

BROAD TOWN **PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19th MAY 2025

Present: Councillor R Pearce – Chairman
Councillor J Rawlins
Councillor G Morley

Clerk: Caroline White

There were 8 members of the public and Wiltshire Councillor Martin Denz in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Councillor Hartley and Councillor Davis.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 19th May 2024 having previously been circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chris Woodhouse stated that he was available to present a Speedwatch update, added now to the Agenda.

4. REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR PEARCE

See Appendix 1

Q: A resident asked about the reduced speed limit scope.

A: Councillor Pearce explained that we had as part of the road review negotiated with Wiltshire Council and achieved a compromise with the limit extending to 40 by Lanes Farm, to a 50 past Goldbrough as far as Cotmarsh where it becomes 40 again, until 30 at Broadacres.

5. UPDATE FROM UNITARY COUNCILLOR MARTIN DENZ

Martin Introduced himself and noted that though the election has only just taken place, so far he has been able to discuss at council speeding matters and flooding issues that concern Broad Town, and also intends to attend BTPC meetings regularly.

Area Board news – the way they're set up, less friction for parishes ??? (I;m sorry, I just could not hear this, nor the comment that made everyone laugh!) ... he noted that David Bowler had been a great champion for Broad Town. He invited contact or questions via any means, stated that he has also served as RWB town Councillor and looks forward to partnering and learning.

6. UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS:

- Village Hall (Chris Stewart read by Councillor Pearce)

See Appendix 2

- White Horse Group (Andrew Law)

See Appendix 3

- Broad Town Coffee Mornings (Helen Greer)

See Appendix 4

- Made In Broad Town (Helen Greer)

See Appendix 5

It was agreed by all that the Coffee Mornings and the craft group are an excellent facility always enjoyed by those who go, but that further publicity would be great to broaden their reach, and also to inform and welcome new residents in the village, of all the things going on, in person, as well as eg the annual meeting possibly garnering wider attendance by possibly opening the bar or offering refreshments; to be raised on the next PC meeting agenda.

- SID (Judy Conybeare)

See Appendix 6

The volume of traffic and % of speeding has decreased slightly since SID was set up, 3 years ago.

- Broad Town History website (Judy Conybeare)

See Appendix 7

It was reported that website traffic has risen from 50 to 70 ?? sessions a month, despite no new material added lately. From many countries. Permission just granted by BL to post some newspaper articles.

- Christ Church (Carolyn Crocker)

It was reported that the heater wiring is not working or safe so the church hasn't been usable in winter months but is open again now. The Rev Rachma's last service was in January 2025. The church still blooms under the care of working parties and the solar grant.

The main aim for coming year is to organise a new heating system. A temporary fix has been made to give a couple of winters. A plea goes out for any knowledge, ideas in village to get efficient system, churches being hard to heat.

The process of appointing a new vicar is under way; people's thoughts about the qualities sought are welcome, as the church serves the village. There will be a suggestion box or contact anyone in the church.

Thanks were given to support for the joint event with Made in Broad Town that gave a great feeling of togetherness and support. £400 was made at plant sale by the church.

- Community Speedwatch (Chris Woodhouse)

There are four in the group: Chris Woodhouse, Andrew Law, Mark Boyden Keith Wiffen; all are thanked for their time and effort.

24 checks have been conducted, with the aim that it isn't wanted to do the monitoring so often as to annoy people. Additionally conditions like weather need to be accommodated, and the group is small and working round people's lives when deciding on times to operate, eg the SID showed high speeding frequency at 7am so the team did a session at that hour but cannot do so too often.

Drivers caught by the device are reported and get a warning letter from Wiltshire police. The aim is to slow people and make them think, not catch people. There can be aggressive or rude responses. The group has been sharing the device with Chiseldon recently but they now have one.

Councillor Martin Denz said he has been on North Wilts police advisory group since 2019, and they find that the mere existence of these volunteer groups does impact driving behaviour positively.

