

Dummer Parish Council Chair's Report 2024-5



Sheila Harden
12th May 2025

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Why has this year been so different?

- Change of councillors and staff.
- 2000 new houses added to parish.
- A large warehouse development given approval.
- Two different roles developing for the parish council.
- Input required to new local plan.
- New Basingstoke Golf Course construction.
- New projects to investigate and evaluate.
- Planning applications, roads and traffic issues.



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Your councillors in 2024 / 2025

Sheila Harden - Chair
Manuela Gazzard – Vice-chair
Liz Nelson
Sascha Mullen
Julian Jones
Clerk: Wendy Reynolds



Borough Councillors: Julian Jones, Paul Gaskell, Hannah Golding
County Councillor: Juliet Henderson

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First things first

- Training needs of a new Clerk and a new Councillor.
- Introducing ourselves to neighbouring Parish Councils.
- Updating contact information for the PC.
- Updating our financial and banking arrangements.
- Deciding priorities and responsibilities.
- Dealing with a change of administration at B&D
- Reaching out to newly formed residents groups



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Updating to reflect a larger constituency

- Checking our existing policies to ensure they were current and appropriate.
- Writing and agreeing a communications strategy.
- Checking existing Trusts and reviewing Trustees.
- Understanding the PC / developer / management company / resident interdependencies.



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Picking up where we left off

- Maintaining contact with developers on the new sites.
- Continuing with the objection to the warehouse (though later lost).
- Working on the Local Plan Update.
- Reflecting changes in government housing policy.
- Enforcing construction conditions both on developments and the village.
- Watching for and responding to changes in plans.
- Reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of the village.

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But at the same time dealing with.....

- Flooding at the Queen Inn – solved 2025
- Fly tipping.
- Potholes, drains and sewage.
- Storm damage, trees and power supplies.
- Leaks at Longacre pumping station.
- Mud, mud and more mud on the A30, the A30 roundabout, J7 and Down Street.
- Problems with verges and pavements.
- Traffic management & speeding.



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Communication improvements

As a response to a much larger constituency:

- Upgrades to the website and Facebook pages.
- Use of social media to reach more people, faster.
- Purchase of equipment, including projectors, A3 printers.
- Production of a newsletter.
- Subscription taken out to survey site.
- Establishing an email notification service to alert ALL the Parish of important information.
- Attendance at local meetings.



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Working for residents

- Inviting leaders to visit and address the Parish, for example Paul Harvey, Andy Konieczko (BDBC), Nick Adams – King (HCC).
- John Barker of Newlands will address the next PC meeting in June.
- Assisting HCC Councillor Juliet Henderson.
- Forging links with the management companies' local staff.
- Talking to the Community Development Team.
- Meet and greet held in 2025.
- Responding to relevant planning issues.
- Establishing communication channels with Newlands and their contractors prior to construction.

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Practical purchasing

- Restoring the Defibrillator at the Queen Inn and providing free CPR training.
- Post Office Lane resurfacing.
- Noticeboard installed at Longacre.
- Noticeboards purchased for Hounsme Fields but awaiting installation.
- Two SIDs for the village to encourage 20mph limit.
- Salt bins delivered.
- Dog bins purchased for Longacre. Siting being reviewed by FirstPort.
- Pond refurbishment continued
- Christmas Tree & lights purchased for the Village Hall (first time ever).



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Interventions

- On drone use over gardens.
- Antisocial behaviour in the recreation ground.
- Isolated vandalism and harassment.
- Speeding, parking, litter and fly tipping.
- Damage to roads and vehicles by construction practices at HF and the new Golf Course in Dummer.
- Multi agency road closures in the village.
- HGVs attempting to use single lane roads.
- Pest control issues at recreation ground
- Street signs and traffic notices – repairs and additions



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Planning

- Newlands appeal over the Oakdown farm warehouse development was granted.
- Applications received for Hounsme Fields phase 3.
- Applications received for Bloor On the Green development phase 3.
- The appeal on the siting of the Traveller Site on Hounsme Fields was granted.
- Most recently a domestic housing plan for 10 houses adjacent to Glebe Close.
- Responded to domestic planning applications:
 - 4 in the village.
 - 5 on the developments.
 - 7 on trees.
 - 2 on licenses.
- Consultations on Devolution, Moto at J6 (joint response), MacDonalds at Hatch Warren and two proposed footpath re-routings in the village.



Basingstoke
and Deane

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Finance

- Precept has been held at the 24/25 level despite expansion of Parish acknowledging the ever-increasing costs for residents.
- Scribe accounting software adopted.
- AGAR completed and Audit passed with no recommendations.
- Small grant made to VH for catering equipment.
- Reviewed the Banking and Investment Strategy.
- Applied for S106 money for new allotments on the developments.
- Seed money provided for Recreation Ground Trust from Pest Control savings.



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and CIL

- CIL money has largely come from the Bloor development on the old Basingstoke Golf Course.
- CIL survey showed indicative preferences for spending – mobile coverage, leisure services for young people. In the village, electricity supply and broadband stability.
- CIL application process developed and is on the website.
- Some funding reserved for furniture and equipment for the two community centres.
- Some allocated to Recreation Ground improvements.
- Church path improvements planned.
- Working with residents and management companies to develop projects.

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Recreation and activities

- Dummer Down Farm, tap room, café, garden, small businesses, live events, Cricket School.
- The Queen Inn, an historic pub and community asset.
- Village hall, bookable, hosts live music and plays, coffee mornings.
- Recreation ground with play area and tennis courts. Upgrading planned.
- All Saints' Grade 1 listed church to visit and attend - with bells.
- Wayfarer's Walk and St James' Way as well as many local footpaths.
- Cricket Ground in Farleigh Lane – new pavilion under construction.
- Basingstoke Golf Club - new clubhouse now open.
- Helping to get the community centres up and running to encourage local activities. In the mean time the resources above are open to everyone.

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Into the future: threats and opportunities

(just to be going on with....)

- Devolution.
- Community led development in the village. Neighbourhood planning.
- The warehouse construction process.
- Traffic management and public transport on the A30.
- Protecting residents from HGV incursions on both sides of the M3/A30.
- The school, pedestrian access, and infrastructure on HF.
- The community facilities on HF and the Golf Course developments.
- Making sure Down Street is resurfaced when new Golf Club opens.
- Minimising the disruptive road closures in Dummer affecting businesses.
- Addressing crime and antisocial behaviour across the Parish.

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