



Nash Mills Parish Council Annual Reports

April 2022



Welcome to the 2021/2022 Nash Mills Parish Council Annual reports.

Our annual reports provide a summary of projects being undertaken by Nash Mills Parish Council and our elected Councillors on behalf of our community for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The majority of our meetings are open to the public and all agendas, minutes and supporting documents are posted on our website and these, along with our parish newsletter contain a wealth of information about what we are doing to support the parish. Our projects cover many schemes including road safety initiatives, crime reduction measures and biodiversity plans to improve our green spaces.

We are hoping to hold a longer, community forum later in the year to discuss our projects and the new initiatives that we are investigating. We would welcome you to come along and share your views on what you would like to see us working on to benefit our local community and local environment.

Details of our community engagement forum will be posted on our website and social media within the next few months.

Please contact me by email [clerk@nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@nashmillsparishcouncil.gov.uk) should you require any clarification of any matters contained in the reports.

Kind Regards

*Nikki*

Nikki Bugden

Clerk to Nash Mills Parish Council

Responsible Financial Officer

07493 519458



**NASH MILLS**  
PARISH COUNCIL

## Chairman's Annual Report 2022

It has been another challenging year for many of us in Nash Mills whilst continuing to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic and the government changes. I hope as a parish through the Facebook page and our magazine we have kept you informed and up to date. We also are back having face to face meetings now which you are very welcome to attend.

It has been a busy year In Nash Mills, our Councillors have been actively researching projects and working their way through the priorities that we set at the start of our term. We are now two thirds through our four-year term, and I'm delighted to see that the safety measures NMPC wanted to put in place for the residents are now installed. The defibrillator is up and running at the Denes, two new speed indicator devices are in place, and new, additional CCTV cameras at The Denes have been installed, all these works were funded by NMPC. We have also delivered once again the Christmas lights at the Denes, verge hardening schemes throughout the parish and will be holding an event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

Later this year we will be funding some improvements at The Denes to provide safety measures near to the dropped kerb and cycle racks will be installed outside the shops.

Council continues to liaise with other agencies to source methods of funding for further improvements within the parish and we look forward to sharing more information about our grant award and plans for 're-wilding' within Nash Mills once the project gets underway.

We have successfully canvassed for funding for further road safety initiatives (The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will be installing another Speed Indicator Device on Barnacres Road) The reports in the annual report pack give more detail of the variety of items that council have considered and progressed or indeed are still researching.

As the Chairman of the parish council, I am supported by a fabulous team of councillors and our amazing clerk (Nikki) and Parish Warden (Dave).

I think it's only right to once again explain Nikki & Dave's role for NMPC, they are invaluable to us as a parish council, and we are extremely grateful and lucky to have two very loyal, hardworking, and dedicated people working alongside us.

**Nikki** works hard to ensure that the projects that council approve are investigated, relevant permissions sought and ultimately the project is delivered in line with our financial regulations. Nikki is also responsible for ensuring that all our actions are taken appropriately in line with the laws and duties of a parish council, that our finances are in order and that everything is correctly administered with all due consideration to risks and statutory obligations.

**Dave** our recognised 'face on the street' works incredibly hard supporting our residents whatever the conditions. Dave liaises with the Herts County Council and Dacorum teams, whilst providing invaluable support to Nikki in her role.

I am so proud of what we have all achieved this past year in difficult circumstances and hugely excited to see the projects currently being worked on come to fruition.

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success” We as a parish council all strive to do our best to help & assist our parishioners and make Nash Mills an even greater place to live.

Thank you to all the NMPC team for your amazing work and dedication

Cllr Lisa Bayley  
Chairman



## Personnel Committee Report Nash Mills Parish Council Annual Meeting 2022

Membership of this committee:

Councillor Lisa Bailey

Councillor Alan Briggs

Councillor Jan Maddern

Councillor Michele Berkeley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Steve Roberts (Chairman)

The year has been one of adjusting to varying restrictions and requirements due to the Coronavirus pandemic where the safety of our employees and Councillors has been paramount.

