BROAD TOWN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26th MAY 2026

Present: Councillor R Pearce – Chairman
Councillor S Hartley

Clerk: Caroline White

There were five members of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Councillor Davis and Councillor Rawlins.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 19th May 2025 having previously been circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No additional matters raised.

4. REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR PEARCE

See Appendix 1

5. Unitary councillor Martin Denz was not present

6. UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS:

- White Horse Group (Derek Greer)

See Appendix 2

A resident mentioned the name of a recently deceased village resident that had been suggested to be placed on a gate as a memorial.

Part of the agreement for a grant from the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and Trust asks that local footpath walks be added on noticeboards / via an app; this is intended to be pursued, researching local land ownership, permissions etc.

Derek Greer is to be interviewed for Radio Wiltshire in a series focusing on all the local white horses, as part of Wiltshire Day on 5th June.

- Broad Town Coffee Mornings (Sandra Hartley)

See Appendix 3

- Made In Broad Town (Helen Greer)

See Appendix 4

- SID (Judy Conybeare)

See Appendix 5

Unfortunately the year's figures bring bad news, with an upward trend in speeding as well as in overall traffic, despite ongoing huge hard work in the village over decades. Further enforcement and more ideas are needed for potential devices without engineering solutions being necessary. Compton Bassett hired a speed specialist; BT should look into it.

Action: Clerk to ask Compton Bassett clerk about their process and outcomes from consultancy.

- Broad Town History website (Judy Conybeare)

See Appendix 6

The site has grown in traffic, been revamped and improved and has interaction and positive feedback from all over the world. Some AI videos based on real photos were shown as examples of enhanced experience.

- Christ Church (Carolyn Crocker)

See Appendix 7

Councillor Pearce ended the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and for the sterling work done for the village.

Meeting ended at 1930

APPENDICES: Reports from Chairman and individual groups

Appendix 1

Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 26 May 2026

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:

- Through our representation at the Wiltshire Council Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group the Council has achieved the implementation of a speed limit on the road towards RWB. This will not only benefit the residents living outside the 30mph zone but will help to improve the road safety of customers and employees of the various businesses along the road.
- Obtaining a storage container which has been placed alongside the Churchyard and sited on land owned by the Rawlins family for which the PC is grateful. This is being used to house Council equipment (in preference to relying on various individual garages) and also some of the garden machinery used for maintaining the churchyard which had outgrown the garden shed they currently use.
- Including the village shelter in the Council's insurance to ensure that it can continue to provide joy and interest for residents, schoolchildren and passing motorists

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.

Community Fund Grants
All grant 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 £6,778.50 to various community groups, including a grant of £2,225 to the White Horse Restoration Group to help fund their project on surveying the white horse and documenting the history of the horse and its upkeep.

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.

2026 Precept
In January the Parish Council set an annual budget of £11,187.00 for the current financial year with an increase in the precept of 3.47% in order to cover the increase in costs of our regular expenses.

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 17 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
We have been deploying our Speed Indicator Device (SID) at different locations each month over the year, and statistics are collected and an analysis of the data gathered is published in the newsletter and on the website. We can never hope to prevent all speeders but we believe that the SID, in combination with the regular sessions by the Community Speedwatch team, 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

Broad Town White Horse Restoration Group – Annual Report May 2025 to April/May 2026

This was a year that was a lot busier than most.

It started normally and as usual we weeded and limed the white horse in May 2025.

In parallel however we were preparing a project plan to survey the horse to capture its essential details in case of a landslip causing damage. Our plans were ready by June and we applied for and were awarded grants for £2250 by Bluefield Solar fund and approximately £4100 by North Wessex Downs National Landscape and Trust, (thank you to our sponsors). This money was primarily to cover costs of professional experts, and was matched by free volunteer effort.

Our GNSS and drone survey was completed in late June, closely followed by a detailed survey of the condition and construction of the horse. We organised a free talk at the village hall to give the community an insight into the history of chalk figures and our preliminary survey results.

Through late summer and autumn, we completed a landslip survey, an auger survey (which was much harder than expected, due the great depth of chalk 0.5-1m under the top surface) and we embarked on the historical research. Through a mix of volunteer and professional work we have been able to give a history from 1900 to 2025 of both the horse and its restorers (illustrated by photographs). Our historical work is continuing and is uncovering pieces of evidence about the horse's earliest recorded existence.

