June 2026:

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Summer Festival 2026

This year's Summer Festival will take place on Saturday 20th June, beginning at 2.00 pm on the Recreation Ground and continuing through to 10.00 pm with entertainment in and around the main stage area. The Parish Council is grateful to our principal sponsors, M B Wilkes, with additional support from Natterjacks, who are kindly assisting with prizes for the ever-popular Dog Show.

There will be plenty to enjoy throughout the afternoon and evening. The main music stage, located near the Sports Pavilion, will once again form the heart of the event, surrounded by cake, craft, tombola and bric-a-brac stalls. Around the Village Hall, there will be face painting, bouncy castles and balloon activities, while a range of food vendors will be available near the car park serving fish and chips, pizzas and ice creams. The Rose & Crown will again be running the pop-up Pavilion Bar, Back Garden Bubbles will serving up cocktails, and afternoon tea will also be available at the Scout Hut.

The Dog Show will begin at 2.00 pm in the centre of the Recreation Ground, with registration open from 1.00 pm. There will be plenty of fun classes for all kinds of dogs, including tricks, best dressed and best looking categories, with doggy-bags and treats supplied by NatterJacks and Dorset Dogs. Residents are encouraged to bring along their four-legged companions and join in the fun.

Entertainment on the main stage will begin with children's activities from 2.00 pm, followed by Lytchett's Got Talent from 4.00–5.30 pm, with sign-up available on the day for anyone wishing to take part. From 6.00 pm onwards, local bands will provide live music until 10.00 pm.

We look forward to seeing the community come together once again and hope for fine weather to help everyone enjoy the wonderful village atmosphere. Keep an eye out for posters around the village over the next couple of weeks with the full programme of events.

Improvements to Church Walk

The Guerrilla Gardeners have recently completed significant improvement works along Church Walk. Using recycled wooden poles from the former Viking Swing, they have created steps along the steepest section of the path to help control water run-off and prevent further erosion.

Following the exceptionally wet winter, heavy rainfall had carved a trench down the centre of the pathway towards the corner bench, creating increasingly slippery and potentially hazardous conditions.

The newly installed steps have been filled using recycled material from the Youth Hall car park project; recycling in action. Further topping-up work may be required as the material settles over time. Attention will next turn to the lower straight section of the path beyond the George VI Memorial, where water run-off from surrounding fields continues to create muddy conditions.

Recreation Ground

We have renewed the path around the bottom end of the Rec to the top of Pond Walk. The old path was gradually disappearing and so it has now been tarmacked, joining up with the path from Hannams Close. At the same time, we have installed cross drainage in the section down to the pond itself to reduce water running straight down the path.

The pond itself is flourishing beautifully this year and is becoming an increasingly valuable habitat for wildlife, supported by extensive planting and aquatic vegetation. Residents are encouraged to help preserve the area by ensuring it remains free from litter and garden debris.

Proposed 20 MPH Zone

The Parish Council continues discussions with Dorset Council Highways regarding the introduction of a 20 mph zone within the village for the key sites. An earlier proposal covering Wareham Road from the school to the Rose & Crown crossroads and onwards to the War Memorial junction was initially rejected on the grounds that traffic speeds were considered too high for the scheme to be effective.

Following a recent review of the criteria, the Council has been encouraged to submit a revised application. The updated proposal would introduce a more extensive 20 mph zone covering much of the village centre as well as the area surrounding the school.

A Parish Council stand at the Summer Festival will provide residents with an opportunity to view the proposed zone and share their thoughts on how effective the scheme could be for improving road safety within the village.

Affordable Housing Concerns

Residents may be aware that the proposed development of 29 homes between Flowers Drove and Wimborne Road appears likely to proceed without the inclusion of affordable housing. Dorset Council has accepted the developer's argument that providing affordable homes would make the scheme financially unviable. This has caused considerable disappointment locally, as affordable housing remains a key part of national planning policy and an important issue for many village families.

While opinions differ regarding the scale of proposed housing developments between the village and Poole, many residents had hoped that such schemes would at least help provide homes for local people. The Parish Council continues to object to the current proposal and encourages residents to make their views known to local Dorset councillors and the Planning Department. The more voices, the greater the possible impact.

Parish Council Vacancy

There are currently 2 vacancies for Parish Councillor, so do please contact the Parish Clerk to find out more about this role. It only takes a few hours per week and is a direct way to participate and help in your community and is so rewarding. Why not come along to one of our meetings to hear how it works, or call our Clerk or any Councillor if you have questions.

Parish Council Meetings

Our next Finance & General Purposes meeting is on June 10th at 7pm, and the next Full Council meeting is on June 24th at 7pm, both in the Blanchard Room at the Village Hall. Agendas are published online and reports are available from the Parish Clerk. All our meetings begin with a public participation session. That is open to any resident who wishes to raise an issue, express and opinion or ask a question. So please come along, it's your village.

Alf Bush
Chair, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council

For more information, visit **Lytchett Matravers Parish Council** or visit the Parish Council Facebook page, email **clerk@lytchettmatraversparishcouncil.gov.uk** or call **07596 885667**.