



# *Hampton-in-Arden*

## **Annual Report**

**2021/2022**

*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, where were we when we were so rudely interrupted? Our last face to face Annual Parish Meeting was in April 2019, there was no meeting in 2020 and the 2021 meeting was held virtually online. All of this was, of course, because of the pandemic. We all wondered about how quickly the time went during lock down and we do now seem to be struggling to get back to normal with so much change having taken place. However, as a community, we pulled together and did our best to ensure that residents were kept as safe as possible and did not lack for anything.

Here we are in 2022 and I can present this latest annual report which details the work of your Parish Council during the year to the end of March. This first report is an overview of the main issues with which the Council has been involved and the following reports are more detailed articles written by individual Councillors on the major issues.

Inevitably a very considerable number of issues had to be faced because of lockdown not least the continuing responsibilities of the Council. This initially proved to be onerous because new temporary laws banned us from holding our normal face to face meetings which have only recently resumed. Instead, we held online or virtual meetings using Microsoft Teams which, once we became used to the format, worked well and Councillors were able to continue business almost as usual. This same or similar format was also used by Solihull Council and their staff who, although working from home, were also able to conduct business almost as usual if not a little protracted. It is interesting to note that any delays were often cited as being "*due to Covid*" which we still come across frequently today from many organisations we all must deal with on a regular basis. In concluding my comments about Covid, and on behalf of the Parish Council, I do want to thank everyone who offered their help and assistance in so many ways to help residents with some of the problems and issues which arose. This help came from the many community groups but also many acting in a private capacity.

Apart from some major issues which I will come onto, a few interesting smaller matters have occurred either during lock down or subsequently. These include:

- An open-air theatre sponsored by the Active Parks Project took place in August, was free to attend, but turnout was disappointing.
- Extensive wildflower planting was completed on Catherine de Barnes Common.
- The first phase of our Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming plan for Hampton was completed and generally welcomed by residents, less so by motorists. A similar proposal for Catherine de Barnes is currently being progressed.
- A grant for planters at the gateways to both villages from the Welcome Back (from Covid) was successful and these are in place in two locations.
- We funded the public address system for the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial and again provided the Christmas tree lights on Hampton Village Green.

On more general matters the council has continued to work closely and in the best interests of residents with all our community groups including Catherine de Barnes Residents Association, the Hampton in Arden Society, the George Fentham Trust as well as Solihull Council and other external organisations. In this respect I do wish to thank our three Ward Councillors for their help, advice, and support on a variety of difficult matters such as the Motorway Service Area planning application, HS2, the new Junction 5a of the M42 and the associated relief road to the Clock roundabout and other contentious planning issues. We were pleased to be able to support the planning application by the

Sports and Tennis Club to replace the clubhouse at the recreation ground which will be welcomed by the members as well as residents.

We now move on to the other more detailed reports from Councillors: -

**Councillor Mike Blomer**

## **MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**

The Maintenance Committee is responsible for the management of all property under the Parish Council's control and works with other partners who share our interests in the appearance and upkeep of the now wider Parish and its environs.

The Committee includes members of the Parish Council together with representatives from the George Fentham Trust Charity, the Parochial Church Council, Governors of George Fentham School, Hampton in Arden Sports and Social Club and Catherine de Barnes Residents Association.

The Maintenance Committee is responsible for overseeing grounds maintenance of Parish Council land which essentially comprises the village green, the recreation ground and Catherine de Barnes Common. It also has responsibility for any Parish Council occupied land such as the school field, play area and allotments, or grounds where a financial contribution is made like the upkeep of the churchyard, or on those areas in the control of Solihull Council where the quality of workmanship and level of maintenance impact on the appearance and well-being of the village – such as the roads and footpaths.

For areas in the control of Solihull Council we keep a watching brief of incidents such as overgrown vegetation, blocked road gullies, faulty streetlamps, potholes, and reports of dog fouling (which continues to be a problem in the Parish).

Contractors are regularly engaged to carry out routine work on behalf of the Parish Council. Although much quieter over the last 12 months, or so, the Parish Council would again like to thank all the volunteers of the Conservation Group for their regular maintenance of the spinney. We would also like to record our special thanks David Grimshaw, who unfortunately passed away recently, for his many years of devotion to the village and its open spaces and woodlands. We also extend our thanks to Trevor Honeysett for his generous help with many minor issues throughout the year.

Similarly, we would also like to thank the Friends of the Common volunteers who do an excellent job in looking after the care and maintenance of Catherine de Barnes Common which is the only common ground in the whole of Solihull.

Annually, the largest single item of capital expenditure for the Parish Council continues to be the maintenance of the recreation ground and car park. During the past year the main focus has been on repairing the gravel footpaths. We have also taken the decision to install a number of low-level lights along the section of path from the High Street to the car park.

We are also working in conjunction with the George Fentham Trust to provide some new allotments in the Village. Planning approval has been granted and the works commenced for 12 new allotments on the land next to the garden centre on Eastcote Lane. These allotments should be available from this September to hopefully alleviate the waiting list that has existed for many years.

A significant cost to the Parish Council each year relates to tree management and maintenance. To meet our legal obligations, we periodically commission a comprehensive survey which provides a

detailed record of all the trees on Parish Council land and the health of each tree. We then work through the recommendations of this report which unfortunately does sometimes require us to fell any tree considered dangerous or posing a Health and Safety risk. Where it is necessary to fell a tree the Parish Council does look to provide a native replacement

A successful village tidy was recently held in both Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes organised by the Parish Council, in conjunction with Solihull MBC and the Wombles. In addition, however, I would like to thank our Ward Councillor Alison Rolf and all her Wombles for their regular litter picks. This is not just appreciated by the Parish Council but all residents.

