



# *Hampton-in-Arden*

**Annual Report**

**2025 to 2026**

*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

# Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council

## **Chairman's Report**

Firstly, a warm welcome to this year's Annual Parish Meeting.

We propose to continue again with our revised format. Consequently, chairs of each committee will not be reading out their individual reports on the work and achievements of the various committees and working groups. Rather as the reports have been made available to residents beforehand it is hoped you have all had a chance to read them and so there is more time for discussion and to answer any specific questions raised at this evening's meeting.

With our larger Parish and everything going on in and around us, I am sure you can appreciate the last 12 months have been particularly busy with no signs of letting up. I would therefore like to extend my particular thanks to Julie, our hardworking clerk, and all my other fellow Parish Councillors all of whom are volunteers and by choice none of us even get reimbursed expenses.

I would also like to remind residents that all our Parish Council meetings are open to the public. So, like tonight, residents are more than welcome to attend. I am pleased that many residents do attend where they can and voice their opinions on a particular matter directly to Parish Council members.

Agendas for all proposed meetings are published on our website beforehand with minutes of all meetings being published shortly after. In addition to meeting agendas and minutes we regularly communicate with residents via our website and Facebook page. We also publish and distribute to each household our quarterly Parish Newsletter.

I believe the greatest demands on Parish Council time over the last 12 months has continued to come from the issues and problems associated with HS2 and the M42 Junction 6 works, both of which have had and continue to have a major impact on residents and local businesses, although Junction 6 hopefully less so in the coming year – but I did say that last year!

Parking has remained a huge issue for many residents primarily in Hampton but also areas of Catherine de Barnes, both in terms of residents who do not have their own off-street parking as well as inconsiderate or dangerous parking causing a danger to both pedestrians and other road users.

Following a resident's consultation launched by Solihull MBC highway's department, where most respondents rejected large elements of the proposals, Solihull MBC have implemented sections of new double yellow parking restrictions primarily aimed at road junctions and other areas of reduced visibility.

As most residents were against installing double yellow lines along Marsh Lane we have continued our dialogue with residents, The George Fentham Trust, Soho Tavern, and Solihull MBC to try and alleviate the parking issues that remain at certain times.

In addition to the matters I have already discussed, we anticipate Councillor time will also be spent dealing with the imminent Motorway Services Area and issues surrounding that.

You will see the planning committee has been particularly busy not just with the usual applications but also because of the revised NPPF that introduced the new concept of “grey belt” land. This has led to several applications, for both housing and other developments, on what was previously considered protected green belt land.

Fortunately, we do benefit from CIL payments when approval is granted for development within the Parish and you will see from the CIL committee report that we regularly consider applications for funds and agree how the receipts can be best utilised for the benefit of all residents.

Over the past 12 months Cllr Waring has been particularly active in ensuring all the footpaths and public rights of way within our Parish remain fully accessible and open for everyone to enjoy.

Although being working groups rather than official committees both the Conservation Group and the newer Greener Hampton and Catney Working Group have been highly active and our thanks go out to all the volunteers involved.

Finally, during the past year we have had one change in the membership of the Parish Council with Cllr John Ainsworth taking up the seat vacated by Cllr Mike Bloomer. I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mike for being such a valued member of the Parish Council for many years including his time as Chairman. I am pleased to report Cllr Ainsworth has left no time in getting involved in council business with a particular focus on planning, footpaths and conservation matters.

This means we still have a full complement of 12 councillors, comprising 4 members for Catherine de Barnes Ward and 8 for the Hampton Ward. The terms of all current Councillors are due to run for another year until May 2027.

## **Maintenance Report**

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 Parish and its environs.

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

The 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, the allotments (both on Fentham Road and Eastcote Lane) and grounds where a financial contribution is made like the upkeep of the churchyard, or on those areas in the control of Solihull MBC 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.

There have been no large or notable works commissioned by the Maintenance Committee this year over and above the usual day to day maintenance issues. A continued area of concern over the year has, however, been acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, particularly around the recreation ground and spinney. This is something we are continually monitoring.

We have investigated taking up and relaying the paving slabs around the sports club but following discussions with the sports club have decided to put these works on hold and undertake at the same time as the sports club undertake their infill extension close to these slabs.

The Committee has also continued to work, under the direction and with the dedication of Cllr Waring, to try and ensure all the footpaths and rights of way within the Parish are kept open and passable on foot.

For areas in the control of Solihull MBC, we keep a watching brief of incidents such as overgrown vegetation and verges, blocked road gullies, faulty streetlamps, potholes, and reports of dog fouling (which continues to be a problem throughout the Parish). This has been particularly time consuming over the last 12 months where we felt levels of services from Solihull MBC and their contractors were not up to standard. We are pleased to report Solihull MBC worked with us to ensure all the issues we reported were fully resolved.

We also monitor works undertaken by the utilities and that have an impact on residents, particularly with regards traffic controls.

Contractors are regularly engaged to conduct routine work on behalf of the Parish Council. In addition, we would particularly like to thank Alan, John, and Michael plus all the volunteers of the Conservation Group for their regular maintenance of the spinney and in particular the works they continue to undertake to improve the paths and the more recent hedge planting. We also extend our thanks to Trevor Honeysett and Marc Rolf for their help with many maintenance issues throughout the year.

