



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Duston Parish Council
Duston Community Centre
Pendle Road
Duston
Northampton
NN5 6DT

Environment Committee

CLLr Enright-King (Chair), CLLrs Ennis-Clark, Ingram, Maitland, Pape

15th October 2021

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Duston Community Centre on Thursday 21st October 2021 commencing at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Issued by:

Gary Youens
Acting Parish Clerk, Duston Parish Council

AGENDA

EC020/21. To receive and approve apologies for absence

EC021/21. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2021 (APPENDIX A)

EC022/21 To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda (*Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed*)

and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business).

EC023/21. Public Participation Session *(Persons wishing to address the committee on an agenda item may register their intention to do so by telephone or email by 12 noon on the day of the meeting and may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes).*

EC024/21. To discuss further the protection of Hedgehogs in Duston

EC025/21. To receive an update on helping the Duston Wombles

EC026/21. Queen's Green Canopy

- To plant a new tree on St Luke's Field as a "Tree for the Jubilee". Identify potential additional spots for tree and hedge planting.

EC027/21. Duston Parish Council Four Year Plan

- To look over Environment objectives in preparation for Council approval (APPENDIX B)

EC028/21. Meeting Schedule

- To agree a proposed meeting schedule for Environment Committee

EC029/21. Date of Next Meeting



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Environment Committee
MINUTES 16th September 2021 7pm

CHAIR: Councillor P Enright-King

PRESENT: Cllrs Maitland, Ennis-Clark, Ingram, Pape

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Youens – Acting Parish Clerk

EC010/21. To receive apologies for absence

- None

EC011/21. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 19th August 2021 (APPENDIX A)

- **RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting held on 19th August 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting

EC012/21. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.

- None

EC013/21. Public Participation Session

- Cllr Enright-King declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item EC018/21.

EC014/21. To discuss the draft Duston Parish Council Four Year Plan (APPENDIX B)

- A discussion took place about the draft Four Year Plan. There will be an informal Councillor session to discuss it further.

RESOLVED: To take the ideas discussed at the Environment Committee to the informal Councillor session on 23rd September 2021.

EC015/21. To discuss the idea of a Hedgehog Strategy

- Cllr Ennis-Clark spoke about local environmental issues and hedgehogs.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Council that non-toxic spray is used by Duston Parish Council when doing environmental work.

EC016/21. To discuss ideas on improving Limehurst Square

- Cllr Maitland will be speaking to the shop owners of Limehurst Square about what they would like to see and would also arrange some carol singing at Christmas.

EC017/21. To discuss various reporting mechanisms to West Northamptonshire Council

- There are various reporting mechanisms to report environmental issues to West Northamptonshire Council. Street Doctor belongs to WNC whereas others such as Fix My Street are third party sites. Cllr Enright-King gave an example of how he has reported overhanging trees next to Hopping Hill School.

EC018/21. To discuss progress in helping Duston Wombles Litter Pickers

- The Clerk and Cllr Enright-King are currently discussing what specific equipment Duston Wombles need. The idea is that we purchase the equipment and then let Duston Wombles hire it out for free.

EC019/21. Date of Next Meeting

- **RESOLVED:** The next Environment Committee will take place on Thursday 21st October 2021 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8:23pm

DELIVERING FOR DUSTON

FOUR YEAR ACTION PLAN 1st January 2022 – 31st December 2025

Introduction

This year marked the 30 year anniversary of Duston Parish Council (DPC). Over this time the Parish Council has gradually taken on more of a role in making Duston a better place to live and work. There are notable things that happened in that first decade or so that are still here benefitting residents today. In 2001 the Parish Council installed Triumph Gardens play area and the path linking it to Aquitaine Close. In 1998 DPC installed the commemorative bench on Bants Lane to mark the passing of Princess Diana funeral cortege. The work continued in the next decade as well such as putting in a path around the perimeter of the Quarry Park and then installing the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) at Errington Park.

The Parish Council has also played a role in more difficult times. Following the closure of the British Timken site the Parish Council, despite being a relatively small organisation at the time, worked hard with the developers to try and get the best deal for residents. It secured the future of the Sports Club and Field and ensured this much valued asset stayed in local control and could be safeguarded for future generations.

In the first half of 2000s Northamptonshire County Council took the decision to restructure schools in Northampton and bring it in line with the rest of the county and most of the country. Northampton went from Lower, Middle and Upper Schools to Primary and Secondary. This meant a surplus of school sites and many, such as the Ryeland Middle School, were sold for housing. A strong campaign helped secure the future of St Lukes Lower School and Field as a community facility which DPC now proudly maintains.