**Councillor Tim Beresford.**

## **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Parish Council receives notification of all planning applications in the Parish, these are considered by the sub-committee and a decision made whether a response is required. The following is a brief resume of the more significant planning and planning related issues that we have been involved with during the year: -

### PL/2019/03108/PPFL transport Depot at Woodhouse Farm - Retrospective Planning Permission

The applicant appealed the Planning Committee's refusal decision and subsequently the Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal, and the applicant was given 12 months to find new premises. The 12 months is up on 26 April, and I am pleased to be able to report that the site is being vacated and the Enforcement Team are pushing for the applicant to restore the site to as it was prior to the application being made.

### PL/2015/51409/ Outline planning permission Motorway Service Area off Solihull Road

After fighting this application for 7 years and following an appeal by the applicants to the Solihull Planning Committee's unanimous decision to refuse it the Planning Inspector decided to uphold the appeal and the application has been approved. However, the development relies on All Lane Running (ALR) on the M42 and the Government has put a hold on all new ALR projects until 5 years data is available concerning the safety of current ALR schemes. The Government agreed to implement the recommendations of the Transport Select Committees report on the safety of this type of scheme operating on our motorways. We anticipate the data will not be available until 2024 and believe it will be 2025 before anything material happens. All maybe not lost however, as the Inspector placed several conditions which should apply should the scheme go ahead, and our Councillors have proposed to the Council that any response by the applicant to these conditions should go before the Planning Committee for scrutiny and approval. The Parish Council in conjunction with Catherine de Barnes Residents Associations will continue the fight.

### Appeal: PL/2019/01215/PPFL Care Village at Oak Farm, Catherine de Barnes

The Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal by the applicant and the planning application was refused. The site has now been allocated in the Solihull Local Plan currently under review as a site capable of taking up to 90 homes or a care home, but nothing will be decided until the new Solihull Local Plan has been adopted which is unlikely to happen until later in the year. It remains to be seen what applications come forward for the site.

PL/2019/02546/PPOL Outline Planning Application for 109 new houses on land rear of 86 Meriden Road.

The planning application is still awaiting a decision however the site is included in the Solihull Local Plan currently under review for residential development.

PI/2021/01631-3/PPFL Chestnut Farm, Eastcote Lane, Barston

Although this site is not within the Parish, we have reference to the views from Fentham Hall across the landscape to the site in our Neighbourhood Plan and objected to the proposals outlined in these applications which are still awaiting a decision.

M42 Link Road to the A45

Following several discussions, the Parish Council now has regular monthly meetings with the contractors community representative where issues surrounding the construction, road closures etc. and its legacy are discussed. I think it's fair to say that it has not been an easy relationship to date but as things stand now, that looks to be behind us.

Solihull Local Plan Review - Update

Following an extensive public examination by the Planning Inspector SMBC were advised that their "Duty to Co-operate" condition had been met but the Inspector concluded that in 45 areas the Plan was found to be unsound. In short, SMBC have been asked to address the areas identified and re-submit any new proposals/policies to the Inspector for ex- examination. As you are aware 53 sites in the Parish have been identified for residential development, the Arden Wood Shavings site off Meriden Road (110) homes, land off Lugtrout Lane/Damson Parkway (700 homes) and Oak Farm off Hampton Lane ((90) homes. The earliest the new Local Plan is likely to be adopted is later this year which will mean we will not be able to complete our new Neighbourhood Plan until winter/spring 2023- but more about that later.

Parishioners are reminded that details of all the planning applications that the Planning Subcommittee respond to are available to view on the Parish website under "Planning".

**Councillor Dave Cuthbert.**

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Our current Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Solihull MBC in August 2017. Since then, the Parish boundary has been extended to include the greater part of Catherine de Barnes, and some other aspects are out of date.

As a result, we embarked on a process of consultation in 2020 with a view to creating a new, updated plan covering the enlarged Parish. We sent out 1282 questionnaires to residents and 3 questionnaires to business and received a 23% and 6% response respectively. This has helped us to develop an updated plan which we have discussed with Solihull MBC. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic and other pressures within Solihull Council have resulted in progress being slow. However, we expect to get the draft into a state of readiness with Solihull MBC that will allow us to proceed with a further round on consultation this Spring/Summer, leading to a referendum, probably in the autumn.

This version then goes to an independent examiner who will decide if it meets various soundness and compliance tests. At that point the Plan will be adopted by Solihull MBC and form a part of their

planning policies. It will also guarantee that the maximum percentage of Construction Infrastructure Levy funds is returned to the Parish for local projects should there be any new residential development. We will continue to provide updates through the Parish Newsletter.

**Councillor Dave Cuthbert**

## **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (“CIL”)**

The Construction Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a tax levied by some local authorities on residential housing developers to pay a contribution towards improving local infrastructure for the benefit of the community. So, for example, the development on the old Cricket Pitch generated some CIL funds. Under the rules a major part of this levy goes to the local authority (i.e. Solihull MBC), but 15% is handed over to local Parish Councils to put into local projects. This % is increased to 25% where there is an agreed Neighbourhood Plan in place; currently our Neighbourhood Plan only covers the pre 2019 Parish Boundary, which excluded much of Catherine de Barnes, but we are working to change this.

So far, the Parish has received £135k from this source, and we have created a subcommittee to vet and approve all possible calls upon those funds. The rules on how this can be spent are quite detailed, but so far, we have provided funding as follows: -

- A defibrillator at Catherine de Barnes
- Help towards repair of the Parish Church clock
- Help towards replacement furniture for the George Fentham School
- Double glazing for Catherine de Barnes Village Hall
- A new Play Area behind the Catherine de Barnes Village Hall
- Additional Traffic Calming Funding in both Hampton and Catherine de Barnes.

**Councillor Peter Green.**

## **HIGH SPEED RAIL**

In the past year HS2 Limited’s works have concentrated both to the north and the south of our parish. North of the A45 construction works is concentrated in the area around the new interchange station. To the south the main construction work is on the A452 close to the Park Lane junction on the north side of Balsall Common where a new roundabout is under construction.

