



Dunham Hill & Hapsford Parish Council Newsletter

Summer 2026

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Summer Edition of our newsletter, let's hope summer will be as warm as spring.

Your Parish Council continue to meet and discuss local issues, however we are struggling to find volunteers either to attend Council meetings or to be involved in any projects that we may wish to consider in the future. If you are interested in being a volunteer please do get in touch with our clerk via email at clerk@dunhamhillandhapsford.co.uk

There are a number of projects I would like to bring to your attention and they are planters which Dave regularly attends to and provides the splendid colour around the area, however these planters need to be regularly topped up with water, one at the top of Talbot Road and the other in Hapsford – is this something you could help with?

The other issue is the Willow Arch in Hapsford which we have sought professional advice about and it requires spraying with linseed oil to waterproof and protect the structure and then we have the option to include more living willow in January 2027, but again if we undertake this project the willow will require watering to ensure it does not die off.

As a Parish Council we want to ensure that the Community engage with us and any ideas or suggestions would be most welcomed.

The Wheatsheaf

It was recently reported in the Cheshire Chronicle that the former pub has finally been rubber stamped by Cheshire West and Chester Council to be converted into a nursery. The application will convert the building into nine classrooms along with a reception, laundry and kitchen on the ground floor and two further classrooms, an office space and staff room on the first level.

The Parish Council welcomes the proposed development which will bring the site into use, whilst maintaining the rural character and appearance of the original building.

Keith Bradley

Dunham Hill & Hapsford Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council works hard to make local government open and accessible. All our meetings take place on the first Tuesday every other month commencing at 7pm in the Village Hall and are open to the public and press. Meeting Agenda can be viewed on the Parish Council Noticeboard and below is a list of the meeting dates for the rest of the year.

- 7th July 2026
- 1st September 2026
- 3rd November 2026

Police and Crime Commissioner Update from Dan Price

As I am at the midpoint of my term as Police and Crime Commissioner, I want to reflect on progress so far and the work still ahead.

Over the past two years, the focus has been on action, listening and responsibility. From day one, the priority has been clear: keeping communities safer, stronger and better supported. Working with partners across areas such as health, education and the criminal justice system, I have backed prevention, tested new approaches and raised standards.

My team and I have delivered meaningful improvements that make a real difference locally. This includes the Fresh Start programme, which supports people on probation into long-term employment, helping to reduce re-offending and improve community safety. We have also built momentum towards phone-free education, with 53 of 71 high schools now on board, showing how Cheshire can lead the way on protecting young people from online harm.

I have not shied away from difficult issues. A domestic abuse intervention pilot in Runcorn and Widnes is bringing behavioural change while helping protect families, with the ambition to roll this approach out across Cheshire. At the same time, I have been open about financial pressures, including during consultation on the policing precept, where the public were clear in their support for protecting PCSOs.

Listening to communities remains central, including through citizens' assemblies that continue to shape local priorities. Five have been delivered with the remaining four scheduled.

To take a look at what I have delivered in your area by scanning this QR code:



Looking ahead, my focus is on building momentum, strengthening effective work and continuing to listen to our communities. As their voice in policing, I remain committed to delivering practical, positive change.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Price".

Dan Price | Police & Crime Commissioner



Dan Price
Cheshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Recycling

Did you know that Cheshire West and Chester Council have taken over the contract for the management of our Household Waste Recycling Centres for an initial period of eight years starting in April this year. This is on top of the Council now undertaking the kerbside collections.

By the Council taking over the household waste services, it will provide the flexibility needed to deliver our services efficiently over the longer term.

Wheelie Bin Assistance

Did you know if you have trouble moving your wheelie bins, help is available? Cheshire West and Chester Council recognize that not all residents are physically able to place their recycling and refuse at the boundary edge of their property on their own and are pleased to be able to offer assistance to those who need it. For more information go to Cheshire West and Chester website (<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/get-help-to-take-your-bins-out>) or telephone 0300 123 8123.