The University of Bath undertook an MSc thesis project on our behalf and produced a paper which collated landslip risk factors on the chalk downs and compared these to white horse locations.

In October we were invited to Broad Town Primary School and gave a short illustrated talk to the children on our local white horse followed by a treasure hunt style game in the playground based on answering questions about chalk horses.

We are indebted to the BroadTownHistory website for making all of our reports accessible and writing a great summary on the landing page.

Finally (although just outside the period May25 - Apr26) we organised and gave a second free talk at the village hall in early May 2026 to communicate our project results.

Our project means that BTWH is the most recorded white horse after Uffington. Our project plan is the baseline for ongoing activities at other white horses in the NWD such as at Pewsey.

As we move into this year, we have several aims including, having better noticeboards sited in the village and near the horse; continuing the historical research, sowing local seeds on the landslip and investigating how to extend the rear leg to its original length.

Our first aim (noticeboards) is contingent on more funding which has been promised by NWDNL on condition that we include walks in the locality of the horse on the boards. We are looking forward to working with parish councillor Jim Rawlins to do this.

Thanks to all our project volunteers [including Andrew Law, Derek Greer, Judy Conybeare, David Walker, Tony Currivan, Rupert Pearce, Louise Hinson, Emily Clark, Reuben Gibbons, Zoe Gibbons, Helen Greer, Rosie Law] and to our professionals who either gave much more time than they were recompensed for or gave their efforts for free [Garry Gibbons, Donald Horne, Megan Heffer-Cameron, Mike Allen, Brian Edwards, Matt Day and Gerritt Meijer].

Report submitted by: Derek Greer, secretary Broad Town White Horse Restoration Group

Appendix 3

Community Coffee Mornings

Community Coffee Mornings reached their 10th birthday this spring and have continued to thrive during the last year. 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.

We hope the coffee mornings continue to provide a valuable meeting place and some companionship open to all those in the village, and that 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.

The generosity of our attendees has continued to amaze us and donations we have been able to make over the last year from our surplus funds have included:

£200 each to our village church, and to Dressability Swindon last June. Before our summer break in August, we also had enough surplus funds to donate £300 to Breast Cancer Now following our fundraising coffee morning in late July. Our Macmillan coffee morning and raffle in September enabled us to donate £200 after a very busy and enjoyable morning.

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 Julia's House Children's Hospices. We held a free raffle during the 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. The proceeds from this coffee morning were also donated to Julia's House and our village church.

Earlier this month we joined forces with Made in Broad Town and Christ Church to provide the refreshments for the village plant sale, which again proved hugely successful.

In the spring we were able to donate £250 each to the Swindon and District Samaritans and to Wiltshire Sight, and more recently, £250 to Julia's House Children's Hospices. Since the last parish meeting, we have donated almost £1,900 to local good causes, and in total just under £12,000 has been raised over the last ten years.

Tomorrow our local Police Community Support Officer Kelly Hillier will be attending our coffee morning, 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 such a tremendous amount. We also thank the solar fund for funding our hall hire costs. Without this support we would not have been to donate so generously to charity.

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!

The Full Monty: it was fantastic to see 85 people having fun with family, friends & neighbours enjoying their Winter Whopper, Weanie or Green Goddess breakfasts while partaking in the special auction of luxury items

Your generosity & kindness raised £1,994.56 for Prospect Hospice

Sandra Hartley, on behalf of the Community Coffee Mornings Team (Annie Crocker, Carolyn Crocker, Sandra Hartley, Linda Boyden & Helen Greer)

Appendix 4

Made in Broad Town Annual Parish Meeting Report 2026

During last summer Made in Broad Town continued to run their relaxing but creative sessions in which we produced shell windchimes, paper iris folding, and the first of our beginner's watercolour sessions run by local artist Maggie, resulting in some beautiful hand painted hummingbird pictures being made. We visited our village school to help the children make their own shell windchimes to sell at their summer fair.

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. We also advertised these sessions at our village school offering free entry for anyone bringing children with them, and these sessions were well attended. The children enjoyed making collages, bracelets and potato printing.

October saw another of Maggie's painting lessons and our first evening session, where glass painting took place to make items either to take home or to sell at our Christmas fair.

In early November we very much enjoyed our first visit out of the village hall. At Great Cotmarsh Farm, farmer Katie Allen gave us a fascinating talk on producing sustainable fashion from her own flock of Castlemilk Moorit sheep. We are very grateful to Katie for giving us her time and for showing us around her dye garden.