Within Hampton in Arden Parish the only on-going work at present concerns site clearance activities with the felling of trees and the grubbing up of hedgerows. Later this year full construction work is expected to start around the Blythe Valley viaduct and associated works.

Our main areas of focus for the forthcoming year are therefore:

- to keep a watching brief on construction activities outside our parish
- to continue to lobby HS2 Ltd and SMBC Highways on safety concerns regarding the existing junction with Diddington Lane and the A452 Kenilworth Road and its close proximity to Stonebridge Roundabout
- to lobby HS2 Ltd regarding the temporary and permanent diversions of farm accesses and public rights of way close to the works
- to mitigate against increased traffic due to the construction of the HS2 with the completion of pedestrian safety and traffic calming measures
- to monitor construction activities when works commence

**Councillor Ken Blanch.**

## **PEDESTRIAN AND ROAD SAFETY**

### **Hampton in Arden**

Phase 1 of the Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Plan for Hampton in Arden was finally agreed with SMBC Highways in 2021 and construction took place in July and August.

This Phase 1 Plan consisted of the following key elements:

- Tabled informal crossing close to the church at the top of the High Street
- Tabled informal crossing and additional footway adjacent to the War Memorial at the bottom of the High Street
- Tabled informal crossing on Meriden Road close to the railway station
- Tabled informal crossing on Meriden Road close to Diddington Lane
- Gateway on Meriden Road close to the existing start of the 30 mph zone giving priority to those vehicles existing this 30 mph zone

An additional gateway was also planned on Solihull Road but has not been constructed at this time due to the closure of the road as part of the M42 Junction 6 works. This will be completed later this year.

Funding for the Phase 1 work has been provided through the HS2 Road Safety Fund for the sum of £57k combined with £33k match funding from the Parish Council. The Road Safety fund is managed by SMBC Highways on behalf of HS2 Ltd.

Since installation these traffic calming measures have shown a marked decrease in vehicle speeds through the village particular 'top-end' speeds. Public responses have also been largely supportive of the installed works.

### **Phase 2**

It was always envisaged that further traffic calming measures would be required after the Phase 1 works and the Parish Council has prepared a discussion paper that assesses the effects on traffic behavior and pedestrian safety post-construction and recommends where additional measures are deemed necessary to further improve the village environment. This paper has now been approved by the Parish Council and formally submitted to SMBC Highways for discussion, approval, and subsequent implementation.

The recommendations for the Phase 2 Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Plan for Hampton in Arden consists of the following key elements:

- 1 No informal tabled crossing on Solihull Road by number 21 Solihull Road – estimated cost £10k
- 1 No informal tabled crossing on High Street close to 82 High Street and north of the Hampton Manor junction - estimated cost £10k.
- 2 No informal tabled crossings on Meriden Road close to number 29 and between numbers 43 and 45 Meriden Road – total estimated cost £20k.

- Re-aligned kerbing and new 2-metre-wide pedestrian pavement on Meriden Road at the Diddington Lane junction between the service road and the lane – estimated cost £15k
- Additional signage – estimated cost £5k
- Project management and contingencies – estimated cost £15k
- Total estimated cost £75k

The recommended funding option to apply to SMBC Highways under the HS2 Road Safety Fund has now been approved. This application will require match funding and the recommendation is for £50k from the HS2 fund and £25k from Parish Council funds using CIL monies.

It is anticipated that the work will be carried out during this coming financial year.

### **Catherine de Barnes**

The B4102 through Catherine de Barnes and surrounding roads experience high volumes of fastmoving traffic with very few safe crossing points for pedestrians. The Parish Council, in conjunction with Catherine de Barnes Residents Association, has prepared a document that examines potential traffic calming measures that could be used with the twin objectives of both reducing traffic speeds and increasing pedestrian safety.

This document has now been formally submitted to SMBC Highways for discussion, approval, and subsequent implementation.

The scheme includes the following key elements:

- 1 No tabled informal crossing at the western end of Hampton Lane at the current start of the 30-mph zone – estimated cost £10k
- 1 No informal crossings on Hampton Lane close to 30 mph limit entering Catherine de Barnes – estimated cost £10k
- 1 No tabled gateway on Lugtrout Lane at the limit of current Catherine de Barnes village development – estimated cost £10k
- 2 No pairs of speed cushions either end of the residential properties at the west end of Lugtrout Lane – estimated cost £5k per pair, total cost £10k
- Appropriate signage – estimated cost £5k
- Project management and contingencies – estimated cost £15k
- Total estimated cost £60k

The recommended funding option is through the M42 Junction 6 Improvement Designated Funding sponsored by National Highways. Early discussions with NH indicate that this proposal may qualify for funding. If necessary, the Parish Council could match fund the works through CIL Funds.

**Councillor Ken Blanch.**

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

The 2021 Annual Remembrance Day service and parade took place on Sunday 14th November 2022. As normal the High Street was closed to all traffic to allow the procession from the church to the War Memorial. In respect of the Covid restrictions the complete service was held at the memorial compared to previous years.



Our thanks go to all the members of the public, as well as Ward Councillors and Parish Councillors, who acted as marshals to allow the proceedings to go ahead safely.

This year's event will be held on Sunday 13th November 2022.

**Councillor Ken Blanch.**

## **COMMUNICATION GROUP**

Over the last 12 months the Communication Group has continued to ensure that the Parish is kept up to date with important news, key issues, and events of interest. We consider it vitally important to ensure that our residents are aware of what the Parish Council is working on and how we strive to achieve the best possible outcomes in relation to any areas of concern.

