

Cllr Barnes Annual Report 2021/2022

It has been pleasing to be able to return to many normal activities in the parish following our national battle with Covid.

One of my key focuses in Aqueduct has been to see renovations to the park off Southall Road and with the help of volunteers we were able to get the ball running painting the equipment before the Community Payback team took over.

It's also great that the parish council are funding an update to this equipment. Speeding and traffic issues around Aqueduct remain a priority also and I have chased for double yellows on Willow Bank along with continuing to set up the Community Speedwatch.

Some of the estates in Aqueduct still need our attention, with poor brickwork and pavements around Pageant and ongoing issues around flooding near Stonebridge Close. However, it is good to see the new bin we requested installed.

The renovations to the Aqueduct bridge need to remain a priority; I delivered the Aqueduct plaque to Aqueduct primary school to be stored and displayed at the school until we can get this project moving.

I am proud to remain a member of the executive committee for the Friends of Dawley Hamlets LNR. As events co-ordinator, I have co-ordinated events such as Adventures in Nature in the Summer and a litter pick for the Great British Spring Clean. I've applied for three successful bids on behalf of the group; the Veolia grant has paid for our events of 2021, an Idverde grant has paid for pond dipping equipment and finally a Telford and Wrekin Grant funds our summer event of 2022.

A highlight of the year was the memorial services at both the Aqueduct Bridge and the Little Dawley Memorial. With an introduction to new readings and performances (organised by Cllr Deakin), it would have been a service that the late Cllr Onions would be proud of.

Other minor installations have occurred following reports I've made to the council such as a new fence at the end of Malvern Crescent, new steps in the staircase off the Silkin Way and a new bench on the mount. The Little libraries we installed continue to be well loved across the parish with residents regularly sharing books they've donated or collected on our Facebook community pages.

On a personal level, this year has seen the arrival of my new baby boy and whilst I take a short break from council meetings, I have enjoyed carrying on with other parish duties with baby boy in the pram or a carrier!

We now look forward to our Jubilee celebrations across the parish. I was delighted to plant a tree at Aqueduct primary as part of the Queen's Jubilee Canopy and have organised a tree planting in the Local Nature Reserve. It will be a time where neighbours can join together to celebrate our lovely community.