

DYMCHURCH NEWS

PUBLISHED BY
DYMCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

AUTUMN 2026

**FOR INFORMATION ON THIS
NEWSLETTER CONTACT THE
EDITOR AT**

Clerk@dymchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR - Cllr Liam Finch



Dear Residents - As we move into autumn, I would like to thank everyone in our community for their continued support, involvement and patience over what has been another very busy summer in Dymchurch.

Bathing water quality remains a major priority for the Parish Council. We are very aware of the strength of feeling locally and of the importance of having clean, safe bathing water for residents, visitors and the local economy. The Council has continued to correspond with the relevant authorities, including the Environment Agency and Southern Water. The latest classification remains poor, and we have formally requested that the Environment Agency considers whether the recent test results can support an improvement in the classification for 2027. We will continue to press for greater investigation, transparency and practical action, and will keep residents informed as further information becomes available.

We are also continuing to pursue safety improvements along the sea wall, particularly regarding the shared use by pedestrians and cyclists. Following a number of concerns and incidents, discussions are continuing with Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Kent County Council / Active Travel regarding appropriate warning signage and clearer arrangements.

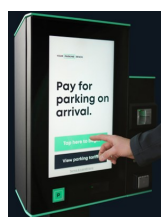
Parking and road safety remain important issues for the Parish Council. A request has been submitted for parish-wide restrictions on parking on grass verges, while concerns about speeding on the High Street and elsewhere continue to be raised with the relevant authorities. The proposal for a 20mph speed limit on the High Street has also been added to the Highways Improvement Plan for further consideration.

We are also working to maintain and improve our local facilities. This includes ongoing work at the recreation ground, improvements to play equipment, consideration of bus shelter improvements, and measures to manage parking more effectively at the Village Hall car park.

I would also like to thank our Parish Council staff, councillors, volunteers, local organisations and residents who contribute so much to keeping Dymchurch a welcoming and vibrant community. We may not always be able to resolve every issue as quickly as we would like, particularly where responsibility rests with other authorities, but please be assured that your concerns are being raised and followed up.

Finally, Dymchurch remains a wonderful place to live, work and visit. I hope we can continue to work together, respectfully and constructively, to protect what makes our parish special and to address the challenges that affect our community. With best wishes, **Cllr. L. Finch, Chairman, Dymchurch Parish Council**

Village Hall Car Park—Update



Over the next few months the Village Hall car park is being updated with a new payment terminal giving more ways to pay for parking and the installation of APNR cameras to monitor car park usage. These changes will allow the Council to save money on running the car park. Resident permits for 2027 will be available from next February.

Parish Council Elections— May 2027

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election. For more information on becoming a councillor at the next election please contact the Clerk.

Water Quality

On 5th August a Southern Water main burst on Hythe Road near Youngs builders merchants, this was initially dealt with using tankers on both Hythe Road and Tartane Lane. Work to repair the main started on 11th August and while the repair was in progress waste water flowed down the highway and entered the roadside gullies and into Hoorne's sewer which runs behind Hythe Road. A similar incident occurred the following day. The Environment Agency issued an "Abnormal Situation" notice to advise against swimming as a precaution while tests were undertaken to confirm if there was any impact on bathing water. The extent of the contamination was managed using a sluice gate and Southern Water reported that the contaminated water has been contained before reaching the sea. An independent environmental specialist sampled the water at multiple points along the watercourse to check for any environmental impact which lead to decolorated water being pumped into the affected water course to bring the samples back to a normal level. The Environment Agency reinstated the 'Abnormal Situation' due to an increases in e-coli levels in tests taken at the start of September which remained in force for over a week. No bathing water quality results were published while this incident was ongoing. The Parish Council along with our District Councillors continue to highlight local concerns on bathing water quality and for local residents and visitors to be able to be able to use the beach without any having to be concerned about possible contamination along our beach.

Basket Ball Hoop for Dymchurch Primary School

Earlier this year the Parish Council funded a replacement basketball hoop for the Friends of Dymchurch School to replace their existing one which had reached the end of its life. The hoop has been installed in the Primary School playground. The pupils have been using the hoop everyday and it's helping to improve their hoop shooting skills. The Parish Council Community Grant Policy allows local groups and charities to apply for small project grants. For further details or to make an application please contact the Clerk.

Cycling on the Seawall

Over the Summer there have been a number of incidents involving cyclists and pedestrians on the seawall from near misses to head on collisions. The Seawall is a shared space and pedestrians and cyclists are reminded to respect all users. Cyclists should dismount when near the central slipway during busy periods and be aware of pedestrians using the steps to access the upper level of the seawall. Pedestrians need to be aware of cyclists travelling along the seawall. The Parish Council are working with the District Council on painted warning signs but in the meantime stay alert and respect other users of the seawall promenade.

Recreation Ground Cable Swing

Following some vandalism over the Summer a new cable swing seat is on order and should be installed in the next few weeks.

