

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 149

August / September 2026



Stroud District Local Plan Consultation
Produce Show Schedule Inside

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
4th Aug	Friendship	2.30 pm	Jubilee Room
6th Aug	Knitting	2.30 pm	Lapley View
10th Aug	Whist	2.00 pm	Jubilee Room
1st Sept	Friendship	2.30 pm	Jubilee Room
2nd Sept	Produce Show entry day	5.00 pm - 8.00 pm	Shop
3rd Sept	Knitting	2.30 pm	tba
5th Sept	Coaley Produce Show	2.00 pm	Hall
14th Sept	Whist	2.00 pm	Jubilee Room
26th Sept	Macmillan Coffee morning	10.00 am - noon	Shop
8th Oct	Produce Show AGM	7.00 pm	Jubilee Room
10th Oct	Nature Morning	10.00 am - noon	Hall

Parish Council meetings are normally on the first Tuesday of each month, except August, at 7.30pm.

See the council's website at www.coaleypc.org.uk for meeting agendas and minutes and to sign up for email updates from the council for news that can't wait for the next newsletter.

Please let us have your contributions for the next issue by
Wednesday 16th September 2026. See coaleypc.org.uk/newsletter_guidelines.

email: newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk

web: www.coaleypc.org.uk

facebook: [coaleyparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/coaleyparishcouncil)

This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: *The hot weather has resulted in an early harvest. Mike Davis.*

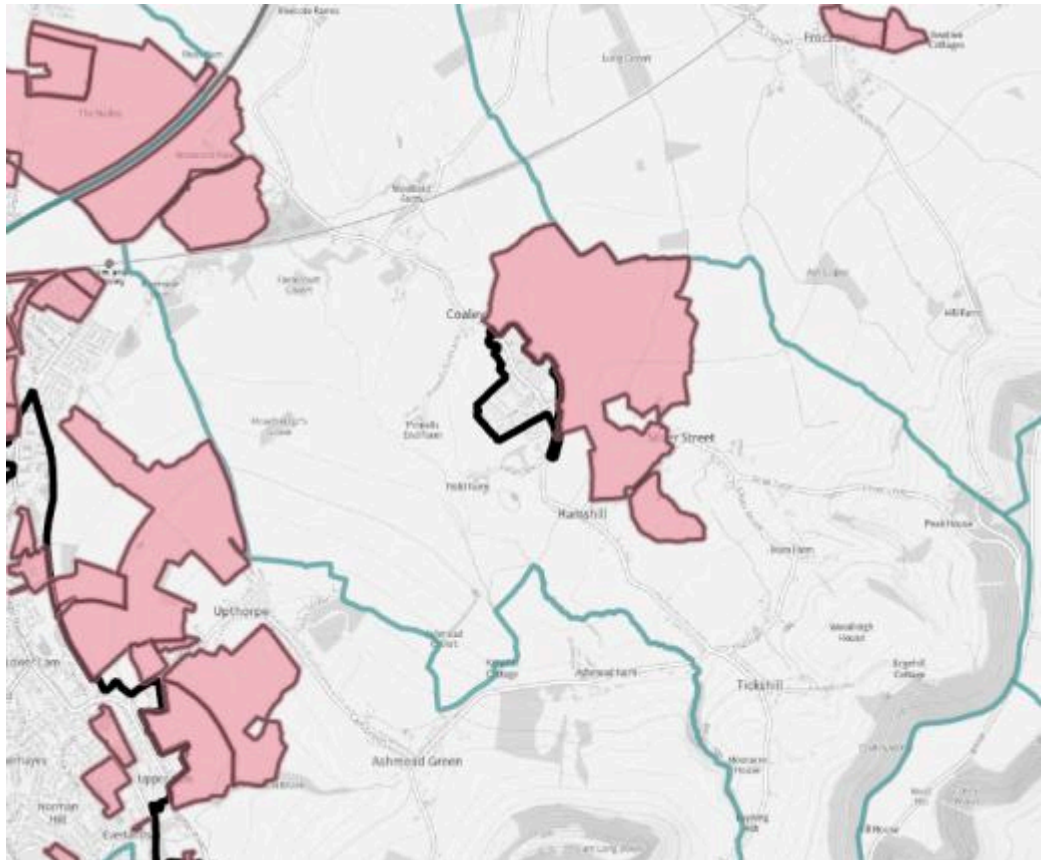
STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

Stroud District Council (SDC) have a consultation for residents and Town and Parish Councils on a new Local Plan to replace its current plan looks at the long-term housing and business needs into the 2040's.

