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Nash Mills Crime Figures 2021

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD.
BURGLARY (DWELLING)													
BURGLARY (Other)													
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	1												
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE													
DAMAGE OR DESTROY <£5,000													
THEFT FROM SHOP	2												
THEFT, OTHER													
DRUG RELATED	1												
OTHER CRIMES													
A.S.B (Youths)													
TOTALS													

Nash Mills Crime Figures 2021

DWELLING BURGLARY	
BURGLARY OTHER	
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	Belswains Lane – theft of number plates
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE	
DAMAGE OR DESTROY	
THEFT FROM SHOP	Tesco's – x2
THEFT OTHER	
DRUG RELATED	Bunkers Park - Cannabis
OTHER CRIMES	

Nash Mills Parish Council – Borough Councillor Report – February 2021

Nash Mills Wharf

The weir is now properly repaired and water is flowing through the site beautifully. At some point the water will have to be stopped again for a short period while they resolve the fish pass issue. The 'Mill Canal' that flows through the site has been tidied up as a temporary measure, and when this is drained again for the fish pass (planned for May) they will repair the channel, clear and sort the landscaping to bring it into line with the approved plans at this time.

The overflow car park is closed for 9+ days as from today while they refurbish it. Once the work is done they will be selling permits for the car park. Frustratingly the residents don't appear to have been informed of this, or how to buy a permit, although I understand that Vistry have been told by Chamonix that they have done this... I am chasing for a further update. Today the NMW Facebook group has been filled with discussion about this - selling permits is not proving popular, especially when the residents have been given no explanation, so this may cause a greater burden on the local area if the residents don't buy permits. Once the car park 'lake' is drained it will have a capacity of 72, so this will hopefully take more cars off Red Lion Lane if the permits discussion gets resolved. I have made arrangements with the village hall committee to enable parking for 22 cars in their car park, and this was taken up very quickly, 22 cars were successfully booked in and moved into the car park yesterday (Sunday) in readiness.

Milbor Site

Milbor works have started, with the removal of part of the roof and asbestos. Unfortunately, the developer hasn't responded to my attempts to contact them regarding the site not being secure, and also regarding various concerns of local residents. I have raised the issues with DBC and they are doing all they can. Frustratingly, the removal of the asbestos/roof isn't considered development in planning terms, but DBC have requested that any local residents should raise their concerns with them, and also with the HSE. I am still trying to get hold of the developer.

Nash House

On 20th January I wrote a very long missive to DBC regarding all the issues in Nash House. I have just received a very detailed reply which has raised further questions, so I will be having a further meeting with the enforcement team tomorrow and will be happy to update NMPC verbally at the meeting.

There are still no bins for the residents, who have been asked to put black sacks of all (unsorted) rubbish in the wooden bin stores. I emailed DBC on 20th January about this and as I hadn't heard back today I have spoken to Waste Services and followed up with an email, with an urgent request to deal with it as it is an environmental issue.

Georgewood Road Steps

DBC's main maintenance contractor, Osborne's, have been instructed to repair the steps as soon as possible. I chased this today and was told that one of the outside maintenance teams is currently stood down due to a Covid situation, but they have the repair on their books and are hoping it will be done before the end of February, Covid and weather permitting.

The lighting of the footpath is more difficult to resolve. There is no budget for this at DBC anyway, but as there is a streetlight at the top and one at the bottom of the steps, and that it isn't much further to walk round the pavement, this is something that DBC wouldn't be able to prioritise. I asked what the cost was likely to be and was told they hadn't costed it, but as a guess it may be even around £15,000, although they made it clear this was really just a guess.

Gade Tower

I have again chased the waste services department for an answer about the issues with the bins at Gade Tower. I will give a verbal update at the parish council meeting if I receive an update.

Skip in Chambersbury Lane

Having spoken to DBC Enforcement, I decided that the easiest way to get the skip removed would be to contact the skip company, so I called him on Thursday 21st January. He gave his word it would be moved on Monday 25th and it was removed as promised! The skip firm owner was under the impression the skip was on the mouth of the drive, so was surprised when I explained that it was on a grass verge!

Nash Mills MOT Centre

This MOT centre is the subject of an enforcement notice to remove the unapproved signage on the buildings and in the front garden. I chased Enforcement, who has discussed this with the owner and it was agreed that they will remove the signage on the buildings immediately, but they have negotiated a slightly longer time to remove the totem sign in the front garden, although they will comply as soon as they possibly can.

Barnacres Road – trading cars

Trading Standards are looking into an unlicensed used car sales business in Barnacres Road.

Grit Bin – Bunkers Lane

Following our clerk's investigations regarding responsibilities and liabilities regarding the placement of a grit bin, owned by the parish council, on land owned by LPRA, we are awaiting a decision by LPRA.

Highbarns

I have received confirmation from DBC that the road sign, removed from the corner of Highbarns, will be reinstated in the next week or two.