The committee met in person in January 2022 and the Nash Mills Parish Council appraisal scheme was adopted. This covers the annual process for the review of employees' performance, and discussion around objectives for the forthcoming year. This meeting was also the first opportunity to discuss the clerk's updated job description and objectives for the 21/22 year, which were approved. A report of the meeting was presented to full Council in February 2022 and agreed unanimously.

We continue to support and encourage our employees to undertake continued professional development, and in December 2021 the full council approved the training budget to fund attendance at, and participation in relevant training and events.

There was a significant delay in awarding the statutory salary increases for the year 2021/22 due to lengthy negotiations between the unions and employer representatives. The new salary scales were finally advised by the National Association of Local Councils in March 2022. These were processed with our pay bureau and paid to the clerk and warden effective from 1 April 2021 and paid in March 2022 salaries.

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, I record our thanks to both Nikki and Dave for their ongoing work. In their very different roles, they both demonstrate a very high standard of work and their commitment to the Parish and the Council is much appreciated and acknowledged.

Councillor Steve Roberts  
Chairman of Personnel Committee



## Finance Annual Report April 2022

Nash Mills Parish Council (NMPC) continues to be in a healthy financial position, although most of the funds are earmarked for projects.

This year NMPC has spent approximately £62,000 on all expenditure, of which approximately £17,000 was spent on a second CCTV camera to be installed at The Denes shopping centre, enabling full coverage of the shops and car parking area. In addition, £1,000 was used to purchase a new defibrillator case and install the defibrillator at The Denes, and the shopping centre was once again lit up with Christmas lights; this has proven to be very popular with the residents.

The parish council made the decision to support local businesses by continuing to offer free advertising in the parish magazine for the year, in order to help them recover from the difficulties of the pandemic.

Our warden and clerk have been diligent in keeping costs down by the warden maintaining some of the smaller maintenance jobs around the parish rather than calling in contractors unnecessarily, and our clerk keeping a tight control of the budget.

Our plans for the coming year include upgrading of the facilities at The Denes shops, including bike racks, a new parish notice board, two new benches, one will be to commemorate the Jubilee, and a rewilded area.

This year we have been forced to increase our parish precept; the first time in 5 years. However, the increase for a band D house is just 56p.

As always, we welcome ideas and suggestions from our residents on what we can do to improve and enhance our parish.

Jan Maddern  
Finance Lead



# NASH MILLS

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Year End Financial Headlines 2021-22

Description	Amount
Monies In	£ 46391.00
Monies Out	£ 61555.00
Total sum (excluding assets) held on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	£ 108951.00 (£84915 earmarked for projects)
Precept requested for 2022/23	£ 29690.00
Total expenditure budget 2022/23	£ 42005.00
Budgeted use of reserves 2022/23 to support budget shortfall and to ensure that precept increase is minimal.	£ 1262.00
	Increase to precept for a band D property .56p

Please note that our full financial summaries will be available once the internal and external audits have been conducted. These will be available on the annual governance return.

The figures above may change post audit. Please contact the clerk for further information.

Nikki Bugden



## Nash Mills APM 2022

I'd like to introduce myself as the Police Community Support Officer for Nash Mills, I have been in the post for about 1 year. I have been fortunate however to have worked for the Police for approximately 7 years.

We are fortunate in Nash Mills that it has always had one of the lowest crime rates in Dacorum.

I won't give you a full in-depth analysis of the crime figures, however it is with a good heart I can say that crime rates in Nash Mills are still one of the lowest among the Dacorum borough. I have attached with this breakdown a more detailed guide of the types of crimes we have been getting in Nash Mills.

Of course, the Covid 19 problem has had an effect on crimes over the past couple of years, but it has seen an increase in domestics and online scams. It is important to be reminded however that now as things get back to some degree of normality, we are likely to see an increase in shoplifting and anti-social behaviour issues.