We continue to communicate with our residents in the Parish in three main ways: our quarterly Newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page (which now has over 670 followers!). Our Facebook page is a fantastic way to keep in touch with residents on a day-to-day basis. It is also a great way for residents to highlight any local issues that we need to be aware of (over the last year this has included reporting problems with fly tipping and dog fouling). You do not need to have a Facebook account to view our Facebook page, just head to Facebook and search for 'Hampton in Arden Parish Council'. Alternatively, all posts can be accessed via the Facebook feed on our website.

We regularly update our website to ensure that the information there is as up to date as possible and is helpful to those in the village and beyond. Our Parish Clerk, Julie, is instrumental in keeping the Facebook page and website up to date and we extend our thanks to her for all her hard work.

As we have for the last ten years (and more), we continue to deliver our Newsletter to every home in the Parish - a total of nearly 1,200! We can deliver the Newsletter due to a number of dedicated volunteers giving up their free time to help with the distribution of the Newsletter across the Parish. Many thanks to all who assist with this task. We consider the Newsletter to be a keyway for the Parish Council to communicate with all residents in our area and ensures that everyone (including those without access to technology/are not computer savvy) are kept up to date of what is going on in our area. We strive to include important local news, information on local societies/ groups and dates of upcoming Council meetings and other important events in the Parish.

In addition to keeping the Parish up to date with news, the Communication Group meets regularly to discuss other topics of interest in the Parish. This year we have spent time investigating what could be done to encourage fibre broadband being installed in the Parish. We are also currently investigating possible opportunities to provide a youth club style provision for older children – it is very early doors on this but watch this space and we will keep you up to date with our progress!

In March 2022, the Parish Council joined forces with Solihull MBC and the Hampton Wombles to take part in the Great British Spring Clean, a 'Keep Britain Tidy' initiative. We had over 30 volunteers of all ages, with our youngest volunteers being only 5 years old. We collected over 25 bags of rubbish! Thank you to everyone that took part and to Solihull MBC for providing the litter picking equipment (and the removal of the litter collected!). We look forward to taking part in the event again next year.

Lastly, in May 2021, Peter Kennedy, a long-standing member of the Communication Group, retired from the committee. Peter was one of the longest serving members of the group, working with us for over seven years. A journalist by profession, Peter provided many an article for the Newsletter over the years and brought his news-room know-how and humor to our meetings. We wish to thank him for all his hard work and his commitment to the Communication Group – thank you Peter!

**Councillor Cat Sellars.**

## **Public Footpaths and Rights of Way Report**

Closures:

During 2021 much construction work has been undertaken on the new motorway link road, such that several footpaths have been closed for the duration of these works. The area most affected is the land to the east of Castle Hills. There are no alternatives at present. When the new roads are completed, replacement paths will be constructed to link to the remaining truncated sections of existing paths. There are also some minor alterations to paths from the A45 highway in the north of the parish. The effect of HS2 upon the network to the east of the parish is yet to be fully determined.

Diversions:

During 2021 a request was made for a footpath diversion through the grounds of Hampton Manor, path M121. It was discussed with representatives of the landowner, SMBC, the parish council, and the Open Spaces Society. The revised arrangements proposed were considered acceptable by the parish council. The current position is that an alternative path has already been constructed alongside the existing path. A formal application has been submitted to SMBC by the landowner, and this is currently being processed by SMBC. It is expected to be available online for inspection in the near future.

Repairs:

The broken stile that connects paths M126 and M129 to the rear of Fentham Hall is to be replaced with a gate. It is likely that an old gate from the Manor grounds will be restored and used. Agreement has been reached between all parties.

New paths:

Path M111 Shadowbrook Lane to Bickenhill.

A proposal is being prepared by your Councillor to make a footpath link between the arboretum and the adjacent field through which a public footpath runs. It has the merit of avoiding a 50-yard section of the busy Shadowbrook Lane. Discussions are in an early stage with the landowner, but the scheme has the support of the parish council.

Proposals for a Blythe Valley path are also being suggested in anticipation of HS2 works.

**Councillor Roger Waring.**

## **Aircraft Noise Report.**

During late 2021 and early 2022 verbal reports from residents were being received regarding a perceived increase in noise from airport activities. Subsequently, an item was inserted in the parish newsletter asking for specific details from those affected. There were six responses.

Prior to receiving these responses Councillors had contacted representatives of Skanska and the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) to assess the effects of the clearance works. The observations and opinions of these two bodies can be summarised thus:

Firstly, the four noise monitors sited around the parish are set to identify any noise above 65dB. They only monitor aircraft passing overhead, and therefore cannot measure noise from take-off on runway 33.

The opinion of the representative of the ACC is based upon an extract from a publication "Acoustics and Noise Control" by RJ Peters. *"A row of trees or bushes will have an insignificant physical effect on sound proportion (although it may have a psychological effect). If sufficiently dense to completely block the view along the noise propagation path, the foliage of trees and shrubs will provide a small amount of noise attenuation. The attenuation is dependent upon the frequency of the sound source and the distance from the dense foliage"*

The response to the request for details was small compared to the size of the parish. The circulation of the newsletter exceeds 1000 copies. Further, of the six responses, four were in Old Station Road, and one other was close by. It is noteworthy that all the responders from Old Station Road lived on the east side of the road, thus exposed more to the clearances on Diddington Lane, as well as suffering from the clearances around Catherine-de-Barnes.

In my opinion, various factors have had an effect. They are, in no order of importance:

- The easing of lockdown restrictions has undoubtedly increased airport activity.
- Certain flights (e.g., Emirates) produce more than average noise on take-off and landing.
- Clear air conditions in the colder months allows sound to travel with more clarity.
- The loss of so many mature trees and hedgerows around Catherine-de-Barnes must have had some effect, however small.
- The clearances along the A45 and Diddington Lane are significant.
- The noise from works associated with HS2, and traffic along the A45 and A452 is now more discernible.

