



Newsletter

June July August 2026

Editorial

Welcome to our Summer edition of the Halton Village newsletter. Several articles are about the plans for the development of RAF Halton when the station closes and how the Parish Council is joining forces with its neighbouring parishes to shape a shared spatial plan. There is a petition to help protect Green Belt and farmland in Buckinghamshire from over development. Please note that the deadline to sign this is 4 June.

The Parish Council is putting on a special community art exhibition for all school children in the parish. The deadline for entrants is 22 June.

Two events are currently scheduled for the summer, a Music in Quiet Places concert at St Michael and All Angels on 27 June and a village BBQ on 18 July to which everyone is welcome.

Next Issue

If you have anything for inclusion in the next Halton Village Newsletter please email it to carolinewaddams@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01296 624458 before 18 August 2026. The views expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily the views of The Halton Village Newsletter.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 15 July at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall.

Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Vision for Halton

On the 22 April Halton Parish Council (HPC) along with representatives from Wendover PC, Aston Clinton PC and Weston Turville PC met with the DIO to hear/see their vision for Halton.

Background

The new draft Bucks Local Plan (BLP) is being developed by Bucks Council (BC) and has called for potential developments in Buckinghamshire. Based on the direction by the current Government and their recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) they must plan to build a total of c90k homes in the next planning period. This is a step change and the Aylesbury area is attracting its share, as it has done over the last few years.

In the last Aylesbury Vale Local Plan (VALP) the closure of RAF Halton was recognised and the main site was included but not the airfield or some of the surrounding areas. As the main site is in the Metropolitan Green Belt (MGB) it limited the number of houses that could be built to the footprint and volume of the existing buildings; 1000 houses were included in the VALP. As part of the VALP a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for 1200 homes was developed with BC planners, the DIO and HPC. A full consultation took place in the village hall, and the community accepted the SPD. Since then, the date of RAF Halton's closure has been delayed to 2032. It should be remembered that the DIO say they have a duty to maximise the amount of money they get for selling the land. However, we do not want a repeat of the Princess Mary Gate development!

DIO Vision

The DIO vision has three components. Firstly, the SPD area covering the main site from the border with Wendover Woods, down to Halton Lane incorporating the Barrack Blocks, the workshops, the Nuffield Pavillon, Nuffield fields, St George's Church, Kermode Hall and the Sgts Mess. This whole area is within the MGB. The new draft BLP states 1000 homes for this area, which is 200 less than the SPD. The DIO wish to build 1200 homes on the site and as this is what we agreed in the SPD we would support this.

The second component is the area surrounding the SPD site but excluding the airfield. In summary the DIO's vision is to turn the old cricket pitch into a village green. Then build houses on the surrounding plots of land around it because they want to have the land re classified as grey-belt land. Grey Belt is a new classification introduced by this government through the NPPF, to enable building on green belt land. To be specific it is the wheat field next to the tennis club, the sheep field opposite the tennis club, the sports arena that backs onto High Moors and the open green land between the arena and the houses along Halton Lane. The DIO wants to build about 400-500 houses here. This is all green field land in the green belt with no buildings on it. We do not support this.

They would, however, turn the fields in front of the Nuffield Pavilion and the meadow into football pitches, and retain the astroturf hockey pitch, although it is unclear who would own and manage those sports pitches. The rugby pitches which are part of the Grade II listed Parkland surrounding Halton House (the Grade II status means this land cannot be built on) would become cricket pitches, again we do not know who would own and manage these sports facilities.

The third component is the airfield. The DIO want to build 1200 houses on the airfield. This is effectively placing a new large village right in the middle of the area between Halton, Weston Turville and Aston Clinton, joining us up to them and making us all a conurbation of Aylesbury. Overall, they are proposing 2,800 houses in Halton a ten-fold increase in size and population. This is disproportionate and ignores the infrastructure needed to support a development of this size in terms of highways, utilities, educational needs, health requirements, water and so on.

Next Steps and What You Can do About It

We are working with the surrounding Parish Councils to develop a spatial plan of what is possible within our infrastructure constraints, rather than what the DIO and Developers want (see next article). At the moment the vision is in flux, it depends on what Bucks Council need to fulfil their housing plan requirements (circa 90K), their chosen housing locations, their view on coalescence (where villages are joined as the land between them is built upon and their rural identity disappears) and grey-belt versus green belt discussions. Added to that we have the DIO who may try to force the position to maximise their profit at our expense. Clearly, we live in interesting times.