Their Local plan which was to replace the current one has yet to be accepted by the Planning Inspectors and while not officially rejected is not approved, so the council is legally required to develop a new plan to meet raised government set annual housing target of 840. The plan will be adopted by any

new unitary authority and remain in place until they create a single plan in the 2030's. Stroud has three main constraints to its plan, flood-risk, the Cotswold national landscape and road network capacity.

It is important we engage in this process to consider what we consider suitable development of the village and surrounding areas by considering factors such as impacts to local roads, services, employment opportunities nature and recreation and our environment. The area in pink below indicates the 'available sites' in Coaley, which if fully built would treble the size of the village. A settlement of this size



should expect multiple shops, chemist a new school and perhaps a surgery. The road network would need improvement, the access from Cam under the bridge for example would no longer be suitable, and there would need pedestrian and cycle access to the station. Some residents may welcome development in Coaley, others may prefer the village to remain as it is or have limited development. So, the Parish council ask that you complete the SDC survey and give your views on <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/new-local-plan-2026/> and let us know what you think by contacting our clerk at clerk@coaleypc.org.uk.

School Parking

You may have noticed the new 'think before you park' child signs by the school in recent months, and someone wearing a hi-vis jacket at school drop off and collection times some days. This was a joint initiative between the school and the Parish Council to reduce parking issues around the school, which has largely been successful and everyone agrees that the signs are fantastic. When the new term starts in September we plan to do further sessions.

Vehicle Volumes and Speed

Also, in September the Parish plan to have some speed monitoring equipment installed as it has been a few years since this was last done. Residents have noticed both an increase in traffic and some speeding drivers, and we want to confirm this

with new data. We also may purchase our own speed monitoring equipment in partnership with Uley to proactively encourage drivers to abide by the speed limits. Again, if you have views on this please email our clerk.

Martin Pearcy
Chair of Coaley Parish Council.

SHOP

Donations to local organisations

In the last Coaley newsletter we invited



local community organisations to submit application for financial support.

We were pleased to receive three applications and the management committee has been able to support all three. The following organisations will receive financial help for projects that will benefit the community.

Coaley Playgroup: Donation
awarded - £1,600
Contribution towards improving
facilities.

Friends of Coaley School: Donation
awarded - £1,500
Contribution towards furnishing and
equipping the school's new 'Nest'. This
is used as a quiet space for the school
children and also as a school library.
Our donation will be used to complete
a path leading to the Nest and

purchase new furniture and books.

Coaley Community Recreation Action Group: Donation awarded - £1,500

Contribution towards purchase and installation of new Junior Play Park equipment for children aged five to 15. Specifically, our contribution will cover the cost of a triple somersault bar.

Volunteering

In the last newsletter we put out a plea for more volunteers. We are pleased that, since the article was published, we have trained up some new volunteers who will be a great asset to the shop. However, we always need more volunteers so there are still vacancies!



Hot weather – hot cyclists!

Members of Thornbury Cycling Club enjoying a well-earned break.

Hot weather – cool shop

At the time of writing the third heat wave of the summer seems to be calming down and temperatures are rather more bearable. In fact, it's a

very pleasant summer's day.

However, another heat wave might be just around the corner. This is not only unpleasant for all of us but also dangerous for infants and older people.

Why not come in and take advantage of the shop's air-conditioning. Sit in the café area and enjoy hot or cold drinks and home made confectionery. The warmest thing you will experience will be the welcome from our volunteers!

Contact us

www.coaleycommunityshop.org

[www.facebook.com/
coaleycommunityshop](https://www.facebook.com/coaleycommunityshop)

PRODUCE SHOW

The Coaley Produce Show takes place on 5th September. The show schedule is included with this newsletter.

Photography classes

Last year we trialled on-line entry for the photography classes. We had 129 entries in the four photography classes with only one entrant submitting printed photographs. Given that success, for this year we will only accept on-line entries. See coaleyproduceshow.org.uk/photo_entry

Coaley Calendar

It's coming up to the time of year when we produce the Coaley Calendar but we need more pictures.

Calendar pictures can be submitted at any time via the produce show website at [coaleyproduceshow.org.uk/
calendar_upload](http://coaleyproduceshow.org.uk/calendar_upload).