Council response:

Whilst there is little hope of changing matters with any prospect of immediate improvement, we will continue to monitor noise levels in association with the ACC. We also hold regular discussions with Skanska and HS2 representatives to evaluate and monitor noise levels. The planned programme of replacement planting of trees by both of these bodies will eventually improve matters, but obviously that benefit is long-term.

**Councillor Roger Waring.**

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

## **FINANCE**

Parish Councils are required by law to appoint an internal auditor to verify the accounts, asset register, insurances, and financial controls. From the report of our internal auditor a summary report is submitted for external examination by auditors appointed by the Audit Commission. Audited accounts are made available each year should residents wish to view.

The un-audited accounts for 2021/22 are presented in this report. The precept is the major form by which the Parish Council raises funds to carry out its work during the year.

In 2022/23, the financial year ahead, we will not be receiving a support grant from Solihull Council. The number of dwellings has increased from 1386 to 1414. Considering the financial difficulties faced by many residents because of Covid-19 and the increasing costs of living, Councillors unanimously agreed not to increase the precept in the coming year. The cost per band D household can remain at £31.00 per household by making several small adjustments to the budget.

**Notes for Unaudited Accounts ending 31 March 2022:**

**Actual Income/Expenditure**

**Income**

This last year the Parish Council agreed not to increase budgets due to the financial difficulties many residents were facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The number of dwellings decreased from 1395 to 1386. The cost per band D household remained at £31.00 by making several small adjustments to the budget.

This year, the Parish Council received one Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment totalling £30,725.59. A more detailed breakdown can be found in the body of this report.

By reinvesting the sum of £40,000, the Parish Council have earned interest in the sum of £153.20 this year. The sum of £3,418.16 has also been recovered in VAT. In addition, the Parish Council received a Support Grant of £8,000 from the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils to support the Pedestrian and Road Safety Scheme in Hampton in Arden.

**Expenditure**

Limited unbudgeted expenditure occurred, this related to the Remembrance Day Sunday Service. Due to the impact of Covid-19 and the service being held outdoor, it was necessary to employ the professional services of a sound company. Due to the increased number of attendees by the War Memorial, it was also necessary to have a Central Fast Response team on standby. The total unbudgeted costs incurred relating to Remembrance Sunday therefore rose to £310.00.

**Reserves as of 31 March 2022**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>                    | <b>£</b>          |
| Opening Balance 01/04/2021             | 171,670.09        |
| Add receipts for 12 months             | 91,026.90         |
| Less payments                          | 41,902.48         |
| <b>Total Reserves at 31 March 2022</b> | <b>220,794.51</b> |

These reserves are held in the Parish Council bank accounts, £40,372.97 of it being in a fixed term account to achieve a higher rate of interest. The reserve fund is established year on year to allow for future, predicted, major expenditure such as pedestrian and road safety, resurfacing the recreation ground car park, drainage, tree related issues and any additional unforeseen financial liability.

|  |                           |                           |                           |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Hampton in Arden Parish Council</b> |                           |                           |                           |
| <b>Income and Expenditure</b>          |                           |                           |                           |
|  | <b>Actual<br/>2020/21</b> | <b>Budget<br/>2021/22</b> | <b>Actual<br/>2021/22</b> |
|  | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>                  |                           |
|  |                           |                           |                           |

|  |                    |                   |                  |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Precept & Solihull Council Support Grant                             | 43245              | 42,966            | 42966            |
| Sports Club Rental   | 3035               | 3035              | 3035             |
| Recreation Trust Rental  | 670                | 670               | 670              |
| Allotment Rental   | 210                | 190               | 190              |
| Scout and Guide Headquarters Rental                                  | 100                | 100               | 100              |
| Bank Interest  | 345.76             | 150               | 92.26            |
| Other Income   |                    |                   |                  |
| Recovery of Cricket Pitch Funds                                      | 184                | 350.00            | 349              |
| Football Training  | 170                | 590.00            | 360              |
| April CIL Payment  | 61,471.17          | 0.00              | 30725.59         |
| Meriden Rotary Club Contribution (Covid 19)                          | 100                | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| Solihull Council Covid Support Payment                               | 3107               | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| Hampton Society Wreath (reimbursement)                               | 20                 | 0.00              | 20.00            |
| Probus Wreath (reimbursement)  | 20                 | 0.00              | 20.00            |
| Recreational Trust works (reimbursement)                             | 340                | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| October CIL Payment  | 30,735.59          | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| WALC Support Grant   | 0.00               | 0.00              | 8000             |
| Fentham Trust Wreath (reimbursement)                                 | 0.00               | 0.00              | 20.00            |
| Damage to Lighting (reimbursement)                                   | 0.00               | 0.00              | 480.00           |
| Damage to Yellow Loop (reimbursement)                                | 0.00               | 0.00              | 451.00           |
| EE Phone (reimbursement)   | 0.00               | 0.00              | 11.89            |
| VAT refund from Customs and Excise                                   | 5,177.63           | 0.00              | 3418.16          |
| <b>Total Income</b>  | <b>£148,931.15</b> | <b>£48,051.00</b> | <b>91,026.90</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>   |                    |                   |                  |
| Section 137 Expenditure  | 0.00               | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| Grass Cutting Parish Land  | 3,590              | 5,202             | 5127.17          |
| Catherine de Barnes Common   | 1,114.79           | 1428              | 1428             |
| Grass Cutting Churchyard   | 1,096              | 1234.20           | 1234.20          |
| Parish owned land Maintenance  | 6,921.69           | 7,138.16          | 6138.16          |
| Clerk's salary and expenses  | 14,266.14          | 14,017.88         | 14017.88         |
| Donations and subscriptions  | 681                | 686.46            | 686.00           |
| Office Expenses (including email fee and additional room hire 18/19) | 872.30             | 1,101.60          | 751.26           |
| Website  | 518                | 510               | 456.00           |
| Insurance  | 1258.41            | 1,530             | 1199.38          |
| Parish Newsletter  | 1781.13            | 2,856             | 2213.26          |
| Sundries   | 444.57             | 468.18            | 303.49           |
| Audit and Legal Fees   | 300                | 446.76            | 400.00           |
| Printing Costs   | 191.20             | 410               | 246.42           |
| GDPR Fees  | 35                 | 81.60             | 35.00            |
| Office Rental  | 1549.67            | 1734              | 1734.00          |
| Training   | 60                 | 416.16            | 262.44           |
| Recovery of Cricket Pitch Cuts                                       | 284                | 940.00            | 639.00           |
| Other:   |                    |                   |                  |
| Tree Survey and Maintenance Requirements                             | 2680.00            | 4,750.00          | 1,000            |
| Neighbourhood Plan Review  | 2,701.75           | 3,000             | 0.00             |
| Election Year Expenses   | 0                  | 0                 | 0.00             |
| Replacement Laptop   | 509                | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| Contribution to Road Safety Improvements                             | 25,000             | 0.00              | 0.00             |

