



Dunham Hill & Hapsford Parish Council Newsletter



Message from the Chair

Spring has arrived and at the time of writing it is so lovely to see the daffodils we have planted in full bloom around the Parish. The spring flowers certainly brighten up the village after a long and wet winter.

Looking back on Christmas, the decorated trees looked wonderful and the carols around the tree on the Village Green was once again a huge success. We received excellent feedback from residents saying what joy it brought to the Parish. I would like to say a big thank you to our Village Hall Committee, to the volunteers and Councillors involved in the project for their hard work and finally huge thanks to Santa for dropping by to meet the children.

I regularly mention in the newsletter the increase of litter around the Parish, which again is quite frankly getting worse. The amount of rubbish which is being dumped on our roads is staggering and, as I have said before, is downright disgraceful. More details on this can be found later in the newsletter.

In this edition I would like to bring to your attention a couple of important issues, one being the Neighbourhood Plan which is in its final stages. Once we have the final draft the local community will have the opportunity to have a final say.

The other topic is Devolution which may or may not have an impact on the Parish Council. Please read the article.

Importantly, one planning application to watch is the land at Meres Edge, Helsby. There is currently an outline application for up to 120 dwellings (with access for approval; appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for future approval). We ask residents in Hapsford to view the draft plans further by emailing our Clerk (Clerk.dunhamhillpc@gmail.com)

Finally, a big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who do work for our village, for example a resident is currently undertaking maintenance work on all our benches. We really appreciate the fantastic work he is doing and the Council really appreciates his help.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter

Keith Bradley

Neighbourhood Plan Update

All documents related to the plan (Plan, Consultation Statement, Basic Conditions) have been submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Planning Office and a formal submission compliance letter has been received. This letter confirms that CWaC have received all the necessary documents and that they believe that they meet the relevant legal and procedural requirements.

The next stage is the Regulation 16 'publicity stage' consultation period. This is where CWaC publicise the Plan on their website and in any such other manner considered likely to bring the proposal to the attention of the people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area. CWaC will also notify the consultation bodies mentioned in the consultation statement; giving at least 6 weeks to respond. They will prepare a SEA, HRA and Marine Plan Screening Determination report, which takes account of the amendments made to the neighbourhood plan and will send a copy to the statutory consultees. The parish council will support CWaC by forwarding communication to those residents who responded during the Regulation 14 consultation, letting them know that the current consultation period has started. Paper documents will be placed in Helsby library, the Boshaw Centre and on the mobile library van. Thanks are extended to the Boshaw Centre for their cooperation in making the centre available at allotted times. All this information will be communicated via posters and in the local newspaper. The consultation is due to start on 27 February and will end at 5pm on Thursday 10 April 2025.

If you would like to see a copy of the proposed neighbourhood plan and supporting documents, please go to the neighbourhood planning page of the Cheshire West and Chester Council website at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

Paper documents are available to view at the Helsby Library, the Boshaw Centre and on the mobile library van. Thanks are extended to the Boshaw Centre for their cooperation in making the centre available at allotted times. These are Monday 10am-12pm; Wednesday 6-7:30pm; Sunday 12-2pm (Sundays from 23 March by appointment only – email clerk.dunhamhillpc@hotmail.com to arrange). The Parish Clerk has a spare copy if you are unable to visit these locations, please contact them via email.

Comments can be submitted online or by completing the response form and emailing it to neighbourhoodplanning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or posting it to Planning Policy, Cheshire West and Chester Council, The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port #ch85 0BA. Comments are encouraged by email / online but postal comments will still be accepted.

An independent examiner has been appointed who will review the submitted documents and the comments received and will decide if the plan meets the basic conditions and if any amendments need to be made to the plan. After the examiner's recommendations are received, as long as the plan meets the basic conditions it can proceed to referendum.

The referendum stage is a time away, as the publicity consultation and examination need to be undertaken first. There is usually about 6 months between the publicity consultation and the referendum. Confirmation of the referendum date will be received in due course. If the plan gets a 'yes' vote at referendum it would be by the local authority.

