

Annual Report by the Chairman of Turvey Parish Council

It is my pleasure as Chair to report on the activities of Turvey Parish Council over 2024-25.

1. Planning:

As consultees, Turvey Parish Council consider all planning applications within the parish and respond as necessary to Bedford Borough Council. Thanks in particular to Cllrs Ed Poll who is responsible for planning issues. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the Inspired Villages development at Station End.

In July it was noted that the Road Traffic Plan was submitted for 23/00019/MAO Land East of Carlton Road. The Parish Council sent in a response which reinforced the points it had made through those parish councillors who had attended and spoke at the Borough Council Planning Committee meeting.

We encourage all residents to submit responses to planning applications via the Bedford Borough Council planning portal.

2. Highways and Footpaths:

The Parish Council continues to monitor highways and footpaths and works to achieve improvements to general road safety.

The Parish Council has agreed to fund the new signage for the average speed cameras. This will replace the existing signage which was installed with the original two fixed cameras. The view of the Parish Council and many residents are that these signs are less successful at slowing traffic as many motorists are unaware that an average speed camera system is now in place. Frustratingly we are still awaiting the Borough Council to confirm these have been obtained and are to be installed.

The Parish Council continue to communicate with Bedford Borough Council regarding the Water Buffalo at Pictshill and the safety of users of footpaths.

FPA4: The Parish Council continues to take an active interest in ensuring this remains safely open during the second phase of the construction of the Elderswell Village and beyond.

The Parish Council will continue to liaise with Bedford Borough Council and take an active interest in the walls along Carlton Road and their impact on the resurfacing of the road and the safety of pedestrians using the footpath. The Parish Council and the Borough Councillors have been monitoring cars obstructing pedestrian use of the footpath.

We encourage all residents to report any footpath, road (including potholes) problems to Bedford Borough Council as it has responsibility for highways issues and not the Parish Council.

3. Grants:

The Parish Council gave out a grant of £1,710 towards repairs to the roof of the caretaker's cottage and also a grant of £127 to Turvey Bloomers to cover insurance costs for its volunteers. Please note that there is both a grant application form as well as a grant criteria form on the website. Please consider applying.

4. Precept:

It was agreed in January this year to hold the Band D charge at the same level as it was in 2024-25 (£58.93). A precept of £36,643 was requested from Bedford Borough Council.

5. Recreation Ground:

Quotes were accepted in May 2023 for a full resurfacing of the tennis court and also for moving the existing basketball equipment and kick board, to make good the damaged ground. This would also replace the existing damaged and old climbing frame with a new CE play safe structure. Whilst it is acknowledged that weather and supply issues have slowed progress on these works, it is felt that an alternative contractor is needed and the Parish Council is taking action to find a company. Thanks to Cllr Kirk for his work on this.

Following some vandalism on the field (cars driving around), the decision was taken to lock the gates. The Parish Council appreciate that this has caused some inconvenience but aims to get the gates re-opened once new security fencing was installed.

Cemetery: Work was completed on restoring the lych gate.

6. Future Projects:

With regards improvements to the Pavilion, drawings have been produced and planning permission obtained. Cllr Poll remains in consultation with the FA for further monies. The next stage is to investigate the possibility of Turvey FC having a long term formal agreement with the Parish Council over the rec and pavilion usage. This will be needed in order to secure that additional funding from the FA. Thanks to Cllrs Poll and Clarke for their ongoing work on this project.

I would like to thank our Borough Councillors Robert Rigby and Dylan Simmons for their steadfast support of the residents of Turvey and Turvey Parish Council. I look forward to working with them over the coming year.

I would also like to thank my fellow parish councillors for all their support and hard work on behalf of the residents of Turvey as well as supporting me as Chairman over the last year.

Finally, I would also like to encourage all Turvey residents to attend the bi-monthly meetings and use the opportunity to engage with local democracy. The parish council meeting always starts with a public question session which is the opportunity for residents to raise concerns. We publicise the dates of our meetings on the noticeboards and the website. The latter also contains copies of our agendas and minutes.

Dr David Niblett, Chair of Turvey Parish Council 29th May 2025