

# ***Dawley Hamlets Parish Council***

***Annual Meeting. April 2021***

***Councillor David Hopkins***

## **Overview of the Parish Council.**

- A well-run and positive Parish Council with a supportive group of Councillors who work well together.
- A proactive Council who have both instigated action and engagement within the Parish whilst also responding to the initiatives and concerns of residents.
- A well managed and financially responsible Parish Council.

## **Challenges and Achievements for the Parish Council during the last 12 months. April 2020 to April 2021.**

I want to start by paying tribute to Councillor Beryl Onions, a friend and colleague who passed away in January. Her significant contribution over many years to the local community and the Council will be well known. We shall all miss her.

The last 12 months have been challenging for everyone as we adapt our lives to living with a pandemic. The Parish Council has had to work hard to maintain 'business as usual' as much as possible and also respond to the needs within the community created by the Covid virus. Providing financial support early on for a number of local groups and organisations such as Foodbanks was a way of ensuring practical help where it was most needed.

These are some of the other ways that the Parish Council has been involved and contributed to the community during the last 12 months:

- engaging with T&W agencies in relation to traffic issues and highway improvements. This is still a significant area and I believe there is a need to ensure that the Parish becomes safer and healthier and the needs of pedestrians and cyclists are given greater priority on our local roads. A local plan to ensure the whole road network is planned effectively and coherently is a challenge the Parish Council needs to pursue.
- Continuing progress with Public Rights of Way. The decision is expected very soon for the PROW claim in Horsehay that the Council has been pursuing for 8 years. I am hoping that the final work I have done during the last 12 months will help it to be successful.
- Work has taken place with both Doseley Churchyard and Spring Village Playground. Hopefully this will see real developments in the next 12 months.
- The Management Plan for Horsehay Pool and the old Bridge Road has been instigated with T&W Council during 2020 and again it is hoped that this will see changes and improvements in 2021. There have been major successes with the LNR in Little Dawley and I hope that Horsehay Pool will follow suit.
- There continues to be a lot of housing development in the Dawley Hamlets ward and this has meant involvement in planning issues. It also means that the population of Dawley Hamlets ward

has increased significantly. I pointed out in 2019 that this means that the ward is under-represented in the Council and that the Council also faces the challenge of actively engaging with the newer areas to ensure they feel part of the wider community.

I conclude with the success in getting a Defibrillator in place outside Horsehay Village Hall in 2020. Beryl was the major driving force in making that happen and I am pleased to be able to include it here and give her the credit for her achievement – one of many over the years.

Councillor David Hopkins. April 2021.