



Botus Fleming Parish Council

BOTUS FLEMING PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024/2025

It is my pleasure to present Botus Fleming Parish Council Chairman's report for 2024/2025.

During the past 12-month period, Botus Fleming Parish Council (BFPC) has considered and dealt with 12 planning applications. It is an important part of our work.

We thought that it might be helpful and perhaps a good opportunity to remind everyone, councillors and members of the public alike, of the role that BFPC performs with regards to planning matters.

BFPC's main role is to represent local views and should: -

- Provide local knowledge.
- Raise areas of concern.
- Inform, debate, and add value to the process.
- Contact and involve District Councillors if required.

BFPC are statutory consultees in the planning process and must be informed of all planning applications, and any amendments to those applications, within the parish.

BFPC can only comment on these planning applications in the same way as any other member of the public, however, any comments by the BFPC must be agreed during a properly called public council meeting.

Members of the public attending the meeting can comment, speak in support of or object to any application during the 'Public Participation' segment of BFPC's monthly public meeting. Please note that this is the only opportunity for members of the public to speak at the meeting.

After this section of the meeting, councillors go into 'closed session' and during this part members of the public are not permitted to speak, even those that have an interest or are involved in the application.

However, individuals may be asked to provide clarity on details of the application during the BFPC's deliberations, at the invitation of the person chairing the meeting. Comments agreed in the council meeting are submitted in writing by the Parish Clerk to Cornwall Council planners.

Prior to each public meeting councillors study the plans, forms and details submitted with the application carefully and can request the views of the statutory bodies e.g., English Heritage, Environment Agency, Highway Authority, etc. Cornwall Council, the local planning authority, will almost certainly be bound by the advice of such statutory bodies.

It is important to note that BFPC is only a consultee within this process, and it only counts as one single opinion. Without advice from our parishioners, councillors may give their own opinions. BFPC can and will always seek the views of our parishioners, particularly in controversial cases, and will reflect such local feeling during the deliberation process.

However, should there be widespread objections, or support, for a proposal the BFPC will always urge members of the public to send their own individually written letters or e-mails direct to Cornwall Council's Planning & Building Control (planning@cornwall.gov.uk). Our advice would be to make any correspondence in your own words, rather than a circular type, as it can be far more effective.

It should be understood that BFPC's comments in response to a planning application can only be based on planning matters. Where possible BFPC can quote policies in the Local Plan as these are the starting point for considering the merits of any application. Objections should be clear, concise, relevant, and accurate to stand a chance of being accepted. Whilst Cornwall Council must consider the representations of BFPC, it doesn't mean that an application will be decided in accordance with the views of BFPC.

In reaching a decision, Cornwall Council is required to weigh up all issues associated with an application. Any comments made by BFPC may have insufficient weight to enable the application to be determined in line with the wishes of our parishioners.

We will also post this information in a slightly extended version entitled 'Botus Fleming Parish Council & Planning Matters' on BFPC's website.



As previously reported BFPC applied to Cornwall Council's Community Capacity Fund Grant – This fund was to support community organisations to develop projects or project ideas. Community Capacity Fund is a revenue only

programme. Examples of projects that could benefit from Community Capacity funding include:

- Feasibility studies
- Business plans
- Architects' drawings
- Concept plans
- Other professional support to determine the concept of your project
- Community engagement programmes leading to the development of wider projects.

Our submission was successful, and BFPC was awarded £18,646. This sum has been used to fund a full feasibility study (including architect plans, concept plans for utilities etc) for the building of a Community Centre/ Village Hall on the Recreation Field.

The feasibility study is being carried out by the Parish Council's Project Managers (South West Community Builds).

In October 2024 we met with the SW Community Build Manager (Paul Bearham) and 'Good Growth' Officers from Cornwall Council at the Recreation Field to discuss the Community Hall plan, and to explain how grant monies received from Cornwall Council had been used so far. All agreed that the meeting was very positive, and the plan revealed that the estimated cost to build the Community Centre would be approximately £600,000. Mr. Bearham will be working on the funding issues and seeking sponsorship to support the project.

In April 2025 a planning application (PA25/01599) was submitted for the erection of new community centre, car park and associated access.

<https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/>



Cornwall Council's Community Chest gives small grants to not-for-profit groups across Cornwall. Each Cornwall Councillor has a small grants budget to support projects in their area. We recently successfully applied to our Cornwall Councillor and received £500 to purchase a new bench for Hatt Recreation Field



Last April, we saw the purchase and installation of three swift nesting boxes in the bell tower at St. Mary's church. Solar powered swift calling equipment was

also installed to encourage nesting. Leaflets were circulated to residents advising that the swift cries equipment would be activated-twice during the day.



On behalf of BFPC I would like to sincerely thank Margaret Matthews for all her work and her organising the BOTHER (Botus Fleming and Hatt Emergency Response) group since 2019.

Regrettably, Margaret announced that BOTHER that in her and the other members' opinions was now defunct. This was in main due to the fact that they had been wholly unsuccessful in attracting new members, despite them making more than one appeal. At the same time the original group, which was always small, had also dwindled.

BOTHER's focus shrank accordingly to that of a single issue: the campaign for a walk-cycleway from our parish to Carkeel. It appears that BOTHER may have taken that as far as they can. The ball is now in the court of Cornwall Council, who will hopefully incorporate the structures necessary to facilitate such a path when they redesign the area around Roods Corner and eventually construct it when the pressure on public finances eases.

BFPC believes that BOTHER was extremely effective in getting our parish to this stage and Margaret and her group should be congratulated.



Sadly, Malcolm Fletcher informed us earlier this year, that he would not be seeking to stand as a Parish Councillor at the Local Elections due in May 2025. He stated several health issues as his reasons for not continuing as a Parish Councillor.

Malcolm has served with us since 2017. He has been a stalwart member of our team. It is difficult to list all the traits that he has brought to our table, but I have attempted to mention just some of them. A wise, hardworking, professional man, with an abundance of honesty, integrity, loyalty, compassion and humour.

I value his commitment to our community and all the good that he does in the passion for the natural world, with his sage ecological advice and his input and work towards improving our environment.

Malcolm has decided that he is prepared to carry on acting as the Parish Tree Warden and continue to look after our community's defibrillators.

He will be a huge loss to the Parish Council. I will personally miss the work that he does and has done, his advice and experience.

I would like to publicly thank him for his everything that he has done whilst a councillor and for the residents of Hatt and Botus Fleming.



I would like to congratulate and welcome Councillor Leeshia Walton to the Parish Council. I am confident that she will prove to be a great asset within our community going forward.

I would like to offer my thanks to all my fellow councillors and to our Parish Clerk, Christopher Cook, for their hard work, commitment and support.

We should never forget that all parish councillors are volunteers. They give up much of their spare time to make things better for everyone in our community.

Finally, I send my best wishes and hope that all our residents remain safe and healthy.

Thank you.

David James Edwards
Chair
Botus Fleming Parish Council

April 2025