The Parish Council is also responsible for maintaining the various planters located throughout the parish. Whilst a number of these, such as the large planter by the railway bridge in Hampton are maintained by a paid contractor, we would like to extend our thanks to the gardening club and other volunteers who help maintain the others and keep them looking so vibrant 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.

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 that 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.

The Parish Council hold an immensely popular and successful Village Tidy event led by Cllr Sellars in both Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes. In addition, we would like to thank Ward Councillor Alison Rolf and all her Wombles who not only partner with us for this event but also undertake regular litter picks throughout the year that keeps the village of Hampton so tidy. We would also like to thank Catney Residents Association and the Catney Wombles who also help to make the event in Catherine de Barnes equally as successful. This is not just appreciated by the Parish Council but all residents.

**Cllr T Beresford**

## **Major Infrastructure Report**

In July 2025, the Committee formally transitioned into a Working Group, reflecting its operational role. Following this transition, any formal decisions are now referred to Full Parish Council with a recommendation from the Group.

The Group continues to meet regularly with Solihull MBC, National Highways, Skanska and HS2. Councillor Beresford also attends the Meriden Quarry Liaison Committee hosted in Meriden.

## HS2

HS2 continues to have a major long-term impact on the Parish. Work has focused on the various diversions affecting the Parish, alongside the progression of viaduct pier construction, with deck beams being craned into place in phases.

The Parish Council has met regularly with HS2 representatives to raise issues on behalf of residents. These have included single lane working on Meriden Road throughout 2025 and into early 2026, overnight closures of the same road, the more recent closure of Diddington Lane whilst it is realigned and the impact on transport services resulting from HS2 works. The Parish Council continues to monitor the situation and raise concerns where appropriate.

## M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme

Members of the Group have continued to meet regularly with Skanska throughout the year. During the last 12 months, Solihull Road has been subject to extended closures linked to construction remedial works.

The Group has worked alongside National Highways and Skanska in relation to several issues, including footpaths both within and outside the Parish, impacted by the scheme. The Group has also raised concerns regarding signage and has liaised with both Skanska and National Highways to ensure that clear and consistent communication has continued to reach residents. Throughout the project, the Group has endeavoured to keep residents informed of developments.

## Road Safety in Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes

The Parish Council meets quarterly with Solihull MBC and will also hold meetings outside of that schedule when additional matters arise. The Parish Council remains in regular communication with the Highways, Streetcare and Public Realm Departments regarding day-to-day issues affecting the Parish, including street lighting, drainage and road and pedestrian safety concerns.

Residents will be aware that average speed cameras have now been installed in Hampton in Arden and are reported to have been effective in reducing speeds throughout the village. As part of a wider package of measures introduced over the last 12 months, a gateway and raised pedestrian crossing have been installed on Hampton Lane, along with a gateway on Lugtrout Lane and speed cushions along Lugtrout Lane.

The Parish Council is aware of residents' concerns regarding the gateway on Hampton Lane and is in communication with Solihull MBC in this regard. A safety audit has been undertaken and reflective paint added to improve visibility. However, the Parish Council has continued to request Solihull MBC investigate further options to improve driver awareness at this location.

## Parking and Pedestrian Safety

Parking and pedestrian safety in Hampton in Arden continues to be a key issue, particularly around the Sports Club and near Soho Tavern/Fentham Hall. Following a Parish-wide consultation in March, the outcome was analysed by Solihull MBC, and, because of strong residents' objections, scaled-back measures were implemented. Double yellow lines were subsequently installed, and we are advised enforcement officers now regularly patrol this area to include evenings and weekends.

Despite these measures, the Parish Council remains aware of ongoing concerns, particularly relating to Marsh Lane, and continues to liaise with Solihull MBC, residents, businesses in the vicinity and The George Fentham Trust.

#### Catherine de Barnes TRO Consultation

A Traffic Regulation Order consultation also took place more recently in Catherine de Barnes. Following that consultation, new parking restrictions in the form of double yellow lines have been installed on section of Lugtrout Lane and Hampton Lane.

#### Motorway Service Area (MSA)

Further information regarding the Motorway Service Area is contained within the Planning Report. The Parish Council continues to meet regularly with representatives of the MSA so that logistics can be carefully considered and communicated effectively to residents. Some disruption is expected, and the Parish Council will continue to represent residents to limit that disruption wherever it is practicably possible.

#### **Major Infrastructure Working Group**

#### **Planning Committee**

The Parish Council receives notification of all planning applications in the Parish, these are considered by the Planning Committee and a decision made whether to respond, based on compliance of the application to planning policies and the Neighbourhood Plan. We responded to 12 planning applications during the year. All responses can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

The following is a brief resume of the more significant planning and planning related issues that we have been involved with during the year: -

#### *PL2024/00037/PPOL Land north of Lugtrout Lane For up to 50 new dwellings Catherine de Barnes*

This application was decided in April of last year but as yet no Reserved Matters (RM) application has come forward showing the detailed design, layout and landscaping. As many of you will recall the site was added to the original SO1 (up to 800 homes) which had been allocated in the Local Plan 2020. which was withdrawn.