Order new or replacement bin

From May 2025 Cheshire West and Chester have introduced a bin repair service. This service is cost-effective and aims to extend the lifespan of bins.

Replacement parts and bins are available for a fee, with a discount for residents receiving full Council Tax reduction.



Repairs can be made to the lid, pins, wheels, and axle of a bin for a charge of £15 with a discounted rate of £10 available for those receiving full Council Tax reduction.

Dog Poo! And Overflowing Bins

In our Parish we don't have any Dog Poo Bins however, our black bin can be used for depositing your dog poo bags.

It is important that if any of our bins are full, please don't report it to the Parish Council use the Cheshire West and Chester Council Report it portal to report a full or damaged litter bin. Alternatively, if you are next to the bin, you can scan the QR code with a smartphone to go directly to the reporting page and identify its location. It also informs you of the next collection date.

It is as easy as that – quick and simple.

Pink Poo Campaign

This year the Parish Council will again be running a Pink Poo Campaign in July. The aim of the campaign is for us to highlight exactly how bad the problem of dog fouling is in a particular area, this year we have selected Dunham Hill (but if you feel there is a problem in your area please get in touch with the clerk and we will consider running a campaign in your area in future) by spraying sighted incidents of dog fouling with pink paint. If everyone can see how bad the problem is then dog owners should be encouraged to pick up the poo and not leave it behind in the future.

Fly Tipping



Yes, it has started again, the dreaded fly tipping around our Parish. It is interesting to know that Cheshire West have joined focus with Cheshire Constabulary and the Environment Agency to carry out intensive enforcement throughout the borough to tackle fly tipping and waste transfer offenders as part of the newly established 'Operation Flycatcher'.

Alongside investigations at fly tipping sites, officers carry out targeted stop-checks on commercial vehicles. These checks ensure that anyone transporting waste hold the correct licenses and documentation, whilst Police vehicle inspections also assessed whether vehicles are roadworthy.

The Enforcement officers are working tirelessly to track down those responsible for this grotesque crime, which blights our villages and our countryside. To report any incidents, go online and report suspected fly-tipping via the Cheshire West and Chester Council website (<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/streets-and-open-spaces/fly-tipping>) or anonymously contact Crimestoppers at 0800 555 111.

Heating Cost Increases

I know it's Summer, but residents across Cheshire West and Chester who use heating oil are being encouraged to access financial support as part of the Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF). The support is available to households using heating oil and is not limited to those receiving benefits. For more information contact householdsupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Volunteer Week 2026

Volunteers Week 2026 takes place in June, and Cheshire West and Chester Council is celebrating the vital contribution of more than 50,000 volunteers across the borough. From supporting vulnerable residents to improving local green spaces and delivering essential services, volunteers play a crucial role in strengthening communities across Cheshire West.



Volunteering is a key part of building strong local communities, and it is recognised as one of NHS Five Ways to Wellbeing. It helps people connect with others, improves health and wellbeing and fosters a strong sense of belonging.

Cheshire West and Chester Council is also strengthening its volunteering offer, making it easier for residents to find opportunities and play a role in their communities.

Throughout the summer, volunteers will be able to attend a range of free events as a thank you for their contribution.

We need more residents to become volunteers.

Why is Mental Wellbeing Important?

Mental Wellbeing is the foundation for a positive outlook on life. Although it does not mean that we are happy all the time, it does mean that we are more resilient and able to cope with life's ups and downs.

Evidence shows that there are five key elements which contribute to mental wellbeing. Below you can read about the Five Ways to Wellbeing and find further ideas to help you improve your enjoyment of life, self-confidence and engagement with the world around you.



Connect with others to feel supported and valued.

Make time in your day or your week to connect with others, stay in touch, and to give and receive emotional support. Sharing conversation and experiences can boost your mood. It can help us feel part of a bigger picture in which we play a valuable part. Being in Touch with people who are optimistic can also change your perspective for the better, leaving you feeling positive.

