

Broughton Parish Council Newsletter



DEVOLUTION - WHAT THIS MEANS FOR BROUGHTON

Here's what has happened so far this year and what's to come!

As we reach the halfway point of 2025, there's already been so much to celebrate and look forward to in Broughton. Here's a snapshot of what's been happening in our community so far and what exciting things lie ahead.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to the Toll Bar Café staff and volunteers who in May, held a memorable VE Day Afternoon Tea, bringing together local residents to honour the past with shared stories, music, and community spirit.

We're also excited to share the launch of the Broughton Environment Group (BEG) a passionate team of local residents working together alongside our village Lengthsman, to promote sustainability and enhance the natural beauty of our village.

In support of this work, we're inviting businesses, residents, and community groups to get involved through planter and flower bed sponsorships.

Want to help brighten up Broughton? This is your opportunity to make a visible difference!

Now, on to recent changes in local government. Broughton is now part of a Reform Party stronghold, with Maria Jones appointed as our new County Councillor. You'll find her contact details further along in this newsletter.

We're also proud to congratulate former County Councillor Susan Whittingham on her recent appointment as Mayor of Preston, becoming the 18th woman ever to hold the position!

With Lancashire moving toward becoming a Combined Authority, questions are being asked about how this will affect local communities like ours.

Who will Lancashire be working with, and what does this mean for Broughton?

Read on for our take on what's to come.

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Cottage events



Community Updates - Council & Community Events

Parish Council and Toll Bar Café Team Up to Honour Veterans

The Parish Council was proud to partner with the Toll Bar Cottage Café to host a commemorative VE Day Veterans Lunch on Thursday 8th May 2025, bringing the community together to honour those who served. To make the event accessible to as many residents as possible, the Parish Council subsidised the cost of each meal by £5.00 per

person, allowing residents to enjoy a delicious lunch and dessert for just £5.00 instead of the usual cost of £10.00. The Council also fully covered the cost of meals for all war veterans, ensuring they dined free of charge on this special day.

The event was warmly received and served as a meaningful way to reflect, connect, and show appreciation for our veterans and the wider community.



Volunteer Spotlight

The Toll Bar Café - A Community Gem

The volunteers and staff at Toll Bar Café continue to make it a warm and welcoming space for Broughton residents. Known for their friendly service and delicious food, the team is always finding new ways to bring the community together.

Their latest idea, **Movements Made Social**, invites locals to walk or run a short route at their own pace on the last Saturday of each month. Meet at the Toll Bar Café at 10:30am, with tasty refreshments waiting afterwards.

It's initiatives like this that make Toll Bar Café a real credit to the community.



Afternoon Tea

Building on the success of the VE Day lunch, the Parish Council is once again working with the Toll Bar Café, this time to support **breast cancer research**.

A special Afternoon Tea will be held at the Toll Bar Cottage Café on **Monday 11th August 2025**. Tickets are priced at £10.00, with £5.00 from each ticket going directly to Cancer Now to support their invaluable work in breast cancer research and care.

Residents are encouraged to join in, enjoy a wonderful afternoon of treats, games and conversation.

Call in to the Toll Bar Café for your ticket today (**Ticket only event**).



DEVOLUTION AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR BROUGHTON AND LANCASHIRE

Devolution

In recent years, the process of devolution has been an ongoing topic of discussion across the UK, and for Lancashire, this shift in governance could signal significant changes. But what exactly does devolution mean for Broughton, and how will the upcoming decisions impact residents, businesses, and local services?

The Current Devolution Landscape

At present, Broughton is part of the Lancashire Combined Authority (LCA), which is made up of Lancashire County Council (LCC), Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, and the 12 districts, towns, and cities that make up the rest of the county. Each of these areas has two advisory representatives in the LCA, ensuring that local voices are heard in regional decision-making. However, as it stands, Lancashire is a 'level two' combined authority, which means it does not have a directly elected mayor, and as a result, the region is missing out on substantial government funding that could help address local issues and improve services.

The Path to Devolution

In November 2025, Lancashire's 15 local authorities will submit devolution plans to the government, which could result in one or more Unitary Authorities. These authorities would combine local and district council services into one body, potentially streamlining services but also changing how they are delivered. If approved, this could unlock more funding and powers, giving the region greater control over local development.

What Does This Mean for Broughton?

The Lancashire Combined Authority brings together Lancashire County Council (LCC), Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, The 12 District, Town, and City Councils (including Preston), having two advisory representatives on the Combined Authority.

A Combined Authorities key function is to provide the strategic direction of a geographical area, in our case Lancashire.

The LCA was established in 2024. At present, this is a Level 2 Combined Authority, meaning there is no elected mayor, which limits access to some of the larger funding opportunities available to mayor-led regions. A recent proposal by LCC for a public referendum on introducing a mayor was rejected by central government.

The English Devolution and Community Engagement Bill published on the 14th of July, sets out a timeline for change:

Important dates:

- November 2025: Local authorities submit devolution proposals.

This could lead to 2–3 or more Unitary Authorities in Lancashire. The Unitary Authorities will combine the Lancashire County and Preston City Council functions. As yet there has been no information publicised on which other districts Preston City will be unitised with.