|   |                   |                   |                  |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| G Fentham Covid Support Payment                 | 100               | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| Parish Online                                   | 120               | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| CIL Payment – Catherine de Barnes Village Hall  | 7,278.00          | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| CIL Payment – George Fentham School             | 7,650.00          | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| CIL Payment – Catney Residents Association      | 1,532.00          | 0.00              | 0.00             |
| Professional Planning Fees                      | 0.00              | 0.00              | 551.40           |
| Buglar  | 0.00              | 0.00              | 10.00            |
| Central Fast Response Team (Remembrance Sunday) | 0.00              | 0.00              | 100.00           |
| PA System                                       | 0.00              | 0.00              | 200.00           |
| EE Phone (reimbursement)                        | 0.00              | 0.00              | 11.89            |
| VAT paid out                                    | 3,553.44          | 0.00              | 3057.53          |
| Transfer to Reserves                            | 0.00              | 100.00            | 100.00           |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                                | <b>£86,088.09</b> | <b>£48,051.00</b> | <b>£41902.48</b> |
| <b>Pedestrian and Road Safety Reserves</b>      | <b>0.00</b>       | <b>0.00</b>       | <b>0.00</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>£86,088.09</b> | <b>£48,051.00</b> | <b>£41902.48</b> |

### Asset Register and Expenditure exceeding £100

Details of the assets held by the parish council and expenditure exceeding £100 per item are given at the end of this report.

### YOUR COUNCIL

The Parish Council from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 was as follows:

| Councillor           | From              | To      |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Mike Blomer MBE      | 10 November 2010  | PRESENT |
| Tim Beresford        | 13 May 2015       | PRESENT |
| David Sandells       | 11 September 2014 | PRESENT |
| Catherine Sellars    | 12 March 2016     | PRESENT |
| Ken Blanch           | 6 May 2015        | PRESENT |
| Dave Cuthbert        | 13 May 2015       | PRESENT |
| Peter Green          | 1 October 2018    | PRESENT |
| Alexander Clayson    | 8 May 2019        | PRESENT |
| John Eccleston       | 8 May 2019        | PRESENT |
| Giles Cook           | 8 May 2019        | PRESENT |
| Min Grimshaw         | 15 May 2021       | PRESENT |
| Roger Waring         | 10 March 2021     | PRESENT |
|                      |                   |         |
| Julie Barnes (Clerk) | 25 January 2017   | PRESENT |

### CLERK

Julie Barnes

[clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk)

The Parish Office, Marsh Lane, 01675 442017  
Hampton in Arden B92 0AH

### The following sub-committees and representatives were appointed in the last year:

(The Chair and Vice-Chair are ex-officio members of all committees).

| <b>Committee</b>                 | <b>Councillors</b>  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Planning Subcommittee            | Dave Cuthbert (Chair)<br>Cat Sellars<br>Ken Blanch<br>Peter Green<br>Giles Cook<br>John Eccleston   |
| Maintenance Committee            | Tim Beresford (Chair)<br>David Sandells<br>Peter Green<br>John Eccleston<br>Dave Cuthbert<br><br>Non-Councillors<br>David Colman<br>Daniel Adams<br>Floyd Price |
| Communications Committee         | Cat Sellars (Chair)<br>Peter Green<br>Dave Cuthbert<br>Alexander Clayson  |
| Neighbourhood Plan Working Group | Dave Cuthbert (Chair)<br>Ken Blanch<br>Cat Sellars<br>Peter Green<br>Giles Cook<br>John Eccleston   |
| Remembrance Sunday               | Ken Blanch (Chair)<br>David Sandells<br>Alexander Clayson   |
| HS2/Pedestrian Road Safety       | Ken Blanch (Chair)<br>Dave Cuthbert<br>Min Grimshaw<br>Giles Cook<br>Cat Sellars<br>Dave Cuthbert   |

**Appointments to other bodies:**

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Footpaths and Right of Way Representative | Roger Waring   |
| Airport Consultative Committee            | David Sandells |
| Solihull Area Committee                   | Dave Cuthbert  |
| Meriden Quarry Liaison                    | Mike Blomer    |
| Library Working Group                     | Cat Sellars    |

**The Parish Council also appoints trustees to:**

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| The Charity of George Fentham           | Mrs C Eley <i>to October 2021</i>    |
|   | Mr M Abbott <i>from January 2022</i> |
|   | Dr M Shalley                         |
|   | Councillor T Beresford               |
| The Hampton in Arden Recreational Trust | Mr G Hollway                         |

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
|  | Mr K Blanch |
|--|-------------|

### Meetings:

Thanks to the wonders of technology, the Parish Council have been able to ensure none of their meetings have been missed. Most meetings have been held virtually and residents have been welcomed to attend all:

