

Barham Parish Council – APRIL 2026 In Touch Report

VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Barham Parish Council has a vacancy the a Parish Councillor. Would you like to become a Barham Parish Councillor and help make a difference to your village? Do you care about where you live, its facilities, activities, open spaces? Whatever needs tackling or improving locally, becoming a Parish Councillor gives people the opportunity to change things. YOU can help to make a difference to the quality of life for people in Barham. If you are age 18 or over, you are an elector of the parish, during the whole of the last 12 months have occupied as owner or tenant, land or other premises in the parish. The Parish Council meetings are usually held every other month on a Monday evening at 7pm in Barham Church Hall. The best way to find out what it's like to be a Parish Councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now, come along to a Parish Council meeting or speak to our Parish Clerk (see contact details below). Applications to be sent to the Clerk by 10am on Monday 17th March 2026.

OPEN MEETING WITH MP PATRICK SPENCER ON 26TH JANUARY IN BARHAM CHURCH HALL

Opened with discussion of the business case for an early year's facility/cafe with open space/play area. Summary of developments that have occurred since the previous meeting. This has included meeting with Arthur Charvonia, Chief Executive of Mid Suffolk Borough Council and correspondence with the Brett Group in relation to the Barham Quarry. Overview of current childcare provision and identified gaps in local services for the local area around Barham, Claydon, and Great Blakenham and the desire of residents for early years support for local families.

Review of potential funding sources, including grants and community funding opportunities and revisited discussion of CIL money and community development funding. This requires a full, complete, and robust business case to be finalised. However, a cafe is not eligible for Mid Suffolk CIL funding.

A further topic of conversation raised was in regard to GP services. Residents were going either to the Needham Market Practice or to an Ipswich GP - Ivory Street Medical Practice (Ipswich) cited as example with good service. However, Needham Market is more problematic in being able to obtain an appointment. Further to this, for either option, is issues with constituents travelling to the GP. This is made difficult by limited public transport which is critical when elderly patients may not be able to/be comfortable with driving to an appointment. Outside of the concept for a satellite GP practice, coming to the Claydon/Barham area, the suggestion for a weekly clinic was put forward.

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The venue and agenda for all our meetings is always advertised on the Parish Council notice boards at Barham Green, Lower Crescent and outside the Co-op Food Store. Unless otherwise announced, full council meetings are held on every other month on a Monday evening at 7.00pm at the Barham Church Hall. (However Extra Ordinary Meetings may not make the deadline to be advertised in the In Touch).

Members of the public will be welcome to raise any matters in the Open Forum before the meeting.

Dates for 2026;

17th March. Annual General Meeting 18th May, 27th July, 21st September and 16th November.

Barham Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Melanie Thurston

Tel. 07837528187

Email clerk@barhamparish.gov.uk

Website barhamparish.gov.uk