Councillor Pearce ended the meeting by thanking everyone and noting there is so much going on in the village, all down to a limited pool of great volunteers.

Meeting ended at 2040

APPENDICES: Reports from Chairman and individual groups

APPENDIX 1

Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 19 May 2025

The Parish Council has operated successfully and productively during the last year.

As a Parish Council we aim to work collaboratively to deliver the best results for our community. Our main aim is to improve village life and to this end we have undertaken a number of initiatives such as:

- Regular refreshing and tending of the flowers in the barrel planters which provide a glorious splash of colour as you enter the village. Many thanks to Judy Rendell for this.
- Annual village tidy-up and litter-picking event
- Deploying the Speed Indicator Device (or SID) at various locations throughout the village and publishing the analyses of the speeding data on the Parish Council website. This data has also been sent to the Police who use the data to direct their speeding enforcement actions.
- Emptying the rubbish bin and maintaining the play area equipment in the playing field at Redhills

Communication

We recognise the importance of good communication and we provide a regular monthly report in the Village Newsletter to keep residents informed and publish full Minutes of all council meetings and useful information from Wiltshire Council on the Parish Council website. An email highlighting recent communications is sent to subscribers each week.

Local Authority liaison

Councillors represent the village at meetings of the Area Board and the Local Highway and Footway Improvements Group (LHFIG), and there is regular liaison with the parish steward and highways engineers to try and ensure that matters regarding highway maintenance are addressed. We successfully obtained a speeding review along Broad Town road which resulted in the LHFIG agreeing to the introduction of a 40mph speed limit on the road between Broadacres to beyond the Cotmarsh turning.

Community Fund Grants

The Parish Council has established a process whereby fuller utilisation of the Community Fund can be made by local community groups. All applications are considered by an independent Advisory Board of residents who provide recommendations to the Council. The Parish Council would like to offer its thanks to this group who perform a vital service in assessing the applications throughout the year.

This year we have awarded grants totalling £1,059 to the Community Coffee Mornings group to help with their hire of the hall and their Soup and Puddings lunch and a grant of £250 to the Bumps & Beyond group to purchase some new equipment.

On behalf of the village, the Council would like to thank the community groups that have applied for grants. We continue to encourage other community groups to make applications for grants to help provide these wonderful and important facilities to the community of Broad Town.

2025 Precept

In January the Parish Council set its budget for the current financial year and reluctantly were forced to increase the precept by 5.34% over the previous year in order to cover the increase in regular expenses and grass cutting, resulting in an annual budget of £10,787.00

Planning

Over the course of any one year, the Parish Council provides a local perspective on planning applications and this year has been another busy year with 16 applications to consider. The role of the Parish Council is as a consultee (not a decision maker) in the planning process and we strive to fulfil this role by clearly stating the impact of the application on residents, village life and our community.

Speeding

Features consistently in comments from residents we have been deploying our own SID at chosen sites throughout the village. Statistics are collected each month and we are grateful to Judy Conybeare who produces an analysis of the data gathered. We can never hope to prevent all speeders but we believe that using the SID is having a positive effect.

Closing remarks

The current Parish Council would like to extend its grateful thanks to everyone in the village who has supported us and worked with us to help this special community flourish.

We are looking forward to this evening's meeting to both celebrate our local activities and to hear about any issues that the Parish Council can help with over the next year.

Thank you very much. I am happy to take any questions.

APPENDIX 2

B T Village Hall – Chairman's Report – 2025

Committee Members

At last year's AGM Paul Granger was re-elected as Chairman but wished to stand down asap but would continue in the role until a replacement could be found. In August Paul was replaced by Ray Manley and Chris Stuart was appointed as Vice-Chairman

In February 2025 Mark Boyden resigned as Treasurer and Chris Stuart very kindly agreed to act as Treasurer with immediate effect until a replacement could be found/appointed

Building

In addition to routine maintenance, the front of the building has been painted and planters – very kindly donated to the Hall - have been placed both sides of the front door. There are a number of further improvements planned and these are regularly discussed at Committee Meetings. There is now a system in place for disabled parking. The lock on the front door has been replaced to allow hirers to lock the door from the inside for security reasons.

