



DUMMER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

"Keeping Dummer Connected: Your Parish News, Updates, and Community Highlights"
Winter 2024

Welcome to the first edition of the refreshed Dummer Parish Council Newsletter! This newsletter is our way of connecting with the community, keeping you informed about what has happened, what's happening now, and what's coming up in our local area. As this is the first edition of our quarterly publication, it has been written by the Dummer Parish Council team. However, we would love to include your contributions in future editions. If you have news stories, events, or achievements to share and celebrate, please let us know.

If you have something you'd like added or published, please do get in touch with Wendy Reynolds, Clerk to Dummer Parish Council on clerk@dummerparishcouncil.gov.uk

Who are the Parish Council and what do we do...?

The Parish Council plays an important role in enhancing our community's quality of life. Acting as the bridge between residents and local authorities, we gather and address concerns to ensure every voice is heard. Additionally, we oversee local projects, from local amenity improvements to community safety initiatives, all aimed at enriching our Parish. By promoting sustainable practices and supporting local businesses, we work diligently to create a vibrant and thriving environment.

If you need to contact the Parish Council about an issue which we can help with, please do email clerk@dummerparishcouncil.gov.uk

New Tesco Express Opens

A massive welcome to John and the team at the new Tesco Express on Hounsme Fields. Dummer is really excited to welcome you into the neighbourhood.



Open Mondays 7am-10.30pm, Tue – Sun 7am-11pm

Lighting up the skies above us

One of the most incredible aspects of living in a rural area is the stunning dark skies that surround us. Over the past few months, we've been fortunate to witness the breathtaking Aurora Borealis illuminating our beautiful Parish. Here are some photos capturing this remarkable sight!



Hounsme Fields



Longacre

What has the Parish Council been up to so far this year?

Sometimes what we do goes under the radar, but, in no particular order, these are just a few of the things we have done this year:

- Welcomed Cllr Mullen as a new councillor following Cllr Derek Penny's resignation.
- Arranged and completed the resurfacing of Post Office Lane in Dummer Village.
- Made The Queen Inn a community asset and resolved (at least for now) the flooding problem.
- Worked with volunteer residents on a response to the Local Plan update.
- Continued to work with residents and CAGE to fight the Oakdown Farm warehouse development, though regrettably, finally, unsuccessfully.
- Developed a working relationship with Remus and First Port enabling the PC to start providing equipment where needed and liaison on behalf of residents.
- Responded to various planning and licensing applications, both our own and in support of neighbouring parishes.
- Recruited a local resident to research forms of community led housing for the PC as an early part of neighbourhood planning.
- Replaced and updated the defibrillator at the Queen Inn and provided free CPR training sessions.
- Funded the repair of Dummer Village Hall's retaining wall and also the purchase of new equipment and a Christmas Tree.
- Reviewed and updated all the PC's policy statements, financial reports and code of conduct
- Agreed funding to improve communications including extending and modernising the website, developing a social media presence and producing newsletters online and in print format.
- Purchased new noticeboards for Hounsme Fields and Longacre.
- Purchased grit bins for Hounsme Fields.
- The Parish Council also welcome the approval for the old Golf Course development to complete its house building plans.

Website Changes

In response to feedback from residents, the Parish Council is in the process of redesigning and updating our website. We are adding a new page dedicated to News, featuring both current and past editions of the Newsletter, as well as important information on local issues. Additionally, we will introduce a page highlighting the local area, including things to see and do. Stay tuned for updates!

Parish Council Meetings

Did you know that Parish Council Meetings are held monthly and residents within the Parish are welcome to attend.

Next Meeting: 13th January 2025

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, Up Street, Dummer, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG25 2AK at 7.00pm. The agenda and previous minutes can be found on the Parish Council website.

Competition Time!

As the festive season approaches, Father Christmas is getting busier, and the Parish Council would like to invite our younger community members (ages 12 and under) to share their thoughts on what they love about Christmas through Christmas-themed drawings. The winning design will receive a small Christmas gift, and their drawing will be published on our socials and in the next newsletter. Two runners-up will also receive prizes, and their entries will be showcased on our website.

