

Cllr Barnes Annual Report 2022/2023

This year has seen many projects come to fruition, with others needing a fresh focus in 2023/2024.

Firstly, the war memorial in Little Dawley continues to be a focus of mine; we have continued to maintain this but we're pleased that a contract is in place to professionally maintain this. The Remembrance Service continues to develop, with members of our community invited to meet after at The Unicorn Inn this year. This was a welcome addition this year and gave our community a chance to come together.

Several areas across Aqueduct ward have seen a good clear out and tidy up, many of which weren't covered by routine maintenance. This was particularly needed in the Pageant Drive area and the pathways behind Malorey Drive which were done last Spring and are now due to be done again.

One key issue that residents continue to report, both on pathways and our communal green spaces, is dog poo. I'm pleased to see that the parish council are funding new signs to help avoid this and we have also used the 'Identifying spray' to help deter this anti-social behaviour.

The Little Library we installed in Aqueduct has had some damage happen to it, and we thank the resident who has fixed this for us. Both the library in Aqueduct and Little Dawley remain well used, and we've reinstalled the library on Bridge Rd, Horsehay which was made by local resident Roy Crossley.

Work with the Friends of Dawley Hamlets Local Nature Reserve has continued to go from strength to strength this year. I have continued to coordinate the events with another successful Winter event (with fairy houses and lights) and a Royalty inspired event due in the Summer. I have raised residents' concerns with the potential fire risks, particularly on the Top Yard Mound; the council have said this can be looked at in the long run. I have also continued to help to secure funds and was pleased to secure a donation from Jessops Ltd who helped us purchase litter picking equipment.

After eight years as a governor at Aqueduct primary, I was sad to see an end to my term here but I am so proud of the position they are in now. I continue to build links with them in relation to my job at Madeley Academy and as my role as parish councillor.

I'm delighted that our Speedwatch group for Dawley, Aqueduct and Little Dawley is now officially started, with 7 members joining and awaiting the vetting process. Residents of Little Dawley are keen to see roads in our neighbourhood be monitored, as a fatality in Holly Road still shakes the community. This will be a focus, along with Castlefields Way in Aqueduct where the high speed limit remains a concern.

We now look forward to our Coronation celebrations across the parish. As part of this, we have set up an event at Dawley Hamlets LNR 'Royal Adventures in Nature'. It will be a time where neighbours can join together to celebrate our lovely community. As part of these celebrations, I have arranged for the parish council to bury a Time Capsule after the event to capture the memories of our communities.