

Mayoral Musings covering September 2026

September 2026 will go down in Bradninch history as the month in which we launched our SOS (Save Our Sites) in our bid to secure the three parcels of land, the Wetlands, the Allotments and the Football Field, following the news that the Duchy are withdrawing from Bradninch.

I'll not dwell too much on this as much has been written elsewhere. Suffice to say, I can honestly say – hand very much on heart – that everything we, as a Town Council, have done with regard to the SOS appeal has been ONLY with the very best interests of Bradninch at heart. At the time of writing, just two weeks into the appeal, we are already around the 40% mark in donations of the desired final total, so THANKYOU to one and all for your support thus far.

The first Saturday of September was certainly a busy one up at Kensham Park with the cricketers bringing the curtain down on their season with an 'in-house' end-of-season fixture while the Bowls Club closed their season with the playing of the Slade Trophy followed by a BBQ. I was fortunate to be on the winning team of the Slade Trophy and it was not lost on me the sentiment that we were playing for a Trophy dedicated to a name very much etched in our Towns history – Slade's Shop at the top of the Town was a terrific business that, back in the day, everyone living in the Town would have been familiar with.

During the month I went along to watch a Saturday morning Bradninch Under-11 game against Copplestone. What a brilliant set-up they have there these days. A tea hut was in full operation and I was left very impressed both with the on-field action as well as the off-field work.

I'd also like this month to commend the Town Cricket Club. This month I began what I intend to be monthly Bingo sessions with the profits going to a different Bradninch group. First up we have supported the Bradninch Fireworks and they received £190. I'd like to raise more than that each month and hope, as the months go by, that word of the Bingo will spread and more will come. Bingo One was supported by 39 folk (hence the £190 profit as I am trying to contain the total 'spend' at each bingo at £200 – to cover prizes for one line, two lines and house through eight games – all at a cost to the 'player' of £10.00). Bingo Two is taking place on Saturday, October 17th and will be in support of the Bradninch Scout Group. The Cricket Club – as the 'community champion' it undoubtedly is, is not charging me for the use of the club and we do have room for as many as 80 players. In a perfect month – if 80 folk did play then we'd be raising around £600 for each local group!

I must also commend 'the team' who so diligently saw to the digging of the new lighting trench through the Recreation Ground. The two-day operation, overseen by Town warden Jez, was organised, and run, like a 'military operation'. I visited the area shortly after the ground had all been levelled and restored and I was in awe of the work that had been done in such a short window of time. The Town Council will soon be taking advantage of lower electricity charges for the lighting of the road alongside the Rec.

I was privileged to be part of a group of Town and Parish councillors given a tour around the Mid Devon District Council Recycling unit at Carlu Close, Hitchcock Business Park, Willand. What a superbly run unit that is and I came away from my two hour tour feeling that we are well served locally in terms of how the recycling operation is developing. I use the word developing because what I did come home with, after the visit, was the very real feeling that there remains much we can all do to help in terms of recycling. That said, a walk around our Town on 'recycling collection day' shows just how Bradninchians are buying into the whole concept of recycling. The balance to that last sentence

though is to see all the 'rubbish' that seems to be getting discarded from vehicles on our local roads and lanes!

Finally this month I must record very sincere thanks to Simon Glendinning who has stood down after six years of service to the Town Council. Simon brought much to the Bradninch Town Council table, including his financial excellence, and he is going to be a tough act to follow. His departure from our 'team' hurts as his is a particular financial skills – very important when it comes to 'balancing the books' and making sure that what we do as a council is always in the very best interests of all Bradninch folk, young and old - will be greatly missed.

Being a Town Councillor is a 'thankless task' much of the time. I remain incredibly grateful to our small team of Town Councillors who really are beaver away on all manner of projects – every one for the all-round good of Bradninch. And it's done, at our level, without personal gain. Serving the Town is something we all try and do to the very best of our collective abilities. It always 'hurts' when local social media oils the finger tapping of 'keyboard warriors' who broadcast 'anti council' views which are often unfounded. We really are a small and committed band of volunteers trying to do our very best for everyone who chooses to live in our beautiful Town.