Kingfisher Drive Parking Bays

Following a question from a local resident to the parish clerk, Cllr Briggs and me, I have been looking into the ownership of the parking bays in Kingfisher Drive, with the help of DBC. This has proved to be a complex issue with two parties claiming responsibility for some of them. I am waiting for Herts Highways to clarify whether they own the bays opposite numbers 8-16 Kingfisher Drive.

Jan Maddern

Dacorum Borough Councillor, Nash Mills

1.2.2021



Clerk Report February 2021

(information only, if any resolutions are required, they will be noted on the agenda)

HCC Updates/ County Councillor

SIDS-Invoice received.

Verges -majority of phase 1works approved and funded externally, update on final page.

Playpark Inspections

See separate agenda point.

Assets of Community Value

DBC confirmed application for The Three Tuns has been approved by DBC but that owner has right to respond.

Gate at Bunkers Park

Cllr Cobb & Clerk have liaised with DBC to arrange repairs. All now resolved.

Litter on Bunkers Lane

Reported to HCC, awaiting response.

Salt Bin Bunkers Lane

Clerk liaising with Cllr Maddern and LPRA to investigate liability and insurance cover. Responses from our insurer sent to LPRA. Clerk now investigating warden duties and grit risk assessments.

Training

Rialtas (finance package) end of year training booked 5/3/2021.

Correspondence

Received regarding parking at Kingfisher Close and ownership of spaces and works to the Willow trees. Clerk and B/Cllr Maddern have responded.

Warden Updates

Issues with bins at Riverside flats remain unresolved. Clerk to liaise with DBC to highlight risk re public health.

Defibrillator Permissions

Sent 12/1/2021 Awaiting response from DBC. Chased 28/1/2021.

Website Accessibility Plan

Still Ongoing. Zoom meeting held Dec 2020 with resident who uses a new software (AccessiBE) to enable assistive technology users to access content more easily. Report to council to come once agenda space available.

Verges Update 28/1/2021

Area	Details	NMPC Rationale	NMPC Decision	HCC/DBC UPDATE
The Denes	The Denes - £3029 1 pedestrian dropped kerb and small footway repair, double height kerbs from ped. dropped kerb to corner of last parking bay, 1 concrete bollard to protect ped. dropped kerb, topsoil and seed.	To prevent churning of verge To facilitate safe crossing as drop kerb currently only on one side	NMPC SUPPORTS THE WORKS TO BE FUNDED BY THE LOCALITY BUDGET 2021/22	The Denes and Bunkers Lane near to Highwoodhall Lane. Both schemes funded by Tina's Highways Locality Budget (HLB). The two jobs will be handed over to contractor, Ringway, in early February for them to programme. They are 21/22 HLB funded works so the earliest start date for both is April 1st.
Mill Close	Mill Close opposite 13 to 15 - £3247 Grasscrete 2 areas, both sides of tree, 1 pedestrian dropped kerb, 1 wooden post to protect ped. dropped kerb, topsoil and seed.	To prevent churning of verge	NMPC SUPPORTS THE WORKS TO BE FUNDED BY THE LOCALITY BUDGET 2021/22 DEPENDANT ON RESPONSE RE TREES AND WOODLAND COMMENTS- item not supported by DBC Trees and Woodland @DBC due to trees in vicinity and impact on roots etc	Declined by HCC due to trees and woodlands objections.
Bunker Lane/High Woodhall Nature Reserve gates	Verge marker posts and verge repair Bunkers Lane - £1579 7 verge marker posts, siding out, topsoil and seed.	To prevent churning of verge/visibility for crossing safely	NMPC SUPPORTS THE WORKS TO BE FUNDED BY THE LOCALITY BUDGET 2021/22	The Denes and Bunkers Lane near to Highwoodhall Lane. Both schemes funded by Tina's Highways Locality Budget (HLB).

				The two jobs will be handed over to contractor, Ringway, in early February for them to programme. They are 21/22 HLB funded works so the earliest start date for both is April 1st.
Meadow Road 33-35 and 37-39	<p>Grasscrete to match existing (No 33) and tarmac (No 37) where matching existing.</p> <p>Meadow Road 33 to 35/37 and 37/39 - £10776</p> <p>Grasscrete (33 to 35/37) and (37/39), repair to front of 39's vx0 to allow installation of grasscrete and siding out of footway.</p>	To prevent churning of verge	NMPC SUPPORTS THE WORKS TO BE FUNDED BY DBC VERGE HARDENING SCHEME	<p>DBC can programme works in for April 21.</p> <p>Permissions given by HCC</p> <p>DBC arranging drawings</p>

Nikki Bugden
Clerk to the Council February 2020



Clerk Report Playpark Inspections Schedule 2021/22

Clerk Recommendation

That NMPC instruct ‘The Play Inspection Company’ for their annual programme of quarterly inspections based on their quotes evidencing ‘best value’ and their accreditation, independence and also the positive reviews from our neighbouring clerk.