All residents are encouraged to review the plan and associated documents during this consultation period and share their comments with CWaC. Participation in this consultation and the subsequent referendum will ensure that the views and opinions of residents will inform the future development of the parish.

Hobb Lane - Proposals for Green, Renewable Energy

Belltown Power have contacted the Parish Council regarding a 30MW Hob Lane Solar Farm proposal within our parish. They state the solar site has been carefully selected to deliver clean, renewable energy while supporting biodiversity, ecology and the local community.

They intend to commence a comprehensive and inclusive community consultation programme to ensure that all members of the local community have the opportunity to provide their feedback. The Parish Council will be organising a meeting with the company to discuss the proposals and will report back to a Parish meeting.

For more information on the project go to: www.hoblanesolarfarm.com

Timeline:

- March 2025 – public consultation
- April 2025 – review feedback
- Spring 2025 – submission of temporary planning application
- Winter 2025/6 – expected planning determination
- 2027 onwards – construction and energization (subject to planning permission)

DEVOLUTION - Cheshire West & Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington

The UK government has launched an eight-week public consultation on devolution proposals for Cheshire and Warrington. These proposals include forming a Mayoral Combined Authority, transferring more power to local councils. This change aims to enhance local decision-making in areas like transport, housing, skills and economic development.

Cheshire and Warrington devolution factsheet

Cheshire +
Warrington

Key facts

- + Cheshire and Warrington has been selected as part of the government's devolution priority programme - showing that government has confidence we will be able to proceed with a devolution agreement.
- + On Monday 17 February, government launched a consultation about devolution in Cheshire and Warrington. This will close on Sunday 13 April at 11.59pm. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to share your opinions on the proposals for a Mayoral Combined Authority. The easiest way for you to respond and engage in the consultation is by completing the online form <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/lggc/cheshire-and-warrington-devolution-consultation/>
- + Devolution is about bringing investment and decision-making powers away from central government in London to local leaders here in Cheshire and Warrington.
- + Devolution has the potential to unlock further investment and growth in our area's world-leading sectors, including life sciences, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing.
- + People don't live their lives according to council boundaries, so an area-wide approach to improving things like skills shortages, housing and transport makes sense.
- + If the devolution proposals go ahead, a Mayor will be elected directly by Cheshire and Warrington residents in May 2026.
- + Elected Mayors provide a regional voice on the national and international stage, helping to secure investment from government in our infrastructure and in training our people, encouraging international investors to create more and better jobs and raising the profile of our £3.9 billion visitor economy.
- + An elected Mayor would chair a new Combined Authority, working alongside local council leaders.
- + Ultimately, devolution will support the Cheshire and Warrington vision to be the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing economy by 2045.
- + A final decision on devolution will be made by the three councils later this year.

More information on Cheshire and Warrington's devolution journey can be found at:
cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com

Key figures

Almost
1 million
residents

41,000+
businesses

£37.7bn
GVA per year

528,000
jobs

GDP per
capita at
£42.3k

56 million
recorded visits
across Cheshire
and Warrington
in a single year

Productivity
per hour
10% above
UK average

25%
of the North West's
manufacturing output
comes from
Cheshire and Warrington



Highways Maintenance Issues

Village residents are reminded that it is always quicker to activate an investigation if you report any highways issues directly online as precious time could be lost if you contact the Parish Council.

To report any highways issues to CWAC, go to:-

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/>

and then type in Highways. An audit trail is started as you will be given a reference number. Here you can report potholes, pavement/kerb/drainage defects, blocked culverts, overgrown trees or hedges, blocked or damaged footpaths etc.

Defibrillators Around the Parish

If you have to make an emergency 999 call, the call handler may decide that the defibrillator is required. You will be asked if you are able to go to the caravan park; phone box opposite the Boshaw Centre (Dunham on the Hill) or the phone box in Hapsford to get the defibrillator but this would only usually happen if someone is able to stay with the person in need of assistance as phone contact with the emergency service must be maintained at all times. The call handler will give you the code to open the box. When you return to the patient, open the defibrillator and you will hear an automated voice giving instructions. The call handler will also talk you through all that you must do and when the paramedics arrive they will take over from you.