Coaley WI had a fascinating speaker in June. Jean Long runs a voluntary service called 'Happy Handbags'. It started years earlier when she had a number of seeds planted in her mind about women, their handbags and their relationship with them. This culminated in her waking up one day and deciding to set up happy handbags, aiming to provide bags to women in need containing toiletries and other essential items. Initially Jean bought the toiletries herself and got bags from charity shops and put the two together. It seemed like a simple idea but after discussions with her family she realised it was going to be more complicated than that. So, Jean developed a plan and she started to get donations from friends, family and groups where she did talks and she has built up contacts with a number of organisations such as Missing link, Nelsons trust, Haven family support, Eastwood park prison and women's centres. She also collects and delivers other items (called happies) such as clothing, and baby items to give to those in need. Her bags are distributed across the Southwest and this year already she has given out 311 handbags and 2826 other items 'happies' such as pushchairs, bedding, bags of baby clothes. On average 2 happy handbags and 1 'happy' are given out every day. In recognition of her work, Jean has been awarded a British Empire Medal and a Points of light award. Mary thanked Jean for her fascinating talk and tireless charity work. Members had brought a huge selection of toiletries,

bags and other items for Jean to take away with her.

In June 10 of our members spent the day in the Jubilee room watching the live screening of the WI National conference. It was interesting to hear the excellent speakers and find out what the WI has planned for the future. The newly designed Jubilee room with its large screen and the kitchenette worked really well for our small group.

In June we visited one of our members gardens and enjoyed the beautifully designed borders and well tended planting schemes. It is clear why this couple do so well at the Produce show! We then had supper on the terrace and enjoyed the views across the River Severn.

For our July meeting our speaker was the Comedian and best selling Author Barry Faulkner who writes crime novels including the DCS Palmer series. He was brought up in Herne Hill in a family of criminals who 'ran' with the Richardson gang, rivals of the Krays. Barry had so many tales to tell and an entertaining way of telling them which is evident in his writing. He brought along a selection of his books for members to purchase which he signed.

There is no meeting in August but we will be opening the WI cafe for the Produce Show and hope to see you there.

Our next meeting is with Wild Hogs hedgehog Rescue on 23 September at 7.30. There will also be a competition

of a Hedgehog in any medium. Visitors are welcome - £4 entry fee includes drink on arrival (wine or Juice) and tea and biscuits at the interval.

June Dunlop
Secretary
Coaley WI

email: coaleywi@hotmail.com
facebook: coaleywi

PLAYGROUP

We have had a very busy term with lots of fun celebrations with our children that have left us to go to school. We had a leavers trip at St Augustine's farm and we all had a lovely time. We also had an end of term party with all of the children and invited Magic Marie in to entertain the children. It was lovely to see all of the smiling faces and laughter. We wish all of our preschoolers good luck moving on to school and we are looking forward to seeing our younger children return in September and to see how much they have grown over the summer. We will also be welcoming some new families and we are looking forward to getting to know them all.

We hope all of our families have a lovely summer

Community support

Thank you for the continued support from the community, it is so lovely to be a part of this village.

Playgroup are looking forward to joining in with the produce show again this

year and we are looking forward to seeing the children's artwork at the hall along with all of the other creative entries.

Donations

We are always in need of new toys and resources so if you are having a clear out over the summer please think of us and get in touch.

Availability

We currently have a waiting list in place. If you would like to add your child's name to the list then please email us. We recommend getting in touch as soon as possible if you live in the village to secure a place for your child.

Getting in touch

You can follow us on Facebook where we share lots of photos of our activities.

Email: coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com

Telephone: 07434364850

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 26th September at 10 am to 12 noon in Coaley Community Shop.

Help raise vital funds to support the almost 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer.

Donations of cake will be very welcome. Please contact Helen Wilcox.

CRAG SUMMER UPDATE

It has been another busy few months on the Recreation Ground, with exciting progress across several projects and fantastic support from volunteers and the local community.

An Exciting New Junior Park – We Need Your Support!

CRAG is delighted to unveil plans for a brand-new Junior Park, designed specifically for children aged 5–12. See the picture over the page. This exciting new play space will transform the Recreation Ground, providing older children with a challenging, inclusive and engaging area to play for many years to come.

The impressive design includes a wheelchair-accessible carousel, triple swing, somersault bars, agility trail, and a spectacular double tower with spider net and slide. Built using high-quality, sustainable Kompan equipment, the new park has been designed to encourage adventure, confidence, exercise and inclusive play for children of all abilities.

The plans have already been shared with the children at Coaley C of E Primary Academy, and their excitement and enthusiasm were wonderful to see. They were thrilled by the designs and can't wait to see the new park become a reality. Seeing their reaction has made us even more determined to deliver this fantastic project for the village.

To make this happen, we now need the

community's help.

CRAG is launching a fundraising campaign to raise the £55,000 needed to build the new park, with installation planned for Spring 2027. This will be one of the biggest improvements ever made to the Recreation Ground, creating a lasting legacy for local children and families.

We hope the whole community will get behind this exciting project. Whether you can make a donation, organise a fundraising event, introduce us to potential sponsors, help identify grant opportunities or simply spread the word, every contribution will bring us one step closer to creating this fantastic new facility for Coaley's children.