Background

Our current insurance policy stipulates:

Playgrounds and amusement devices condition

You must ensure that in connection with playground and amusement devices that

1 all equipment, devices and facilities including sand pits and paddling pools

a are manufactured and installed to the appropriate standard and maintained in a good condition

*b are inspected by a competent person at least once every 4 weeks or more frequently as set out in the guidelines sent out by the Register of Playground Inspectors International authority and **all** defects or risks to health and safety are immediately rectified.*

Nash Mills Play Park at Bunkers Lane receives weekly visual inspections by our warden as our council appointed competent person, but in line with our risk assessment NMPC resolved to instruct quarterly inspections from a RPIIⁱ qualified professional as an additional safety measure.

Introduction

Last year we used RoSPA, Wicksteed and Sovereign however this year I have received an additional recommendation. All reporting formats are similar, and they are all accredited.

Company		Cost per visit	Annual cost
Sovereign	Early Years Outdoor Play Equipment - Sovereign Play (sovereignplayequipment.co.uk)	3 Inspections only £39.99 per month	£479.88
RoSPA	Play safety - RoSPA	£236 plus vat per inspection except for the May inspection which will be £82.50 plus vat	£790.50
Play Inspections	The Play Inspection Company Playground Inspections, Training & Consultancy Services (playinspections.co.uk)	£100 plus vat per visit One annual inspection, 3 operational inspections. Further detail can be found via the link in the footnote. ⁱⁱ	£400.00

Decision Needed

Council to deliberate and to decide on contractor to appoint, from those listed above.

Nikki Bugden 21/1/2021

ⁱ Register of Playground Inspectors International

ⁱⁱ [Outdoor Play Area Inspections | The Play Inspection Company \(playinspections.co.uk\)](http://playinspections.co.uk)

**Nash Mills Parish Council
FINANCIAL SCHEDULE**

Feb-21

Payee	Method	Description	Amount		Vat		Amount	
NET STAFF SALARIES/HMRC	SO	Feb Net Salaries and HMRC	£	1,884.25		£	1,884.25	
LGPA	online	pension	£	360.60		£	360.60	
Vodaphone	DD	Clerk's Mobile	£	12.66	£	2.54	£	15.20
NMVHA	SO	Hall Hire Feb		0		0	0	
DBC	DD	Garage Rental	£	52.60	£	10.52	£	63.12
Paybureau	SO	Monthly wages Fee	£	18.00	£	3.60	£	21.60
clerk expenses	Online	Zoom Feb	£	11.99	£	-	£	11.99
HCC	Online	SID purchases	£	10,200.00			£	10,200.00
Office Depot	Online	stationery	£	48.60	£	9.72	£	58.32
Clerk expenses	Online	Netnerd Domain Hosting	£	29.99	£	6.00	£	35.99
HCC Pensions team	Online	Late Filing Fee Dec 2018	£	50.00	£	-	£	50.00
Total			£	12,668.69	£	32.38	£	12,701.07

Nash Mills Parish Council

Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 December 2020

Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances

Bank Statement Balances

30/12/2020	Lloyds Current A/C	17,116.49
30/10/2020	Natwest BR	80,838.19
07/10/2020	NatWest Current A/C	1,305.00
31/12/2020	Lloyds 32 Day	42,240.51

141,500.19

Other Cash & Bank Balances

0.00

141,500.19

Receipts not on Bank Statement

0.00

Closing Balance

141,500.19

All Cash & Bank Accounts

1	Lloyds Current A/C	17,116.49
2	NatWest BR	80,838.19
3	NatWest Current A/C	1,305.00
4	Lloyds 32 Day	42,240.51
	Other Cash & Bank Balances	0.00
	Total Cash & Bank Balances	141,500.19



Willows Residents' Association
Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead

9TH FINANCIAL REPORT

As presented at 9th AGM
on 26th September 2020

- 1. TREASURER'S SUMMARY**
- 2. ACCOUNT BALANCES**
- 3. PROFIT & LOSS**

1. TREASURER'S SUMMARY

Presented below is a summary of the finances of The Willows Residents' Association (WRA) for the extended reporting period between 6 July 2019 and 20 September 2020, for submission at the AGM to be held on 26 September 2020. The Account Balances and Profit & Loss (P&L) statements are reported on a Cash Basis with comparisons against the previous period.

Our **PayPal** account has seen increased activity and provides an additional method for payment for WRA membership subscriptions and other activities. It has a current balance of **£108.69**, representing a decrease of £79.37 on the balance reported at last year's AGM.

Our **Bank** account has a current balance of **£464.96**. We have deliberately increased the balance to facilitate electronic payments during the current pandemic

Cash - we are currently carrying **£144.66** as petty cash, as we have moved funds from petty cash to the bank account to allow electronic payments during the current pandemic

At the end of the 2019 /20 extended reporting period, the **WRA has total assets of £718.31**, representing a decrease of £127.05 since the accounts presented at the AGM, held on 6 July 2019.