If you would like to help the community have its say and help influence the decision makers to do what is right, then why not help the Parish Council formulate the best response possible. Join us and try and make a difference.

Planning for Our Future Together

Halton Parish Council, alongside our neighbouring parish councils, has begun early discussions on how we might work collectively to shape a shared spatial plan for our area. This comes in response to the current “Call for Sites” as part of the ongoing Buckinghamshire Local Plan process, which is identifying potential locations for future development across the County including our area.

Rather than considering proposals in isolation, we are exploring how a coordinated approach could help guide growth in a way that respects the character, identity and setting of our village communities. As part of this work, we are testing a range of possible scenarios with key stakeholders, including healthcare providers, highways authorities and other infrastructure partners. This will help us better understand how development might be planned and supported, ensuring that essential services, transport connections and green infrastructure are considered from the outset rather than being delivered in smaller development parcels.

It is important to emphasise that this work is not about preventing development. Our area is already experiencing significant change and further growth is likely. Instead, our aim is to help manage that growth positively, so that it contributes to a sustainable and well-planned future - protecting what makes our villages special while accommodating change.

We are at an early stage, and this collaborative approach will take time to develop. Further updates will follow as work progresses and opportunities arise for wider community engagement

Could You Help Halton Parish Council?

Halton Parish Council is looking for new councillors who would be interested in taking a lead role in either of the following roles:

Communications & Social Media: Helping improve council communications, newsletters, website updates and social media.

Finance: Supporting the Council with finance oversight, budgets and financial transparency.

What's involved?

Around 4–6 Parish Council meetings a year. Reading meeting papers in advance. Approximately 2–4 hours a month. No previous experience is needed and training and support will be provided. For an informal chat, please contact our friendly team: clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk or Chair of the Council Jane.MacKinnon@halton-pc.gov.uk

A message from Wendover Library

Wendover Library is very lucky to have had an electronic piano donated as a new and important facility. This is available to anyone of any age who wishes to use it for practice or just personal enjoyment. There is also no need to worry about your playing upsetting library users because headphones are included!

We all feel that this is an amazing addition to the library and could be of great value to upcoming students who otherwise might not have access to a musical instrument. Headphones are available on request from the counter and we don't have a booking system at present - let's wait and see how popular it is! Please come and try it, we would love to see it being used. We give our thanks to Phil Mitchell for this generous donation.



Halton Children's Art Exhibition

Celebrate Halton through art!



Imagine your paper is a window pane...

What would you love to see through the window?

IDEAS COULD INCLUDE:

- ♥ The Chiltern Hills
- ♥ Nature and wildlife
- ♥ Friends and family
- ♥ Your favourite place in Halton
- ♥ The canal, woods or village
- ♥ A celebration of community
- ♥ What Halton means to you

Be as creative as you like!



WHO CAN ENTER?
Children and young people of all ages.



This is our beautiful historic window in Halton Village Hall.

It is currently being carefully repaired as part of a larger renovation project of the historic village hall.



YOUR ARTWORK

A4 size
Any materials – paint, pencil, collage, crayon or mixed media.



DEADLINE

Artwork submissions must be in by
Sunday 22 June 2026
Please include your name, age and school on the back.



EXHIBITION

All artwork will be displayed in place of the historic window while it is away being carefully restored during
June–September 2026.

All participants will receive a certificate.



HOW TO TAKE PART

Please hand your artwork into your school reception.
The Clerk to Halton Parish Council will collect entries from the school.



COMMUNITY EXHIBITION

All artwork will also be displayed at a special community event at Halton Village Hall later this year to celebrate the young artists and the restoration of the village hall window.



QUESTIONS?

Parent/guardian contact email:
clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk
Tel: 01296 626073



HALTON PARISH COUNCIL
Working for our community



Halton Children's Art Exhibition

Halton Parish Council is inviting school children in Halton to take part in a special community art exhibition linked to the restoration of the heritage window at Halton Village Hall. The theme is:

"Imagine your paper is a window pane—what would you love to see through the window?"

A4 size. Any art materials welcome. Add your name and age on the back of your artwork and hand your entry into Halton School reception by Sunday 22 June 2026. Your artwork will be displayed in place of the Village Hall window while it is removed for repairs during July–September this year and will later feature in a community exhibition at the Village Hall. All participants will receive a certificate. If you require further information, please contact the Clerk: clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk

Our village hall renovation project has received a grant from HS2's Community Environment Fund (CEF).