#### *PL2024/02987/PPRM 85 new dwellings on the site of Oak Farm in Catherine de Barnes*

This application was partially approved in August 2025 however approval was not given to the canal side properties being too high at 3 storeys and a condition was added to the approval stating that the height should be no more than 2.5 storeys. A further application was submitted for 2.5 storeys which remains undecided as the original RM application was subject to a judicial review which was decided in March with a direction that the RM approval be quashed on the grounds that: *“That substance was not a matter of discussion by the committee as a whole and no objectors had the opportunity to make submissions on the substance of the condition”*. The substance being the direction that the homes should not exceed 2.5 storeys.

We await developments.

#### *PL/ 2025/01404/PPFL. Solar Farm on Woodhouse Farm*

Solihull MBC are awaiting the submission of an Environmental Statement following the issue of the letter advising the development is EIA development. The applicant has indicated that they will prepare an Environmental Statement which the scoping opinion seeks to confirm the matters should be covered within it. Once received, the application will then be re-consulted on that detail and assess the application. Effectively, the application is on hold now.

PL 2015/51409/PPOL Motorway Service Area (MSA) adjacent to Solihull Road - update

You may or may not recall that outline planning permission was granted on appeal back in 2021 for a motorway service area sited on land at the new junction 5a on the M42 between the motorway and Solihull Road. Since that approval Extra (the developer) have been working with Solihull MBC concerning how the development will sit within the topography of the site. These discussions have resulted in variations to the original application. Instrumental in arriving at these variations is a significant reduction in the amount of soil needing to be removed from the site thereby reducing the number of vehicle movements on the local road network. These variations are the subject of a new application PL/ 2026/00558/VARJ. Incidentally no routes through our local villages are planned.

**The principle of an MSA being built has been established so unfortunately there is no opportunity of opposing it.**

The only elements that are open to debate and will be able to be commented on, are the variations described in the latest application and the detailed design and layout which will be the subject of a Reserved Matters application expected later this year.

PL2025/01572/PPFL Up to 130 homes off Old Station Road, Hampton in Arden

This application is currently still under consideration with SMBC Ecology commenting “*The current baseline assessment is considered to significantly undervalue the biodiversity value of the site, as a result 10% BNG cannot be claimed within this application. A further review based on an updated baseline assessment will be required. The site is situated within the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest and triggers the requirement to consult Natural England as the proposed scheme is over the unit threshold for the site context*”. In addition, the Council’s Urban Design team have objected to the site commenting “*The site and its proposed design do not form a ‘logical or proportionate’ extension to Hampton in Arden village, but would produce a disjointed, outlying ‘satellite’ estate, remote from the village centre and the core settlement and built-up areas of Hampton in Arden. This is undesirable in place-making terms, neighbourhood design, sustainability (accessibility), village form, coherent and compact growth and short distances. Instead of a street-based village extension, the scheme would produce an isolated outlying and inward-looking estate.*” We have two major issues to contend with: *the issue of Grey Belt within Green Belt and the fact that Solihull cannot demonstrate a 5-year land supply*”. It will be very interesting how the Officers weight the planning argument in their recommendations.

PL2925/00547/ MAJFDW. Extensive demolition of land off Warwick Road and Phase1 development of 347apartments for the re development of Mell Square to be known as Holbeche Place.

The application was approved and work starts this month.

Appeals

The appeals lodged by Chestnuts Farm were dismissed as were the appeals for planning permission for a dwelling on a field adjacent to Destiny Cottage on Friday Lane and for non-determination of application PL2925/00164/PPFL Heath Farm,26 Henwood Lane Catherine de Barnes.

## Planning Enforcement (PE)

We are currently in communication with enforcement over building works at Heath Farm, Henwood Lane, Catherine de Barnes.

## Other Planning related issues

Grey Belt: In December 2024 the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was revised and introduced the classification of Grey Belt within Green Belt areas. In simple terms Grey Belt is characterised as being poor quality Green Belt, e.g. scrub. Land of this type will not need very special circumstances to justify development. Obviously, this had major implications for us. In addition, further revision of the NPPF is expected by the middle of the year. Amongst the changes we expect will be the relaxing some of the access conditions including sites within 800 metres of a railway station being open for development.

Draft Solihull Local Plan: We recently completed an SMBC consultation on issues and options which could/ might could be included in any new plan. The results of the call for sites last year is still not known other than 47 not 46 sites that as I highlighted last year, were put forward development in the Parish. Not having a 5-year land supply, the introduction of the concept of Grey Belt and having a Local Plan which is largely out of date, has given developers a great opportunity for speculative applications which they are taking advantage of right across the Borough. Solihull MBC are endeavouring to get a Local Plan ready for examination under the current system by the end of the year. If they don't succeed new regulations come into play. This is besides what could happen after the local elections if there is a change in majority or a hung council.

## Planning and Infrastructure Act

The Bill received Royal Assent on the 18 December 2025 so is now an Act. Amongst the aims of the Bill is to it lay the groundwork for the government to introduce regulations setting out which planning decisions should be delegated to planning officers (to make in accordance with the local plan), rather than going to local planning committees. This is a key change which should speed up how quickly and predictably planning decisions are made: a problem for successive governments in the past. But it is likely to be controversial as it will reduce the opportunity for local councillors to make some planning decisions on a case-by-case basis. Planning committee members will be required to undergo mandatory training before they can take planning decisions to improve the consistency and quality of such decisions. Changes are coming.