This year, our organised events have been extremely limited, with planting around and maintenance of the WRA notice board and payment of our Public Liability Insurance (PLI) premium representing the most significant expenditure.

The PLI premium has remained at £114.00 for a further year.

We have concentrated on providing a pleasant environment for our community, by arranging tidy-up days and planting to provide a colourful display around the notice board. The notice board has displayed some lovely messages in support of key workers and neighbours.

In addition to membership subscriptions and limited fundraising events, the WRA is once again applying for further funding from Nash Mills Parish Council (NMPC) for which we will be extremely grateful. NMPC also continue to support us with local issues.

Due to the limitations imposed by the current pandemic, we took the decision to move the AGM back from July to late September 2020 in the hope that we would all be able to meet. Sadly, the pandemic had other ideas, hence we have our first virtual AGM!

The moving of the 2020 AGM date has resulted in income from membership subscriptions increasing by £150.00 to £275.00 in the extended reporting period.

Our plans for major celebrations to celebrate the Association's 10th anniversary are progressing towards The 2021 AGM /Party.

Please contact Jennifer, our Membership Secretary, or any other member of the Committee for information about joining our Residents' Association or renewing your membership. We would also welcome additional members on the Committee.

Once again, we are budgeting on the assumption that additional funding from NMPC will not be Forthcoming next year.

Overall, the WRA are reporting a net loss of £136.30 for the period from 6 July 2019 to today.

2. ACCOUNT BALANCES

ASSETS	26/09/2020	06/07/2019	£ Change
Current Assets			
Nat West Current Account	£464.96	£452.20	£12.76
Paypal	£108.69	£188.06	-£ 79.37
Petty Cash	£144.66	£214.35	-£ 69.69
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>£718.31</u>	<u>£854.61</u>	<u>-£ 136.30</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Capital and Reserves			
Retained Earnings	£854.61	£863.86	-£ 9.25
Profit for the year	-£ 136.30	-£ 9.25	-£ 127.05
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>£718.31</u>	<u>£854.61</u>	<u>-£ 136.30</u>

3. PROFIT & LOSS

	Period: 6Jul'19 to 26Sept'20	30Jun'18 to 6Jul'19	Change £
<u>Income</u>			
Membership	£275.00	£125.00	£150.00
Donations	£5.00	£0	£5.00
Council Funding	£0	£200.00	-£200.00
Event Proceeds			
AGM / Party	£78.00	£91.00	-£13.00
Boat Trip	£0	£0	£0
Tring Brewery	£0	£0	£0
Quiz	£0	£0	£0
Dallings Wine Tasting	£0	£427.50	-£427.50
Total Events Proceeds	£78.00	£798.50	£-720.50
TOTAL INCOME	£358.00	£1,123.50	£-765.50
<u>Expense</u>			
Event Expenses			
AGM / Party	£134.31	£164.12	-£29.81
Boat Trip	£0	£0	£0
Tring Brewery	£0	£0	£0
Estate Tidy Up	£25.94	£86.91	£-60.97
Quiz	£0	£0	£0
Halloween	£20.00	£24.01	£-4.01
Easter	£0	£0	£0
Dallings Wine Tasting	£0	£427.50	£-427.50
Total Events Expenses	£180.25	£920.54	£-740.29
Other Expenses			
Newsletter & Publicity	£40.00	£67.49	-£27.49
Administration	£24.00	£28.78	-£4.78
Planting / Maintenance	£126.46	£0	£126.46
Bank Charges	£9.59	£1.94	£7.65
PL Insurance	£114.00	£114.00	£0
Total Other Expense	£314.05	£212.21	£25.61
TOTAL EXPENSE	£494.30	£1,132.75	-£765.361
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	-£136.30	£-9.25	-£127.05

Steve Wright (Treasurer)

NASH MILLS PARISH COUNCIL GRANT & DONATION APPLICATION FORM

Should you require this document in a different format (such as large-print) or require assistance to complete it then please contact the clerk.

APPLICANT'S DETAILS
Name of Applicant Organisation i.e. who are you applying on behalf of? Willows Residents' Association
Who will be our main contact for correspondence about this application?
Address for all correspondence
Email address
Can we contact you by telephone? Yes
(Daytime)
(Evening/Weekend)
What authority do you have to submit this application? For example, has the application been authorised by committee decision? If so, what committee and when? (For your own protection it is important that you are properly authorised). Monthly Committee Meeting – 10 April 2019
What type of organisation would you describe the Applicant as? Residents Association
Approximately how long has the Organisation been in existence? 8 Years
Are you a Registered Charity? YES / NO (If YES, state your Charity No) NO
Are you affiliated to a Governing Body? YES / NO NO
Which one(s)?

2 DETAILS OF YOUR APPLICATION

Please give a concise but detailed description

The Willows Residents' Association organises events throughout the year including:

- Estate Tidy Up Days
- Canal Boat Trips
- Free Family Halloween Celebrations
- Summer Party
- Wine Tasting Evenings
- Fence Repairs
- Along with additional family social events
- Annual Quiz

All the events are open to residents of the estate.