Festive Window Competition

Calling all Traders with the end of the year fast approaching the Parish Council will once again be awarding a trophy and prize for the best festive commercial window display in the village. This year the competition will be judged by a panel who will award the prize in the run up to Christmas.

Festive Residents Garden

If you would like to nominate your own garden or one of a neighbour (with permission) drop a photo of the entry and details of the garden (Name and address) to Clerk@dymchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk by **20th December**. A prize will be awarded to the winning residents garden and we'll post the best decorated gardens and shop windows on our Parish News Facebook page. Good Luck !



Focus on our Handyman/Groundsman

Hopefully as you've been around the village this summer you will have noticed that many areas now get a regular dose of TLC not to mention water over what was a very long dry summer. Gary has worked for the Parish Council for over 2 years and can be seen around the village regularly with his trusty trolley weeding, tidying up and attending to the odd jobs that need attention anywhere from the Redoubt Estate down to the Fairway. To help with covering the distance along the seawall required to maintain the memorial benches the Parish Council have invested in an electric e-bike and trailer to make moving paint and equipment easier. The Parish Council look after part of the burial ground to the rear of the church, the war memorial garden where Gary has recently repainted the coping stones, the recreation ground and the seawall garden area. Gary is also well known to many of our four legged friends in the village as word has got around that he usually has dog treats somewhere in his cart!



Twinning Visit

September saw fourteen members of the Salbris Twinning Association visit Dymchurch for the weekend. Hosted by local families our French guests were treated to a welcome buffet on Friday evening at the Scout HQ. On Saturday members travelled by coach visiting Quex Park to attend the quirky renaissance fayre described as the crossing of two worlds with its immersive experiences. Sunday saw the weekend wrapped up with a traditional fish and chip supper. If you would like to know more about the Dymchurch Twinning Association it's fund raising events and exchange trips, please contact the Clerk.



Friends Of Dymchurch Recreation Ground

Work continues on progressing the next stage of the project with initial costings now completed and invitation to tender packs being sent out to construction firms. There is still lots to do before we will see the new build in progress. The Trustees will be holding an open morning on Saturday 24th Oct where you are invited to come and find out where the project is up to and speak to the trustees about the project over tea and coffee. Tickets will also be on sale for the Charity's New Year's Eve event in the Village Hall. The Heartbeats are making a welcome return with music from the 50's, 60's and 70's, if last time is anything to go by it should be a great way to welcome in the new year and celebrate the arrival of 2027. In the run up to Christmas the "Friends" will also be holding a fundraising Christmas Market in the Village Hall with a variety of artisan and craft stalls tea, coffee and cake.



Climbing Equipment on The Rec

Just in time for the school summer holidays and thanks to grant funding from The National Lottery Community Fund the Parish Council were able to install a new climbing wall on the recreation ground. The grant covered both the purchase and installation of the equipment. The wall has 10 challenges for all ages and abilities and is a welcome addition to the recreation ground play area. With many thanks to #NationalLotteryPlayers who made this possible.



Dymchurch Parish Council

Your local council working locally for you



Cllr Liam Finch
Chair



Cllr Chris McCreedy
Vice Chair



Cllr Cathy Young



Cllr Marc Wright



Cllr Ann Pegler



Cllr Dougie Young



Cllr Chrissie Cooper



Cllr Andy Weatherhead



Cllr Vanessa McCreedy

If you have any queries regarding local issues, or any other matters you wish to raise, you can contact Dymchurch Parish Council as follows:

In writing to

The Clerk, Dymchurch Parish Council,
13 Orgarswick Avenue
Dymchurch TN29 0NX

E: Clerk@dymchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01303 872 708

If you have any District or County Council issues that you wish to raise please contact the following with your concerns

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Peter.Osborne@kent.gov.uk

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Tony.Cooper@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Tony.Hills@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

KCC COMMUNITY WARDEN

Carol Our Community Warden can be contacted on
07977 981990 or by email:

Carol.Coveney@kent.gov.uk

Westminster Water Debate

Recently Cllr D Young & F&HDC Councillor T Cooper attended a Westminster Hall debate on Public Ownership of the Water Sector they were representing



Fergal Sharkey with Our Councillors

both Dymchurch and the wider Romney Marsh Community. Tony Vaughan MP raised a query about the regulation of water companies

and how we ensure we get independent audit and monitoring of their data. During the debate the current levels of sewage pollution in rivers and seas was highlighted, failures in monitoring noted, and the public health consequences and business impact of poor bathing water quality was raised.

Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground

Christmas Market
Sunday
29th Nov

Meet Santa
& his Elf



Visit our popup Christmas shop, tombola stall

Lots of Christmas treats • locally made crafts • and
artisan produce; bacon rolls, tea, coffee & cakes.....

Dymchurch Village Hall 10am – 1pm