



BRAMFORD

PARISH COUNCIL



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Chair's Report – May 2025

Lester Powell, Chair of Bramford Parish Council

General

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our two newest members of the Parish Council: Faha Makhdum and Howard Mottram. I know that they will be a valuable asset to the council.

As with many years, the past twelve months have presented a number of challenges. While overall activity has been somewhat reduced compared to the previous year, we have nonetheless dealt with several significant issues—particularly those related to flooding during the autumn and winter months and the security concerns at the former Fison site, that remain ongoing and unresolved.

Bramford continues to grow, welcoming new residents and families as housing developments expand. The Parish Council remains committed to keeping all residents informed and engaged in community affairs. We encourage new members of our village to take part in local activities and contribute to our vibrant, welcoming community.

This year we shall be renewing contracts for the maintenance of public green spaces, including the churchyard, lawn cemetery, and village litter, bin collection and dog waste services. Routine litter collection also remains a priority.

A community consultation event was held at the village hall to gather residents' views regarding our Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP). The feedback received has been considered and brought into fruition such as the 'History Trail' around the village, led by the Bramford History Group.

The Council was required to intervene concerning the misuse of the former sports pavilion, which was not being operated in accordance with expectations. This issue was also identified by both the Charity Commission and Suffolk County Council.

A big 'Thank You' must go out to Bramford Open Spaces, who continue to do excellent work in the meadows and along the River Gipping.

The Loraine Victory Hall continues to as busy as ever with events and activities throughout the year, managed by Cllr. Wolton, together with volunteers.

A great day was had at the 'Fun Day' and many thanks to all that organised and contributed to this fantastic annual event. (1st Saturday in June every year).

We have installed vehicle speed warning signs and are currently exploring the temporary use of ANPR speed cameras to further improve road safety within the village.

In response to resident feedback, parking bays at the Gippingstone Road car park have been repainted with wider spacing to enhance accessibility.

As a token of appreciation for their invaluable work along the River Gipping, we made a donation of new equipment to the River Gipping Trust.

The brick bus shelter, which was converted into a 'Share Library' two years ago, continues to be a popular and well-utilised community asset.

Our commitment to litter control has grown stronger, with regular clean-up events organised by Cllr. Ayris and supported by dedicated local volunteers.

Planning

Planning continues to be a major area of focus for Bramford. Thanks go to Cllr. Wolton for her tireless campaigning and hard work. The EDF solar farm also remains a concern, with ongoing challenges yet to be resolved.

Lawn Cemetery

We remain dedicated to the sensitive and respectful management of the Lawn Cemetery. David Jackson has done excellent work maintaining the grounds, and while grave levelling did cause some concerns, the work since has been well received by residents. A memorial bench, featuring memorial plaques, has been installed at the request of the community. In view of the cemetery's growing popularity, we have begun preliminary planning for future expansion.

Allotments

Our two allotment sites remain highly valued and are in great demand by residents and are efficiently overseen by Cllr. Gardiner. Adjacent to the Station Field site, the Community Orchard—led by Cllr. Dicker—continues to flourish and represents a wonderful environmental space for nature and the village to enjoy.

Playing Fields

The Playing Field Management Committee, under the leadership of Bob Wakeling, (BPFMC Chair), continues to make substantial improvements to the facilities. The area has been renamed Bramford Sports & Leisure Centre to better reflect its purpose. The new children's play equipment has proven extremely popular and is in daily use, regardless of the weather. The cycle/pump track has also become a well-loved feature, attracting users of all ages. Bowls, Tennis and Football continue to be active.

Social Media and Community Outreach

The Parish Council's website, Facebook page, and eNewsletter remain effective channels of communication, now reaching several hundred subscribers. We will continue to keep residents informed via these platforms, in addition to traditional notice boards throughout the village.

Finances

Thanks to the diligence of our Parish Clerk, Jane Every, our finances remain in a strong and stable position. Adequate reserves have been set aside for building maintenance and other upcoming expenses. Financial statements have been circulated to all members. Funds are available for community-based projects, and we welcome ideas and recommendations from residents.

Closing Remarks

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all residents who have contacted the Council, contributed feedback, or attended our meetings over the past year. Your engagement is essential to the health and success of our community.

Finally, I extend heartfelt thanks to all members of the Bramford Parish Council, as well as our District and County Councillors, for their dedication and outstanding service to Bramford throughout the past twelve months.



Cllr. Lester Powell.