The grant enables the Residents' Association to maintain Public Liability insurance such that we can arrange events for the local community, virtually at present, to ensure engagement and the upkeep of the local area.

This is particularly pertinent during the current pandemic.

USAGE
Approximately how many people are currently regular, active participants in your Organisation?
50
How many of them are resident in the Parish of Nash Mills?
All
FUNDING
How much are you applying for?
£200
What other grants have you applied for or obtained recently
None
Have you applied elsewhere for equivalent funding (if so please can you advise us of the outcome?)
N/A
Is this part funding of a bigger project? if so please give further details.
No

Please confirm the following documents are enclosed in support of this application?

Constitution Latest Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet

DATE 11th October 2020

Please return this form to

Nikki Bugden Clerk@nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk

NMPC PO Box 1602, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 9ST

Please note that by completing this form you are giving consent for your details to be shared for consideration of this application and (if successful) for publication as evidence of our grants/donations given. You consent for your details to be retained on file in line with our retention policy.



Consultation on the Draft Dacorum Local Plan (2020-2038) January 2021

Summary

Nash Mills Parish Council (NMPC) have until 28th February to comment on the [draft Dacorum Local Plan](#). A working group met to discuss the report and to formulate responses for Council to consider, and if approved, submit to Dacorum Borough Council.

Working group considerations and comments

The working group has reviewed the consultation documents at a high level (together with concerns from CPRE and other parish councils) and conclude the following:

- The impact on Nash Mills parish will be minimal. With the exception of the new crematorium at Bunkers Park, there is no growth planned. A high volume of additional traffic through the parish, based on the planned growth areas, seems unlikely. We have a question relating to the boundary of the Bunkers Park development which incorporates an area of the park itself. It may be that this is due to a percentage of open space being allocated to all developments.
- We can re-share our concerns following developments in Nash Mills and the local area in the hope that it will have a small amount of influence (these relate to space and car parking). We have shared this in previous consultations but it is, perhaps, worth including once again.
- We have read concerns shared CPRE (The Countryside charity) and acknowledge that, with their expertise, they are best placed comment on the data related to green belt, AONB and chalk streams. However, where we agree, we have confirmed support of these comments.

Additional information regarding reclassification of The Denes

Not relevant to the consultation itself but interesting for us as a Parish Council, the draft local plan also brought to light a change in classification of the Retail / Leisure hierarchy for The Denes (from local centre to neighbourhood centre). Details are included in an appendix at the end of this report.

Consultation comments for review and (if agreed) to submit

Vision and Strategic Objectives

Question 1: Do you think the overarching vision, the vision for Dacorum's places and strategic objectives are right for the Borough?

At a high level, yes. However, we have comments about the detail in some areas. These are:

- **Housing projections** – accuracy of the data used and questioned fairness of allocation to Dacorum
- **Green belt** – we understand the need to use but have concerns that over projection could lead to unnecessary use of protected land
- **Chalk streams** – concern about further damage in order to supply water to additional houses
- **Transport options** – the approach to car ownership / usage and associated parking, reliable passenger transport and safe cycle paths
- **Density of developments** – available internal space for residents, impacts on light and the potential effect on mental health

The Sustainable Development Strategy

Question 2: Do you have specific comments about the Sustainable Development Strategy?

The Housing Strategy - Potential overprovision of housing

We support the need for additional housing, in particular affordable housing, and understand the potential need to encroach on existing green belt in order to meet housing needs.

However, we support comments from CPRE (The Countryside Charity) and fellow parish councils that data used to estimate housing requirements should be the most current data available (using Office of National Statistics data from 2018 rather than 2014) and that Dacorum's allocation is fair in comparison to other boroughs. We note that paragraph 7.5 in the draft plan also acknowledges that proposed changes to government methods of calculating housing could mean that the figure used in the plan is not correct.

We need to be sure that over-estimations do not lead to unnecessary use of green belt.

The plan also needs to further consider changes likely to occur as a result of the pandemic. Will unused office space provide opportunity for conversion to residential property, minimising the need to build on green belt?

Guiding Development

Question 3: Do you have specific comments about any of the Guiding Development policies?

ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

Potential harm to Chilterns AONB

While the proposed provision of housing will probably have minimal impact on Nash Mills and the green belt areas within the parish, we do support concerns voiced by other parish councils and CPRE that the scale of proposed development will cause harm to green belt across Dacorum and the Chilterns AONB, including longstanding eco-systems and early plans to extend the AONB or upgrade its status to National Park.