Declaration of trust updated

Removed: WI, Methodist Church, B.T. Show Committee

Added: Social Club, CCM, MIBT

Existing: PCC and Parish Council.

This allows all these organisations to nominate a representative for the Management Comm.

Bank details were also updated.

Safeguarding & Health and Safety policies

These were regularly reviewed and updated as required throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank all members who have served on the management Committee during the last year, for all their support and hard work. We are very fortunate to have this facility in our village but reliant on existing and new volunteers to ensure this continues.

APPENDIX 3

White Horse Restoration Group

The White Horse Restoration Group undertook the first of its 2025 maintenance tasks when David Walker and myself strimmed around the perimeter of the Horse on 14 May followed by the liming on Sunday 18th May. The liming group numbered 18 with ages spanning from teens to ancient and was representative of the Broad Town community. Post liming refreshment was offered by Jason Bayliffe on behalf of the Broad Town Brewery and was a just reward for a couple of hours of hot and hard work. The Hortons at Cockroost Farm were of great assistance in purchasing and delivering the lime and deserve our thanks. Thanks are also due to the Bluestone Solar farm for having approved a grant which will cover this year's liming and the next.

The Parish Council has previously been briefed by Derek Greer on the project that has been set up in response to the slip that developed below the horse. You will recollect that this consisted of a number of tasks:

1. Task 1. A topographic survey including a GPS survey and a photogrammetric modelling of the figure by a UAV.
2. Task 2. An assessment of land slip risk and hill figure condition including an augur survey.
3. Task 3. A historic review of the Broad Town Chalk Horse including a collection of oral testimony of community members.

In setting this up as a costed project we have been assisted by Garry Gibbon who is a local expert on Chalk Figures and who has performed a similar survey on the Marlborough White Horse. He has been able to identify professionals who can assist us in this project and we have now moved forward to the point where we are in the process of bidding for grants to cover the tasks. We have approached the North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust to cover Tasks 2 and 3 with grants from their Farming in Protected Landscape Programme and their Sustainable Development Fund. Garry Gibbon has been in contact with the Project Director and we are reasonably optimistic about obtaining the funding. We are also preparing an application to our own Bluestone Solar Farm fund in respect of Task 1 and the Parish Council can expect our submission in the very near future - we keep our fingers crossed. This work is best done during the summer months when the weather is good and it is our aim to complete the practical work during the remainder of this year.

The bids for funding are costed with the incorporation of work days from volunteers which reduces costs and also demonstrates a community involvement to the funding organisations. To that end there is always room for volunteers to be involved in survey work or historical research and

recording under the guidance of professional archaeologists. The experience should be interesting as well as of value to the project. Hopefully the community will respond.

APPENDIX 4

Community Coffee Mornings

Community Coffee Mornings have continued to thrive during the last year, and it's been great to see some new faces, both those new to the village and those who have lived here for a while, but who have only recently discovered coffee mornings.

The standard of cakes has remained high with some interesting new flavours joining the list of traditional favourites. We are grateful to our band of volunteer bakers who are happy to be on our rota to provide 'guest' cakes, to complement those provided by the regular CCM team. One thing that has become clear is that to avoid a mutiny, the sausage rolls must be Greggs (although other brands are of course available!). Others have been tried but unfortunately have failed to deliver the same degree of customer satisfaction.

We hope the coffee mornings continue to provide a valuable meeting place and some companionship open to all those in the village where the conversation flows freely, whether it's about the latest local road closures, where the worst badger damage has occurred, are the wasps a bigger problem than the moles this season, or that perennial old favourite, the good old British weather. More importantly, they are a valuable opportunity to catch up with friends if you have perhaps been unable to see them for a while due to holiday or illness.

