

SOUTHORPE PARISH ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The focus of Southorpe Parish Council over the last 12 months has been largely on the following issues:

- Road safety
- Environmental issues
- Input to the Peterborough City Council Local Plan
- Community engagement

Road safety

The parish council secured updated monitors to record vehicle speeds through the village and we have reviewed signage and wider speed limits with Peterborough City Council representatives. This has become a Barnack Ward initiative and has gained momentum. In addition we have been liaising with a group of interested parties to lobby the authorities to improve the safety of the A47 with particular focus on the Sutton Heath Road junction. We will continue to liaise with a number of parties to seek funding to explore other ways to reduce speed across the parish.

We have also lobbied constantly to have potholes filled asap – and will continue to do so. I would like to pay particular thanks to Gareth Brown for his hard work on all things roads and traffic!

Environmental issues

The parish council has been involved in a multi agency initiative to improve water management/drainage not just in Southorpe but in other villages suffering from excess surface water and drainage. We recognise this is an ongoing issue and we will continue to work with Anglian Water and others to address the issues which still impact on a number of homes in the parish. My thanks to Corinna Blackmore for her work on this.

We have also been looking at ways to secure and enhance the environmental value of Southorpe Village Field – with Clare Peacock liaising with the Northants Wildlife Trust and also John Clare Countryside.

Peterborough City Council Local Plan

The parish council has provided significant input to the preparation of the Local Plan which determines housing development and planning until 2040. We argued against any development in the village given the lack of infrastructure and the rural nature of the parish. The latest version of the plan shows no planned development envelope in the parish but the final version of the Plan will not be known until later this year.

Community engagement

It is a sense of community that makes a village. And thanks to various individuals, Southorpe benefits from the annual picnic, the bonfire night and the well supported annual village litter pick.

I would like to place on record the council's appreciation to Corinna Blackmore and Vanessa Brown for co-ordinating these events, which all help bring the parish together. We are keen to promote more community engagement in the future.

We post minutes and agendas on the noticeboard in the village; and also post on our website: southorpeparish.gov.uk

Let me conclude by thanking our clerk Alison Hurford for her hard work and patience during the last 12 months and thanks also to each parish councillor – including our newest member Archie Dennis - who give up their time voluntarily to represent the interests of Southorpe's parishioners.

We are always delighted to see members of the public attending our meetings and we value their input.

Peter Corder
Chairman
Southorpe Parish Council

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