

Dummer Parish Council

Action Plan 2026/27

council plan for the year ahead

Purpose

This action plan sets out the parish council's main priorities and activities for the next twelve months and supports planning, decision-making, budget setting and review ensuring the community's needs are met effectively.

About the Parish

Dummer Parish lies within the Oakley and North Waltham ward of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, close to Junction 7 of the M3. The area north of the A30 is situated in the Basingstoke Parliamentary constituency, MP Luke Murphy. The area south of the A30 is in the East Hampshire parliamentary constituency, MP Daiman Hinds. The parish includes the historic village of Dummer, surrounding farmland and significant housing growth to the north of the motorway. Since 2016, the parish has expanded through the Longacre, Hounscome Fields and former Basingstoke Golf Course and the new Basingstoke Golf Course on the site of the former Dummer Golf Course, bringing over 2,000 new homes, a school, community facilities, retail space and other local services. Planning permission was also granted in 2024 for a warehouse development alongside the A30.

Dummer remains a historic rural village, recorded in the Domesday Book and designated as a conservation area, with 23 listed buildings including the Grade I listed All Saints' Church. The wider parish also includes Dummer Grange, Kennel Farm, Dummer Clump and Dummer Down Farm. The parish now combines rural and urban characteristics, balancing its historic identity and agricultural setting with major modern development and stronger links to Basingstoke.

Overall aim

To deliver the council's statutory duties effectively, maintain good governance and support the needs of the Dummer parish community during 2026/27.

Priority areas

- Governance and policy review
- Communication and community engagement
- Finance and budget management
- Parish assets and facilities
- Community safety and wellbeing
- Community support and grants
- Planning and local representation

Monitoring and review

The council will review progress against this plan during 2026/27 and update it where necessary to reflect decisions, resources and emerging local priorities.

Priority area	Objective	Action	Lead	Timescale	Expected outcome
Governance and policy review	To ensure the council operates lawfully and effectively	Review and update key council policies on a rolling basis	Clerk / Council	Ongoing	Policies remain current and compliant
Governance and policy review	To maintain transparency and good administration	Ensure agendas, minutes and supporting information are published in line with requirements	Clerk	Ongoing	Residents can access council information easily
Governance and policy review	To support effective governance	Arrange training for councillors and Clerk where needed	Council / Clerk	Ongoing	Council knowledge and confidence maintained
Governance and policy review	To strengthen environmental and policy planning	Draft and adopt a biodiversity policy for the council	Clerk / Council	During 2026/27	Biodiversity policy prepared and adopted
Communication and community engagement	To improve communication with residents	Keep the website up to date with agendas, minutes, notices and council information	Clerk	Ongoing	Better access to current information
Communication and community engagement	To encourage public engagement	Use newsletter, noticeboards and other suitable channels to share council activity	Council / Clerk	Ongoing	Increased awareness of council work
Communication and community engagement	To improve community contact	Explore informal engagement opportunities such as drop-ins or parish events	Council	During 2026/27	Better communication with residents
Finance and budget management	To manage public money responsibly	Monitor income and expenditure against budget during the year	Council	Ongoing	Sound financial oversight
Finance and budget management	To prepare for the next financial year	Prepare draft budget and precept proposal for 2027/28	Clerk / Council	Autumn/Winter 2026	Budget and precept set on time

Priority area	Objective	Action	Lead	Timescale	Expected outcome
Parish assets and facilities	To maintain council assets appropriately	Keep parish assets under review and identify maintenance needs	Council	Ongoing	Assets remain safe and usable
Parish assets and facilities	To support local facilities	Review any maintenance or improvement needs at the recreation ground and other parish areas	Council	During 2026/27	Community facilities maintained
Parish assets and facilities	To maintain and improve community facilities	Review the condition of the tennis courts and consider options for refurbishment	Council / Clerk / Recreation Ground Committee	During 2026/27	Tennis courts maintained or improvement options identified
Parish assets and facilities	To improve recreation ground facilities	Review the current play area and consider possible improvements or replacement needs	Council / Clerk / Recreation Ground Committee	During 2026/27	Play area needs identified and improvement options considered
Parish assets and facilities	To improve recreation ground facilities	Review the current recreation area and consider possible options for developing a trim trail for young adults and adults	Council / Clerk / Recreation Ground Committee	During 2026/27	Trim trail needs identified and development options considered
Community safety and wellbeing	To support community health and safety	Consider the purchase and installation of a new defibrillator in an appropriate location	Council / Clerk	During 2026/27	Defibrillator provision reviewed and, if approved, increased
Community support and grants	To support local groups where appropriate	Review the grant policy and operate a fair grant process	Council / Clerk	During 2026/27	Clear and consistent grant arrangements

Priority area	Objective	Action	Lead	Timescale	Expected outcome
Community support and grants	To respond to local needs	Consider requests and issues raised by residents and community groups	Council	Ongoing	Local concerns considered appropriately
Planning, highways and local representation	To represent parish interests	Consider planning applications and submit responses within deadlines	Council	Ongoing	Parish views represented
Planning, highways and local representation	To respond to local traffic concerns	Explore suitable traffic signage improvements through the Community Funded Infrastructure (CFI) programme	Council / Clerk	During 2026/27	Traffic signage options considered and progressed where feasible
Planning, highways and local representation	To respond to wider parish matters	Raise local concerns with relevant authorities where appropriate	Council / Clerk	Ongoing	Parish interests promoted