the Report to three contractors and quotes have been received from two. These are as follows:

	Jubilee Copse	Temple Dell	Farnham Common Sports Club	Kingsway Green	Churchyard	Total
Company 1	1,530.00	1,630.00	900.00	970.00	1,470.00	6,500.00
Company 2	2,990.20	2,060.00	1,130.00	400.00	1,655.20	8,235.40

Copies of the quotes received have been sent to parish councillors separately as a decision on which to appoint is being sought at the meeting.

## **9. Devolved Services**

The Parish Council agreed to enter into a Devolved Services Agreement with Buckinghamshire Council from 1 April 2025. Under the terms of the Agreement the Parish Council has been maintaining the verges within the parish and carrying out certain other services. Based on observations and feedback received from residents it appears that this has been successful.

Buckinghamshire Council have issued a Highways Devolution Agreement (to be known as Memorandum of Understanding) for the commencement of highways devolved activities effective from 1 April 2026 together with notice that this Memorandum of Understanding replaces and nullifies all previous agreements, whether written or oral, related to this matter and commences on 1 April 2026. This Memorandum of Understanding will be a rolling agreement between Buckinghamshire Council and Farnham Royal Parish Council that will automatically continue from year to year unless one party withdraws. The services being delivered will remain the same with the exception of sign and bollard cleaning which is now excluded.

The amount payable to the Parish Council for 2026/27, which includes a 4% inflation increase, will be £10,961. The Memorandum provides for annual inflationary increases.

A copy of the Memorandum has been sent to parish councillors separately as a decision on whether to enter into the Agreement is being sought at the meeting.

If the Parish Council decides to continue providing these services, it is proposed that Amersham Town Council are appointed to carry these out for 2026/27 as they have done in 2025/26.

#### **10.Civic.ly**

I recently attended an online course run by Scribe Accounting to learn about improving asset management with a view to better managing risks and contractor performance and improving record keeping for maintenance visits and safety inspections. During the session I was introduced to Civic.ly an all-in-one asset management platform purpose-built for town and parish councils. Katherine Damsell and I attended an online demonstration following which the company prepared a business case for the Parish Council, a copy of which has been sent to parish councillors separately as a decision on whether to subscribe to the platform is being sought at the meeting.

#### **11.Parish Picnic**

This year's parish picnic is being held at Farnham Common Sports Club on Sunday 17 May 2026 between 12 and 4pm. The Sports Club will again be running a BBQ and bar and the inflatables, games and face painting will be returning. This year's picnic will also include a vintage car and motorbike show, henna tattoos and more live entertainment than last year with The Polka Dots, who are returning, being joined by Dhol Collective, a DJ and more. There will also be more food options with pizza and Indian street food available to enjoy. We are also hoping to have some community and local business stalls. A draft event budget has been sent to parish councillors separately as a decision on the budget is being sought at the meeting.

#### **12.Minimum wage increase**

For the last few years, the Parish Council has decided to increase the litter picker's hourly rate to match the increase in the National Minimum Wage. On 1 April 2026, the National Minimum Wage is increasing to £12.71. A decision on whether to increase the litter pickers hourly rate is being sought at the meeting.

#### **13.Christmas light repairs and disposals**

The Christmas light contractor, Lamps and Tubes Illuminations Limited have advised that the cost of repairing the lights damaged during the 2025 display is £2,243 plus VAT. The contractor is recommending that the lights are repaired rather than replaced this year as this is the most cost effective action.

In addition, the contractor is recommending the disposal of eight shooting stars purchased in 2015, which are no longer used. It is understood that these were previously on the Pump tree in Farnham Royal but were replaced by new spheres in 2025.

#### **14.Rectory Close Shrub Bed**

The maintenance contractor, RJC Landscapes Limited, has recommended that old shrubs in two areas of the bed are removed and replaced with new evergreen mixed shrubs that will show all year round colour. Photographs of the affected areas are below:



The cost of this work is £325. A decision on whether to carry out the work is being sought at the meeting.

#### **15.Policy Review**

Preparation has started for the 2025/26 Audit and this year sees the introduction of a new Assertion, Assertion 10, which

focuses on digital, data protection, and IT security compliance. It requires councils to demonstrate lawful personal data processing, proper IT policies, and website accessibility (WCAG 2.2 AA). In readiness for the audit, a new IT Policy has been prepared (based on a model policy provided by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils).

In addition, although there are no proposed changes, the Investment Policy is to be reviewed ahead of the audit together with the Risk Register and a new Risk Management Policy.

A new Volunteers Policy has also been drafted for consideration.

## **16. Full Council Training**

- **Farnham Royal Strategic Vision and Being a Listening Council – Saturday 28 March 2026 (10am-1pm)**

Following a decision to develop a strategic plan at a previous parish council meeting, I contacted Becky Walsh, a trainer who has previously held several online training sessions on these topics for the Society of Local Council Clerks. Katherine Damsell and I met her and discussed how she could help us deliver a plan that is rooted in the community and will help guide projects, partnerships and funding bids. The session will also look at creating a communication plan that prioritises listening and gaining meaningful feedback from the community.

- **Roles, Powers, Duties and Legal Obligations – Monday 13 April 2026 (6.30-8.00pm)**

The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils held induction training for newly appointed parish councillors shortly after the May 2025 local elections. As has previously been noted, following the election the Parish Council became inquorate and actively sought new members. Luckily five individuals came forward and were subsequently co-opted between September 2025 and January 2026. Given the majority of the Parish Council is made up of new members, the Chair and I felt it would be a good idea to arrange a training session on roles, powers, duties and legal obligations, which if attended by all councillors would serve to update everyone's knowledge.