Our Christmas cracker event in late November again proved very successful. On the day itself we were very happy to have been part of another big community event and had raised just under £250 for Julia's House Children's Hospices.

During our last session before Christmas, we made floral decorations for our Christmas tables using oasis, candles and greenery gathered from our gardens.

2026 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 notebooks.

In February we made paper butterflies and hearts, and in March PAT testing was again carried out on our electrical equipment.

Our plant sale two weeks ago 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 second 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 £1,202.67 for Prospect Hospice, our largest charitable donation so far. This is in addition to the amount raised by Christ Church.

Also in May we launched our Broad Town 100 Project to try and create 100 'mini projects' in the village to encourage more wildlife and increase biodiversity. Inspired by it being Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, we gave away seeds and worked with our village school children to help them plant up the wooden planters we had made for their school playground out of upcycled pallets. Each child also planted a sunflower seed to take home together with some runner bean seeds. We will shortly be putting up a nest box, bug hotel and bat box in suitable locations around the village, and we will be returning to the school in the autumn to help them plant a wildlife friendly tree and some spring flowering bulbs.

We are also looking forward to receiving photographs of villagers' wildlife-friendly mini projects later in the summer, which we will display at the Saturday coffee morning on September 12th.

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.

Over the last year we have raised £1,450 for good causes. We have also increased our organising group to five people to broaden the range of skills offered, and we have already made good use of our new SumUp electronic payment machine, both to take payments during the recent plant sale, and to take £2 contributions at our regular Wednesday sessions. 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 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.