Highlights over the last year have included the school choir singing to us at our fundraising July coffee morning, enabling us to donate a rounded-up total of £250 to school funds. Before our summer break in August, we also had enough surplus funds to donate £350 to the Brighter Futures Appeal at the Great Western Hospital.

Our Macmillan Big Coffee Morning on a Saturday in September yielded an impressive £475.90, a total boosted no doubt by Ray's now famous bottle tombola!

In the autumn we were lucky to have the school choir singing for us once again and on this occasion £100 was donated to the school. We also played a part in helping to run the village's inaugural 'Big Breakfast' event raising a huge £1048 for Prospect Hospice. Tempting offerings such as the 'Hearty Combine Harvester', the 'Humble Harvester' and the herbivorous 'Herby Harvester' were apparently popular enough to consider repeating the event so please...watch this space.

The village Christmas coffee morning and craft sale once again proved to be a popular and busy occasion and contributed to the overall total raised for the village Christmas Appeal in aid of Alzheimer's Support Wiltshire. We were able to donate £100 to the village bumps and babes group to help with their Christmas party and enable each child to receive a gift from Santa! Also in December, we held a free raffle at our last coffee morning before Christmas as a thank you to everyone who has attended and supported our coffee mornings during the year, and for their generous refreshment donations. This proved to be very popular and the proceeds from this coffee morning were also donated to Alzheimer's Support.

Village enthusiasm continued for our first Soup & Puddings lunch in February yielding £700 which was divided between Julia's House and Prospect Hospices.

In the spring we were able to donate £250 to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to contribute to their work making nature in our county more accessible to everyone.

Last weekend we joined forces with Made in Broad Town and Christ Church to provide the refreshments for the village plant sale, which again proved very successful.

We are grateful to Kelly Hillier our local Police Community Support Officer and PC Mike Gassner for attending several of our coffee mornings, giving everyone an opportunity to discuss any pressing local issues.

We would like to thank everyone who has both helped with and attended all our coffee mornings and other events over the last year raising a tremendous £1525 solely from coffee morning events, and an additional £1748 from our breakfast and lunch events, the overall total being £3,273. We also thank the solar fund for funding our hall hire costs, and food costs for the soup and puddings lunch. Without this support we would not have been able to donate so generously to charity. We would also like to thank Ray and Nigel for putting out the tables and chairs every week, and all those who have helped in the kitchen when any of us have been away.

We are very happy to be able to run the coffee mornings as a small contribution to the social and mental wellbeing of village residents, and the fantastic total given to charity over the last year is a testament to the generosity of our villagers, so...thank you!

Helen Greer

The Community Coffee Mornings Team (Annie Crocker, Carolyn Crocker, Sandra Hartley, Linda Boyden & Helen Greer)

APPENDIX 5

Made in Broad Town

During last summer Made in Broad Town continued to run their relaxing but creative sessions in which we produced hand printed wrapping paper and hand-painted candles and one of our members gave us a fantastic glass painting lesson, which was swiftly followed by an acrylic painting lesson by another of our talented members, resulting in some beautiful hand painted cards being made.

We continued with our sessions during August when most other groups stop for a break, and this gave villagers an opportunity to meet socially which they otherwise might not have had.

Autumn began with our stall at Macmillan's big coffee morning in September contributing to the fantastic overall total raised of £475.

A festive cardmaking lesson from another two of our members followed, and a glass painting session this time concentrating on festive items which we could sell on our Christmas stall. We not only produced Christmas craft items but also chutneys, fudge and Christmas cakes to sell. On the day itself we were very happy to have been part of another big community event and had raised £541 for Alzheimer's Support Wiltshire.