The Parish Council held 6 meetings from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. Attendance was as follows:

| Councillors       | Attendance |
|-------------------|------------|
| Mike Blomer       | 6          |
| Tim Beresford     | 6          |
| David Sandells    | 6          |
| Cat Sellars       | 5          |
| Ken Blanch        | 5          |
| Peter Green       | 6          |
| Roger Waring      | 6          |
| Alexander Clayson | 3          |
| Giles Cook        | 6          |
| John Eccleston    | 6          |
| Dave Cuthbert     | 6          |
| Min Grimshaw      | 5          |

### Asset Register

#### Community Assets

The Common, Catherine de Barnes  
 War Memorial and surrounding wall, Hampton in Arden  
 Village Green, Hampton in Arden  
 The Recreation Ground  
 Recreation Ground Car Park  
 The Spinney

#### Other Assets

Chairman's Insignia and Chain of Office  
 Recreation Ground Notice Boards X 2  
 Recreation Ground Outdoor Gym Equipment  
 Recreation Ground Table Tennis x 2  
 Recreation Ground Children's Play Area Equipment  
 Parish Noticeboard X 3  
 Bus Shelter X 3  
 Recreation Ground Dog Bins X 5  
 Recreation Ground Dog Waste Dispensers X 3  
 Catney Common Dog Bins x 1  
 Catney Common Dog Waste Dispensers x 1  
 Oak Bench – Recreation Ground  
 Telephone Box & Shelving  
 Parish Office Computer  
 Parish Office Photocopier  
 Allotments  
 School Children's Play Area Equipment  
 Benches – School Play Area  
 Goal Posts – School Playing Field.



## Flower Planter Tubs:

### Station

- Six planters on the walls - two on the Coventry bound platform and four on the Birmingham bound platform.

### Village

- Two planters at the bus stop by Belle Vue Terrace
- Two planters at the war memorial
- One large planter by the railway bridge by the path from the sports ground
- One planter at Diddington Lane/Meriden Road
- One large planter by the Catherine de Barnes Roundabout
- One large planter on Hampton Lane.
- Two large planters on Meriden Road.

*The Parish Council is responsible for maintenance costs of these assets.*

## Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council - Expenditure over £100 1st April 2021 to 31 March 2022

| DATE       | PAYEE                  | £         | DETAILS                               |
|------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 13/04/2021 | Dawsons Groundcare     | 423       | Grass Cutting                         |
| 13/04/2021 | D Connolly             | 117.79    | Catherine de Barnes Common Wildflower |
| 20/04/2021 | J Barnes               | 1070.12   | Clerk's April Salary                  |
| 22/04/2021 | HMRC                   | 108.07    | Tax and National Insurance            |
| 26/04/2021 | P H Design             | 170.00    | Newsletter Design                     |
| 04/05/2021 | Inktree                | £337.23   | May Newsletter Print Run              |
| 11/05/2021 | WALC                   | £790.00   | Yearly Subscription                   |
| 11/05/2021 | Dawsons Groundcare     | £702.00   | Grass Cutting                         |
| 11/05/2021 | JRB Enterprise         | £266.60   | Dog Fouling Bags                      |
| 20/05/2021 | J Barnes               | £1,070.12 | Clerk's May Salary                    |
| 20/05/2021 | HMRC                   | £108.01   | HMRC                                  |
| 11/06/2021 | T Honeysett            | £149.95   | Dog Bins                              |
| 11/06/2021 | JRB Enterprise         | £205.20   | New Bin for Under 7s Play Area        |
| 14/06/2021 | Realpoint              | £273.60   | IT Support Package                    |
| 20/06/2021 | J Barnes               | £1,069.92 | Clerk's June Salary                   |
| 20/06/2021 | HMRC                   | £108.01   | HMRC                                  |
| 23/06/2021 | Hampton Gardening Club | £145.95   | Plants for Planters                   |
| 29/06/2021 | Dawsons Groundcare     | £1,354.80 | Grass Cutting and Maintenance         |
| 05/07/2021 | Dawsons Groundcare     | £872.50   | Grass Cutting and Maintenance         |
| 20/07/2021 | J Barnes               | £1,172.77 | Clerk's July Salary                   |
| 20/07/2021 | HMRC                   | £177.27   | Tax and NI                            |
| 26/07/2021 | P H Design             | £170      | Newsletter Design                     |
| 26/07/2021 | Ebner Consultants      | £691.20   | Lighting to school play area site.    |
| 06/08/2021 | PKF Littlejohn         | £480      | Audit Fee                             |
| 21/08/2021 | Dawsons Groundcare     | £1,304.40 | Grass Cutting and Maintenance         |
| 21/08/2021 | J Barnes               | £1,095.74 | Clerk's August Salary                 |
| 21/08/2021 | HMRC                   | £125.34   | Tax and NI                            |
| 21/08/2021 | Inktree                | £338.13   | Newsletter Print                      |

