

Bures Hamlet Annual Report 2025/26

Bures Hamlet Council

There have been no changes to the Parish Council over the past 12 months and currently there are no councillor vacancies.

Speed Management

The parish council is aware that speeding throughout the village is a concern to many residents and as such continues to monitor and look for potential mitigations. Despite representations from the parish council, Essex Highways considers current mitigations are satisfactory and have demonstrated that most vehicles are compliant within existing limits.

It is disappointing that the Community Speed Watch team has been disbanded but entirely understandable considering the policy adopted by Essex Police where notices will not be issued to non-Essex residents nor people driving company or leased vehicles.

At such time that the Local Highways Panel is in cessation, but when it resumes activity the Parish Council will further pursue current “on hold” initiatives such as a Colchester Road pedestrian crossing and extension of the 30mph limit up Lamarsh Hill.

Pedestrian Safety

The Parish Council is ever mindful of the wide age demographic the village retains and the need for pedestrian safety. Where a need for mitigation is identified the Parish Council will look to present pragmatic and realistic solutions. One current example being concerns raised about lack of visibility when crossing Station Hill from Parsonage Hill.

Station Hill Gardens

The Station Hill gardens project has matured throughout its first 12 months and has been well received by all residents. Bures Hamlet parish council expresses thanks to Jenny Wright, Ruth and Colin Lorking who continue to work hard to make the garden a prominent feature of the village.

Water Lane Flood Management

Multiple flood mitigation projects along and around Water Lane have begun to show successes in flood management. The parish council continues to work with the environment agency and Essex Highways to implement further improvements.

Parking

Parking remains an issue throughout the village and the parish council continues to work with North Essex Parking Partnership to develop initiatives to alleviate the situation. Currently we are awaiting approval of a submission to stop nuisance parking in and around the Water Lane area.

Lighting

As the village grows and new developments are progressed, lighting infrastructure must be considered to ensure adequate lighting in public areas is provided. Currently, the dark area on Parsonage Hill is being reviewed and considered.

Planning

The parish council continues to monitor and respond to all planning applications. We have no jurisdiction in the planning process but can and do provide consultee comments. We also lobby the Braintree District Council (BDC) planning department in all cases where it is considered there has been an infringement or contravention of planning rules. We also note the valued support we receive from both our local county and district councillors, Peter Schweir and David Holland.

There are currently two instances where planning rules have been broken both of which have been notified to the BDC planning enforcement team who are currently taking the appropriate action. Again, Councillor Holland is assisting in the pursuance of our applications.

Sports Ground

Improvements to the skateboard park are now complete and it is pleasing to see that the facility is being used considerably more than the old facility. Remedial works to rectify installation issues have been completed at no extra cost.

The sportsground committee are currently investigating the installation of parcel drop/ collection facilities within the bounds of the community centre car park.

Richard Shackell

Chair, Bures Hamlet Parish Council