



Newsletter

August September October
2025

Editorial

This edition of the village newsletter includes an important article on the Parish Council's response to the national changes to planning policy and local housing strategy. There is an update on the Community Speedwatch (CSW) initiative and an item on the Parish Council's support of Halton Community Combined School's community day. As attendances dwindle at our village church, its future is discussed, with interesting possibilities. An outside cinema event is being organised for all the village in September. Please see the advertisement inside and make a note of the date.

Music in Quiet Places

Put this date in your diaries: there will be a Music in Quiet Places concert at St Michaels church on the 6th December this year. These concerts have been excellent in the past. Tickets will be available from either the 'Just' shop in Wendover High Street, or from Brian Thompson at Ivy Cottage, Halton Village nearer the time. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Afternoon Tea and Cake

The church is raising money by offering teas and cakes at the church each Sunday afternoon from 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm. Please join us and help support the parish church. Bring cash as we cannot take card.

New Village Hall Sign

Many of you will have seen the new Village Hall sign which is an attractive addition to the streetscape of the village. As most of you know Cllr Ann Jimson was responsible for taking care of our Village Hall. The last project that Ann undertook before she retired was to identify a company which could provide us with a traditional sign for the hall. As the hall looks like a cottage from the road, users found it hard to find. Ann's idea was to place a sign on a post so that it was visible to passing drivers. Ann worked with the company on the design and colours, incorporating arrows which point to the hall, making it easier to find.

We also decided to take the opportunity to make the front garden low maintenance by replacing the pots with a lavender hedge. When the hedge grows to full maturity it will set off the sign beautifully. We are as ever grateful to Ann, and we think she would have approved of the result. We would also like to say a big thank you to the Community Board for funding the sign and to those who helped to erect it.





Halton Parish Council Responds to Recent Consultations and Prepares for consultation on the emerging Local Plan

As part of ongoing national changes to planning policy and local housing strategies, Halton Parish Council has recently submitted formal responses to two important government consultations—one concerning updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the other focused on proposed reforms to local planning committees.

The latest changes to the NPPF include significant updates related to the protection and development of green belt and grey belt land—areas long considered critical to maintaining the rural character and environmental health of communities like Halton. While the Government states that protections remain in place, Halton Parish Council has expressed concern about the increasing pressure these areas face from development. The concept of grey belt, often described as less pristine or previously developed green belt land, has also raised questions about how these areas may be repurposed for housing without sufficient community input or environmental assessment.

In contrast, Halton Parish Council has responded positively to the Government's proposed reforms to planning committees, which are designed to increase transparency, improve decision-making consistency, and allow greater community engagement in the planning process. The Council welcomed changes that give Parish Councils and local residents a stronger voice in planning decisions, ensuring local priorities are heard at an early stage.

These national changes come at a time when Buckinghamshire Council is actively developing a new Local Plan to meet increased housing targets across the county. A recent call for sites—an invitation for landowners and developers to propose land for future housing—has resulted in a number of potential sites being nominated in the local area. In preparation for a public consultation on

the draft plan, expected later this year, Halton Parish Council is undertaking a strategic review of all proposed sites within our area. The aim is to ensure that development is sustainable, respects our village setting, and supports the broader needs of the community. To that end, the HPC has invited surrounding Parish Councils to collaborate, helping us to develop a cohesive and strategic response that reflects the shared interests of neighbouring communities.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed and take part in upcoming consultations. Your voice matters—let's shape the future of Halton together.

The Future of St Michael & All Angels Church

A couple of factors have led the congregation of the church to consider its potential future. Firstly age, disabilities and deaths have resulted in a reduction in the number of the congregation, which was particularly evident during the winter months. Secondly a significant reduction in the clergy resources available to us will make it difficult to continue the current level of support or services. Consequently we are exploring the various options open to us, but have discounted the idea of closing the church. One possibility is that while continuing as our parish church it becomes what is termed a festival church. That is one which celebrates various festivals, such as Easter, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day and so on, the result of which would be one service a month throughout the year. The normal rites of passage services—baptism, weddings and funerals—would continue to be supported and the churchyard would continue as it does today. The idea is that the church would then be available for more community uses and events. This would still require church wardens but also community involvement in its management to help it thrive.

The hope is that fewer services but celebrating the festivals will lead to a better attendance and that the church building will become a valuable community resource.

We have only just started exploring this and, apart from engaging with the congregation, we will need to fully consult with the local community.

Halton Village Hall Renovations

Halton Parish Council is undertaking a renovation project to preserve and enhance our historic Village Hall, ensuring it remains a safe, accessible, sustainable and welcoming space for community events. The Parish Council is actively seeking grant funding to help fund this important project. A tender for renovation works has now been published. The works will include essential repairs and improvements such as restoring brickwork, roofing works, window refurbishment, internal plaster repairs, and enhancements to the hall entrance.

Tender timeline:

- Deadline for enquiries: 31 July 2025
- Deadline for tender submissions: 15 August 2025

The full tender details can be viewed online at:

<https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/033986-2025>

We encourage local businesses and skilled trades to review the tender opportunity. For any queries or to arrange a site visit, please contact our Clerk at: clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk, 01296 626073

Community Speedwatch

Halton has become a shining example of community spirit through its active participation in the Community Speedwatch (CSW) initiative. This volunteer-led programme empowers local residents to address concerns about speeding vehicles, particularly on the village's busiest roads, by monitoring traffic and recording the speeds of passing cars.

The collected data not only raises awareness among drivers but also supports local police in targeting areas most in need of enforcement. Arranged by Thames Valley Police, local volunteers receive training for safety and accuracy, with an emphasis on education over enforcement.