Supported by the
**HS2 Community &
Environment Fund**

Parish Office

Our Parish Clerk works part-time. If you would like to meet with the clerk at the Parish Office, Halton Village Hall, on any matter, please make an appointment on 01296 626073 or email clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk. The Parish Council website can be accessed at www.halton-pc.gov.uk

St Michael and All Angels Update

Since January the church services have moved to a once a month basis usually on the second Sunday of the month at 6.00pm, rotating between Evensong and Holy Communion. It is pleasing to note that the congregation has grown a little over the last four months. Everyone is welcomed – the service dates are as follows:

- 14 June Holy Communion
- 12 July Evensong
- 9 August Holy Communion
- 13 September Evensong
- 11 October Holy Communion

Music in Quiet Places

As part of our effort to raise money for the church and to contribute to the cultural life of Halton, we will be hosting another Music in Quiet Places in the church on Saturday 27 June. The previous concerts we have had with the Music In Quiet Places have been very good.

It will begin with a village walk starting at the church at 6.30pm. There will be a donation bar in the churchyard before the concert and in the interval, assuming the weather is good. The concert will start at 7.30pm and will include Mozart: Divertimento for String Trio K563 and Krommer: Flute Quartet in D major.

Tickets are £15 and can be purchased from Brian Thompson (brian.thompson12@outlook.com /07894210423) or 'Just' Shop Wendover High Street or online from bmiqp.org. Please come and enjoy the concert and support the church.

Afternoon Teas

As part of our fundraising we will again be having afternoon teas in the church on Sunday afternoons. They will run from 2.30 - 5.00pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month over the

summer. The proposed dates are as follows

- 14 and 28 June
- 12 and 26 July
- 9 and 23 August
- 13 and 27 September

Please come and look around the church and churchyard and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.

Commonwealth War Graves Churchyard Tours

Last year the CWGC ran 4 public tours and 3 private tours of the churchyard. The feedback from those who attended was very positive and they will be running them again this year. They are free but should be booked in advance. It is fascinating to understand just a little about some of the people buried in the churchyard. You can find the dates and make bookings on the Commonwealth War Graves site.

Firewood

Unfortunately one of the large Lime trees in the churchyard is dying and for safety reasons we will have to have it cut down. This will be carried out in the next few weeks. We have asked the tree surgeon to cut the trunk into manageable rings and we then intend to chop them up into logs for burning in fires or log burners. A pile of suitable logs will be made in the churchyard extension. They are available to the Halton community in return for a donation to the church to help offset the cost of having the tree felled. The wood itself when chopped should be ready for burning by this coming winter assuming it is kept reasonable dry.

Any questions please contact Brian Thompson - Church Warden.

Use Your Voice to Help Protect Green Belt

Use Your Voice to Help Protect Green Belt and Farmland in Buckinghamshire From Over Development.

Residents may be aware of a growing petition calling for greater protection of land throughout Buckinghamshire that has been identified within the evolving Local Plan as potential development sites. Several of these sites lie within the Green Belt or currently used farmland, areas that play a vital role in preserving the character, setting and environmental resilience of the wider County and our parish.

The Local Plan will shape where housing and infrastructure are built for decades to come. While new homes are needed, we should be concerned that releasing Green Belt and productive agricultural land risks long-term harm to open countryside, local food security, wildlife habitats and the separation between villages. Once lost, these landscapes cannot be replaced!

The petition highlights the importance of fully considering alternatives and ensuring that community voices are clearly heard during the consultation process. Signing the petition is one way residents can show support for a balanced approach to development that reflects both local need and the protection of valued landscapes. You can read more about the petition and add your support on the Buckinghamshire Council e-petition page, search for 'Buckinghamshire Green Belt and Farmland Protection'. The closing date for signatures is the 4th June 2026.

Residents are also encouraged to take part in the Buckinghamshire Council consultation on the local plan later this summer, as this is a critical opportunity to influence decisions that will affect Halton and surrounding communities for many years to come.

Halton BBQ
Saturday 18 July



With games, DJ and band (Black Friday) at Halton RAFA

For more details & to
book your place:

[https://HaltonSummerBBQ.
eventbrite.co.uk](https://HaltonSummerBBQ.eventbrite.co.uk)

£5 per household contribution.

Cook your own meat.

Bar will be open.

This event
is part
grant
funded



East Bucks
Community Board