The main headlines from 2021's figures are that Nash Mills only had 2 reported burglary dwellings across the entire year. Again, this is worth noting that this is considerably less compared to other parts of Dacorum and is also the lowest among the neighbouring wards; Bennetts End & Apsley.

A majority of the other high figure areas were other crimes. However, there is no need for concern, this figure is the other various investigations that we do. This category includes Child Protection Investigations. This could be something similar to a concern being raised for a child generally by third parties or by schools. This will also include public order offences which generally will be swearing in a public place. Finally, this figure will also contain stats relating to dangerous dogs etc.



I am happy to report that throughout 2021 we only had 2 reports of Dangerous Dogs. Both investigations were passed to the RSPCA/Dog warden to investigate further.

In comparison to 2020's figures, I'm happy to report that crime is on the decline generally. As noted above Nash Mills recorded far less burglaries in 2021 and crime generally fell quite drastically from 2020.

I can't stress enough that I don't want anyone to get too hung up over these figures, I'm proud to say that you live in a VERY low crime area!

I would encourage everyone to join the local neighbourhood watch group as we use this to communicate with you about crime trends, crime prevention and much more, see our web site for further information.

I'm always around the area and I like to think I'm very approachable so if you need to talk to me, please contact me either via 101 (the police non-emergency number) or email me [keir.simpson@herts.police.uk](mailto:keir.simpson@herts.police.uk)

Obviously (I hope) in the case of an emergency please call 999

Please feel free to email me with any queries or questions you may have in relation to the figures.

Thank you

Keir Simpson

PCSO

<b>Nash Mills Crimes 2021</b>	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD.
Burglary (Dwelling)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Burglary (other - business & non dwelling)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Theft & Attempt from Motor Vehicle	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Domestic Related (Stalking/harassment)	1	2	4	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	1	2	17
Theft of Motor Vehicle	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Criminal Damage	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5
Theft from Shop	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Theft (Other)	1	2	5	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	14
Drug Related Offences	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Assaults/Assault no Injury	2	4	3	4	2	6	1	2	2	1	2	3	32
Other Crimes (Child Protection Investigations/Public Order Offences)	4	3	11	3	8	6	1	4	4	3	3	2	62



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Arson	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	13	13	26	14	15	15	5	8	7	8	7	11	151

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Burglary Dwelling**

Nash Mills had 2 Burglary (dwellings) last year, compared to the 117 reported across Dacorum this represents one of the safest areas of the Dacorum borough.

#### **Burglary Other**

Further to the above Nash Mills only had 1 other Burglary reported to Hertfordshire Constabulary last year. In this instance it was a garage that unfortunately broken into. However again this number is among one of the lowest in Dacorum.

#### **Assault/assault no injury**

Although this figure looks quite high, 26 out of the 32 reported assaults were assaults with no injuries.

#### **Other crimes**

Again this figure is the highest amongst Nash Mills crimes, however there is no need for concern, this figure is the other various investigations Police do. This includes Child Protection Investigations where there has been concern raised for children generally by third parties or by schools. This will also include public order offences which generally will be swearing in a public place. Finally this figure will also contain stats relating to dangerous dogs etc. I am happy to report that throughout 2021 we only had 2 reports of Dangerous Dogs. Both investigations were passed to the RSPCA/Dog warden to investigate further.





## Parish Warden Annual Report- 2022

This year has seen a gradual return to some kind of normal as Covid restrictions have eased.

Once again, in the spring I painted all the seats and signs and also got the opportunity to go around Bunkers Playing Field with the playground inspector which I found very helpful.

Throughout the summer months there was an increase in graffiti and abandoned cars. The graffiti I removed myself and I reported all the abandoned cars to DBC.

In July I cut back trees and bushes and cleared the path between the Willows Estate and Stevensons Wharf. I also cut back overhanging trees, nettles, and brambles in Bunkers Playing Field.

There continues to be problems with fly tipping and huge amounts of litter. This still takes up most of my time. I have made 40 reports to HCC and 37 to DBC this year, mainly for potholes and fly tipping.

