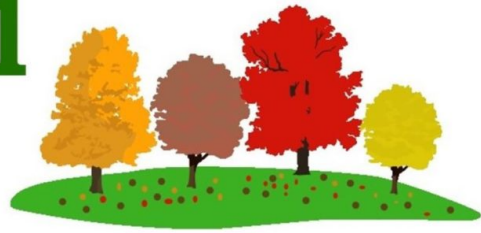


Sunningwell

Parish Council



Size and Geography

Sunningwell Parish is a rural community of just over 900 people between the town of Abingdon and the city of Oxford.

The Parish consists of four geographically separated communities: - Sunningwell Village, Boars Hill, Bayworth and Long Furlong.

It is within the Vale of White Horse (VOWH) where Emily Smith and Debbie Hallet are our district councillors, and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) where Bob Johnson is our liaison. Our MP is Layla Moran for the Oxford West and Abingdon constituency.

Sunningwell Parish Amenities

The Parish benefits from a wide range of local amenities, including Church; primary school; cricket club; pub/restaurant; farm shop and café; deer park; village pond; art-school and travelling opera company.

Sunningwell Parish Council owns recreational ground including Sunningwell Village Green, Bayworth Triangle, children's playground located on Sunningwell cricket ground and a well-used Village Hall which hosts theatre groups; a ballet school; boxing club; Pilates; yoga; choir; film club; and Women's Institute as well as Parish Council meetings and parishioner private events.

There are also active local groups including the Boars Hill Association; Bayworth Residents Association and volunteer gardening and footpath maintenance teams.

Activities and Challenges specific to Sunningwell Parish Council (SPC)

The parish council was subject to a significant change in 2022 when a new body of councillors were elected, supported by a very experienced Clerk. The SPC website was subsequently completely overhauled.

During the past 18 months we have been working with OCC, VOWH, local residents and other agencies to deliver flooding a **Section 19 Flood Investigation Report**, and to secure funding for and implement its recommendations which lie within the remit of the Parish Council.

Current projects include mitigating the effects of significant near-by new housing and road junctions, as well as the maintenance and upgrading of amenities such as parking areas, Village Green and the playground.

Formal SPC meetings are held monthly, with the exception of August and December.

A monthly e-mail newsletter has recently been instigated which has been very well-received by parishioners.

SPC holds two community events during the year including a well-attended bonfire and firework evening.

Future work will likely include the development of a formal Neighbourhood Plan.

Challenges for the council include engaging with, uniting and effectively representing four geographically separated communities within the Parish which represent an unusually wide socio-economic demographic for such a small parish.

The Parish Council is in the process of re-structuring to be more efficient while still meeting the appropriate levels of democracy, openness and transparency.

1 Oct 2024