

# BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

## Spring Newsletter 2026



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Welcome to the first edition of the new look Newsletter. We have changed the font to one that is easier to read and more accessible to all. We would like to say a big thank you to Open Sight in Bishopstoke for advising us on more inclusive communications. We hope you enjoy reading it.

**If you know someone who would like this Newsletter in a larger print,  
please contact [admin@bishopstokepc.org](mailto:admin@bishopstokepc.org)**



# WHEELS PARK UPDATE



We would like to thank everyone who came along to the Wheels Parks consultation meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

At the previous meeting in December, potential users of the new Wheels Park had come along and offered their ideas and comments on the first design presented by Maverick Industries. After some productive discussions, Maverick Industries took away all of the thoughts and ideas and refined the design which was then presented at the meeting in February. I think you will agree that it is a great design for the space.



## CONTACT INFORMATION



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**BISHOPSTOKE  
TOY LIBRARY**

**BCA SYDNEY ROAD**

**OPENING TIMES: -**  
**1ST TUES OF MONTH 10:30 TO 12:00**  
**3RD SAT OF MONTH 2:30 TO 4:00**

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## **New Allotment Buildings at Underwood Road**

The Underwood Road site has undergone a huge transformation in recent months. The old asbestos buildings have now been safely removed, opening the way for a much-improved layout. Parking facilities have been upgraded, making access far easier for visitors, and a brand-new shop building and toilet block have been completed.

It's a fantastic building that will benefit all of the allotment tenants for years to come.



## **Sewall Drive Allotments**

All of the plots at the Sewall Drive allotments have now been successfully allocated, and our new tenants have already made fantastic progress preparing for the growing season. The enthusiasm and commitment on site have been wonderful to see.

We're also installing some new raised beds to support accessible and flexible growing options. Weather permitting, these will be completed and ready for use in late Spring.

## **Are you interested in having an allotment?**

If you would like to be put on the waiting list for one of our allotment plots or would like some more information please email

[allotments@bishopstokepc.org](mailto:allotments@bishopstokepc.org)

or visit our website

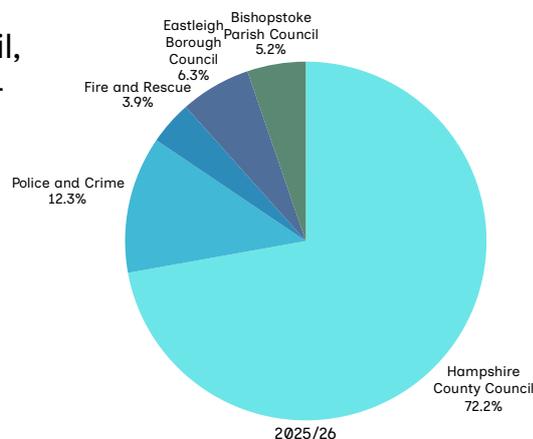
[www.bishopstokepc.org](http://www.bishopstokepc.org)

# BUDGET



Bishopstoke Parish Council's portion of the Council Tax will be increasing by 20p per week from April. What does that mean to you and what do we use the money for?

Your Council tax is split between Hampshire County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service and Bishopstoke Parish Council. Each of these bodies uses the Council Tax to fund the services it provides for local residents and each of them make their own decision on how much to increase their own part by.



The money that Bishopstoke Parish Council receives from this money pays for the Play Areas, Allotments, Cemeteries, Carnival and other events, Travel Tokens, Parish Grants and various other things. We are currently putting money aside for the new Community Building on Glebe Meadow and to enable us to fully renew our play areas as each one reaches the end of its useful life. The largest parts of our funding go towards the grass cutting and hedge trimming across all of the green spaces controlled by the Parish Council and to pay the staff who run all of the above.



For 2026-27 Bishopstoke Parish Council, after a lot of discussion, agreed to increase our part of the Council Tax by 9%. This means that for a band D house the money that Bishopstoke Parish Council receives will increase from £116.82 to £127.33 for the year. This works out as 20p per week or 88p per month. The reason for this increase is partly due to the Council bringing forward projects such as the Wheels Park on Glebe Meadow and the new Community Building. To do that, and to continue to provide free events throughout the year, we also need to increase the number of hours our Officers work.