**Cllr D Cuthbert**

## **Neighbourhood Plan Review**

During the past year and following a revised draft plan being prepared following the Regulation 14 public consultation, representatives of the working group met with Solihull MBC on several occasions through the year. One of the main issues needed to be decided was whether to continue with the process, bearing mind that Solihull MBC had no up to date Local Plan - it's dated 2013 and were not likely to have one until at least the end of 2026, their Landscape and Green Belt assessments were prepared in 2016, our surveys were getting long in the tooth and the Government had announced it was going amend the NPPF again having introduced the principal of Grey Belt earlier. The Parish Council decided that we had delayed long enough and agreed to proceed to Regulation 16 a final public consultation which would be followed by the plan being submitted to the Planning Inspector for examination.

That is where we are now. The plan has been submitted for examination. We have recently been in correspondence with the inspector who has expressed some concerns over the use of documents that will shortly be out of date which could potentially leave our Plan open to challenge by developers thereby negating its usefulness.

The worst-case scenario would be we have to go back to the drawing board - wait for the new Local Plan, and any new supplementary documents that support it, and the new NPPF. That will be decided by full Parish Council after having had a recommendation from the Working Group following further dialogue with the Inspector.

Frustrating in the extreme.

**Cllr D Cuthbert**

## **Communications Group**

The Communication Group over the last year has continued to work hard to ensure that our residents are aware of what the Parish Council is working on and that any topics of interest to our community are communicated to all. We achieve this in three ways - through our Parish Council Newsletter, through our website and through our Facebook page.

The Newsletter is published four times a year and is delivered to over 1,200 homes across the Parish. It seeks to include local news, information on local societies/groups and dates of upcoming Parish Council meetings and other important events in the Parish. Delivery of a hard copy of the Newsletter to every home ensures that everyone (including those without access to technology) are aware of what is going on in our area. We extend our thanks to our dedicated Councillors and volunteers who distribute the Newsletters each quarter - it this would not be possible without their ongoing support.

Our fabulous Parish Clerk, Julie, ensures that the website and Facebook page are kept up to date. These are regularly updated to ensure that the information is current and helpful to residents in the village and beyond. A huge thank to Julie for her continual hard work on this front - she does a wonderful job.

In March 2026, we took part in the annual Great British Spring Clean (a 'Keep Britain Tidy' initiative) with an event in Hampton and in Catney. This is organised by the Communications Group in co-ordination with the Hampton and Catney Wombles. The event was a big success, with over 40 bags of rubbish collected across the Parish. Thank you to everyone that took part, to the Wombles for their continued support with the event and to Solihull MBC for the removal of the litter collected. We look forward to taking part in the event again next year.

**Cllr C Sellars**

## **Greener Hampton and Catney Working Group**

There are now "*No Idling*" signs at the school and in the Sports Club car park. In addition, worksheets encouraging children to walk or cycle to school were provided to George Fentham School at the end of the summer term.

After organising a trip to Sherbourne Recycling, the group presented at a Hampton Society Meeting. Subsequently, the Hampton Society organised a visit, spreading the word. The group recycles increasing numbers of used empty medicine blister packs; there is a large box for this purpose outside of St Mary's Pharmacy.

The group are working with the Green Homes Lead at Solihull MBC and hope to present to any interested parties in the village on solar panels, battery back-up and heat pumps. This will be after the local council elections. Solihull MBC are promoting Switch Together (with a deadline of 1 May 2026) to curb rising energy prices. They partner with Act on Energy for free and impartial advice on how to make your home more energy efficient. The group is also aware that there is a Network Rail proposal to install EV chargers in the Hampton in Arden Train Station car park.

The group have asked Hampton Society to identify a representative from each of the following groups: Catney Residents, Fentham Trust, Conservation Group, Gardening Club and Scouts and Guides from both villages. The group would like to discuss their aims and see if we can help each other or develop new ideas together. This will be progressed further in the coming year.

**Made up of residents of the Hampton in Arden Ward.**

Should residents be interested in joining this working group please contact:

[clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk)

## **Conservation Working Group**

The Conservation Group continue to maintain the spinney to allow for public access and to support the animals and plants that make up the diverse wildlife within the village. To this end we regularly cut back invasive plants like laurel and brambles and are now having to raise awareness of the threat of Himalayan Balsam to the fragile surround to the pond. We have 50 nest boxes that are cleaned and surveyed every year. We have created log piles to allow for small mammals to shelter in and have made a hibernaculum for the use of the newts that live and breed in the pond. We care for the primrose bank surrounding the pond that was created by the first conservation group set up in 1992 by Dave Grimshaw - removing invasive turkey oak saplings that would rapidly shade out the primroses and cowslips.

**Made up of residents of the Hampton in Arden Ward.**

Should residents be interested in joining this working group please contact:

[clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk)

## **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a tax levied by local authorities on developers to pay a contribution towards improving local infrastructure for the benefit of the community. Most of the funds raised in our area are held by Solihull MBC, but 15% is handed over to local Parish Councils. This % rises to 25% where there is an agreed Neighbourhood Plan in place. (Our current Neighbourhood Plan predated the pre 2019 Parish Boundary change, and excluded much of Catherine de Barnes, but we are working to change this.)

