

# **Burlescombe Parish Council communications update**

March 2026

## **Communications since last meeting**

### **1. Parish magazine**

Due to the meeting date and the deadline for submissions, a summary of February's meeting will be in the April issue of the magazine, which will be out late March.

### **2. Website and Facebook**

Our standard approach for significant updates is to add a news item to our website, share that story on our Facebook page and share into the local Facebook Group. This month we have shared:

- Neighbourhood policing team coffee morning (Facebook only).
- Key messages from the February meeting.
- The link to sign up for our new email newsletter.
- Sampford Peverell housing development consultation (Facebook only)
- Devon County Council's information about how to prepare for emergencies.
- Agenda for the March meeting.

### **3. Noticeboards**

Notices, agendas and minutes continue to be posted in the Westleigh, Burlescombe, Appledore and Ayshford noticeboards, where space allows.

## **Topics for future communications**

Annual meetings in May, promotion of volunteering, further promotion of the email newsletter, highways updates, broadband provision, emergency planning, and any other matters arising.

## **Email newsletter update**

- We have now begun promoting the newsletter in earnest, through our website, Facebook and the parish magazine.
- 17 sign ups at time of writing.
- It seems that the free version of Zoho campaigns will be sufficient for our needs, it includes up to 2K contacts, 6,000 emails/month, 5 users, signup forms, some ready-to-use email templates and crucially a compliance check.
- The first newsletter was sent with the agenda for this meeting and a few other key news stories from our website.

## **Postcards**

Final cost for 500 postcards was £25.06 after obtaining an introductory discount from the chosen company.

Next step is to deliver the postcards to residents, to reach new audiences.

Proposal to divide as follows:

- Burlescombe village from canal to Woodlands Business Park: divided between Cllrs Walker and Downing.
- Rocknell, Westleigh, Pugham, Ayshford and Canonsleigh: divided between Cllrs McDonald, Ellis-Brookes and Box.
- Appledore, Eastbrook/Fenacre/Whipcott, Leonard Moor/J27/Waterloo Cross, Maidendown/Southdown, Waterloo Cross: divided between Cllrs Forward and Smith.

If this is agreeable in principle, a precise map will be shared to ensure coverage and no duplication.

## **Volunteers**

The two people who responded positively about an in-person meeting have been contacted with the offer of an informal chat.

The Zoho campaigns platform will be used to send a welcome email to share the first volunteering opportunities (once confirmed) with the mailing list.