Helen Greer, Linda Boyden, Corinne Button, Heather Hardy & Diana Effiong

Appendix 5

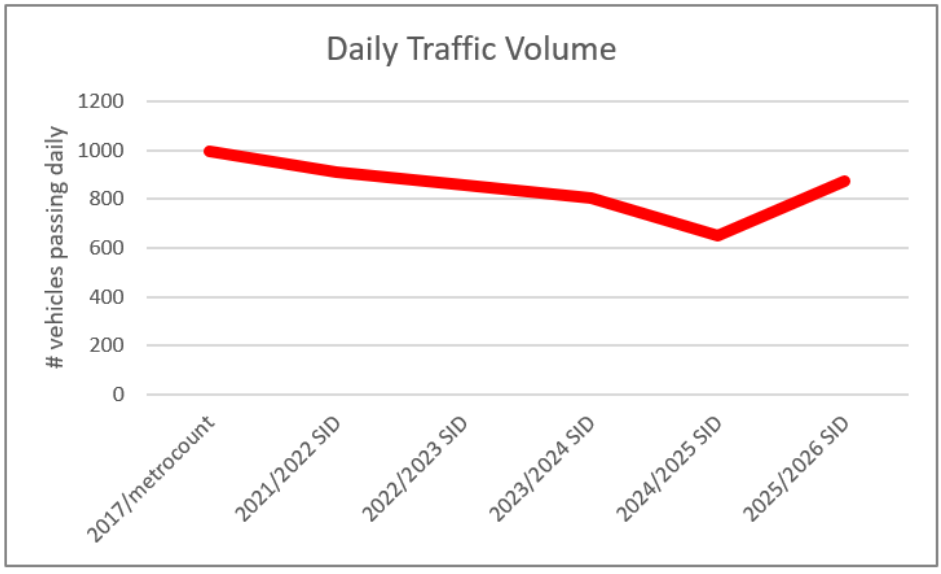
Broad Town SID

Activity summary 21st April 2025 to 28th April 2026

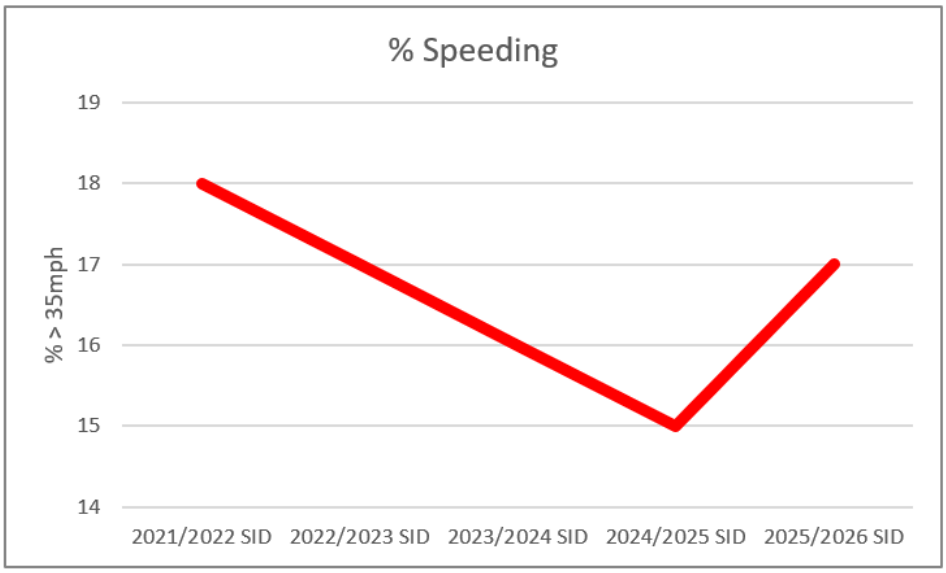
We thank the Parish Council for purchasing, installing and operating the SID every month for BT residents.

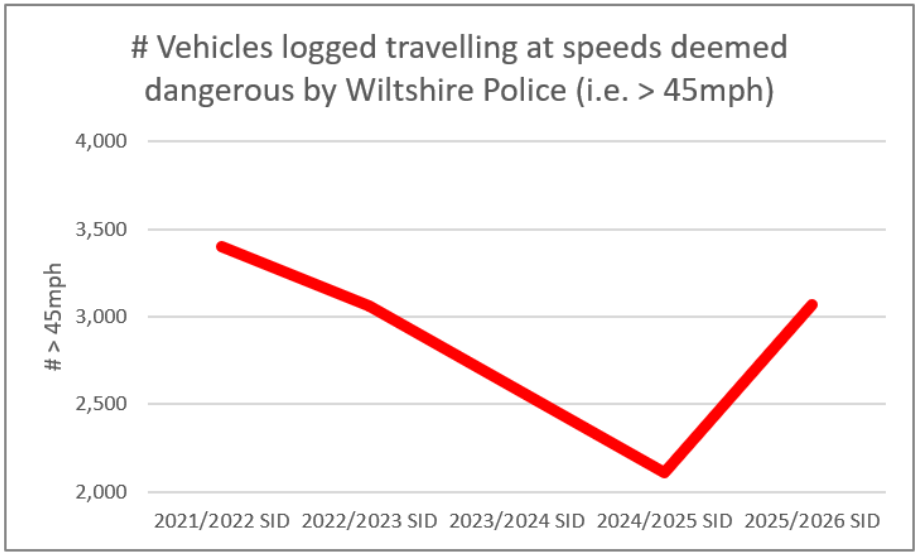
Working 24/7 the SID captured 328,174 passing vehicles in the last year (note the SID only captures data in one direction[1]).

The year on year comparisons very sadly indicate our first reversal in trend (this has been raised with Sarah Holden (Wiltshire Police's Road Safety Supervisor) and also Kellie Hillier (RWB PCSO).