During the year ending March 2026, we received £178k of CIL funding, and awarded £133k to new projects, bringing our current CIL reserves up to £300,000 plus interest accrued. Of this, £26k is currently committed to approved projects.

Recipients of awards in the last year have been the George Fentham School, the Church, and Parish infrastructure projects.

Since CIL was introduced in 2018, we have received £504k of funds and spent or earmarked £230k, as follows:

<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>Categories of Spend or Commitments to date</b>		
Received	£504K	Roads & Traffic		0%
Spent	£204k	Health	£77k	33%
Earmarked	£26k	Education & Play	£115k	50%
Available	£274k	Community	£25K	11%
		Footpaths	£13k	6%

Our CIL funds are managed by a Parish Committee who must comply with tight regulations on how this money can be spent.

**Cllr P Green**

**Remembrance Sunday Event**

The Annual Remembrance Day service and parade was held on Sunday, 9 November 2025. The event proceeded as planned and was a great success. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who generously dedicated their time to assist with marshalling and providing medical standby support, ensuring the safety of everyone in attendance.

**Cllr D Sandells**

**Christmas Light Switch on Event in Hampton in Arden**

Despite wet and windy weather, residents still turned out in good spirits for the Christmas Tree Light Switch On held on Friday 5 December on the Village Green in Hampton in Arden. The event was made possible thanks to the support of our community volunteers, particularly the volunteer marshals who ensured everything ran smoothly. Special thanks go to Meriden Rotary Club for arranging Father Christmas’s visit on his sleigh, the Parish Church Choir for bringing festive cheer, the Corner Shop for generously providing free mince pies for residents, and the local pre-school for selling light-up toys to raise essential funds. Although the weather was challenging, the event was well attended, and the Christmas lights were enjoyed by residents throughout the dark nights of December.

**Cllr T Beresford**

**Public Footpaths and Rights of Way Report**

Achievements during the last year.

During the last year, the work on the M42 link road has now been completed, with all paths returned to use. I have walked them all and they are satisfactory. I produced a figure-of-eight walking map to encourage their use. Further to this I have submitted suggestions to Solihull MBC to establish a safe footway along a section of Solihull Road to link various points along this route.

The major works that have been planned during last year is the replacement of all stiles with kissing gates. The plan has been approved by the full Parish Council and is funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy. The objective of a stile-free parish is the aim, to enable easier access for the less mobile amongst us. I anticipate these works being carried out during this summer.

The new permissive path towards Bickenhill is close to completion. It has been necessary to accommodate changes due to land use and the installation of stock fencing. I anticipate a summer opening.

Once again, the approaches to the Packhorse Bridge have presented problems, especially during the heavy flooding. Loose and raised slats, plus broken chicken wire has made passage difficult in places. I am pleased to report that in conjunction with our neighbouring parish councillors in Berkswell, we have managed to get matters remedied, and had some tree clearance undertaken of the branches that had blocked the pathway alongside. The old wire is being removed and safe slats installed.

My colleague Cllr Ainsworth has walked and inspected all our paths and produced a most useful plan of action. It is hoped to form a working party to undertake minor maintenance of our network of paths, and I am pleased to say that we have already had a couple of volunteers come forward.

Should any residents be interested in joining this working group please email: [clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk)

The path from the Crescent to Corbetts Close has been the subject of some considerable research, and the landowners have now been notified of their responsibilities. The broken gate at the start has been repaired.

**Cllr R Waring**

## **Chairman's Closing**

The Parish Council continues to value the strong working relationships it maintains with the many community groups across the parish, particularly the Greener Hampton and Catney Working Group, the Conservation Group, the Gardening Club in Hampton in Arden, the George Fentham Trust, the Hampton Society and the Catherine de Barnes Residents Association. We are grateful for the time and commitment they give in supporting residents and enhancing our community in so many ways.

We also continue to work closely with Solihull MBC, and I would like to express my thanks to our Ward Councillors, Bob and Gail Sleight, and Alison Rolf, who are always willing to offer advice and support on the many issues affecting residents and the responsibilities of the Parish Council.

I do not think it is a secret that none of them are standing for re-election in May so again I would like to extend both the Parish Council's and residents thanks to each of them for all their hard work and support over the years that they have served.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their continued dedication and for volunteering their time so generously for the benefit of the whole parish.

**Cllr T Beresford**  
**CHAIRMAN**

## 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 2025/26 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: -