If you have any questions or would like any further information about the increase to the Bishopstoke Parish Council part of the Council Tax please email [finance@bishopstokepc.org](mailto:finance@bishopstokepc.org)

# THE TREE AND BEE NETWORK



Although it is winter, there is still a lot happening on the Tree and Bee sites in Bishopstoke. In December, with the help of some fabulous volunteers, we planted 500 bluebell bulbs around the trees at the Otter Close Play Area. We hope they will look amazing in the Spring! Then in January, with the help of some more fabulous volunteers, we planted some new trees at the Otter Close Play Area to enhance the wooded area and ensure there will be trees for future generations to enjoy.



If you would like to volunteer and help to look after one of the Tree and Bee sites in Bishopstoke please email [admin@bishopstokepc.org](mailto:admin@bishopstokepc.org). You can also find out what has been happening on the sites by reading the Volunteers Diary entries that are included in the monthly Tree and Bee Network updates. Please go to [www.bishopstokepc.org/tree-and-bee-corridor](http://www.bishopstokepc.org/tree-and-bee-corridor) to find out more.

## STOKE PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL VACANCIES

We are currently seeking lunchtime supervisory assistants to join our happy team. The successful candidates will be enthusiastic, reliable and keen to support the school.

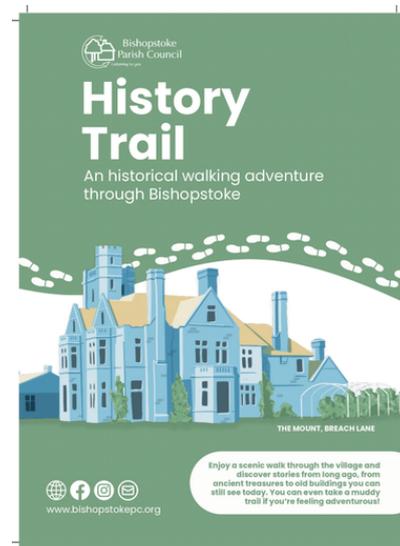
Duties will include; Supervising children in the lunch hall (or in their classrooms) and helping to promote healthy eating; Supervising and engaging with children on the playground. Encouraging positive play and listening to children; Being aware of health and safety to ensure a safe environment for all.

Hours of work (term time only): 5.75 hours per week, 11.55am – 1.05pm Monday – Friday  
Salary: Grade A, £3,220 per annum

For an application pack and further details please contact Judith Young in the school office on 023 80612789.

As the weather hopefully gets a little bit warmer, and drier, don't forget about our History Trail and 3 Woods Trail that can be found on our website.

The History Trail takes you around some of the key historic sites in Bishopstoke and gives you a little bit of information about each one. You can download the map and information from our website [www.bishopstokepc.org/bishopstoke-history-trail](http://www.bishopstokepc.org/bishopstoke-history-trail) or pick up a copy of the Trail leaflet from some of the local shops and businesses. We are also planning to run some guided walks of the History Trail, in collaboration with Bishopstoke History Society and the Hamble Valley Guides, starting in May with a short guided walk for children and a longer walk later in the year aimed at those of you wanting to find out about more of the history of Bishopstoke.



The 3 Woods Trail starts at the Sewall Drive car park near the cemetery and takes you through Stoke Park Woods, Upper Barn Copse and Crowdhill Copse. It is a 2.7 mile walk which takes just over an hour going at a leisurely pace. Parts of the Trail can be muddy at certain times of the year so sturdy footwear/wellies are recommended. You can download the map and directions from our website [www.bishopstokepc.org/three-woods-trail](http://www.bishopstokepc.org/three-woods-trail).

We are hoping to introduce some more Village Trails this year. If you have any ideas for what the Trails could include ie play areas, nature, please email [admin@bishopstokepc.org](mailto:admin@bishopstokepc.org).

