

**Barrington Parish Council**  
**Chairman's Report (2023-2024)**

2023 proved to be another active and formative year for Barrington Parish, recognising again that the protection of our Parish from a variety of risks to safety, health, the environment or damage to property required constant, diligent attention.

Following the successful withdrawal of the **Burford A361 Experimental Traffic Regulation Order** in 2022, Barrington PC has remained an active member of WiVTAG (Windrush Valley Traffic Action Group) playing an important part in the continued OCC deliberations, survey and planning of a regional weight restriction policy and local transport plan. Our representation as the only Gloucestershire village in the current Oxfordshire planning cycle has been an important trigger for cooperation or communication between the two neighbouring counties.

Following six years of local volunteer traffic monitoring and control, the PC with community approval, invested in the installation of two **ASW (Automated Speed Watch) cameras** mounted on GCC approved poles, in Gloucester Constabulary approved sites. The cameras remained operational for 2-3 months, producing valuable data and reports submitted to the Police for action (50 letters were issued). Regrettably, both cameras were damaged criminally or smashed, rendering the new system inoperative. GCC has assured the PC that a new camera and pole extensions will be funded by the Council; the Police remain aware of the challenge.

The **Windrush River Pollution (WASP)** initiative remains the next priority. Barrington PC is planning, and in active liaison to play an active part in the local monitoring and reporting of river pollution.

I thank Cllr Hope for his coordination of the now bi-annual **Village Tidy-Up**, and indeed for your support. It is regrettable that despite our best efforts, with your support, the incidents of fly-tipping continue to rise. However, the increase to two clean-up events per year have proved fruitful and necessary.

The two new village **WhatsApp groups** remain a key source of information and connection in the communities. I am grateful to Cllr Cleal for her regular security updates, and the liaison through and with Neighbourhood Watch and Rural crime groups.

Our communities have continued to enjoy an active programme of activities and events. It was most encouraging to see such strong support of the five-day **Coronation** programme, the **Windrush Valley Flower Show** (in torrential rain); the **Strim, Stream, Soup and Wildflower project**, the **Advent Drinks** (December in Great Barrington) and indeed the spontaneous attendance of the **Buzzing Bee Coffee Mornings** (third Saturday of every month). May I encourage all residents to continue to recognise that these events are only sustainable through voluntary support or made successful by attendance.

In summary, an important year proving that our historic, small villages in this AONB will require continuous care and protection from a range of risk and threats. While GCC and CDC are recognised and commended for their interest, their financial constraints, and the increased population, house building, and traffic flow will force small communities such as the Barringtons to fend for themselves. Your combined voices, efforts and actions do make a difference.

**Jan de Haldevang**  
**Parish Chairman**  
**11 March 2024**