Move your body to feel good, both physically and mentally.

Any activity that gets you moving or enjoying the great outdoors is good for wellbeing including walking, gardening, having a kickabout in the park or simply taking the stairs.

There are mood-boosting benefits to being active as well as health gains. Read more about how to look after your mental health using exercise.

To make an activity work for you, make sure it's one you enjoy and break it down into management steps, building up over a few weeks or months. Finding an exercise buddy can also be motivating so consider sharing an activity with a friend.



Keep learning to gain self-confidence and a sense of purpose.

Learning adds to your skills and keeps your brain active, increasing your self-confidence and inspiring others.

People who continue to learn after leaving formal education report a greater sense of wellbeing, purpose and self-esteem, and, of course, it brings people who share the same interests together.

Learning can take many forms from simple tasks to ambitious projects, but they can all be rewarding.

Helping others can create positive feelings and boost wellbeing.

Helping others, whether through small acts of kindness or a regular commitment to volunteering, is proven to be good for mental wellbeing. If you have some time on your hands, there are many organisations that depend on volunteers – a regular slot will help you to build your social network



Being in the present moment can positively change the way you feel about life.

Mindfulness is a technique that has been proven to help manage stress and promote wellbeing. Being mindful means staying in the present moment, being aware of your body and the physical world around you. This helps you in turn to let go of worries about what has passed or what may happen in the future. It can be a useful tool in developing a positive mindset and dealing with difficult thoughts and feelings.

Hedgehogs

We are very lucky where we live, as hedgehogs can be found throughout the area. They live in a variety of habitats including woodland, gardens, farmland and grassland.

Their names suggested, hedges are especially important to them, providing shelter, nesting sites and safe routes between feeding areas. In gardens, hedgehogs may live in hedges, hide in long grass or shelter under piles of leaves and logs.



Hedgehogs are nocturnal mammals, usually active from March to October. Over winter they hibernate, but as weather warms in March, many begin to wake up.

March is a critical time for hedgehogs. They emerge hungry, thirsty and low on energy, and natural food such as insects and worms can still be scarce – especially after dry or cold spells. You may also see hedgehogs out during daylight hours at this time, which doesn't always mean something is wrong.

Providing a little help can make a real difference.

Hedgehogs are in serious decline. Since 2002, around 30% of the UK hedgehog population has been lost. The species is now classed as 'Vulnerable to Extinction' by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. It's estimated there are around 850,000 hedgehogs left in Britain, compared with around 30 million in 1950s.

Small Changes in our gardens can have a big impact.

- Create Hedgehog Highways: Cutting a 13cm c 13cm (5inch) hole in fences, or leaving a small gap underneath, allows hedgehogs to travel between gardens to find food and mates.
- Avoid pesticides: Slug pellets and pesticides are toxic to hedgehogs. Hedgehogs provide natural pest control by eating slugs, beetles and other insects – encourage them instead.
- Make water safe: Hedgehogs can swim, but struggle to escape steep -sided ponds. Add a ramp or shallow edge so they can climb out safely.
- Providing nesting areas: Leave parts of your garden a little wild. Piles of leaves, logs and long grass offer important nesting and shelter sites.
- Help them stay safe: Check for hedgehogs before lighting bonfires, cutting long grass or strimming. Keep garden netting and litter raised or secured so hedgehogs don't become trapped.
- Feeding hedgehogs in spring: In cold or dry weather, hedgehogs benefit from extra food as natural supplies can be limited.
- You can offer meat-based dog or cat food, specially made hedgehog food, and a shallow dish or fresh water. Please avoid milk and bread, as this caused digestive problems.

To keep cats away from hedgehog food, see this helpful guide:

<https://www.hedgehodstreet.org/cat-proof-hedgehog-food/>

If a hedgehog appears injured, lethargic, cold or unwell, carefully pick it up (wear gloves if possible), place it in a cardboard box lined with newspaper and a towel, offer water, and contact Northwich Hedgehog Rescue or call the RSPCA on 0300 123 8960

If you see a hedgehog out during the day that seems alert and healthy, it's usually best to leave it alone – especially in spring, when mothers may be gathering food or nesting material. If you're unsure, contact a rescue centre for advice.



