

Hazlerigg Parish Council Chair's Report

May 2023

I am pleased with the progress we have made as a parish council in the past year, despite the difficult start. In the last year, we have welcomed three new councillors and a new clerk. Last month, we lost Cllr Younghusband, and I would like to thank her for her support as a parish councillor during her term. I would also like to thank Ian Humphries for his time as clerk and reiterate our thanks to Cllr Barbour for stepping in as clerk before Ali arrived in post and taking on so many extra responsibilities to ensure we could keep functioning. I am pleased to say that Ali has settled in very well and has been a huge asset to the parish council. Thank you, Ali, for all your hard work so far. Thank you also to Louise and Heather, who both do a wonderful job of running the community centre, which hosts our meetings every month and so much more for the local community, including the food bank and coffee mornings.

I recognise that I have now chaired the parish council for a number of years and would like to take this opportunity to let people know that any offers to replace me will be gladly received, however, if nobody wishes to take on the responsibility then I am happy to continue until somebody does.

I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on some of our successes as a parish council. In the past year we have:

- Actively pursued traffic calming measures in the village, resulting in the installation of speed cushions. Thank you to Cllr Young, who presented a petition to Newcastle City Council in January and Cllr Thorp, who has been pursuing community speed watch
- Engaged with North Tyneside Council about cross-boundary issues, including litter, graffiti and traffic calming
- Launched a quarterly newsletter to inform residents of parish dealings. Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards the production and delivery of the newsletters
- Supported Campaign to Protect Rural England's Green Clean and carried out regular monthly litter picks. Thank you to everyone who gives up their time to clean up the village
- Devised a wider litter strategy and began to implement some of the actions
- Started planting up the Ogle Avenue roundabout

- Planted a new hedgerow and copse area on playing field with the North East Community Forest
- Met with CEO of Urban Green to discuss management of Havannah Nature Reserve
- Met with Woolsington Parish Council biodiversity officers to discuss how to work together to protect and enhance wildlife corridors
- Pursued enforcement action in relation to lighting at the Springvale factory and construction site waste from Havannah Park development
- Exposed illegalities in the installation of the phone mast in the village and actively pursued this with Newcastle City Council
- Met with Your Homes Newcastle to discuss how their assets will be managed with biodiversity in mind
- Raised issues affecting the parish with Newcastle North MP Catherine McKinnell
- Met with CEO of Newcastle City Council following our request for better engagement with parish councils
- Held evening workshops in partnership with Northumberland Wildlife Trust to raise awareness of how we can support biodiversity as part of our response to the strengthened biodiversity duty
- Continued to provide funding from the precept for the community centre
- Established ownership of unregistered land at High Ridge and are actively pursuing management of parish-owned spaces
- Met with Newcastle City Council to discuss management of Elliott Walk

We will continue to:

- pursue the parish boundary review
- meet with Newcastle City Council to ensure engagement between lower and higher tier government
- register land in our ownership and secure funding to ensure appropriate management
- increase tree cover and wildflower areas in the village
- reduce litter and encourage residents to report littering, fly tipping and dog fouling
- produce a biodiversity action plan to actively conserve and enhance biodiversity in the parish