Keeping the Momentum Going

While we're excited about the future, there's been plenty happening across the Recreation Ground over the past few months.

Our Sensory Garden looked beautiful as it celebrated its first birthday and continues to receive wonderful feedback from visitors, quickly becoming one of the most loved spaces on the Recreation Ground. A huge thank you goes to our dedicated volunteers whose hard work keeps the garden looking its best. We are also grateful for the generous donation of a new hosepipe, which will make watering much easier throughout the summer.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of

an excavator by Rocket Rentals and a brilliant turnout of volunteers, significant improvements have been made to the mound. Stones have been removed, persistent weeds cleared and holes filled, making the area much safer and easier to maintain.

We're delighted that our application to the village shop community fund was successful, securing £1,500 towards the purchase of the new somersault bars for the Junior Park. We have also submitted an application to the National Grid for funding to provide much-needed shade over the seating area, and we're keeping our fingers crossed for a positive outcome.

If you have experience in fundraising, grant applications or can introduce us to potential sponsors, we'd love to hear from you. Every bit of support helps us continue improving the Recreation Ground. Our AGM, held on 29 May, was well attended by residents, representatives from local groups and funding organisations. The Chair's report on progress and future plans, together with the Treasurer's report, were well received and are available online.

We were pleased to welcome Charlotte Johnson as Company Secretary and Millie Haynes as Treasurer, and thank everyone who attended and shared ideas for the future.

We also held our Your Opinion Counts sessions, giving residents the opportunity to hear about the plans and tell us what matters most to them.

Thank you to everyone who took part. We'll soon be publishing a summary of your feedback and how CRAG intends to respond.

Unfortunately, one of our newly planted trees succumbed to the recent period of extreme heat and strong winds. It will be replaced as soon as conditions are suitable.

Our Summer Nature Morning was another great success, bringing together families and neighbours of all ages to enjoy bee rescue stations, collaborative nature art, a gentle nature trail and colourful flower printing using blooms from the Sensory Garden.

What's Coming Up

- 15 August – Recreation Ground Clean Up
- 18 August – CRAG Social
- 26 August – Nature Evening Bat Walk
- 21 September – Old Fox Pub Quiz
- 10th October 10-12 noon Nature in Autumn in Coaley Village Hall.
- 10 October – The Big Quiz – Coaley Village Hall

To find out more about our work, visit the Coaley Recreation Action Group Website, Facebook page or email coaleyreactiongroup@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support CRAG. Whether you volunteer your time, attend our events, make a donation or simply spread the word, you are helping us create a Recreation Ground that the whole community can enjoy.

Junior Robinia Play Area

Coaley Parish Council

Swinging

Robinia 2x Flat,
1x Inclusive Swing

Upper &
Lower Body
Development

Balancing

Wheelchair
Carousel



Spinning

Swinging

50
PLUS
USERS

20
PLUS
FEATURES

AGE
2+
RANGE

15
YEAR
WARRANTY



Climbing

Sliding



USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Martin Percy (Chair, policing & community safety, environment, CRAG)	
	martin.percy@coaleypc.org.uk	
	John Hobson (Vice chair, village hall representative)	
	john.hobson@coaleypc.org.uk	
	Daryl Bird (Allotments)	
	daryl.bird@coaleypc.org.uk	
	Martin Hall (CRAG)	
	martin.hall@coaleypc.org.uk	
	Shona Percy (Tree warden)	
	shona.percy@coaleypc.org.uk	
	Penny Wait (Village shop representative)	
	penny.wait@coaleypc.org.uk	
	Ian Welch (Policing & community safety)	
	ian.welch@coaleypc.org.uk	
Parish Clerk	Lynn Thornton	545880
	clerk@coaleypc.org.uk	
Stroud District Councillor	Martin Percy	890818
	cldr.martin.percy@stroud.gov.uk	
GCC Councillor	Richard Dean	
	richard.dean@gloucestershire.gov.uk	
Vicar	Graham Stacey	709859
Village Hall	Lesley Chalmers	890788
Coaley Church lift coordinator	Isobel Farmer	890556
Tree Warden	Shona Percy	890818
Snow Warden	Jonathan Leigh	860665
		07767 660206
	coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	
Community Shop		899000
Coaley WI	June Dunlop	890302
Friendship Group	Pat Grimwood	890689
	and Isobel Farmer	890556
ST Emergency Water & Sewage Centre (24 hr)		0800 7834444
Gas Emergency Leaks etc (24 hr)		0800 111999
Electricity Loss of Supply (24 hr)		0800 6783105 or 105
Street Lights		08000 514514