Further harm to chalk streams

It is recognised in the plan that there is a climate change emergency and that there is a potential for increased drought. Paragraph 18.39 states that *“The three chalk streams of the Rivers Bulbourne, Gade and Ver within Dacorum are considered of poor or moderate status against the Water Framework Directive”*. We support the concerns raised by CPRE that the proposed developments would have a severe impact on water supply and waste water disposal. According to CPRE, current supplies would be put under severe strain meaning additional water extraction from the chalk aquifer and further damage to the chalk streams. They also state that new supplies of water are not likely to be possible until after 2030.

Protecting green spaces

We are pleased to see that every residential growth development includes provision for public open space (through Policy DM63) and a country park within the largest site in Hemel Hempstead and that these spaces are protected from future development (para 22.45). How can we be sure that smaller green space will not be used for additional parking as sometimes occurs in existing developments?

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY

Parking and car ownership

We fully support the vision to encourage and promote sustainable travel for local everyday journeys, where work locations and local centres for retail and leisure allow. However, we have concerns about the vision for reduced car ownership and the related parking allocations.

We are located with convenient access to the M25, M1 and A41 and, although strategies to encourage sustainable travel around town may well be successful, the proximity to major road networks give residents the choice to use a car for journeys outside of the local area or to feel secure if travelling during later hours. Visitors to residents of Dacorum may also travel via the road networks. As stated in the newly adopted parking standards, car ownership figures from the 2001 – 2011 census showed little change and we are yet to know what the 2021 census will show. It is also acknowledged in the plan (and within the adopted parking standards) that the local topology can prove a challenge for some people.

We agree that a decrease in car use for everyday journeys should be encouraged, however applying flexibility to adopted parking standards to provide insufficient parking at residential properties will continue to result in on-street parking stress and obstructive / dangerous parking.

Local developments in Nash Mills are situated within easy reach of Apsley Railway Station and many residents use this facility. However, the majority of residents will still choose to own a car.

Our experience of parking issues in Nash Mills and nearby Apsley Lock

Nash Mills Wharf was built with insufficient parking. The road is private and pavement parking is managed by a private company. This means that the development itself is not littered by cars parked on pavements. However, the unfortunate neighbouring roads bear the brunt of this decision.

Apsley Lock, just outside Nash Mills, was originally built with green verges along all the roads. These were quickly ruined by parked cars and, within a short time, replaced by tarmac. Sadly, the aesthetics of this lovely development are somewhat upset by the huge number of cars parked on pavements. The parking in this estate is still a problem but is, at least, self-contained.

In contrast, **the Willows** (which sits between the two) is far less dense with minimal on road / pavement parking and provides a perfect example of what works well for an out of town development.

Cycle paths / lanes

In order to successfully increase cycling (including electric bikes) as an attractive option locally, safe cycle paths will need to be introduced into existing areas as well as new developments.

Reliable passenger transport

If travel on passenger transport is to be encouraged, that transport will need to be reliable. A great deal of needless stress was caused to many Nash Mills and Apsley residents when London Midland was replaced by London North Western in 2018. Trains were regularly late or cancelled, carriages removed and timetables changed to reduce trains, delivering a generally unreliable service during the busiest times. If we want to encourage sustainable passenger transport then there needs to be a way for providers to be held to account.

Two Waters development in Apsley

The plan shows growth plans for the Two Waters area in Apsley and mention of infrastructure development across the A414. The Infrastructure Development Plan identifies “congestion in the Two Waters area including London Road/Two Waters Road and Durrants Hill Road” and mentions ‘**Package 1**’ which includes “The reorganisation of road space in the Apsley/Two Waters area to facilitate an improved streetscape”. The detail of this (and the impact on car use in the area) is not clear. A change to improve this junction and the traffic problems would, of course, be welcome. However, the nature of the retail outlets in Apsley (DIY, weekly shopping, home supplies) and it’s elevation to ‘district centre’ would surely necessitate continued easy access for cars to transport likely purchases in this area. Reducing this could further increase traffic issues through Apsley.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Accessibility of hospital facilities

It would feel remiss not to re-iterate the importance of a centrally located hospital for the growth areas. We do not support the decision to retain the a main hospital in Watford, given the growth in Dacorum.

Potential impacts for mental health (space and light)

Paragraph 22.1 states “The health and wellbeing of our communities is crucially important to delivering long term sustainable development and placemaking. This includes physical, mental and social wellbeing.” And under paragraph 22.23, it is stated that planning “has great potential to influence health” and key areas include open space and housing design. We have some concerns about the lack of space and light in densely developed areas and the impact on mental health, i.e. the closeness of the buildings vs. the ability to see some open space from your own home, the implications this has on light entering the home and the fact that the national standards for internal space are “optional” for local authorities to apply.

The Delivery Strategies

Question 4: Do you have specific comments about any of the Delivery Strategies?

No

Proposals and Sites

Question 5: Do you have specific comments about any of the Proposals and Sites?

The plot allocated for the crematorium at Bunkers Lane has a red border that incorporates part of Bunkers Park, including the access road and car park. We would like to confirm that the area of Bunkers Park shown is not under threat of further development and that the carpark and access route to reach the car park will still be available for users of the park.