## Could you foster a Hampshire child?



Hampshire County Council Fostering Service, part of Hampshire County Council, is made up of a community of over 450 fostering households and 60 staff members. Rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, Hampshire County Council provides ground-breaking support, quality training and competitive allowances through flexible and robust fostering opportunities for its community. Hampshire County Council is dedicated to making Hampshire an even better place for children and young people where all, including those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, have the best possible start in life and are supported by the

whole community to succeed. If you would like to find out more about fostering opportunities, please contact our friendly foster care Recruitment Team:

Email: [fostering@hants.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@hants.gov.uk)  
[www.hants.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.hants.gov.uk/fostering)

Tel: 01489 587 052  
[www.facebook.com/HampshireChildren/](http://www.facebook.com/HampshireChildren/)



# PARISH COUNCILLOR PROFILES



## **Councillor Louise Hillier-Wheal**

Chair of Bishopstoke Parish Council

### **What made you want to become a Parish Councillor?**

I love Bishopstoke and was asked to consider it by some of the Parish Councillors at the time. After a visit to a council meeting where I was asked to give my view on the use of developers' contributions, I thought I might give it a go!

### **What is the best thing about being a Parish Councillor?**

Feeling like I'm making a difference for the people of Bishopstoke

### **What is your favourite thing about Bishopstoke?**

I love the people and being part of a community. There is still a village feel here - and I really love the stink pipe! I have many pictures of it over time.

### **Tell us something that people might not know about you?**

I moved here in 1997 and despite living here for more than half my life, I'm still a newcomer on the street where I live!



## **Councillor Andrew Daly**

### **What made you want to become a Parish Councillor?**

I wanted to be able to make a difference and help out the local community.

### **What is the best thing about being a Parish Councillor?**

The best part of being a Parish Councillor is seeing the projects you have been involved in come to fruition and benefit the people in Bishopstoke.

### **What is your favourite thing about Bishopstoke?**

I love seeing the tranquil river flowing through the village and there are some great open spaces and play areas.

### **Tell us something that people might not know about you?**

I love getting out in the garden and have a keen interest in Local and British History.

# PARISH EVENTS

## 2026

After a successful first year of community events, we are busy planning some more events for this year. We will have some of the same events - Easter Hunt and Messy Play sessions - and we will also have some new events for this year. If you would like to look at our full Calendar of Events for 2026, please go to [www.bishopstokepc.org/events](http://www.bishopstokepc.org/events).

Our first event of the year was our Winter Crafts during the February half-term holidays. A lot of fun was had by everyone including our Chair, Councillor Louise Hillier-Wheal and our Vice-Chair, Councillor Geoff Harris.



**BISHOPSTOKE CARNIVAL**  
**27 JUNE 2026**  
**SAVE THE DATE**

**WANT TO BE PART OF THE FUN NEXT YEAR?**

OUR CARNIVAL WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS. HERE'S A FEW WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

- 👉 HELP PLAN AND ORGANISE THINGS BEHIND THE SCENES
- 👉 LEND A HAND ON THE DAY
- 👉 SUPPORT WITH ADMIN AND GENERAL BITS

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED—JUST A BIT OF TIME AND A WILLINGNESS TO MUCK IN

Contact us via facebook or email to get involved!  
[www.bishopstokepc.org/carnival](http://www.bishopstokepc.org/carnival)  
[admin@bishopstokecarnival.org](mailto:admin@bishopstokecarnival.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON</b> 2.00PM - 4.30PM Join us for a cup of tea or coffee and some delicious cake
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>EASTER HUNT AND MESSY PLAY</b> 10.00am to 12.00noon Find all the letters/pictures, claim your prize and then get a bit messy!
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>PARISH ASSEMBLY</b> 7.00pm - 8.00pm Come along and hear about what the Parish Council has been doing over the last year
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>HISTORY TRAIL GUIDED WALK FOR CHILDREN</b> Time: tbc Discover the history of Bishopstoke on this fun guided trail

These dates can be subject to change.  
 For up-to-date information on all Parish Council events please visit our website [www.bishopstokepc.org](http://www.bishopstokepc.org) or follow us on Facebook or Instagram

Bishopstoke Parish Council  
 Listening to you