

# **DAWLEY HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Annual Report - April 2024**

### **Introduction**

As a result of the May 2023 local elections, we were pleased to welcome new councillors Zona Hannington, Stefan Heighway, Lyndsey Parker, Mark Rogers and Sue Wennington to the Parish Council. We were sad to see the departure of our Chair, Andy Burford, and councillors Byron Cooke, Sam Deakin, Jayne Greenaway and Dave Hopkins, we thank them all for their years of service to the Parish Council and the residents of the Parish.

Cllr. Bob Wennington was elected to be our Chair in May 2023 and he took up the challenge with gusto, he cannot be here tonight as he is currently in hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery. We also extend our best wishes to Cllr Rogers who is on leave of absence until September as he is receiving cancer treatment. On a happier note, Cllr. Parker our Vice-Chair, welcomed the safe arrival of daughter Rose on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February.

### **Funding**

With regard to the challenging financial climate of it's residents the Parish Council set a precept of £29.08 per Band D property in 2023/24 and have elected not to increase this charge in 2024/25. This precept is currently the fifth lowest per Band D property in the entire Borough with only Chetwynd, Eyton, Preston and Tibberton Parish Councils levying less.

### **Partnerships**

To continue to deliver quality services which residents need at a minimal cost we work in partnership with Telford and Wrekin Council and Great Dawley Town Council to provide the following services:

- Community Action Scheme which provides neighbourhood enforcement e.g. fly-tipping, parking, ASB etc. and CCTV throughout the Parish
- Safer and Stronger Communities Scheme which provides projects and initiatives to improve security and general well-being in our Parish
- Senior residents gardening scheme
- School holiday breakfast club

### **Parish Local Nature Reserves (LNR)**

We continue to support the Friends Groups for Dawley Hamlets LNR together with Horsehay and Simpsons Pools which is in the process of becoming designated as an LNR. Both Friends groups contribute significantly to the Parish, preserving and enhancing these lovely areas, hosting events and educating users.

### **Parish Council Initiatives**

We continue to provide the following popular initiatives:

- Bi-annual newsletters
- Senior residents bi-annual parties, including the King's Coronation Party held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 which was partially funded by the T&WC King's Coronation Celebration Fund
- Christmas trees in the Parish
- Sponsorship of the Aqueduct Primary School annual pantomime
- Sponsorship of the annual Horsehay Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show
- Grant awarding scheme. Grants awarded this year include £300 for the Dawley Community Allotments Group towards trees and planting of the Community Orchard at Rednal Fields, Little Dawley and £300 towards a Coronation bench at Aqueduct primary School
- Match-funding of Borough Councillor spending in the Parish
- Maintenance of the Little Dawley War Memorial and Remembrance Day events
- Parish Council notice boards. In July 2023 we installed a new notice board on the Green by Corbett Close in Little Dawley

And this year we have also contributed towards the cost of throwlines at the Little Dawley Pools and the Castlefields Way, Aqueduct, traffic calming scheme.

### **Consultations**

The Parish Council is a consultee for the Local Planning Authority (LPA). New planning applications are scrutinised at each Council meeting and concerns and objections are raised at LPA meetings when it is believed to be necessary.

The Parish Council have also contributed towards the following consultations during the year:

- T&WC Community Governance Review Initial Consultation
- T&WC Draft Local Plan
- Doseley & Horsehay Area Traffic Calming Consultation

The Parish Council have also submitted a request to have a road currently being built in our Horsehay Ward named in honour of our highly regarded late Parish Councillor, Beryl Onions, who sadly passed away in January 2021.