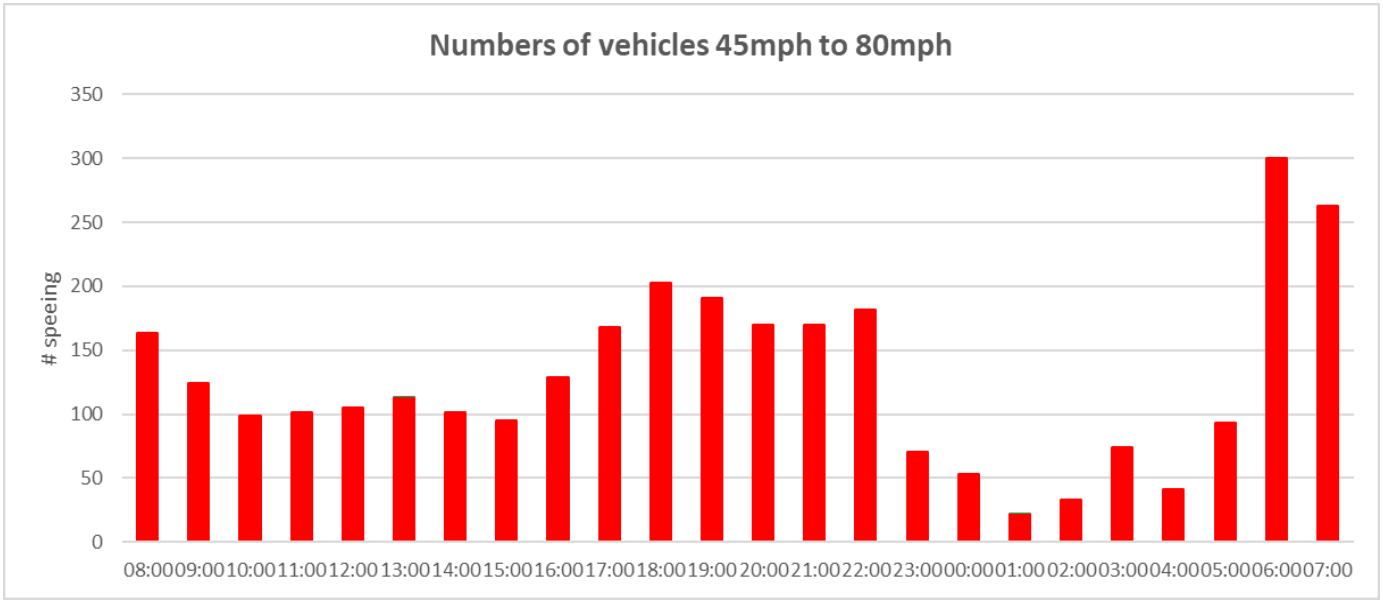


[1] Note the SID captures traffic travelling in one direction. Metrocount results indicate average daily totals of 1,989 using the C415.





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.



- Our latest year on year figures suggest that the reduction of speedlimit to 40mph on the C415 from RWB can't come soon enough.
- Would a pavement in the new reduced 40mph change a driver's perception of risk making them choose to decrease their speed?
- Is there any merit in operating a second SID in BT?
- Broad Town have exhausted all the measures previously recommended to address speeding issues e.g. Roundels, gates, road narrowing lines, CSW and the SID so can we now ask that the Parish Council, Wiltshire Council and the Police investigate and propose other ways of stopping Commuters from treating Broad Town like the Autobahn!



Appendix 6

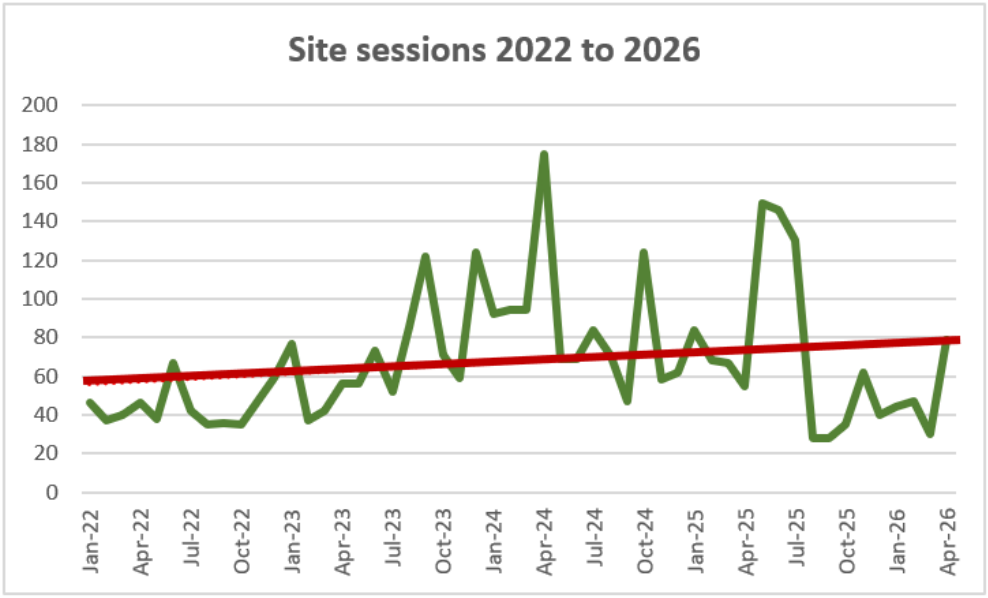
Broad Town History Website

Activity summary



We're very grateful to the Parish Council for funding the Broad Town history plan[2] and the website domain[3].

The overall trend for site sessions continues to gently increase year on year. The majority of users are UK based, however, the site is regularly visited by users in the US, Germany, Austria, France and Iceland.