DUNHAM HILL & HAPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

- Passionate about Dunham Hill and Hapsford?
- Enthusiastic about getting involved?
- Want to make a difference?

Dunham Hill and Hapsford Parish Council has **3 vacancies** for Parish Councillors.

The Parish Council is a busy, motivated group of volunteers wishing to make a difference in the area where they live. They meet a minimum of six times a year on the 1st Tuesday of every other month (unless otherwise advertised on the website www.dunhamhillandhapsford.co.uk).

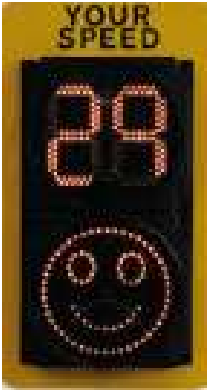
To stand for election on a parish council, you must be:

- **Citizenship:** You must be a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen.
- **Age:** You must be at least **18 years old** on the day of your nomination.
- **Electoral Registration:** You must be registered as a local government elector for the parish where you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
- **Residency or Work:** You should have lived in the parish area or within three miles of it for the whole of the 12 months before your nomination. Alternatively, you can qualify if you have occupied land or premises in the parish as an owner or tenant during that time, or if your main place of work has been in the parish.

If you do become a parish councillor you will have to sign up to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

For more information, please email clerk@dunhamhillandhapsford.co.uk

The exploits of SID(ney) Speed Indicator Device



As many of you will have noticed SID spent a few months since January facing Helsby on the A56 not far from the traffic lights where the limit is 40 MPH. Once he was set up the first two cars past were both doing 55MPH and did not slow down, he was very sad. SID is only an indicator and records no data about speeders or even how many of them there are.

He wanted to be moved from there as he was getting bored with not a lot happening. He had heard about the Wheatsheaf getting planning permission and felt that there would be much more going on to see there.

The recent move of SID to the Wheatsheaf was quite difficult as the hawthorn hedge, nettles and bindweed were making a determined effort to keep him

permanently.

Now that he is settled at the Wheatsheaf he's complaining that there is nothing happening there either!

Someone has commented that SID is not giving an accurate speed indication as it was different to their speedometer. SID is not a calibrated device and is set to give a reading slightly fast which is generally close to most car speedometers. It's a legal requirement that cars do not under read their speed.

To allow for tyre wear, incorrect tyre pressure, manufacturing tolerances etc, the manufacturers set the speedometers to read slightly fast so they never under indicate the cars speed. This is also why the speed from your GPS system is usually slightly less than the cars speedometer.

Please watch your speed to keep SID and his colleagues happy :)

St Luke's: the Church for everyone in Hapsford and Dunham



We have services every Sunday morning at 9.30. We welcome people from all faiths and none. Whether have been a churchgoer all your life or you're just interested in finding out more about what we do, we would love to see you.



Every two months we have a Book Sale and Coffee Morning on the second Saturday. It's a great way of meeting people. We offer free refreshments and congenial company. Come for a chat and a browse through our large stock of ultra-cheap second-hand books. The next Book Sale will be on **Saturday 11th July** from 10.00 to 12.00.

The church is hidden away behind the old Wheatsheaf pub on the A56 in Dunham. It's a beautiful building – come and have a look!

For more information and regular news updates about St Luke's Church, visit

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/773297364051002>
- <https://sites.google.com/site/stlukesdunhamonthehill/>

We are currently without a vicar; so if you wish to get married at St Luke's or wish to arrange a baptism or a funeral there during this interregnum, or if you have any other enquiries about St Luke's, please contact the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), Judy Ford:

StLukesPCCSecretary@gmail.com.