|            |                      |           |  |
|------------|----------------------|-----------|--|
| 31/08/2021 | Planning Portal SMBC | £145.00   | Application for Eastcote Lane Site         |
| 31/08/2021 | JRB Enterprise       | £266.40   | Dog Fouling Bags                           |
| 03/09/2021 | Dawsons Groundcare   | £867.60   | Grass Cutting and Maintenance              |
| 03/09/2021 | T Honeysett          | £200      | Dog Fouling and Litter Emptying            |
| 20/09/2021 | J Barnes             | £1,095.74 | Clerk's September Salary                   |
| 20/09/2021 | HMRC                 | £125.94   | Tax and NI                                 |
| 30/09/2021 | Parish Online        | £129.60   | Online System Parish                       |
| 30/09/2021 | Family Care Trust    | £840.00   | Catney Common Works                        |
| 19/10/2021 | Dawsons Groundcare   | £859.20   | Grass Cutting and Maintenance              |
| 19/10/2021 | Ebner Consultants    | £489.60   | Repairs to damaged lighting (Charged back) |
| 19/10/2021 | Family Care Trust    | £840.00   | Catney Common Works                        |
| 20/10/2021 | J Barnes             | £1,095.74 | Clerk's October Salary                     |
| 20/10/2021 | HMRC                 | £125.34   | Tax and NI                                 |
| 22/10/2021 | P H Design           | £170      | Newsletter Design                          |
| 30/11/2021 | Gardening Club       | £126.64   | Plants for Village Planters                |
| 03/11/2021 | Play Safety          | £267.60   | Play Area Inspections                      |
| 03/11/2021 | Dawsons Groundcare   | £1,038    | Grass Cutting and Maintenance              |
| 03/11/2021 | Richard Cobb         | £551.40   | Planning Consultancy Fees                  |
| 22/11/2021 | JRB Enterprise       | £266.40   | Dog Fouling Bags                           |
| 22/11/2021 | Inktree              | £338.13   | Newsletter Printing                        |
| 22/11/2021 | J Barnes             | £1,095.74 | Clerk's November Salary                    |
| 22/11/2021 | HMRC                 | £125.74   | Tax and NI                                 |
| 17/12/2021 | Dawsons Groundcare   | £601.20   | Grass Cutting and Maintenance              |
| 20/12/2021 | J Barnes             | £1,095.54 | Clerk's December Salary                    |
| 20/12/2021 | HMRC                 | £125.62   | Tax and NI                                 |
| 20/12/2021 | Inktree              | £168.00   | Remembrance Sunday Signs                   |
| 29/12/2021 | Robanna Studios      | £240      | PA System for Remembrance Sunday           |
| 21/01/2022 | J Barnes             | £1,095.74 | Clerk's January Salary                     |
| 21/01/2022 | HMRC                 | £125.42   | Tax and NI                                 |
| 24/01/2022 | P H Design           | £170      | Newsletter Design                          |
| 07/02/2022 | Inktree              | £499.37   | Newsletter and Insert Printing             |
| 09/02/2022 | G Fentham Trust      | £1,980.51 | Office Rental, Broadband and Printing Fee  |
| 20/02/2022 | J Barnes             | £1,183.42 | Clerk's February Salary                    |
| 20/02/2022 | HMRC                 | £184.42   | Tax and NI                                 |
| 20/03/2022 | Inktree              | £109.19   | Banner Printing                            |
| 07/03/2022 | Dawsons Groundcare   | £1,044.00 | Grass Cutting and Maintenance              |
| 07/03/2022 | JRB Enterprise       | £266.40   | Dog Fouling Bags                           |
| 07/03/2022 | T Honeysett          | £195.00   | Dog Fouling Bins and Litter Emptying       |
| 07/03/2022 | Ebner Consultants    | £387.60   | Lighting Repair Works Recreational Ground  |
| 08/03/2022 | SMBC                 | £985.20   | Christmas Lights                           |
| 20/03/2022 | J Barnes             | £1,350.75 | Clerk's March Salary                       |
| 20/03/2022 | HMRC                 | £297.10   | Tax and NI                                 |

**COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY  
INCOME TO DATE**

| <b>DATE</b>  | <b>PAYMENT</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>Fund Expiry</b> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| April 2017   | £2,308.00      | £2,308.00          | April 2022         |
| October 2017 | £5,356.50      | £5,356.50          | October 2022       |
| April 2018   | £5,692.50      | £5,692.50          | April 2023         |
| April 2020   | £61,471.17     | £61,471.17         | April 2025         |
| October 2020 | £30,735.59     | £30,735.59         | October 2025       |
| April 2021   | £30,725.59     | £30,725.59         | April 2026         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                | <b>£136,289.35</b> |                    |

**PAYMENTS MADE FROM CIL FUNDS**

| <b>DATE</b>  | <b>PAYMENT</b>                                       | <b>TOTAL</b>      |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| 02/10/2019   | Church Clock Repair Contribution                     | £163.99           |
| 14/01/2021   | Catney Residents Associations – Defibrillator        | £1,532.00         |
| 20/02/2021   | George Fentham Endowed School – Dining<br>Tables     | £7,650.00         |
| 31/03/2021   | Catherine de Barnes Village Hall – Double<br>Glazing | £7,278.00         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |  | <b>£16,623.99</b> |

**RUNNING CIL TOTAL: £119,665.36**

## **Chairman's Closing Remarks.**

Many were saddened to learn that Dave Grimshaw, who had suffered ill health for some time, had passed away. Dave was an active conservationist and led the Conservation Group which regularly carried out maintenance and improvement work in and around the recreation ground and particularly in the spinney. I am very hopeful that someone will come forward to take his place and continue his legacy.

As is the custom I close with thanks to those who continue to help our community in a variety of ways whether it be by being members of the many varied voluntary and statutory organisations or groups their contribution is invaluable in so many ways. I wish to thank my fellow Councillors who work selflessly, often behind the scenes, and for no reward other than a desire to do what is best for our residents and the community. The Parish Council continues to run efficiently primarily due our Clerk, Julie Barnes, and I again extend my thanks to her for her dedication, efficiency, and hard work especially during a difficult couple of years.

Finally, I must make mention of Hampton resident Alison Rolf who was elected as Councillor for the Bickenhill Ward of Solihull Council in May 2014 and has decided to stand down at the forthcoming council elections in May. In addition to being a Ward Councillor for 8 years Alison also holds a senior position on Solihull Council as the Portfolio Holder for Stronger and Safer Communities. Alison managed to combine all of this whilst remaining active in the Parish being instrumental in, amongst many other things, organising regular village tidy ups. Our sincere thanks go to Alison for her hard work serving the community and I do wonder what she will do with all of the spare time she will now have.

Thank you everyone for attending.