In early December we were invited to have a stall at the school Christmas Fair and donated £128 to them. Our last session before Christmas was shared with the police community roadshow van and it

was good to see a steady stream of people coming along to talk to the police and partake of the mince pies and hot drinks on offer!

2025 began with our New Year Nibbles event which helped to lift the spirits which can be a little jaded at that time of year. When not eating the tasty snacks available, everyone enjoyed discovering that old Christmas cards can be magically transformed into useful small gift boxes.

Our air-dried clay session proved to be very creative and the necessary PAT testing on all our electrical items was carried out in time for the patchwork cushion making session led by another talented member of our group, it was a joy to hear multiple sewing machines whirring away together!

Spring began with an array of coloured paper flowers being produced and those in the group with crochet skills shared these with others who wanted to learn the basics and we also learnt how to make plant pots out of newspaper, a very handy skill to learn with our plant sale fast approaching.

Our first session in May was the first in which we managed to employ someone to teach us a new skill as despite our best efforts, it has been hard to find people to actually come along and share their skills with us. This was achieved by attending a local craft fair and talking to stall holders, so sometimes the personal approach pays off. The session was greatly enjoyed by everyone who took part, some beautiful hummingbird pictures were produced, and we hope to repeat the session in the autumn.

Our plant sale last week saw the end of several months of effort by a wide range of people including some who don't even attend our group, but who all helped to cultivate enough plants to make a fantastic display for our first sale. This was not so much a case of 'Made in Broad Town' but more 'Grown in Broad Town' and it was great to run it in collaboration with Christ Church who held their own plant stall, and the community coffee mornings team who provided the refreshments. This was again as much a social event for the village as a fundraising event, but we were able to raise a huge £660 for the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance, our largest charitable donation so far. This is in addition to the amount raised by Christ Church.

As the group is run to help social interaction and improve villagers' mental health, all four of us who help lead the group undertook an online 'Conversations in the Community' course run by the mental health charity MIND which helped to open our eyes to the need to become better listeners, and we have all benefitted from the course. As last week was MIND's annual mental health awareness week, which had a focus on 'community', perhaps others would like to consider doing this too?

Our latest venture began this afternoon with the start of a collaboration between Made in Broad Town and our village school when a small group of us visited to help with a craft session in which the children were making shell wind chimes to sell at their summer fair. This was the first of three sessions we will be helping with before the fair.

We often receive lovely comments from our attendees about how much they have enjoyed coming along to a session, which is always good and makes us think that we are offering something that people really enjoy. Some of our attendees just enjoy watching what is going on and chatting to others so there is no pressure to take part in the creative side of things, and there's always simply the joy in discovering which new biscuits have been added to the box that week! Although we are open to any age and gender, we are still struggling to get more men to come along to the group, if you have any ideas, please let us know...

Over the last year we have raised £1,329 for good causes. We hope we have continued to provide a meeting place for villagers which provides social interaction, improves physical dexterity and mental health and we hope to continue on this basis into the future. We would like to thank Mark for putting out the tables and chairs every session, and the solar income fund for their continued support in enabling us to run the group on a voluntary payment basis which means the removal of any monetary barriers to participation. Lastly, we would like to thank the people of Broad Town for their continued support whether that is through attending our sessions, buying our items, or by making and growing things for us to sell, whether they attend our sessions or not. In a small village such as Broad Town, the social function of the group is probably more important than the fundraising aspect, and we hope to be able to continue to run the group to maintain this important role.

Whether it's been knitted, crocheted, drawn, painted, embroidered, glued, printed, sewn, folded, sawn, hammered or grown...it's been Made in Broad Town.