[2] The plan cost £403.20 (inc VAT £67.20) for a 2 year period (5th Jul 2025 to 5th July 2027)

[3] The broadtownhistory.com domain cost £57.96 (inc VAT £9.66) for a 2 year period (5th August 2025 to 5th August 2027)

Activities since the last report are :

- Revamped the site to place all documents, maps, piccies etc. on a map with clickable location markers to replace the lists that were outgrowing the page size. (Places)
- Andrew Law's BT in pictures paper (Andrew Law)
- Added a professional Researcher's research on #29 Broad Town (History of Thorncroft)
- Added 17 papers on digs and excavations written by Bob Clarke to Places map (Summarised here)
- Added approx. 30 historic newspaper articles (Newspaper clippings)
- Added Snowhill & updated Cobblers Hall to Places map (Snowhill Cobblers Hall)
- Added 3 x AI reconstructions of how BT would have looked in the early 1900's (Coming in from RWB, Mill/Brewery & Coming in from Broad Hinton)
- Added Goldborough resting stone (Resting Stone)
- Added the results of White Horse Project (White Horse Project)

Usage since the last report, on average 67 sessions were held every month and 19.6gb of our 50gb storage allowance has been used.

Appendix 7

Report for Parish Meeting 2026 Christ Church Broad Town

With the absence of a vicar and churchwarden, it has been a busy year with the PCC working hard as a team, sharing the roles and keeping the church running smoothly. Time has been spent planning for the maintenance of the church building and churchyard, organising services, fundraising and preparing a Benefice Profile to support the advertisement for a new rector.

A small team of clergy and lay worship leaders have enabled us to have a minimum of one communion service and one lay led service each month, services to celebrate Christmas, Easter, a marriage and sadly a number of funeral and burial of ashes services. We have also been delighted to welcome our village school for their harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of year leaver service where we give a young person's bible to each leaver. We are grateful to the volunteers from the village and beyond who clean the church and provide flowers for these services. Numbers attending regularly remain small.

The church also supports the Open the Book team who go twice a month into Broad Town School to perform bible stories in school assemblies. The children really enjoy watching and taking part. The bible Society fee is funded by St Barts Church RWB from a legacy left by Gill Thompson who taught for many years at Broad Town school.

The church building has given us a few headaches! However, we were able to make the heating system safe so that once again we have the warmest church in the Benefice – well that is what we think. We are however mindful that the heaters are old and will need replacing at some point. Having just sorted out the heating we had an issue with an area of water seepage leading to a small

area of unstable masonry. During investigation it was suggested that there may be asbestos present resulting in a thorough and nerve-racking survey of the church. Thankfully no asbestos was found. We are now in the process of getting quotes to solve the initial problem. We have also been logging and repairing or replacing the memorial plaques on the back of the church seats. This has been an interesting project with many longstanding Broad Town family names stirring memories! It began with requests for new plaques which we are able to source at no cost, but people have kindly made donations.

The churchyard is a beautiful and tranquil place for people to visit, reflect and relax. A surprisingly large number of people visit graves, often travelling some distance and they make very favourable comments. This is only possible thanks to the large number of volunteers who give their time and energy to create this special space. We are grateful to all the volunteers who keep the graves tidy, maintain the benches, cut the grass outside the church and those who join the working party each month. You do a fantastic job! We are also grateful to the Parish Council for giving us space in their container to store mowers and other equipment, the solar farm fund for the grant which enables the funding of the running and maintenance costs of the working party and the employment of a contractor to cut the main area of grass.

Our two main fundraising activities were the very successful plant stall and Christmas fayre both in conjunction with Made in Broad Town. Money raised from fundraising events goes into the account used to maintains the fabric of the church and churchyard and money raised at these two events was invaluable in helping with the costs of repairing the heating system and the asbestos survey. The account which covers the general running costs of Christ Church is funded through plate collections, monthly giving, the 100 club and private donation. We were able to cover all expenses except our parish share which is by far our biggest outgoing. It has not been paid in full for some time - last year we were able to pay more than 50%. Currently we are planning an afternoon tea at Queen Elizabeth Cottage in July and a stall in RWB market in September.

Looking forward, we hope and pray that in the near future, a new rector will be appointed who is able to breathe new life into the church and community. So far, two adverts have been placed, the first answered by a candidate who was not appointed and the second by a candidate who had to withdraw at the last minute for personal reasons. The next advert goes out shortly so fingers crossed.