Remember – No special training is required and the Emergency Services will guide you through everything.

We would like a volunteer from Hapsford to occasionally give the interior of the phone box a wipe down to get rid of dust and to check that the defibrillator is showing rescue ready and letting the parish clerk know if it isn't.





Cheshire West & Chester Council has been contacted by people who live within the Parish who are concerned about dog fouling.

Parish Councillors will be spraying dog mess with bright pink spray to embarrass irresponsible dog owners and ensure that pedestrians are aware of the mess. The sprayed mess will then be removed by the Council within 48 hours.

This campaign will take place within the Parish on 17, 24 and 31 March 2025 (Low Hill, Talbot Road, Barrow Lane and Village Road).

Avarian Flu

On 25 January the government introduced an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across all of England in response to rising numbers of bird flu. The AIPZ – <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-prevention-zone-declared-for-whole-of-england> applies to all bird keepers, whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a back garden and requires keepers to follow enhanced biosecurity.

To help prevent the spread of disease, keepers should register their flock however small, on the Poultry Register <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-as-a-keeper-of-less-than-50-poultry-or-other-captive-birds>



The War On Litter

Dunham on the Hill & Hapsford continues to see an increase of fly-tipping by a small minority which sadly impacts the majority of people who genuinely care about the appearance of the village and the environment in which we live.

We constantly see rubbish on the A56/Chester Road and the A5117/Hapsford (leading to the motorway). The majority of the rubbish appears to have been thrown from car windows or there are carrier bags of cans/bottles dumped at the side of the road on a weekly basis. People are too lazy to go to the bin (which they pass) or dispose of at their home.

Why do a few people think it is acceptable to abuse and deface our village and the environment in this way?

There is no immediate solution to this problem. We are very fortunate in the Parish to have a couple of litter pickers who routinely give up their time picking up the rubbish of people who feel it is acceptable to discard their litter at random, even when there is a waste bin in sight!

We need more help to deal with and keep on top of the rubbish which is regularly dumped. If you are able to help and become a litter picker (or a Parish Womble – taking you back to the 1970s/80s) then please get in touch with our Parish Clerk Clerk.dunhamhillpc@gmail.com .



Community Litter Pick

Saturday 5 April 2025 - 10am – 12pm

***Meet at Dunham Hill & Hapsford Village Hall and the
'Phone Box' Hapsford***

Refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall



Finally...The Arrival of Spring

Early Spring is in the air and with its arrival exciting changes start happening on the ground, in water, in trees, and in the air around and of course the rest of the UK.

If possible, I encourage you to take some extra time on your journeys out and about to witness some of nature's exciting seasonal events, such as:

Flowers - see the first crocuses, snowdrops, daffodils and other spring flowers waking up from their winter slumber;

Trees - the appearance of new buds and shoots on bare branches. Some trees such as

Hazel will also be blooming with long, unusual-looking flowers called catkins.

Birds - spring is a wonderful time to see and hear some of the UK's most majestic bird species. In early spring in the UK, birds are building nests, searching for mates, and establishing their territory. One of the most significant markers of spring is the arrival of the dawn chorus, which begins in early March. Before dawn, robins, wrens, and a whole orchestra of other birds can be heard singing, welcoming in spring.



Ponds - in early spring, ponds in the UK are waking up from winter hibernation and becoming active again. This is an amazing time of growth and life in the pond, with new plants, insects and wildlife making an appearance.

Newts, frogs and toads return to the pond after hibernating in gardens, compost heaps and hedgerows. They mate and lay their eggs in the pond. Look out for frog spawn appearing in a pond near you.

Bees and other flying insects - bumblebees start to appear in March. The new queen bumblebees, having survived the winter, will search for a place to establish their new colonies and raise their first workers. In early summer, once the bees have hatched, they will be back pollinating our countryside and gardens in full force.