On a positive note, the barrier is now working in Linden's car park which has helped with many ongoing issues.

I continue to enjoy my job and like being part of the Nash Mills community.

David Drew

Nash Mills Parish Warden



# NASH MILLS

PARISH COUNCIL

## Clerk Annual Report April 2022

After a challenging start to the year, we were able to return to face to face meetings at Nash Mills Village Hall in June 2021.

Unfortunately, this has meant that we are seeing slightly lower public attendance as some of our residents appeared to prefer being able to join our meetings remotely. We will watch with interest as Govt considers whether or not legislation shall be amended to allow different methods of accessing our meetings to reflect the needs and desires of our individual parishes.

Council have continued to look at ways in which we can utilise our healthy reserves for the benefit of our community and our working groups have enabled a wide variety of projects to be started, and some have now been fully completed. It has been wonderful to see the defibrillator in place at The Denes and I can confirm that there have been a large number of incidences where the ambulance service has directed people to the apparatus. We have a team who regularly inspect the apparatus once someone has been directed to it.

It takes a considerable time for projects to work their way through from ideas to implementation and I have been fortunate in that I have been very ably supported by my fellow officers at both Dacorum Borough Council and Herts County Council to work through the steps relating to various permissions, licences, funding, and consultations. This has been invaluable in facilitating the installation of the new speed indicator devices and in completing the first stages of the verges campaign.

Our busy Councillor-led working groups continue to ensure that our regular projects continue, some more detailed updates are featured in this report for the groups that are looking at new initiatives but in the meantime there are a number of groups who are helping share my workload by ensuring that our parish magazine continues to keep you all informed, we investigate what steps can be taken to protect our local heritage assets and our playpark is kept safe and maintained (we are currently renegotiating the lease on this land).

We continue to work at making our website documents accessible for all and I am hoping to shortly start working with a local resident who will be surveying our website content to highlight areas that we can improve upon- I would urge any of you who have any feedback on the way that we communicate with you to contact me with your thoughts.

I was able this year to conduct an inventory of some of the historical documents that I held in the files, and it was interesting to find our minutes dating back to our very first meeting Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 1973. Next year will be our half-centenary. I have been liaising with the Apsley Paper Trail so that they can copy some of the information prior to them being sent off to safe storage at the County Archives in Hertford. As they are the full legal record of all decisions made by the council, they must be kept safe, in perpetuity, in the county archives.

This year the reviewing of costs and contracts has enabled me to present to council a budget that reflected the councils desire to ensure that our precept request did not increase significantly, even with a number of increases to our own costs. We were also able to find reserves to enable us to support our local businesses through the pandemic by offering free advertising in our parish magazine.

Council continues to encourage me to continue pursuing appropriate training to assist with my role and I have been fortunate enough to attend regular sector specific training courses and conferences provided by both the Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils and the Society Of Local Council Clerks.

I am lucky that I am supported in my role by our very experienced warden who has remained an invaluable source of knowledge, support, and assistance as our 'man on the ground', my role is made all the easier with his support, good humour, and dedication to his role.

Fortunately, both of us support and are supported by a fantastic team of elected councillors and I look forward to another year of helping to deliver the many projects that they are investigating to improve the local community for us all. Our Re-Wilding initiative will give us a great opportunity to bring together volunteers to assist with the planting later this year (more details to follow).

I must also thank the local community for all of the help, encouragement, and support that they give to both myself and Dave our warden, without your regular feedback we would not be able to work so hard to act on your concerns and to help to improve Nash Mills.

Nikki Bugden

Clerk to the Council

31st March 2022

	Working Groups March 2022
Group	Responsibilities/Scope / investigations
Defibrillator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate locations, equipment suitability, implementation, ongoing budgetary matters</li> </ul>
Assets of Community Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the Three Tuns ACV and other sites within parish.</li> <li>Create a contingency plan should the ACV be activated.</li> </ul>
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>War memorial</li> <li>Local listing</li> </ul>
Grass verges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish ownership, options for verge protection and parking issues.</li> <li>Work with County Councillor to prioritise options</li> </ul>
Play Park/Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crossing options, lease, grass cutting, tree surgery, equipment repairs</li> </ul>
The Denes makeover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning the area, Sunnyside, planters, defib options, noticeboard, benches, bins, Cycle racks</li> <li>ADDING IN Jubilee Tree/Bench/ Garden (Aug 2021)</li> </ul>
IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review calendar options</li> <li>Documents library for useful information (for councillors?)</li> <li>Other visual improvements?</li> <li>Councillor working documents area (could be Google Drive, OneDrive or similar)</li> </ul>
Queens Jubilee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate plans and actions to celebrate and commemorate the platinum jubilee</li> <li>Amended to 'event planning' for the occasion (Aug 2021)</li> </ul>
Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To revisit original aims/objectives</li> <li>Create parish 'Vision' and outline objectives &amp; strategy for remaining term</li> <li>Work with the clerk to aid the creation of the parish business plan ready for budget setting.</li> </ul>



Planning Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compile response to K/L Neighbourhood Plan</li> <li>▪ Compile response to the SCI for <a href="http://swhertsplan.com">SW Herts Joint Strategic plan (swhertsplan.com)</a></li> </ul>
Annual Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plan the content, format and delivery of the council achievements over the last 3 years.</li> </ul>
Denes Saturdays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attendance rota, purchase promotional material, ideas for discussion / input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Looking at 'remote' options during pandemic restrictions (updated Aug 2021)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Parish Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collect ideas for content, request volunteers for content for each edition, create magazine, arrange printing and distributions</li> </ul>
Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collect ideas, schedule posts, respond to messenger messages, investigate Instagram and twitter options</li> </ul>



## NMPC Annual Reports 2021-22

### Defibrillator Working Group

This year, the Council was able to complete the implementation of the defibrillator, with the valued assistance of a Nash Mills resident who is a lead First Responder in the East of England region.

The council obtained the necessary formal approvals from Dacorum Borough Council and from Hertfordshire County Council, then acquired and installed a lockable cabinet. The defibrillator is registered with “The Circuit” – the national defib network which allows the East of England Ambulance service to make it available for use when needed. There have been numerous triggers since the installation was confirmed, though no actual usage. The defibrillator is regularly inspected by the Parish Warden.

A What3Words publicity campaign and competition was run via the Parish Magazine to publicise the device’s location.

The installation of signage is in progress – this will add to the visibility of the device’s location in The Denes.

### Heritage

#### *Three Tuns*

The Three Tuns, thought to date back to the late 1700s, is our only remaining pub in Nash Mills and, therefore, an important community asset. As such, we felt it important to have this status formally recognised and in 2021 the Council succeeded to formally register with Dacorum Borough Council the Three Tuns as an “Asset of Community Value” (ACV).

The ACV Working Group is conducting outline investigations / planning to ensure that we would be able to respond promptly should the right to bid process ever be triggered. Our provisional plans will be published for public discussion as soon as they are ready.

### The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

The Council has approved plans, developed by a newly formed Working Group, to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in Nash Mills in June 2022. The Council will organise three Jubilee themed competitions: The Best Dressed Residence, Children’s Art, Treasure /

Scavenger Hunt. There will also be a “Tea and Biscuits” event hosted by Councillors at The Denes on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

In due course, further details will be published on the Council website, and via Facebook.

### Planning

Despite the relatively small size of the Parish, there are frequent planning applications for Council consideration as a statutory consultee. The Council reviews all applications in the context of planning guidelines, such as the National Planning Policy Framework, Dacorum’s local plan and supporting documents such as parking standards, and endeavour to ensure that all proposed developments are compliant and in the interest of the Parish and its residents. Any Council comments or objections are recorded within the relevant application on the Dacorum Borough Council portal, as well as of course within our minutes.

The Council gives scrutiny to parking provision for new applications, and their compliance with Dacorum’s parking standards. Councillors were pleased that on some occasions, applicants changed their plans to make better parking provision.

Councillors have spoken at the Dacorum Development Management Committee (DMC) in objection to several applications, principally where in our opinion there is insufficient parking provision. In March 2022, Council sent a letter of complaint to the DMC to express our disappointment that the parking standards had been overridden for a particular application, especially given the apparent lack of local knowledge within the Committee.

Councillor Briggs, the planning lead for the Parish attends monthly (virtual) meetings which give the opportunity to raise queries, give feedback and receive updates on planning matters within the Borough.

This year, the Council has responded to an appeal lodged in relation to a basement flat in Nash House within Nash Mills Wharf. The outcome is awaited.

### Consultations

A Working Group was formed to review the Kings Langley neighbourhood plan to assess any potential impact on Nash Mills. Comments were collated, reviewed and approved by Council and then submitted.

Council also submitted comments (objection) in relation to the proposed construction of new Motorway Service Area on Land South Of Junction 20 Of M25 And West Of A41 Watford Road Hunton Bridge.

Cllr Alan Briggs



## **WORKING GROUP ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2021 – MAY 2022**

### **THE VERGES WORKING GROUP**

#### **Objective of working group**

The Working Group was set up to look at ‘**Saving the Green Verges**’ within the Nash Mills Area and offer alternative ideas and proposals for the Council to review.

#### **Working Group Members**

Councillor Michele Berkeley (Lead)  
Councillor Alan Briggs  
Councillor Mandy Lester  
Councillor Jan Maddern

#### **Progress so far**

The following works to **Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Verges** have now been completed:

**The Denes** (Repairs to the Verge and Double Height Kerb installed)

**Bunkers Park** (Repairs to the Verge and Verge Marking Posts installed)

**33-37 Meadow Road** (Grasscrete installed)

**Georgewood/Junction of Barnacres** (Wildflower Seeds to be planted)

**Barnacres Road (387-425)** (Double Height Kerbs and Grasscrete installed)

The following works remain outstanding to complete **Phase 1** and now also combine **Phase 2 of the Verges** are as follows:

***East Green** – due to the BAM works that had been ongoing since November 2021 until March 2022 the Grasscrete works to be considered for these Verges were postponed. Council is to review once all equipment has been removed by contractors from the site.*

***Chambersbury Lane** (Opposite No 42 Highbarns and next to 27 Chambersbury)  
Council still to consider proposals suggested for this area.*

**Chambersbury Lane (87-89)**

Council agreed to defer this for the time being and monitor over the coming months as Grass Verge had grown back.

**Chambersbury Lane (120 – Past small park)**

Council agreed to defer this for the time being and monitor over the coming months as Grass Verges had grown back.

It has been noted that small trunks of trees had been positioned along this verge and NMPC had reported this fact to Dacorum Borough Council, but no further action will be enforced.

**Chambersbury Lane (Junction Market Oak Lane)**

Council agreed to defer this for the time being and monitor over the coming months as Grass Verges had grown back.

***Chaffinches Green***

*A Highways report and recommendations are awaited.*

**Georgewood Road /Junction Highbarns**

Council agreed to defer this for the time being and monitor over the coming months as Grass Verges had grown back.

***Barnacres (514-518)***

*Awaiting recommendations from DBC and Borough Councillor.*

***Parking at Junction Chambersbury Lane/Bunkers Road***

*A Highways report and recommendations are awaited.*

***New Crossing at Bunkers Park Entrance***

*A Highways report and recommendations are awaited.*

***Meadow Road (39)***

*Council still to consider the request by Resident for this area.*

All the projects completed to the Verges to date have been funded directly by Dacorum Borough Council and Herts Highway. NMPC are extremely grateful for their co-operation and assistance in our Save the Verges project. We are also grateful to all the help from our Local Borough Councillor.

**Next Steps**

NMPC hope to review and agree on the outstanding matters during the rest of the year so that funding can be agreed in order that works can be scheduled accordingly.

**Councillor Michele Berkeley**

**Vice-Chairman Personnel**



## WORKING GROUP REPORT MAY 2021 – MAY 2022

### The Denes working group

#### Objective of working group

This working group was set up as an initiative to improve the social space at The Denes shopping centre. Several items needed to be replaced (noticeboard, bench, bins) and there was an opportunity to consider how the space could be improved and redesigned, rather than simply replace individual items.

#### Working group members

All parish councillors are members of this working group.

#### Progress so far

Following our positive meetings last year with our (previous) County Councillor and Herts Highways Officer, we have moved forward with this project. In addition, we have tied in other themes and projects.

- **Platinum Jubilee** - The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) project for the Platinum Jubilee provided the opportunity for a new tree at the Denes (which was planted in early April) and a new Platinum Jubilee bench will eventually replace the existing Golden Jubilee one. Council agreed that, as the garden will be started in 2022, it will be named in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- **Dacorum Rewilding** - We've also worked, this year, with Dacorum's Parks and Open Spaces Officer who has recommended some ideas and shared his vision about how to include rewilding into the space alongside some more formal planting.

We asked for feedback from residents regarding the position of a new noticeboard and the parish council agreed a style for our new board. This is now in progress and, if agreed by Herts Highways, will be positioned in a more prominent location where it can be viewed more easily by passers-by.

We worked with Highways Officer on cycle racks to be situated on an area of paving at the end of the car park. The style has been agreed and our clerk is currently working with Highways to manage the installation of these, together with the noticeboard. A site visit will be arranged for late April.

#### Next steps

At the point of writing this report, the parish council has determined their preferred area of space to utilise, style of planting and bench types for the project. We will meet with the Parks & Open Spaces Officer in the next few weeks to discuss our ideas ready for an illustrated proposal to be completed by his team and, subsequently, shared with residents. Final approval will need to be given by Herts County Council and/or Herts Highways once the design is created but we may be able to start planting some wildflower areas in the autumn.

In the meantime, the Jubilee bench will be installed in the area of green near to the car park exit, ready for the Jubilee celebrations and the council will consider options for a QGC tree plaque.

## Project Status Updates May 2022



COMPLETED



ONGOING OR  
IN PROGRESS



PENDING OR NOT  
YET ACTIONED

### Communications and visibility



- Active Facebook page with over 450 followers
- Saturday meet-and-greets at The Denes (temporarily stopped for Covid-19)
- Website audited and accessibility issues noted
- Free advertising for local businesses during Covid-19 pandemic



- Continue to expand local articles and community input in magazine



- Parish events-Jubilee Event taking place (June 2022)
- Community Engagement Forum (Autumn 2022)

### Verges and open spaces



- Protection of grass verges – Phase 1 completed
- Quarterly playground inspection done and repairs carried out
- Tree maintenance completed



- Lease for playpark being renegotiated
- Regular inspections and repairs ongoing
- Discussions with HCC and DBC in progress re funding for Phase 2 Verges
- Re-Wilding grant received and project being implemented later in 2022 with Dacorum Borough Council support.



- Play park improvements

### The Denes



- Meeting with new County Councillor and Herts Highways officer to discuss plans, permissions and approvals required for The Denes refresh
- Defibrillator installed
- Cycle parking agreed and new noticeboard agreed.
- Jubilee tree planted
- Jubilee bunting installed
- Jubilee bench approved for installation May 2022



- Council to determine installation of cycle parking and noticeboard (May 2022)



- Waiting for draft design of new seating area and planters

### Nash Mills heritage



- Work completed to register Three Tuns pub as an 'Asset of Community Value' (ACV) within Nash Mills (i.e. assets that have a main purpose of social interest in the local community).
- Ongoing archiving with The Apsley paper Trail
- Remembrance service



- Continue to research history to record and publish on website and magazine
- Researching future ACV processes now that The Three Tuns is registered.



- Investigate reference to history in walks and trails around the parish.