Sustainability Appraisal

Question 6: Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal that accompanies the Plan?

No

Evidence Base

Question 7: Do you agree that the Evidence Base that accompanies the Plan is adequate, up-to-date and relevant?

We support concerns from CPRE that ONS data used could be more up to date (2018, rather than 2014) and that the Water Scoping Study used was produced in 2010 and likely contains some outdated information.

National Policy and Guidance

Question 8: Do you think the Plan is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and supporting guidance?

Yes / No

In the main yes, although we have a couple of comments:

The NPPF emphasises the importance of green belt and its use only in “exceptional circumstances”. The data used to calculate housing and all brownfield sites (including those related to office space post pandemic) should be explored before resorting to this route.

While sustainable transport is prioritised, the NPPF states that planning should offer a “genuine choice of transport modes” and that “local car ownership levels” should be taken into account. Given the most recent census data and our proximity to major road networks, we feel it should be recognised that owning a car (even if not used for all journeys) will still be a choice for many people.

Any other comments on the Emerging Strategy for Growth

Question 9: Do you have any other comments on the Plan?

Based on experience of developments in Nash Mills, we’re interested to know the processes in place to minimise developers from being able to do any of the following:

- Reducing the amount of affordable housing by claiming it is unviable?
- Not providing the parking standards laid out for specific types / size of accommodation?
- Gaining approval for development to include retail or community space which is reduced or removed during various iterations of plans to make way for additional residential space
- Repeatedly submitting plans with minimal change (without meeting policies/standards)

APPENDIX

Additional information regarding reclassification of The Denes

While reviewing the documents, we noted the following and thought it useful to share:

Following the 'South West Hertfordshire Retail and Leisure Study (2018)', there has been a change to the classification of The Denes in the Retail/Leisure hierarchy. In the previous Dacorum Core Strategy (adopted in 2013), The Denes was listed as '**Local Centre - with a neighbourhood shopping function**'. Others in this category included Leverstock Green, Bennets End, Adeyfield and Apsley.

In the new draft plan, The Denes is listed as a '**Neighbourhood Centre**', which seems to be related to the number of shops contained. Leverstock Green is also listed as a Neighbourhood Centre, whereas Bennetts End and Adeyfield remain as Local Centres.

In the 2018 study, Apsley was categorised at a 'local centre' but in the draft Dacorum Local Plan, it has been upgraded to 'district centre' due to the number of retail units and the planned growth for additional retail at Two Waters.

The draft plan describes 'Neighbourhood Centres and Scattered Local shops' as ...

"Small parades of shops of purely neighbourhood significance are not classified as 'centres' in the NPPF. Nevertheless, these centres fulfil an important role in providing local shops, services and community facilities, which merit protection where appropriate."

The Retail / Leisure hierarchy is now covered by two separate policies:

- Policy DM19 - Mix of uses in Town, District and Local Centres
- Policy DM20 – Neighbourhood Centres and Scattered Local Shops

DACORUM PLAN (2020 – 2038) EMERGING STRATEGY FOR GROWTH
REPRESENTATION BY THE TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS OF DACORUM

(v0.2)

N.B. - footnotes are included for the agreement process only and will be excluded from the final version

22nd February 2021

Dear Cllr Williams

The Town and Parish Councils in Dacorum are writing to ask that the draft Local Plan (the “Plan”) be withdrawn. Many of the councils will be submitting their own detailed comments but some of the underlying issues are common to us all and merit a joint response.

Any Vision which requires development on 746 ha of Green Belt land is contrary to the wishes of our communities as was overwhelmingly expressed in the responses to the 2017 consultation where nearly 95% of respondents didn’t agree with the proposed approach to Green Belt and Major Development sites¹. It is clear from your letter of 30th November 2020 to the Secretary of State that the Borough Council recognises that the same concerns are likely to arise again from the current Plan².

Development on Green Belt land runs counter to the Government’s response to the local housing need proposals of 16th December 2020 in which it stated “... *that in some places the numbers produced by the standard method pose a risk to protected landscapes and Green Belt. We should be clear that meeting housing need is never a reason to cause unacceptable harm to such places*”³. We also understand that one of the reasons that the Inspectors halted the Public Examination of the St Albans Local Plan was its over-reliance on a few very large strategic Green Belt allocations. Finally we see insufficient evidence that Dacorum has looked widely enough to meet its housing commitments from less sensitive, more sustainable, sites.

We dispute the assumption in the Plan that the demonstrable benefit of the proposed release of Green Belt land outweighs the adverse impact as required by the National Planning Policy Framework⁴.