Halton took part in the National Community Speedwatch Day on Friday 11 July. The event saw volunteers in Halton, Buckinghamshire and the wider country unite to coordinate activities to help prevent accidents and save lives. On that day, the Halton CSW team monitored speeds on the 30mph road towards junctions of Cherry Tree Nursery and Halton Community Combined School. Sadly, more than 10 drivers chose to speed that day and they will receive letters from Thames Valley Police. Out of curiosity, which manufacturer most often gets 'caught' speeding in Halton? Ford by some distance, followed by Audi, Kia and VW.

We still have some way to go to educate people that speeding through Halton is unacceptable. Although there are several vehicle activated speed signs around the Village, they do not appear to deter some people from speeding. If you have a spare hour per week or per month, we would love to hear from you. You can register using this link

<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/>.

Go to 'Register' then 'Join Existing' then follow the prompts for 'Thames Valley', 'Buckinghamshire' then 'Halton'. Your details will not be shared.

Community Climate Action Group

Over the past year, a new group has been formed locally, concerned with preparing for climate change. Both Wendover and Weston Turville have climate action groups which help to provide advice on reducing the effects of climate change on the lives of their parishioners. Weston Turville is now planning a Community Climate Action project and has representatives from Weston Turville, Wendover, Stoke Mandeville and Halton. It is being supported by CCA: <https://www.communityclimateaction.uk>. The aim is to find solutions to the challenges of local sustainable transport, local energy generation and biodiversity loss by integrated action through collaborative community engagement.

On Saturday 11 October, Wendover and villages are hosting a Community Climate Action planning workshop. Leading up to the day, three Zoom meetings have been organised to prepare for the event. If you wish to get involved, you will have the opportunity to meet fellow attendees, network and plan. If you are interested in how climate will affect us and how we might be able to mitigate its effects, please consider getting involved. You can email the Parish Clerk at clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk

The workshop is interactive and participatory and the preparatory meetings will help you and others in our community to understand the process and get the most out of the day. There is no need to attend all three preparatory Zoom meetings. The Introductory preparatory Zoom meetings are on:

- Tuesday 22 July
- Wednesday 20 August
- Monday 15 September

Following the workshop there will be a series of nine monthly follow up Zoom meetings to firm up on projects, plan delivery and complete funding bids with the support of the Community Climate Action team.

School Community Day

Halton Parish Council was pleased to award a grant to Halton Community Combined School in support of their recent Community Day. Thanks to this support, the school was able to cover the up-front costs of a circus event, which was a great success and helped the community event raise £2,500 for the school. The event also included a dog show and the day was made even more special with a flyby from the RAF, live music creating a great atmosphere and a chance for children to try out rock band instruments provided by iRock.

The Parish Council is pleased to have contributed to this enjoyable community event and congratulates everyone involved on such a fantastic outcome. Thank you to all who attended and supported the day!

Parish Office

Our Parish Clerk works part time. If you would like to meet with the Clerk at the Parish Office, on any matter, please make an appointment on 01296 626073 or email clerk@halton-pc.org.uk

The Parish Council website can be accessed at www.halton-pc.gov.uk

Thank You from Zoe

I just wanted to extend my sincere and humble thanks to everyone who attended Jon Kumela's funeral and wake on Monday, 19 May. It meant so very much to me to be able to shake the hands of the members of your community who loved my dad so well and gave him so many happy times. I was humbled and honoured to represent the Kumela family in his eulogy. And then to have had so many of you praise my words: I strongly believe that, since dad chose all of you, and you were moved by it, he would have been too. That thought brings me so much comfort. Thank you, each of you, for loving him and for your care and protection of our dearest Vivi.

With my very fondest love to you all, Zoe Parker and Simon Parker

Free Outdoor Cinema Event

Halton Parish Council/Wendover Community Board
are pleased to present

FREE OUTDOOR CINEMA EVENT

When	Where	What
6 th Sept. at 7.00pm	Field in front of Nuffield Pavilion	Watch this space

Bring your chairs, rugs, food and drink and make a great night of it.

Tickets available from Eventbrite – timing t.b.d.

Recycling Dates

Green Waste Bin	Blue Recycling Bin and Garden Waste	Food Waste Bin
Wednesday 6 August		Wednesday 6 August
	Wednesday 13 August	Wednesday 13 August
Wednesday 20 August		Wednesday 20 August
	Thursday 28 August	Thursday 28 August
Wednesday 3 September		Wednesday 3 September
	Wednesday 10 September	Wednesday 10 September
Wednesday 17 September		Wednesday 17 September
	Wednesday 24 September	Wednesday 24 September
Wednesday 1 October		Wednesday 1 October
	Wednesday 8 October	Wednesday 8 October
Wednesday 15 October		Wednesday 15 October
	Wednesday 22 October	Wednesday 22 October
Wednesday 29 October		Wednesday 29 October

Residents on the Wendover side of Perch Bridge have different collection days.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Clerk to the Parish Council	01296 626073
Village Hall Booking Clerk	01296 626073
Guard Room – Main Point	01296 656211/656503
Wendover Police Office (Wendover Library) - Tues & Fri 10am-12pm	01296 621916
Police Non-Emergency Number	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Electricity Emergency	0800 316 3105
Fly Tipping Hotline	0845 330 1856
Potholes notification	08452 380882
Wendover Health Centre	01296 623452
WHC Friends Desk	01296 622565
Halton Community Combined School- Halton	01296 622264
John Hampden Infant School-Wendover	01296 622629
Wendover CE Junior School	01296 669822
John Colet Secondary School	01296 623348
Church Warden-Linda Kynaston	01296 431009

Next Issue

If you have anything for inclusion in the next Halton Village Newsletter, please email carolinewaddams@hotmail.co.uk

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on 12 November at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall.