



# Nash Mills Parish Council Annual Reports

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022-31<sup>st</sup> March 2023



**NASH MILLS**  
PARISH COUNCIL

## Contents

Introduction
Aims and Values
Chairman's Annual Report
Personnel Committee Report
Finance Annual Report
Year End Financial Headlines
Parish Warden Annual Report
Clerk Annual Report
Projects Update
Working Groups Summary
Verges Working Group Report
The Denes Working Group Report
Working Group updates
Gallery



## **Welcome to the 2022/2023 Nash Mills Parish Council Annual reports.**

Our annual reports provide a summary of information and 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 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The majority of our meetings are open to the public and all agendas, minutes and supporting documents are posted on our website. These, along with our parish magazine and Facebook page 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 recently held a successful 'Community Expo' which showcased our projects, and we met with many guests who were able to speak to our 8 elected councillors and take part in a variety of interesting activities.

We would welcome you to come along to our meetings or to visit us at The Denes during one of our 'Saturday Surgeries' to share your views on what you would like to see us working on to benefit our local community and local environment.

In May 2023 we start a new council term with 5 existing and 3 new councillors who were elected unopposed. Your contribution and ideas would be valued as we start to plan our projects for the next 4 years.

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

Kind Regards

*Nikki*

Nikki Bugden PSLCC

**Clerk to Nash Mills Parish Council and Responsible Financial Officer**

**07493 519458**

# Our Aims & Values



<p><b>About us:</b></p> <p>We are a cohesive group of likeminded professional local people with a common goal. We are all independent of party politics and have no hidden agenda.</p>	
<p><b>Inclusion and Communication</b></p> <p><i>We believe that the parish is about its residents, so we use a varied communication stream to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be involved in decisions.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kept the website updated and informative</li> <li>Meeting dates and agenda on noticeboard and website</li> <li>Welcomed residents to our monthly meetings</li> <li>Provided a colourful and informative parish magazine</li> <li>Run an active Facebook page</li> <li>Scheduled monthly engagement sessions at The Denes (not during covid)</li> <li>Installed a noticeboard in a more prominent position</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community</b></p> <p><i>We all love where we live and want residents to feel proud to live in Nash Mills. We will strive to further improve our corner of Hemel Hempstead.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lit up The Denes for Christmas</li> <li>Created a more welcoming environment at The Denes</li> <li>Delivered Covid 'Good Neighbour' cards</li> <li>Promoted and managed the play park on Bunkers Lane</li> <li>Run competitions for residents to get involved in</li> <li>Planted wildflower bulbs and allocated areas for rewilding</li> <li>Arranged services for Remembrance and the National Moment of Reflection</li> <li><b>In addition,</b> Parish warden to keep Nash Mills tidy, litter collection, reporting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Feeling safe</b></p> <p><i>We believe that residents should feel safe and secure in their homes and within the parish.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arranged additional CCTV at The Denes</li> <li>Initiated repairs to steps opposite The Denes</li> <li>Installed a public access defibrillator at The Denes</li> <li>Funded (or requested grants for) speed indicator devices in high-risk locations</li> <li>Installed secure cycle racks at The Denes</li> <li>Encourage residents to join Neighbourhood Watch (via magazine / facebook) and sharing OWL updates or appropriate articles</li> <li>Working relationship with PCSO</li> </ul>
<p><b>Heritage and History</b></p> <p><i>We respect our fantastic history and will share and protect our heritage.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborated on the restoration of the Nash Mills War Memorial</li> <li>Shared historical facts and articles in our magazine</li> <li>Researched and shared the story of the Gilman Dorr Blake memorial</li> <li>Provided an annual service of Remembrance</li> <li>Successfully registered The Three Tuns as an Asset of Community Value</li> <li>Reviewed planning applications with a view to protect our heritage</li> <li>First Freeman of the Parish</li> <li>Good links to Frogmore Mill (via Sue)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Service to Nash Mills</b></p> <p><i>Parish councillors are here to serve the community, and we plan to do this to the very best of our ability.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High councillor attendance at monthly meetings</li> <li>Taken the time to understand policies, procedures, rules, etc. (including planning regulations)</li> <li>Been a voice for residents at the Development Management Committee</li> <li>Considered grants for local organisations</li> <li>Initiated a variety of projects and working groups</li> <li>Given our time and dedication to progress ideas and projects</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secured grants and managed costs to ensure best value for residents</li> <li>We support local business (free advertising, promotion opportunities, competition opportunities, sharing useful links)</li> </ul>
<b>Residents Associations</b> <i>We want to encourage and build the number of residents' associations so that every road has an opportunity to be included.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided the opportunity for Residents' Associations to share their news</li> <li>Considered grants from Residents' Associations on request</li> <li>Shared the benefits of being in a Residents' Association</li> <li>Provided details of where to find more information</li> </ul>

## Additional information re collaboration and funding...

### Verges

Following collaboration with Nash Mills Parish Council, repairs to the verges (and measures to protect them) have been carried out by Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council, who also funded the work.

### Denes

We worked with the Parks & Open Spaces Officer at Dacorum Borough Council to create a joint vision for The Denes. Improvements at The Denes have been funded from a variety of sources, including multiple grants from Dacorum, funds from the Dacorum Parks & Open Spaces team, and our own parish reserves.

### Rewilding

Nash Mills Parish Council received a £3,000 grant to fund the rewilding and wildflower planting. Planting by councillors, clerk, and Nash Mills school children.



**NASH MILLS**  
PARISH COUNCIL

## Chairman's Annual Report 2023

It has been a busy year In Nash Mills, our Parish Councillors and Clerk have been actively researching projects and working their way through the priorities that we set at the start of our term alongside bringing the community together for various celebrations and more recently the Community Expo.

The end of our four-year term is fast approaching, and I'm delighted to see that so many projects have come to fruition, some with the help of Dacorum Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council along with grants awarded to the parish council. I have listed a few below...

The public access defibrillator

Speed indicator devices

Additional CCTV cameras

Christmas lights

Verge hardening schemes

Parish magazine revamp

Restoration of the War  
memorial.

The Three Tuns Asset of Community Value

Rewilding at various locations

Benches, picnic benches, cycle rack, planters at/near the Denes

The reports in the annual report pack will give you more detail of the variety of items that the Parish council have considered and progressed this year and over our term, although I am sure you have seen some of them on your travels through Nash Mills and been kept informed through the parish mag and on our Facebook page.

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, steering and steadying the ship.

Nikki works hard to ensure that the projects that the 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 would also like to highlight that all the parish councillors give their time voluntarily. They work extremely hard on many projects, strive to make improvements to Nash Mills and bring community spirit. I am so proud of what they have all achieved.

Lastly but by no means least, a massive heartfelt thank you to all the team for their forward thinking, dedication, for supporting each other, for caring about our little piece of Hemel Hempstead, for giving their time so freely and for powering through no matter how long it sometimes takes to get projects passed through the right channels. You are a prime example of the saying "There is no "I" in "Team," but there is an "E" for "Everyone." A team achieves more when everyone contributes and what a team you are!

Lisa Bayley  
Chairman  
Nash Mills Parish Council





## Personnel Committee Report Nash Mills Parish Council Annual Meeting 2023

Membership of this committee:

Councillor Lisa Bailey

Councillor Alan Briggs

Councillor Jan Maddern

Councillor Michele Berkeley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Steve Roberts (Chairman)

The Chairman and members of the Personnel Committee were all re-appointed at the Annual Council Meeting on 9 May 2022.

As the committee had carried out a review and update of relevant policies and procedures during 21/22 which were approved by full Council, there was no need for the committee to meet during 22/23.

Although we came out of restrictions due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we continued to maintain the safety and wellbeing of our employees and Councillors as a key element of focus.

At the full Council meeting of 9th January 2023, the budget for 23/24 was approved, including appropriate and necessary elements for staff costs and allowances. We continue to support and encourage our employees to undertake continued professional development, and therefore the budget included a sum to fund attendance at, and participation in relevant training and events.

In November 2022 the Local Government Association came to an agreement with the unions representing local government employees on the 2022/23 pay offer. The new salary scales were processed with our pay bureau and paid to the clerk and warden backdated to 1 April 2022.

The annual staff appraisal process will be carried out during April 2023.

We once again record our thanks to our Clerk, Nikki, and our Parish Warden, Dave, for the work they do on behalf of the Council. In very different ways, they apply high standards of commitment and diligence to their roles and are excellent ambassadors for the Council.

Councillor Steve Roberts

Chairman of Personnel Committee



# NASH MILLS

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Finance Annual Report – April 2023

Nash Mills Parish Council has had another productive year, and remains in a strong financial position.

In addition to the expected income via precept collection and a council tax grant, the parish council received a £3,000 'Green Grant' from Dacorum Borough Council for various 'rewilding' projects around the parish. The council also received a sum of £2,284 via Community Infrastructure Levy contributions, that are received as a result of new development in the parish; this CIL fund is currently standing at £23,000.

Whilst the parish council has a healthy bank balance, most of the funds are held in earmarked reserves to cover the costs of planned future projects. This year the council spent around £61,000 on all expenditure, which included all the running costs of the council (salaries, employment costs, overheads etc) and within this sum, £9600 was spent on the upgrades to the Denes shopping centre, providing a nice, seated area, new cycle racks and a grant was also received to cover the cost of a new parish notice board.

The parish warden has continued to undertake simple repair works to keep the costs down, and our parish clerk has kept a tight rein on the budget.

Earmarked reserves include funds to continue with the verges project, which includes a combination of verge hardening on verges that are necessary for parking, and posts or wildflower areas to prevent inappropriate parking. Other earmarked reserves are held for election and administration costs, community support and playpark maintenance. CIL money is ringfenced, and the parish council is currently putting a plan together in order to spend this money within the very tight regulations. Included in this, the council has pledged £5,000 of the above mentioned CIL fund to assist with towpath improvements, as a joint venture with other local authorities.

The parish council continues to keep the precept as low as possible, but due to the high inflation rates at the moment, has been forced to slightly increase the precept this year. However, the increase is minimal, with a band D property rising by under £7.

Whilst feedback for the improvements at The Denes has been very positive, we always welcome our residents' ideas on how we can further improve Nash Mills, so please do make contact with our clerk if you have any thoughts on this.

Jan Maddern  
Finance Lead



# NASH MILLS

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Year End Financial Headlines 2022-23

Description	Amount
Monies In	£ 48654.00
Monies Out	£ 61773.00
Total sum (excluding assets) held on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	£ 95831.56 (£72354 earmarked for projects)
Precept requested for 2023/24	£ 37759.15
Total expenditure budget 2023/24	£ 42005.00
Budgeted use of reserves 2023/24 to support budget shortfall and to ensure that precept increase is minimal.	£ 4854.80
	Increase to precept for a band D property £7.00 per annum

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**  
PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Warden Annual Report – 2023

This year has been quite busy, with everything now back to normal after the pandemic.

I spent the spring and very hot summer keeping everywhere clean and tidy and painting all the signs and seats around the parish. I also tidied up, cut back bushes and cleaned playground equipment in Bunkers playing field.

I have continued to report issues to HCC and DBC. This year I have reported a total of 45 potholes, damaged road signs and bollards to HCC and 18 reports of fly tipping to DBC. All the smaller amounts of fly tipping I have cleared myself.

Litter is a never-ending problem, the amount I pick up seems to increase each year, but I now have got quite a good working relationship with DBC workers and we help each other when we can.

The winter has been cold with quite a lot of snow and ice, so I have checked the grit bins regularly and filled them up when necessary. I have also gritted around the Denes when it has been icy.

I still enjoy walking round and having a chat with the local community as I do my job.

D Drew

March 2023



# NASH MILLS

PARISH COUNCIL

## Clerk Annual Report March 2023

As usual we have experienced a busy and productive year in Nash Mills, and I am happy to report that we completed a number of our outstanding projects this year.

In previous annual reports I have mentioned just how long it can take for an idea to blossom into a completed project and it is wonderful to see that we have completed our 'The Denes' project this year. I look forward to seeing our completed 'Rewilding' projects and new planters spring into life once the warm weather arrives. It seems ages ago when we were planting the hundreds of wild garlic and bluebell bulbs in Bunkers Lane play park with Nash Mills School.

I am pleased to announce that with the support of council I was able to complete a lengthy application process for the Quality Council Award scheme this year and at the time of writing this report we are eagerly waiting the results of the review. This award is designed to consider if the council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. If we succeed it will mean that there is evidence that NMPC goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

This year we have been able to recommence some 'in person' events. I was honoured to organise, on behalf of council, the moving 'moment of reflection' that we held at the memorial garden to mark the sad passing of HM The Queen. It seemed just too short a while after the lovely weekend of jubilee celebrations. We were then fortunate to be able to hold a 'Community Expo' event in March which was a fabulous opportunity to meet a large number of our residents. We are now all looking forward to the coronation of the new King and as a council we're looking forward to our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in June.

The consideration of the budget and the new precept demand for 2023/24 has reflected the events held and completion of projects. Our overall bottom line has decreased, however with careful planning NMPC has reserves earmarked. This will ensure that we have funds available to continue to make improvements and to ensure that the newly elected council have funds available to consider and fund future plans. The financial crisis has impacted everyone's costs, but we have worked hard to ensure that the average precept increase per band 'D' property is just under £7 per year.

As a clerk, part of my role is to implement the decisions of council, but I can only do this with the hard work and support of the whole team. I am fortunate that my councillors share the workload, and I am grateful to them for all of their efforts over the past year but, in particular, for the efforts that they all put in to organising our 'Community Expo'. They gave up considerable time to put on a brilliant event.

My role is made all the easier by my other fantastic teammate Dave, our warden. His support, hard work, and sense of humour really do help me to carry out my role more effectively and I am always grateful for his local knowledge. He continues to help council to build and maintain good working relationships with our partners at DBC and HCC and we are lucky to have trusted colleagues in the various departments working with us to maintain and improve our parish.

Council is approaching the end of its term and post elections (May 2023) I will be working with the newly elected team of councillors to formulate their vision and action plan for the new four-year term.

We do have some residents who regularly attend our parish council meetings, but we would welcome more of you to help council to shape the future of Nash Mills. If attending the meetings is difficult, please remember that you can always email me or contact one of your elected councillors. Our agendas, reports and minutes are regularly uploaded to our website.

*Nikki*

Nikki Bugden PSLCC

Clerk to the Council

31st March 2023

## Working Groups & Committees Updated January 2023

### Working Groups

No delegated decision making or financial responsibilities. All decisions to be made by Full Council.

Group	Responsibilities/Scope / investigations	Members	Lead	Notes
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>	Jan, Alan, Nicola, Darren (landlord) Michele	Jan Alan (co lead)	
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>War memorial</li> <li>Local listing</li> </ul>	Alan, Jan, Michele, Nicola	Alan	
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>	Michele, Alan, Mandy + Jan	Michele	
Play Park/Open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crossing options, lease, grass cutting, tree surgery, equipment repairs</li> </ul>	Michele, Alan, Mandy + Jan	Mandy	
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>	As existing (currently all)	Nicola	
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>	Nikki, Alan (technical) Nicola, Steve, Mandy	Alan	New council year Clerk obtaining quotes now
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>	Steve, Lisa, Michele, Nicola Mandy	Steve	
Celebrations (Formerly Jubilee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To investigate and plan the Coronation commemorations and any festive or celebratory activities to bring back to council for decision making.</li> </ul>	All Cllrs initially to then be scaled back as appropriate when tasks/projects identified.	Alan	

## Established tasks and responsible parties

Task	Responsibilities	Involvement	Co-Ordinator
Denes Saturdays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance rota, purchase promotional material, ideas for discussion / input</li> <li>Looking at 'remote' options during pandemic restrictions (updated Aug 2021)</li> </ul>	All, subject to availability	Michele
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>	Nicola, Jan, Nikki (All to contribute)	Nicola/Jan Clerk to sign off
Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect ideas, schedule posts, respond to messenger messages, investigate Instagram and twitter options</li> </ul>	Mandy, Jan, Nicola, Nikki (admins)	Nicola/Jan Clerk Admin
Defibrillator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate locations, equipment suitability, implementation, ongoing budgetary matters and inspections.</li> </ul>	Alan, Lisa, Jan, Steve Guest (resident)	Alan
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>	All at outset and will start again in new council term	Nicola (clerk assisting)

## Committees

Name	Responsibilities	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Members
Personnel	All staffing matters, appraisals, salary reviews, staffing policies	Steve	Michele	Steve, Michele, Lisa, Jan, Alan

## Working Groups now disbanded

- Planning Consultations for KL Local Plan



## Project Status Updates May 2022



COMPLETED



ONGOING OR  
IN PROGRESS



PENDING OR NOT  
YET ACTIONED

### Communications and visibility



- Easily recognisable Nash Mills Parish Council logo
- Active Facebook page with over nearly 620 followers
- Parish magazine three times per year
- 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
- Jubilee event held at The Denes



- Continue to expand local articles and community input in magazine



- Parish events (no major events held during last term due to covid)

### 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 renegotiated
- Re-wilding grant received and project implemented with Dacorum Borough Council support.



- Discussions with HCC and DBC re funding for Phase 2 Verges



- Play park improvements (on hold due to lease negotiations)

### The Denes



- Christmas lights
- Defibrillator installed
- Additional CCTV camera
- Jubilee tree planted with plaque
- Jubilee bench installed
- Cycle racks and new noticeboard agreed and installed by HCC
- Design agreed with Parks & Open Spaces Officer and implemented between autumn 2022 and spring 2023 including:
  - Community meadow area opposite The Denes
  - New benches and picnic benches on meadow area
  - Rewilding and wildflower turf with information board
  - Formal planter
  - Additional bench with Coronation plaque

### Nash Mills heritage



- Dickinsons' war memorial at Nash Mills Wharf - restoration completed
- Clean up of Gilman Dorr Blake memorial at Nash Green
- Google map listings added for both memorials
- Work completed to register Three Tuns pub as an 'Asset of Community Value' within Nash Mills (i.e. assets that have a main purpose of social interest in the local community).



- Continue to research history to record and publish on website and magazine



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



**WORKING GROUP ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2022 – MAY 2023**  
**THE VERGES WORKING GROUP**

**Working Group Members**

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

**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.

**Progress so far**

There are still some works to complete Phase 1 and Phase 2 as follows:

**East Green** – We are still awaiting confirmation from DBC for Grasscrete as all works with regard to Verge Hardening have been frozen due to council funding.

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

**Chaffinches Green**

Awaiting recommendations from Highways, DBC and Borough Councillor.

**Barnacres (514-518)**

Awaiting recommendations from Highways, DBC and Borough Councillor after complaint from resident.

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

Awaiting recommendations from Highways, DBC and Borough Councillor

**New Crossing at Bunkers Park Entrance**

Awaiting recommendations from Highways (Report and design overdue) DBC and Borough Councillor

**Meadow Road (39)**

Awaiting confirmation from DBC and Highways to complete this small area as raised by Resident

**Next Steps**

We hope to progress as many of the outstanding matters over the coming months so that works can be scheduled as soon as possible.

**Cllr Michele Berkeley**



Before




After

## The Denes


Damage to verge at the end of the car park

**Double height kerb installed**





Before





After

## Bunkers Lane


Damage to verge at junction of Highwoodhall Lane (near Long Deans).

**Verge repaired with topsoil, seed and protected by verge marker posts**





Before



After

## Meadow Road

Damage to verge due to requirement for parking

**Grasscrete installed to match other sections of verge**





## WORKING GROUP REPORT MAY 2022 – MAY 2023

### 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) but 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.

#### Completed during this year

This year has given us the opportunity to finalise our core plans for The Denes, working closely with Dacorum's Parks & Open Spaces Officer on a joint vision for the grass area by the car park and the raised green space opposite. Below is a list of the items that have been completed during the last twelve months, enabling us to conclude this project within our four year term.

#### Platinum Jubilee items

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) cherry blossom tree, planted in April 2022, has been looked after by our warden and is (at the time of writing) coming into blossom. A plaque has been added and its location added to the official [QGC website](#). A new Platinum Jubilee bench has replaced the one previously installed by the parish council for the Golden Jubilee. Our public consultation concluded that "traditional style of bench" was the preferred option by residents.





### Noticeboard and cycle racks

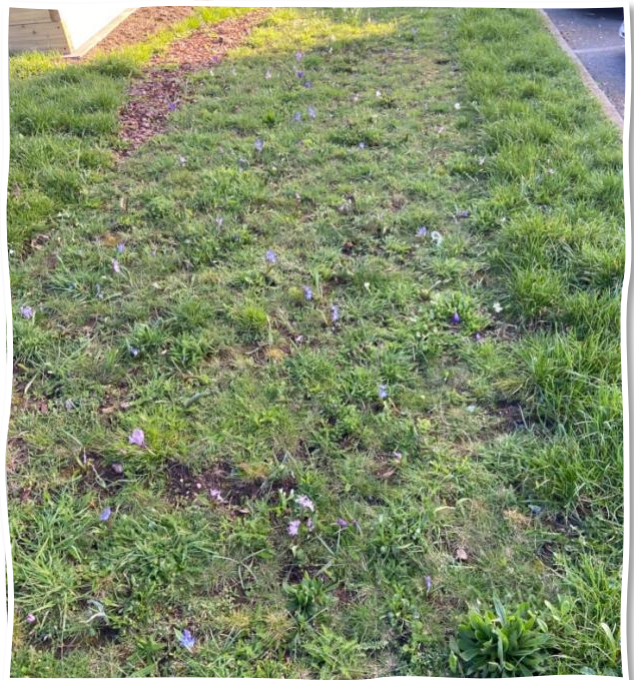
A new noticeboard has been installed along the footpath, following the public consultation to ask residents for their preferred position. The new board is larger, providing the opportunity to include content of interest, as well as the statutory items.

We worked with Hertfordshire Highways to arrange for cycle racks to be installed so that those cycling to The Denes can secure their bicycle while visiting. Bollards have been added to protect those using the cycle racks (as well as the cycle racks themselves) and pedestrians using the footpath.



### Rewilding

The space opposite The Denes had already benefitted, last year, from a new mowing regime, enabling biodiversity and providing a community meadow. In Autumn 2022, wildflower turf was installed by the car park at The Denes. Nash Mills Parish Council was successful in obtaining a grant for this purpose (together with other rewilding in the parish)





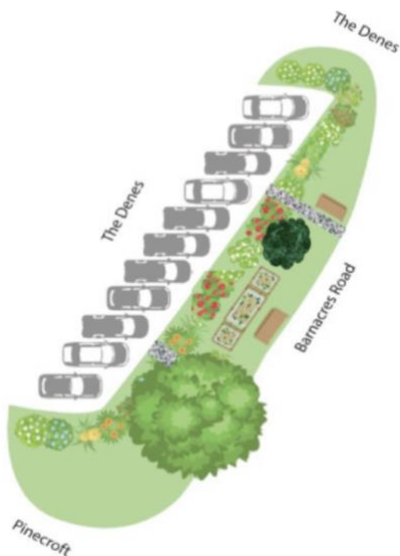
### New seating

The seating around the area has been improved, starting with the new Platinum Jubilee bench mentioned above. In recent months, another matching bench has been installed at The Denes and that will house a plaque to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. In the green space opposite, the two benches have been replaced with new benches and they have been joined by two picnic benches. This additional seating provides more opportunity for residents to take in the view over Shendish (particularly nice when the sun is setting) and enjoy food or drink from The Denes.



### Formal planting

A new planter has been included at The Denes for more formal, seasonal, planting. Our consultation asked whether residents had interest in joining a community group to help manage planting but there were not enough volunteers to make this viable. Therefore, the mowing and planting of this area will be managed by the Dacorum Borough Council team. The formal planter will help to contribute colour to the area, including when the wildflowers are not in their prime.



## Road signs

Although not officially part of the project, the roads signs for The Denes and Pinecroft were in need of replacement, so these were requested and have now been replaced.



## Conclusion

This project was always going to be a longer term project than some of our other work. It was more complex and had to be managed in stages to obtain the right expertise and permissions from those who needed to be involved.

However, it has been a very worthwhile piece of work and we are pleased that it has reached a conclusion within our four year term. The Denes is an area that the majority of the Nash Mills community visit regularly, and therefore a large number residents will benefit from the funds spent on improvements.

We've adapted ideas over the last few years, in line with events (such as the Jubilee), permissions required from other parties, and ideas shared by Dacorum's Parks & Open Spaces Officer.

Although we are still to see the community meadow, wildflower turf, and formal planting come into its own throughout the spring and summer, we are confident that the changes made (together with the Christmas lights, verge protection, additional CCTV, and public defibrillator provided from separate projects) will brighten the area and provide additional safety and useful facilities.



This project has been funded through a combination of sources, including multiple grants, Dacorum funds and our own parish reserves.

Cllr Nicola Cobb



**NASH MILLS**  
PARISH COUNCIL

## NMPC Working Group Annual Reports 2022-23

### Defibrillator

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 during the year which proves its value within the overall network, though no actual usage. The defibrillator is regularly inspected by the Parish Warden.

### ACV – The 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 which was formally registered with Dacorum Borough Council as an “Asset of Community Value” (ACV).

During the year, the ACV Working Group met several times to develop an understanding of what would need to be done if an ACV sale event happened. Our concerns were heightened when the pub closed and this led to the Council launching a survey to gauge local opinion, with which there was strong engagement. The conclusion was that there was significant interest which the Council could develop into a community group to take the project forward to evaluate options, should the need arise.

As of March 2023, it has been indicated (though not officially confirmed) that the pub will re-open soon which would be great news for the local community.

### Celebrations

The Council formed a Celebrations Working Group which organised events for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in Nash Mills in June 2022 including three Jubilee themed competitions: The Best Dressed Residence, Children’s Art, Treasure / Scavenger Hunt. A “Tea and Biscuits” event was hosted by Councillors at The Denes where the shops area was decorated with professionally installed bunting.

At Christmas, a Children’s Art competition was organised with prizes kindly donated by shops in The Denes. Entries and results were published in the parish magazine.



Plans have been developed for the Coronation of King Charles III in May which will include the dedication of a new bench, a fun photo board and once again bunting will be professionally installed.

### 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 particular scrutiny to parking provision for new applications, and their compliance with Dacorum's parking standards.

In the last twelve months, there were no applications which need escalation to the Dacorum Development Management Committee (DMC).

Whilst the site is not with the parish of Nash Mills and Council is therefore not a statutory consultee, Councillors reviewed the proposed re-development of the Network House / Apsley 2 site in the context of its proximity and potential impact on its residents and submitted a report of its objections to Dacorum Borough Council for consideration.

In February 2023, Council sent a letter of complaint to the Dacorum Borough Council to express its disappointment at the lack of consultation regarding Bunkers Park's designation as a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGS).

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.

The Council was pleased to note the Planning Inspectorate's rejection of the appeals lodged in relation to a basement flat in Nash House within Nash Mills Wharf.

During the year, the Council has responded to an appeal lodged in relation to a proposed detached bungalow on land to the rear of 9 Chambersbury Lane. The outcome is awaited.

Cllr A Briggs  
March 2023



Before



After

## War Memorial

- Nash Mills Parish Council worked with Dacorum Borough Council to advance a restoration plan.
- A specialist contractor funded by the Nash Mills Wharf developers disassembled and restored all elements.
- Nash Mills Parish Council hold an annual Remembrance service in the memorial garden.



## Asset of Community Value

- Following an application by Nash Mills Parish Council, The Three Tuns was registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) in 2021.
- If the owner decides to sell, they must inform Dacorum Borough Council and Nash Mills Parish Council.
- The community could then express an interest in bidding.



## Gilman Dorr Blake memorial

- We researched the story behind this memorial and shared in our magazine and on our Facebook page.
- The memorial garden is cared for by the parish warden.
- A wreath is donated by the parish for Remembrance each year to remember the American airman.



## Engagement sessions at The Denes



We are keen to connect regularly with residents to learn about their ideas and concerns.

Monthly parish councillor engagement sessions\* are held at The Denes.

*\*In person sessions were stopped during Covid and occasional online sessions held instead. Normal service has now been resumed!*



**NASH MILLS**  
PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Noticeboard



Our noticeboard contains our meeting dates, agenda, minutes and other useful information.



**NASH MILLS**  
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## Keep in touch online

- Check our **website** for information about the council, including meeting agendas, supporting documents and minutes.
- Follow our **Facebook page** for informal information, reminders and useful content.



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