Helen Greer, Linda Boyden, Corinne Button & Heather Hardy

APPENDIX 6

APPENDIX 7

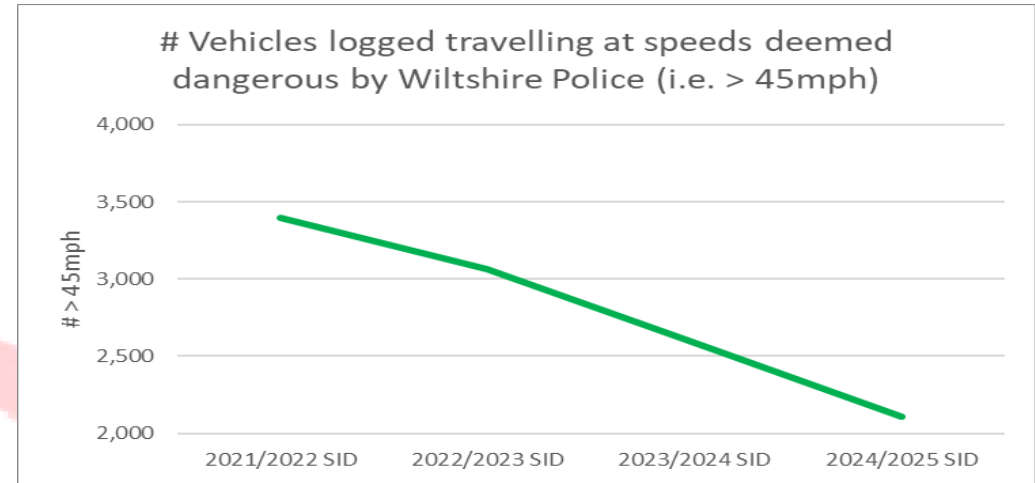
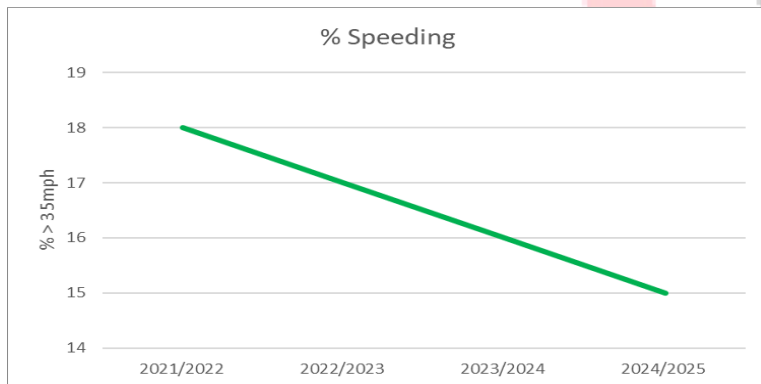
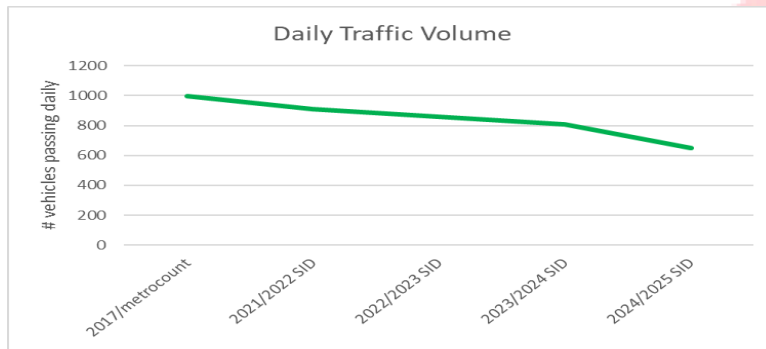
Broad Town SID