<b>ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS</b>		<b>FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31 MARCH 2026</b>	
<b>Opening bank and cash balances at 1 April 2025</b>			
	Account number	£	
Nationwide & Lloyds Bank Fixed Saver Accounts		42,793.16	
Investment Account, Lloyds Bank	7420002	304,803.21	
Community Account, Lloyds Bank	932717	1727.69	
<b>Total</b>		<b>349,324.06</b>	
<b>RECEIPTS for 12 months ending 31 March 2026</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	
Precept	52011.5	52,011.50	
SMBC Support Grant	0	0.00	
Rental income:	0	0	
Sports Club	3380	3,380.00	
Scouts and Guides Supporters Association	100	100.00	
Allotments (inc. Orchard Water Supply Reimbursement)	990	930.00	
Recreation Trust	735	735.00	
Bank interest	500	2,659.91	
CIL Interest - Notice Account set up in August 2025.		1,731.36	
CIL Interest - Notice Account	0	1,746.93	
Other Income:			
Football Training	0	390.00	
Additional Cricket Cuts	0	792.00	
Barrier Damage		520.00	
Sugden Unsworth (Conservation Group Donation)	0	200.00	
Contribution to Hedge Cut Eastcote F Trust	0	60.00	
Wykham Blackwell (Conservation Group Donation)	0	500.00	
Remembrance Sunday Poppy Wreath (other parties)	0	120.00	
Hampton in Arden Festival Committee (Goal Posts)	0	1000.00	
Fentham Trust Water Reimbursement (Orchid)	0	300.00	
Height Restricting Barrier Recharge	0	280.00	
VAT refund from Customs and Excise	0.00	5913.80	
<b>PC INCOME LESS CIL</b>	<b>57,716.50</b>	<b>73,370.50</b>	
<b>CIL INCOME</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>178,294.20</b>	
	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>57,716.50</b>	<b>251,664.70</b>	
<b>PAYMENTS for 12 months ending 31 March 2026</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	
Section 137	0.00	0.00	
Cricket Pitch **recharge**	0	792.00	
Scout and Guide Barrier Open **recharge**	0	280.00	
Grass Cutting Hampton in Arden Parish	4888.50	4,657.00	
Grass Cutting & Maintenance Catherine de Barnes Common	1700.00	900.00	
Grass Cutting Hampton Church	1400.00	1,592.00	
Remembrance Sunday & Christmas Light Switch	1278	1,030.00	
Tree Works	2000	2,040.00	
Parish Maintenance Works	8500.00	7,350.69	
Clerk's Salary/Tax/NI and Pension	28000.00	27,042.51	
WALC and NALC Subs	790.00	805.00	
Office Expenses (inc. Email/Phone and Broadband)	1400.00	2,141.65	
Website	150.00	270.00	
Insurance	1600.00	1,590.83	

Sundries and Parish Online	400.00	575.69
Audit and Legal Fees & Account Service Charges	400.00	690.25
Office Rental from the George Fentham Trust	1700.00	1,700.00
Additional Printing Costs	0.00	0.00
Parish Newsletter	2300.00	2,378.28
Training Expenses	200.00	70.00
GDPR fee	45.00	47.00
Neighbourhood Plan Amendments	300.00	0.00
Allotments (Maintenance Costs and Lease fee)	600.00	894.41
Election year expenses	0.00	0.00
VAT	0.00	4326.1
Goal Posts (partial donation from Festival Committee)	0.00	1,000
Conservation Group (water tank and hedging plants)	0.00	710.21
Remembrance Sunday Poppy Wreath (other parties recoverable)	0.00	120
Barrier Damage		520.00
<b>Expenditure Less CIL</b>	<b>57,651.50</b>	<b>63,523.62</b>
<b>CIL EXPENDITURE</b>	0.00	133,456.00
Transfer to allocated reserves	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>57,651.50</b>	<b>196,979.62</b>
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**TOTAL** **57,651.50** **196,979.62**

#### **Cash Book Reconciliation**

Opening Balance		349,324.06
Add receipts for 12 months to 31/03/2026	(including any CIL Payments)	251,664.70
Less payments for 12 months to 31/03/2026		196,979.62
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>404,009.14</u></b>

#### **Bank Account Reconciliation**

Balance due from fixed term high interest a/c Virgin Banking at 31/03/2026		21,839.00
Balance due from fixed term high interest a/c Lloyds Banking Group at 31/03/2026		20,953.41
Balance due from investment a/c per bank statement at 31/03/2026		52,173.22
Balance due from current/community a/c per bank statement at 31/03/2026		2938.15
CIL 32 Notice Account		306105.36
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>404,009.14</u></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 2025 to 31 March 2026 was as follows:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>Hampton in Arden Ward</b>		
Tim Beresford (Chairman)	13 May 2015	PRESENT
Mike Blomer MBE	10 November 2010	29 April 2025
David Sandells	11 September 2014	PRESENT
Catherine Sellars	12 March 2014	PRESENT
Ken Blanch	6 May 2015	PRESENT
Peter Green	1 October 2018	PRESENT
Alexander Clayson	8 May 2019	PRESENT
Piers Reid	21 November 2022	PRESENT
John Ainsworth	19 November 2025	PRESENT

<b>Catherine de Barnes Ward</b>		
Dave Cuthbert	13 May 2015	PRESENT
John Eccleston	8 May 2019	PRESENT
Giles Cook (Vice Chairman)	8 May 2019	PRESENT
Roger Waring	10 March 2021	PRESENT

**CLERK** 25 January 2017 PRESENT

Julie Barnes

[clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninardenparish.gov.uk)