**YOUR
VILLAGE
NEEDS
YOU!**



Parish Councillor Vacancies

Are you over 18, passionate about our community and eager to make a positive impact? We currently have vacancies on the Parish Council and we are looking for dedicated individuals to fill these important roles. This is your opportunity to shape the future of the Parish and represent the interests of everyone who calls DH&H home.

For more information please contact Trudy - clerk.dunhamhillpc@gmail.com



**Have your say on
policing in your area...**

It is important to us that we know about the issues that cause you concern. We have set up a survey where you can tell us about the things you would like us to focus on in your area.



Open the camera or a dedicated QR code reading application on your phone and hover over the QR code to scan it.

You will be taken to a page where you can complete the survey.

If you can't scan the code you can go to
www.cheshire.police.uk/residentsvoicechester





Parish Council Finances

The Precept is collected by Cheshire West & Cheshire on behalf of the Parish as part of the Council Tax and the Parish Council makes every effort to maintain the existing level of service as well as staying on a sustainable financial footing. We always strive to be prudent and diligent with our finances.

Councillors have once again undertaken a thorough review but due to inflation and increase in costs of services, the Parish Council budget for 2025-26 has been set at £10,136 which is an increase of £1,051 from 2024-25. This has resulted in a Precept request of £8,900 which is a 7% increase for 2025-26.

This increase equates to an annual increase of £2.33 for a Band D property. We understand how difficult it is for residents in the current financial crisis and hope you understand our decision to make the slight increase.

The Parish Council is aware of its responsibility to the community to provide value for money and that public money is spent efficiently to provide an effective service. In the interests of transparency, you can find a list of expenditures over £100 which is accessible on our website –

[Finances 2024-25 – Dunham-on-the-Hill and Hapsford](#)

Green Bin Collection

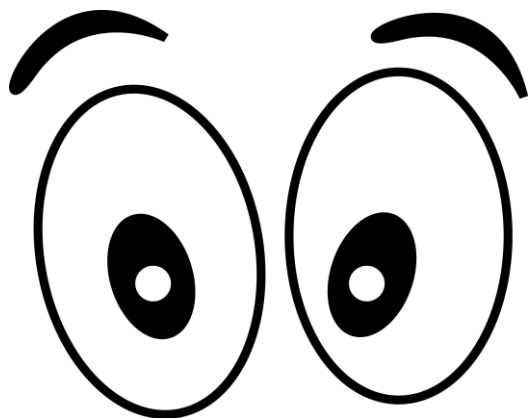


Residents can subscribe to have their Garden Waste collected from 6 January 2025, with collections due to restart on the week of 24 February 2025.

The service operates on an opt-in basis and will cost £52.50 per bin per calendar year for 2025. Residents can subscribe for as many bins as they need, but each will be subject to the £52.50 charge. Residents in receipt of full council tax reduction will be offered a reduction of £10 on the cost of one garden waste bin.

The best time to sign up for the service is before the end of January to benefit from all 20 collections during the calendar year.

The service is offered fortnightly over 40 weeks of the year with a 12-week suspension outside of growing season over the winter months. The last collections of garden waste for 2024 took place between Monday 18 November and Friday 29 November.