Activity summary 14th April 2024 to 21st April 2025

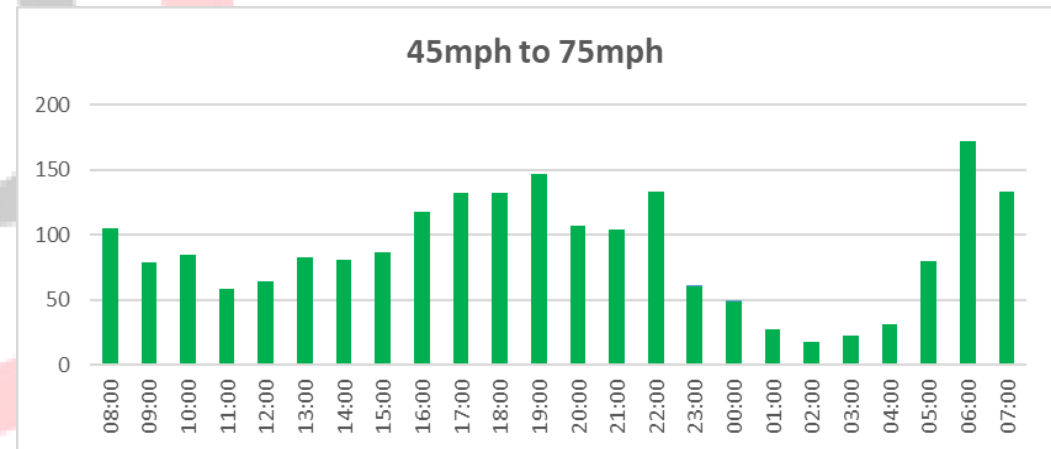
Broad Town Parish Council: 20th May 2024

We thank the Parish Council for purchasing, installing and operating the SID every month for BT residents. Working 24/7 the SID captured **242,350** passing vehicles in the last year (note the SID only captures data in one direction¹).

The  is that the year on year comparisons look encouraging :



High end speeders can be found at any hour of the day, however, there are peaks at 06:00 – 07:00am and 18:00 – 19:00pm.



Although the graphs may look encouraging it is clearly unacceptable for drivers to speed through BT. Please continue to keep speeding in BT as a high priority issue with the Parish Council, Wiltshire Council Highways and the Police by continuing to :

- 1. fight for a pavement to BT garage**
- 2. fight for a speed limit reduction to 40mph on the road to RWB**
- 3. consider purchasing a 2nd SID to compliment and continue the drive for a safer village.**

¹ Note the SID captures traffic travelling in one direction. Metrocount results indicate average daily totals of 1,989 using the C415.



Broad Town History Website

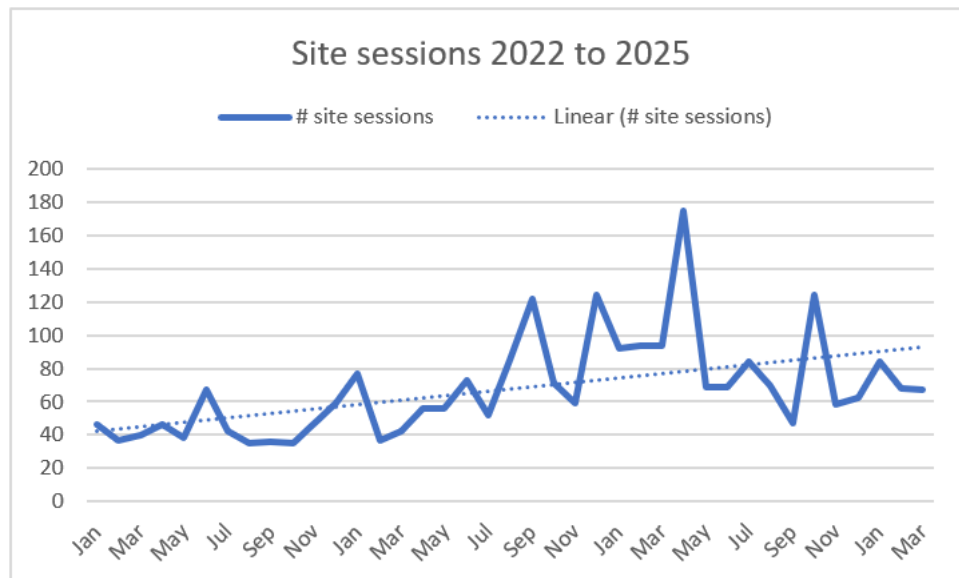
Activity summary

Broad Town Parish Council: May 2025



We're very grateful to the Parish Council for funding the Broad Town history plan¹ and the website domain².