The Parish Office, Marsh Lane, T: 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 and/or Working Group</b>	<b>Members</b>
<b>Maintenance Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b> Cllr Tim Beresford Cllr John Eccleston Cllr David Sandells Cllr Piers Reid Cllr Roger Waring
	<b>Non-Councillors</b> Rvd Stuart Dimes (Representative for the Church) Mr D Adams (Representative for the George F Trust) Mr G Holway (Representative for the Sports Club)
<b>Planning Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b> Cllr Dave Cuthbert Cllr Giles Cook Cllr John Eccleston Cllr Peter Green Cllr John Ainsworth
<b>Communications Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b> Cllr Cat Sellars Cllr Alexander Clayson Cllr Peter Green Cllr Roger Waring
<b>Neighbourhood Plan Working Group</b>	<b>Chair</b> Cllr Dave Cuthbert Cllr John Eccleston Cllr Peter Green
<b>Community Infrastructure Levy Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b> Cllr Peter Green Cllr John Eccleston Cllr Dave Cuthbert
<b>Major Infrastructure Working Group</b>	<b>Chair</b> Cllr Ken Blanch Cllr John Eccleston Cllr Dave Cuthbert
<b>Greener Hampton &amp; Catney Working Group</b>	<b>Chair</b> Cllr Roger Waring Cllr Peter Green <b>Non-Councillors:</b> Jane Humphries & Juliet Main

**Appointments to other bodies:**

Footpaths and Right of Way Representative	Roger Waring & John Ainsworth
Airport Consultative Committee	David Sandells
Solihull Area Meeting	Dave Cuthbert

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

The Charity of George Fentham	Mr E Purcell
	Mrs S White
	Mr J Devany
The Hampton in Arden Recreational Trust	Mr G Hollway

**Meetings:**

The Parish Council held 6 meetings from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Attendance was as follows:

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Tim Beresford	
David Sandells	
Cat Sellars	
Ken Blanch	
Peter Green	
Roger Waring	
Alexander Clayson	
Giles Cook	
John Eccleston	
Dave Cuthbert	
Piers Reid	
John Ainsworth (Appointed November 25)	

**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 (Fentham Road and Eastcote Lane Community 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.

**Conservation Group – Inventory**

- 155L Water Bowser & 1 Accessory
- Misc. Connectors and Hosepipe
- Bowser
- Spades x 9
- Carrier Sacks
- Rakes x 3
- Wheelbarrows x 6
- Handsaws x 4
- Billhook x 1
- Lopper x 2
- Scythe x 2
- Hand rake/Cutter

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

**Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council - Expenditure over £100  
 1st April 2025 TO 31 March 2026**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
01/04/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£322.00	Grass Cutting & Allotment Maintenance
20/04/2025	J Barnes	£1444.73	Clerk’s April Salary
20/04/2025	West Midlands Pension	£357.17	Pension Contributions
20/04/2025	HMRC	£358.86	Tax and NI Contributions
20/04/2025	Landscape Supply Co	£447.50	CIL Litter Picking Equipment
20/04/2025	WALC	£805.00	WALC Subs
20/04/2025	George Fentham Trust	£101.50	Complex Hire for Annual Meeting
30/04/2025	Family Care Trust	£300.00	Grass Cutting The Common
02/05/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£2,659.00	Grass Cutting & Maintenance
09/05/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£198.00	Cricket Outfield Cuts

24/05/2025	PH Design	£170.00	Newsletter Design
20/05/2025	J Barnes	£1,444.53	Clerk's May Salary
20/05/2025	West Midlands Pension	£357.17	Pension Contributions
20/05/2025	HMRC	£359.06	Tax and NI Contributions
24/06/2025	Trevor Honeysett	£190.00	Emptying Dog Bins
24/06/2025	Trevor Honeysett	£120.00	Safety Barrier Opening Fees
06/06/2025	JRB Enterprise	£239.60	Dog Bags
20/06/2025	J Barnes	£1,444.73	Clerk's June Salary
20/06/2025	West Midlands Pension	£357.17	Pension Contributions
20/06/2025	HMRC	£358.86	Tax and NI Contributions
29/05/2025	M Power and Sons	£999.00	War Memorial Clean and Repoint.
30/05/2025	Inktree	£421.56	Newsletter Print Run
02/06/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£844.00	Grass Cutting and Maintenance
01/06/2025	Real Point	£250.80	Gold IT Support Package
22/07/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£624.00	Barrier Damage Repair Works
26/07/2025	PH Design	£170.00	Newsletter Design
20/07/2025	HMRC	£359.06	Tax and NI Contributions
20/07/2025	J Barnes	£1,444.53	Clerk's July Salary
20/07/2025	West Midlands Pension	£357.17	Pension Contributions
07/07/2025	Inktree	£176.29	Replacement Village Signage (graffiti)
01/07/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£1,149.60	Grass Cutting all areas.
01/07/2025	Severn Trent Water	£195.00	Inspection/Application Fees
20/08/2025	West Midlands Pension	£414.32	Pension Contributions
20/08/2025	J Barnes	£1,628.84	August Salary & Backpay Pay Award
20/08/2025	HMRC	£359.06	Tax and NI Contributions
13/08/2025	DM Payroll Services	£162.00	Payroll Services Fees
01/08/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£1,149.60	Grass Cutting All Areas
07/08/2025	Inktree	£421.56	Newsletter Print Run
28/09/2025	Parish Online	£129.60	Parish Online Subscription
09/09/2025	JRB Enterprise	£287.52	Dog Fouling Bags
21/08/2025	Moore UK	£787.50	External Auditor's Fees
20/09/2025	West Midlands Pension	£368.60	Pension Contributions
20/09/2025	J Barnes	£1,481.47	Clerk's September Salary
20/09/2025	HMRC	£473.35	Tax and NI Contributions
05/09/2025	Tracy Draper	£400.00	Replacement Plant Beds
31/08/2025	Family Care Trust	£360.00	Community Gardening The Common
02/09/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£2,162.40	Tree Works and Maintenance
14/10/2025	PH Design	£170.00	Newsletter Design
15/10/2025	Water Plus	£156.97	Water Supply Eastcote Allotments
20/10/2025	HMRC	£381.84	Tax and NI Contributions
20/10/2025	J Barnes	£1,481.47	Clerk's October Salary
20/10/2025	West Midlands Pension	£368.60	Pension Contributions
08/10/2025	Amazon	£149.99	Replacement Gazebo
30/09/2025	RoSPA Play Safety	£316.80	Play Area Inspections
06/10/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£1,554.00	Tree Maintenance
11/11/2025	Robanna Studios	£288.00	PA System for Remembrance Sunday
20/11/2025	West Midlands Pension	£368.60	Pension Contributions
20/11/2025	J Barnes	£1,481.47	Clerk's November Salary
20/11/2025	HMRC	£381.84	Tax and NI Contributions
21/10/2025	Inktree	£427.58	Newsletter Print Run
20/12/2025	HMRC	£381.84	Tax and NI Contributions