We appreciate that the pressure on the Green Belt comes from the standard housing methodology, and the difficulty of accommodating that methodology in a Borough which is so constrained by Green Belt and AONB. We also appreciate the difficulty of drafting a plan in the current exceptional

¹ http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/docs/default-source/strategic-planning/appendix-6---q9-to-q11---i-and-o-consultation-report-of-responses-september-2019.pdf?sfvrsn=6b530c9e_6

² See attachment – letter from Cllr Williams to Robert Jenrick 30/11/20

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system/outcome/government-response-to-the-local-housing-need-proposals-in-changes-to-the-current-planning-system>

⁴

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf 11.b

circumstances, against the vagaries of national policy, and the need to have a clear strategy in place to prevent uncontrolled development.

That said we cannot support using a housing needs methodology that is not based on up to date demographic and housing data, in this case the 2018 ONS data, and doesn't take sufficient account of Green Belt and AONB constraints; we fully support the request in your letter of 30th November 2020 that greater weight be placed on these constraints. We note that since publication of the Plan the Government has revised its method of housing needs calculation but oppose its proposal to revert to using out of date data from 2014². We also note that on the 16th December 2020 the Minister stated that the Ministry's projected house building numbers are not a target³.

Given that the Government has withdrawn the housing needs methodology on which the Plan is based, that the revised methodology uses out of date data, that Dacorum's Borough, Town, and Parish Councils all agree that more weight should be given to the constraints of Green Belt land when calculating housing needs, and that the Government has stated that its projected building numbers are not a target, why has the Plan not been withdrawn until there is some clarity of what Dacorum's housing need is?

The Plan does not meet the needs of our communities and its ambitions will undermine the quality of life of our residents whether they live in towns, villages or rural areas. We ask that the Borough Council withdraws this Plan as it needs to be fundamentally re-shaped to reflect the Vision of the community to retain the Green Belt and the Borough's objectively assessed housing needs. As this will render any comments on the current version meaningless, please confirm that any revised Plan will be put to a second R18 consultation.

For and on behalf of

Aldbury Parish Council

Berkhamsted Town Council

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Bovingdon Parish Council

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Chipperfield Parish Council

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Flamsted Parish Council

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Flaunden Parish Council

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Great Gaddesden Parish Council

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Kings Langley Parish Council

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Little Gaddesden Parish Council

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Markyate Parish Council

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Nash Mills Parish Council

Nettleden with Potten End Parish Council

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Northchurch Parish Council

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Tring Rural Parish Council

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Tring Town Council

.....
Wigginton Parish Council

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DRAFT

Full Council Action List January 2021 (post Meeting)

Actions from Most Recent Meeting (To Be Discussed)	Comment
Working Group to formulate local plan responses for February agenda.	Cllr Cobb
Cllr Cobb to circulate delivery cost analysis	Cllr Cobb
Awaiting Further Updates (ONGOING to Be Discussed)	
Photo Authorisation form required (to accompany RA)	LB
Borough Councillor Actions	
CCTV Upgrade costings @ The Denes	JM (Borough) ongoing with DBC
The Denes Signage (CCTV /Fly Tipping etc)	JM (Borough) ongoing
JM to contact Steve Barnes re: ticket meter. (ongoing)	JM (Borough) ongoing
Gulleys @ The Denes	JM (Borough) ongoing
Steps and lights (Georgewood)	JM (Borough) ongoing (agenda item January)
Litter Bunkers Lane	JM to report to clean safe and green
Sign at Little Wood	JM to report
County Councillor Actions	
Clerk Actions (Most Recent Meeting Information Only)	In addition to standard duties
Clerk to contact HCC re litter on Bunkers Lane	
Minutes to website for Dec	
Arrange for signing & Submit precept to DBC	
Publish budget on website	
Contact DBC/HCC for Defib permissions	
Draft Jan Minutes	
Update Grant policy/Fin RA/Warden RA/Audit Plan -upload to website	
Update master policy sheet on file and on website.	
Draft and submit planning comments for Dec x2	
Update action list	
Earmark funds for SIDS	
Note ongoing budget indications for SIDS	
Arrange for monthly payments to be made	
Key pension return	
Arrange for Cllr Berkeley and Cllr Bayley/Cllr Maddern to sign fin docs	
Arrange for Cllr Bayley to sign off all remote documents	
Investigate PAYE query	
Investigate Investment options	Clerk to open account once online banking resolved.
Investigate warden phone	
Check papers in garage for archives	
LB contacted Luke Johnson, re: tree survey in Highbarns.	Clerk taking over, chaser email sent Aug 2020

Update meeting dates on website	
Clerk ongoing actions (longer term)	
NatWest online banking	In progress
Investigate web accessibility report/EU reference	Ongoing working through plan
Investigate audit comments and historic comments too	Ongoing
Update RA to consider latest Coronavirus recommendations	Clerk to create separate Covid-19 RA and to update existing RA
Long Term Actions No Immediate Resolution (Reminders)	
Costed plan from Sunnyside to be obtained once permissions re land recd.	SR, on hold
All councillors to continue to report unauthorised banners within NM to JM.	ALL
Willow Trees	JM in progress but leave on until planted
Garage Clear out/archiving	Clerk
Projector screen	JM
War Memorial (status review before handover)	