The overall trend for site sessions continues to increase year on year. The majority of users are UK based, however, the site is regularly visited by users in the US, Canada, France & Italy.



The History website has been a valuable source of information to provide the White Horse Hill Figure project with maps, photographs, postcards, research and restoration details.

Over the last year we've gathered the following excerpts from historic newspapers, however, we can't load these at present because we're awaiting authority to use :

Brewery & Mill

The North Wilts Herald 11th November 1867 Broad Town Fire broke out in a mill at Broad Town

[The Swindon Advertiser Apr 3rd 1882 – Steam brewery sold](#)

[The Swindon Advertiser Jan 12h 1880 – Brittin & Sons advert](#)

[The North Wilts Herald Cirencester Jan 18th 1901 – Hart Brothers advert](#)

[The North Wilts Herald Jan 4th 1901 - Hart Brothers advert](#)

[The Salisbury Journal March 27th 1769 – estate of Thomas Garlic dwelling, malthouse & land for sale \(Common fields of Broad Town\)](#)

[The Swindon Advertiser Sept 25th 1908 – sale of plant, stock and effects](#)

¹ The plan cost £163.65 for a 2 year period (5th Jul 2023 to 5th Jul 2025) – costs for 2025-2027 are yet to be determined

² The broadtownhistory.com domain cost £39.78 for a 2 year period (5th August 2023 to 5th August 2025) – costs for 2025-2027 are yet to be determined

White Horse

The Wiltshire Times 2nd October 1909 – The White Horses of Wiltshire No. 6 Broad Town

The Somerset Standard 23rd September – Westbury White Horse – white horses in wiltshire in a good state of preservation Broad Town

Littletown

The Swindon Advertiser 25th June 1866 – Broad Town Wm Price v William Simmonds Little Town recover possession of 2 pasturelands

[Marlborough Times - Saturday 18 June 1887 – sale of land](#)

[North Wilts Herald - Saturday 20 March 1869 – sale of livestock, machinery & household items](#)

[North Wilts Herald - Saturday 17 February 1877 – to let](#)

[North Wilts Herald - Friday 30 October 1891 – sale of stock & implements](#)

[The evening Swindon Advertiser Nov 3rd 1917 – The sale of the estate of the late G & A Twine including Littletown farm, Broad Town farm and Whiteway cottage auction](#)

[The North Wilts Herald Apr 10th 1879 William Simmonds letter regarding land tax at Broad Town](#)

Skeleton

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette - Thursday 05 June 1834 Broad Town fields skeleton

Goldborough

Bath Chronicle 1812 - Goldborough Farm poachers

[North Wilts Herald - Friday 19 July 1935 – tender for erection and alteration to buildings](#)

[North Wilts Herald - Saturday 09 August 1879 – tender for stable and gig house](#)

Church Farm

North Wilts Herald - Friday 28 June 1918 – A soldier's death Mr and Mrs T Chesterman

Ham farm

Marlborough Times - Saturday 02 May 1885 Ham farm sales particulars

Cotmarsh

[The Swindon Advertiser April 3rd 1865 Sale of land](#)

Springfield House

[Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard - Saturday 22 May 1886 – Sale of house and land nearby](#)

Hambrook farm

[North Wilts Herald - Friday 18 April 1913 sale of farm](#)

Thornhill common

[North Wilts Herald - Friday 18 April 1913 sale of common & cottages](#)

Broad Town Farm

[Marlborough Times - Saturday 24 September 1892 sale of stock](#)

Key :

Request to use made 20th Feb 2025 to 'images@britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk' – response outstanding

[Request to use made 9th May 2025 to 'images@britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk' – response outstanding](#)