20/12/2025	J Barnes	£1,481.47	Clerk's December Salary
20/12/2025	West Midlands Pension	£368.60	Pension Contributions
07/12/2025	Ebner Consultants	£780.00	Christmas Lights Installation and Store
01/12/2025	Dawsons Groundcare	£574.80	Tree Works and Maintenance
30/11/2025	Family Care Trust	£360.00	Catney Common Maintenance
19/11/2025	JRB Enterprise	£287.52	Dog Fouling Bags
27/01/2026	PH Design	£170.00	Newsletter Design
20/01/2026	HMRC	£381.84	Tax and NI Contributions
20/01/2026	West Midlands Pension	£368.00	Pension Contributions
20/01/2026	J Barnes	£1,481.47	Clerk's January Salary
14/01/2026	Direct Water Tanks	£172.80	Water Tank for Conservation Group
14/01/2026	DM Payroll	£135.00	Payroll Services
26/02/2026	G F Trust	£2,608.46	Parish Council Office Rental Fees
19/02/2026	Bernhard's Nurseries	£365.80	Additional Hedging Conservation Group
13/02/2026	Inktree	£437.58	Newsletter Print Run
13/02/2026	Zurich	£1,590.83	Parish Council Insurance
14/02/2026	T Honeysett	£100.00	Repair of Bus Shelter in Hampton.
20/02/2026	J Barnes	£1,481.47	Clerk's February Salary
20/02/2026	West Midlands Pension	£368.60	Pension Contributions
20/02/2026	HMRC	£381.84	Tax and NI Contributions
02/02/2026	Dawsons Groundcare	£870.00	Vegetation and Tree Works
27/03/2026	T Honeysett	£102.69	Fence Repair works
27/03/2026	T Honeysett	£160.00	Waste Bin Emptying x 4
20/03/2026	J Barnes	£1,481.47	Clerk's March Salary
20/03/2026	West Midlands Pension	£368.60	Pension Contributions
20/03/2026	HMRC	£381.84	Tax and NI Contributions
27/03/2026	JRB Enterprise Ltd	£239.60	Dog Fouling Waste Bags
27/03/2026	Realpoint	£144.00	Web Hosting Fees.

**HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL- NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY  
INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - INCOME TO DATE**

DATE	PAYMENT	TOTAL	Fund Expiry
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
December 2022	£2,925.34	£2,925.34	December 2027
April 2024	8,556.08	£8,556.08	April 2029
November 2024	178,294.20	£178,294.20	November 2029
July 2025	178,294.20	£178,294.20	July 2030
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£504,359.17</b>	

**PAYMENTS MADE FROM CIL FUNDS**

DATE	PAYMENT	TOTAL
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 Tables	£7,650.00
31/03/2021	Catherine de Barnes Village Hall – Double Glazing	£7,278.00
28/06/2022	Festival Committee – New Marquee	£2,200.00
09/09/2022	Catherine de Barnes Village Hall Trust – Play Area	£36,000
16/01/2023	George Fentham Endowed School – Play Equipment	3,000.00
12/09/2023	Hampton in Arden Parish Council (Play Area Updates	7,800.00

	– Bonded Rubber Mulch)		
20/12/2023	George Fentham Endowed School – Sensory Equipment.		£2,500.00
27/03/2025	Catherine de Barnes Village Hall - Survey		£2,500
27/03/2025	Village Tidy Equipment		467.49
25/04/2025	Hampton in Arden Village Surgery		£75,000
16/07/2025	George Fentham Endowed School – LED Lighting		£25,008.50
04/11/2025	George Fentham Endowed School – IT Equipment		£33,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£204,099.98</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>£300,259.19</b>
<b>CIL NOTICE ACCOUNT</b>	<b>Fixed Account</b>	<b>32 days' Notice.</b>	<b>£306,105.36</b>
<b>Inclusive of Interest</b>			<b>£5,846.17</b>
<b>Parish Council Acc.</b>	<b>CIL interest earned</b>		<b>£3,478.29</b>