

# ***Dawley Hamlets Parish Council***

***Annual Meeting. April 2023***

***Councillor David Hopkins***

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

I am happy to restate my comments from April 2022:

- 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.

## **April 2022 to April 2023.**

The Parish council has maintained its regular face to face meetings at Aqueduct School and Horsehay Village Hall. Local residents frequently attend the meetings.

There continues to be a healthy balance of supporting a variety of local groups and initiatives in the Parish combined with maintaining our involvement with the day to day responsibilities of a Parish Council.

I have attended every meeting I can and I have also attended regular meetings with Lightmoor Village Trust management team, T&W Local Access Forum and the Friends of Horsehay pool. Like other Councillors I have shared information at the PC meetings.

Dawley Hamlets PC has been involved with various local issues including LNR's, the local road network, planning applications, play areas, rights of way and the Local Boundary Review. We have also been engaged with areas that have a broader responsibility such as supporting agencies and organisations that provide social support.

## **A Plan for the Coming year.**

I have decided not to stand for re-election in May so my involvement as a Councillor will cease although I intend to remain active with local issues in other ways. I expect the issues for the newly elected Parish Council during the coming year will include new challenges as well as the areas that the PC has already been involved with.

- ensuring support and protection for our local environment, both natural and built, by proactive engagement, particularly with the LNR's, both the established one at Dawley Pools and the new one for Horsehay and Simpsons Pools.
- greater involvement in any developments with the roads infrastructure. These can have a significant effect on the lives of local residents. The current proposals for St. Luke's Road and other Doseley/Horsehay roads are in progress. I am personally hoping that the focus will be firmly on improvements in safety for vulnerable groups.
- continuing with the development of local facilities such as the local playgrounds, particularly at Spring Village.
- recognising the impacts of economic and welfare issues, possible food and fuel shortages linked to global problems, climate change, etc and doing what is needed to resolve these things at a local level. I would personally like to see the Parish Council actively supporting a proposal for a total ban on the use of pesticides and herbicides by T&W Borough Council.

The proposals for the old Bridge Road in Horsehay have begun to show a glimmer of activity. I hope the ambitions I provided in 2017 will be pursued. Progress has been painfully slow so far.

Despite the fact that I was in the minority in the Parish Council with my proposals for the recent Boundary Changes I was extremely pleased that the Boundary Commission chose to adopt the version that ensured the cohesion of the Parish. This will keep Horsehay, Doseley, little Dawley and other local areas together and hopefully will draw in and form healthy links with the Lightmoor community.

Although either of the proposals would have had the same result, there will be a slightly awkward effect on the Parish for a time until the Parish boundaries are consolidated with the Borough boundaries. I hope the new Parish Council will be able to make positive choices with the transition. I wish the new Parish Council every success.

Councillor David Hopkins. April 2023.