Suspicious Email Reporting Service

Members of the public have reported 55.7 million suspicious emails to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS). The free service was created by the UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) in 2020 and since its launch has resulted in the removal of 250,000 scams across 443,000 malicious websites.

'Phishing' is when criminals use scam emails, text messages or phone calls to trick their victims. The aim is often to make you visit a website, which may download a virus onto your computer, or steal bank details or other personal information.

The NCSC is a UK government organisation that has the power to investigate and take down scam email addresses and websites. Reporting a scam is free and only takes a minute. By reporting suspicious emails, messages and calls, you can:

- reduce the amount of scam communications you receive
- make yourself a harder target for scammers
- protect others from cyber crime online

How to report suspicious emails and text messages:

If you've received an email or text message that doesn't feel right, STOP!

- break the contact – don't reply, click on any links, call any phone numbers or make any payments
- check if it's genuine: contact the organisation directly using an email address or phone number you know is correct, e.g. from your utility bills, via a search engine, on the back of your card or by calling 159 for banks
- Report suspicious emails by forwarding them to: report@phishing.gov.uk
- Report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to: 7726 (it's free of charge)

How to report suspicious phone calls:

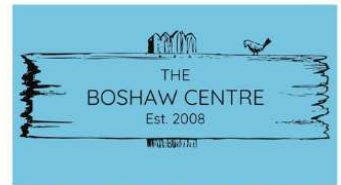
If you've received a phone call that doesn't feel right, STOP!

- hang up
- check if it's genuine: contact the organisation directly using contact details you know are correct, such as those on a utility bill, official website, the back of your card or by calling 159 for your bank
- don't trust the Caller ID display on your phone – it's not proof of ID
- report it by sending a text to 7726 with the word 'Call' followed by the scam caller's number

If you have been a victim of cyber crime or fraud, tell the police at www.reportfraud.police.uk.

For advice and guidance on what to do if you have been a victim of fraud, please visit:

<https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/recovery-from-fraud/>



Village Road, Dunham on the Hill WA6 0LX

Grounds

The wildflower meadow created in partnership with CWaC, two years ago, is well established, with many varieties of native flowers and plants. The meadow was cut last year as part of a management programme, and as a result it is flourishing! A team from CWaC are going to rent a space at the Boshaw Centre as a facility to further develop similar biodiversity projects in the area.

The meadow, grounds and play area are open from 9.00am until the later time of 8pm from now until the end of September. Everyone in the community and their visitors are welcome to access them.

Please note dogs are not permitted - even if on a lead, and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Hall

The large hall measures approximately 22ft x 38ft and can be hired for private parties..

Businesses

Northern Eye Books, rent a room at the Boshaw, and three other businesses run classes throughout the year:-

Stuart Williams teaches several instruments including guitar and banjo (email- stubanjo@gmail.com).

Adele Owen has "an open community space for all abilities of creatives to come along"

Adele runs weekly portrait, and life drawing classes. (Facebook page- Drawn Together, a studio and gallery space for creatives).

Sarah Gallagher-Hayes offers a variety of courses in willow sculpture (website: twigtwisters.co.uk, also on Instagram and Facebook,) Her next course dates are July 8th & 26th, August 9th, September 12th & 27th and October 10th and 18th.

Events

A Land Rover Easter Egg Rally hosted at the Boshaw delivered 144 eggs and £230 to the local hospice, which was greatly received! The next community event at the Boshaw will be a coffee morning to raise funds for St Lukes Church on Saturday 4th July.

For more information see:-

www.instagram.com/theboshawcentre

www.dunhamhillandhopsford.co.uk/boshaw-centre

Or contact Claire Jones : 01928 723606

**DUNHAM HILL & HAPSFORD VILLAGE HALL
PRESENTS**

DUNHAM ROCKS



**SATURDAY 1 AUGUST
2026**

This will be a ticketed event
Further details to follow

FOOD

LIVE MUSIC

BAR

SAVE THE DATE