- May 2026: Government confirms unitary authority boundaries.
- May 2026 or 2027: Mayoral elections but will only affect Lancashire if Tier 1 status is granted.
- May 2027: Elections for new unitary councils (reducing over 800 councillors to around 200) who will serve in shadow form until May 2028, "Vesting Day" when the new authorities officially take over.

There is no change in the status of Parishes, Neighbourhood Councils and Towns, but it may mean being asked to take on other services and "assets" such as parks based on experience in other areas.

As the devolution process unfolds, we will continue to keep you informed on how these changes may impact Broughton and the wider area.



Broughton Environment Group

Members: Mr Stephen Rostron, Mr Norman Burke, Mr Colin Marland, Cllr. Lynda Oldcorn and Cllr. Les Brown.

Broughton Environmental Group (BEG) is dedicated to improving the local environment and making Broughton a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable community. Here's how the group is making a difference:

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

BEG works to protect local trees through Tree Preservation Orders, ensuring Broughton's green spaces remain safeguarded for future generations.

Public Rights of Way & the Guild Wheel

The group is committed to maintaining Public Rights of Way, including the Guild Wheel,

keeping these paths clear, accessible, and safe for walkers, cyclists, and runners.

Footpaths & Hedges

Regular maintenance of footpaths and hedges is crucial to ensure safety and accessibility. BEG monitors and clears paths to avoid hazards and overgrowth.

Parish Enhancements

BEG encourages ideas for environmental enhancements within Broughton. If you have suggestions to improve the parish's green spaces or public areas, the group is eager to hear from you.



Flower Beds & Tubs: Sponsorship Opportunities

Funded by **Broughton Parish Council**, Local businesses and residents can sponsor these displays for a payment of £140.00. Each planter will be filled with vibrant flowers and will feature a personalised plaque displaying the sponsor's information and providing recognition for their support. Please email clerk@broughton-pc.gov.uk for more information on how to sponsor a flower bed or tub today!



Working with the Lengthsman & Volunteers

BEG collaborates with the Lengthsman and volunteers to maintain the parish. Volunteers are always welcome, and their support helps the group carry out **vital environmental work**.

Join BEG's efforts by volunteering, sponsoring a flower bed, or sharing your ideas. For more info, please contact clerk@broughton-pc.gov.uk

Other events:



Movements made Social

When: Saturday 26th July at **10:30am** followed food and drinks back at the Toll Bar Café. This event operates the last Saturday of each month.

Where:
Toll bar Cottage
476 Garstang Road

Contact the Café for more info!



Cancer now- Afternoon Tea

When: Monday 11th August by ticket only. Each booking will be given an option of dining times. First come first served - be quick, its likely to sell out! **£10pp** with **£5pp** going to cancer now.

Where:
Toll bar Cottage
476 Garstang Road

Email: clerk@broughton-pc.gov.uk



Heritage Open Days

When: Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at 1pm followed by a talk on the history Fernyhalgh & Ladyewell at **3pm**.

Where:
Toll bar Cottage
476 Garstang Road

Email: clerk@broughton-pc.gov.uk



Heritage Open Days

When: Saturday 20th September 2025 at 1pm followed by a talk on the history of the Toll Bar Cottage and Broughton Henge at **3pm**.

Where:
Toll bar Cottage
476 Garstang Road

Email: clerk@broughton-pc.gov.uk



Scarecrow Festival Halloween Theme

When: October 2025 - date to be confirmed. Theme is anything spooky/ scary - lets make this year bigger than before!

Where:
Your Home or buisness.

Email: clerk@broughton-pc.gov.uk



Christmas Light switch on!

When: November 2025 - date to be confirmed. Residents welcome to enjoy Christmas carols and hot chocolate in anticipation for the big day!

Where:
Toll bar Cottage
476 Garstang Road

Email: clerk@broughton-pc.gov.uk

Contact Information:



Maya Ellis
Member of Parliament

Correspondence address:

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Email:

maya.ellis.mp@parliament.uk

Telephone: 01254 964055

Political Party: Labour



Maria Jones
County Councillor

Correspondence address:

Reform UK Group Office
County Hall
Preston
PR1 0LD

Email:

maria.jones@lancashire.gov.uk

Telephone: 07856930916

Political Party: Reform



Pat Hastings
Parish Council Chair

Correspondence address:

Council Office - The Toll Bar Cottage
476 Garstang Road
Broughton
Pr3 5JB

Email:

Chair@broughton-pc.gov.uk



Mark Bell
City Councillor

Correspondence address:

Town Hall, Lancaster Road,
Preston, PR1 2RL

Email:

cllr.m.bell@preston.gov.uk

Telephone: 07774 702584

Political Party: Conservative



Harry Landless
City Councillor

Correspondence address:

Town Hall, Lancaster Road,
Preston, PR1 2RL

Email:

cllr.h.landless@preston.gov.uk

Telephone: 07733 528991

Political Party: Conservative



Stephen Whittam
City Councillor

Correspondence address:

Town Hall, Lancaster Road,
Preston, PR1 2RL

Email:

cllr.st.whittam@preston.gov.uk

Telephone: 07784 283864

Political Party: Conservative