Please submit entries in full colour (using paint, crayon, pen, or pencil) on white A4 paper. Scan your artwork and email it to clerk@dummerparishcouncil.gov.uk by December 18th, 2024. Winning entries will be contacted just before Christmas.

We can't wait to see your creative ideas!

Neighbourhood Watch



Did you know the Parish has some established neighbourhood watch schemes in place to support the residents in keeping the community safe.

To locate the nearest scheme to you head over to the 'Our Watch' website and search for a scheme by entering your postcode in the **'find your local NW'** tab: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk>

Top Tip: *Keep your home secure this winter by ensuring doors and windows are locked, setting timers for lights when you're out, and watching out for vulnerable neighbours in colder weather.*

Upcoming Events

Folk Music Fund Raiser

19th December 2024 from 7pm
Dummer Down Brewery, tickets by donation.

Xmas Treasure Hunt

Friday 27th December 2024
Follow the clues around the village of Dummer to reveal treasure.
Meet at Dummer Village Hall at 11:15am. Ends at The Queen Inn with Pies and Mulled Wine. £1 entry per person.

New Years Party at the Queen Inn, Dummer

31st December 2024

This is a ticketed event, please call 01256 397367 to secure yours.

Well House, Down Street, Dummer

The Parish Council were approached this Summer by a Heritage Consultant who is writing a dissertation which includes carrying out surveys and researching information about surviving donkey/treadwheels and their associated well houses in England. We have such a wheel in Dummer and we were delighted to arrange access for them. In the process we managed to get some interesting shots of the inside.



USEFUL CONTACTS

NHS Mental Health Crisis Support: 111

Provides urgent mental health assistance and advice for those experiencing a crisis.

Samaritans: 116 123

Offers a 24/7 listening ear for anyone struggling with distress or suicidal thoughts.

Childline: 0800 1111

Free and confidential support for children and young people needing advice or a safe space to talk.

Hampshire County Council: 0300 555 1386

for urgent support, 0300 555 1373 out of hours
Provides assistance with urgent social care needs and emergencies, including out-of-hours help.

Citizens Advice Basingstoke: 0808 2 78 78 29

Offers free, impartial advice on issues like debt, housing, benefits, and employment.

Andover Mind: 01264 332297 (option 3) or 0300 5000 907

Supports mental health and wellbeing through guidance, services, and community programs.

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers: 01264 835246

Provides support, advice, and resources for unpaid carers in the community.

The Alzheimer's Society: 0333 150 3456

Offers support and information to individuals and families affected by dementia.

Basingstoke Voluntary Action: 01256 423816

Supports local charities, volunteers, and community groups with resources and guidance.

Basingstoke and Deane Over 55's:

01256 411440 Offers activities, advice, and support tailored to residents over 55 in the Basingstoke and Deane area.

Home-Start Basingstoke and Deane: 01256 325793

Provides early support and guidance to families with young children facing challenges.

Community Furniture Project: 01256 320700

Sells affordable, pre-owned furniture and offers training opportunities to the community.

The Besom: 07541 123797

Connects those wanting to give time, skills, or items with individuals and families in need.

Your Parish Councillors

- **Sheila Harden (Chair)**
- **Dr Manuela Gazzard (Vice Chair)**
- **Liz Nelson**
- **Julian Jones**
- **Sascha Mullen**
- **Wendy Reynolds (Clerk)**

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Councillors

Hannah Golding

Mobile: 07855 489502

Email: cllr.hannah.golding@basingstoke.gov.uk

Paul Gaskell

Email: cllr.paul.gaskell@basingstoke.gov.uk

Julian Jones

Email: cllr.julian.jones@basingstoke.gov.uk

Hampshire County County Councillor

Juliet Henderson

Email: juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk

More information

For more information about Dummer Parish and the work your Parish counsellors do, please head over to our webpage.

Scan the QR code below or visit:

<http://www.dummerparishcouncil.gov.uk>



Contact your councillors by emailing:

cllr.SURNAME@dummerparishcouncil.gov.uk