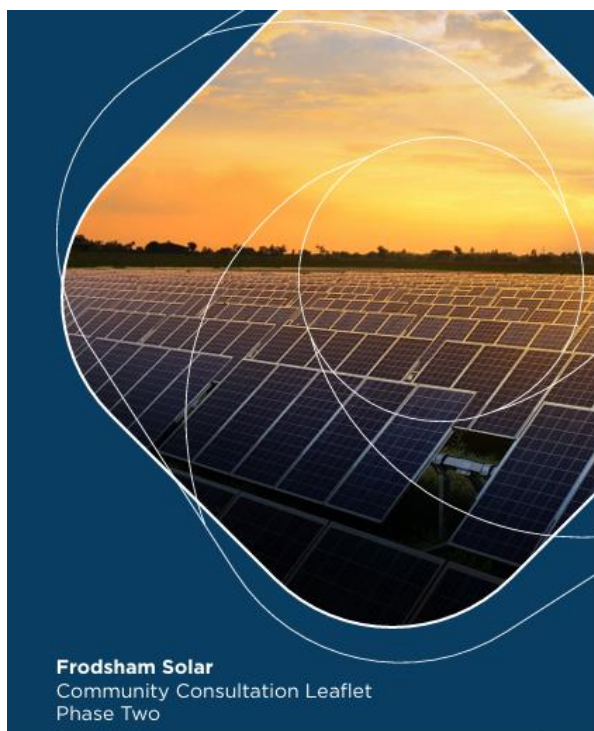
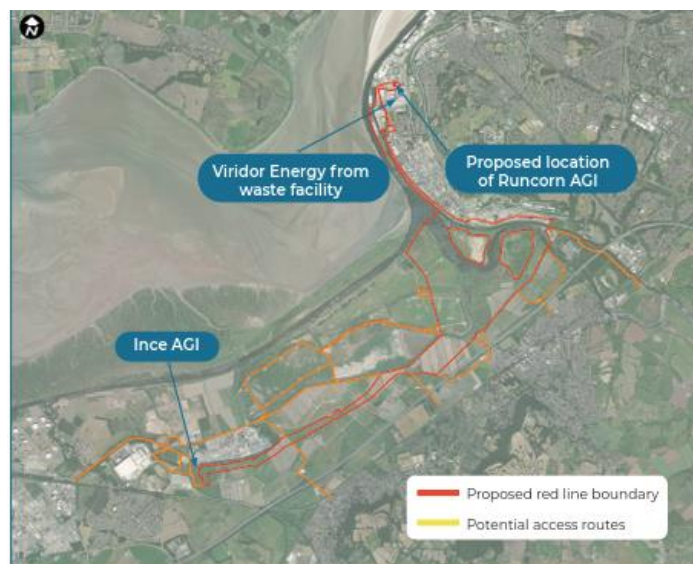
Ones to Watch:-

Runcorn Spur Pipeline

The Parish Council have been contacted by WSP (William Saled Partnership Ltd) regarding the proposed development of the Runcorn Carbon Dioxide Spur Pipeline and have launched a public consultation on their plans.

The proposed development aims to tackle carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and support economic growth. It connects to the HyNET Carbon Dioxide pipeline which had a Development Consent Order by the Secretary of State in March 2024. The proposed development would transport CO₂ from the new carbon capture plan at Viridor's Energy from Waste Facility in Runcorn to the HyNET Carbon Dioxide Pipeline at Ince. More information is available on the website:

www.hynethub.co.uk/Runcorn



Frodsham Solar

Cubico Sustainable Investments are proposing Frodsham Solar, a solar farm with energy storage site situated north of Frodsham. The site is close to a grid connection at the existing Frodsham substation, located to the site across the River Weaver. A recent brief consultation has taken place on the plans. Following the consultation the organisation will be applying for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate during the first half of 2025.

For further information contact the project team directly by emailing info@frodshamsolar.co.uk or by post to Freeport Frodsham Solar or by calling 0808 1754004

Village Hall Events



Friday 6 June from 7pm

Quiz - Cheese & Wine

Saturday 2 August

Dunham Rocks

Saturday 27 September

Oktoberfest

Friday 14 November 7pm

Quiz & Supper

Friday 5 December 7pm

Xmas Bingo

Sunday 7 December 4:30pm

Xmas Lights 'switch-on' in conjunction with the Parish Council

Enquiries re private hire of the Village Hall

Email villagehall@dunhamhillandhapsford.co.uk

Boshaw Centre Events



The Boshaw Centre hosted its first Land Rover run for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

Everyone had a great day and they collected lots of Easter eggs and raised £205.



They hope to make this a regular event and would love anyone else to join them. Thank you to everyone who donated Easter eggs.

Upcoming Events:

- Bring your own picnic to celebrate the 80th VE Day celebrations on bank holiday Monday 5 May, with live music and great company
- Summer Music event with hog roast – date to be confirmed

For hall bookings contact Claire on 01928 723606 or clairejones1066@gmail.com