Duston Parish Council has now for some time put on an annual community festival. Not always in the same location or with the same name. Presently it is held at St Luke's Field with the name "Duston Fun Day". This annual community event has become a key event in the local calendar. In recent years there has been a change in the nature of local government across the country. Both Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council began to focus more on their core statutory services. This has meant DPC has taken on yet more of a role in the community to fill a void. Most notably it has taken

on the freehold and running of the Community Centre at Pendle Road and installed more play and gym equipment. These are the kind of things that principal authorities once did.

Duston has always had a strong sense of community and identity. After the demise of the previous Duston Parish Council in 1965 when the village was incorporated into the Borough of Northampton the community picked up the pieces. The previous Duston Parish Council (1895 – 1965) had an Old Peoples Welfare Committee and after 1965 this became Duston Old Peoples Welfare Association (DOPWA). DOPWA have carried forward the work in helping the older residents. Duston Community Association (DCA) coordinated a huge range of volunteer activities over many years such as running Duston Community Centre and teaching young children to swim at the local swimming pool.

Where we are

Duston Parish Council now finds itself amongst change. The village has gone from being one out of ten parishes in Northampton to one out of 165 parishes in West Northamptonshire. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is one of the larger local authorities in England. Many principle authorities will be focusing on issues like social services, infrastructure projects, schools places and strategic housing growth. Duston Parish Council now has a simple choice. It can either be a talking shop and just administer itself or it can choose to take on a bigger enhanced role and deliver for residents. Duston Parish Council can fill some of the space left by the now defunct Northampton Borough Council. Our surroundings are continuing to change as well. Until very recently Duston was on the edge of Northampton surrounded by countryside to the east. Large scale housing development is now taking place in Dallington Grange, Upton Lodge and in Harlestone/Harpole. Despite this change the Parish Council is determined to keep Duston's character and identity.

The Purpose

The core purpose of Duston Parish Council will be to make the Parish a great place to live and work and the guiding overarching principles will be -

1. To protect and enhance both the history and identity of Duston. This will help preserve and enhance the sense of community pride in Duston.
2. To improve the environment and public open spaces in the Parish.
3. To provide cost effective services that meet local needs and aspirations.

4. To keep our local amenities such as shops and restaurants that help to bring the community together and provide for local employment.

5. Provide Community Leadership. The Parish Council alone can't make our locality a great place to live and work. So Duston Parish Council will work in partnership with West Northamptonshire and other stakeholders. Duston Parish Council can only drive things forward working with others.

Our Aims

To be implemented by both Councillors and Staff.

Engagement & Wellbeing	
Annual Magazine. DPC "Annual Report" Highlighting local business, community groups and events.	Dec-22
Set Up from Friends of Park Groups.	Dec-23
Quartley Surgeries	Ongoing
Suck up grass cutting left by Veolia / Idverde	Dec-23
Engage with Limehurst Square Shops	Ongoing
Christmas Carols at Limeshurst	Ongoing
A survey to all domestic properties in Duston	Dec-22
A feasibility study & consultation into a band stand in Errington Park	Dec-22
Be proactive at opportunities in adopting items so it doesn't go to management companies	Ongoing
Now Duston is no longer part of the Borough of Northampton the Parish Council will need to become the leader of local civic events.	Ongoing
Re-surface Limhurst Square but keep trees and bins. An improved design.	Dec-25
Continue to run our usual calendar of events	Ongoing
Develop links with PPG & Mind	Ongoing
Will look favourably with West Northamptonshire Council about the possibility of devolving services locally to Duston Parish Council.	Ongoing
Build up a volunteer base that are willing to help and support Parish Council initiatives.	Ongoing
Divide Parish into 12 areas for each councillor to monitor	Ongoing

Environment	
Replace the small noticeboards with double noticeboards in approx same location	By December 2022
Use non-toxic spray to help wildlife	Once Veolia contract expires
To obtain to Public Open Space from West Northants & put in Parish Council ownership	Ongoing
To obtain ownership Bants Lane Allotments & Berrywood Road Allotments	Ongoing
To see how we can enhance Duston Cemetery & St Luke's Churchyard	Ongoing
Employ an additional "Community Ranger" so DPC has two out in the Parish	By December 2022
A litter bin near Quarry Road shops	Sep-23
Install "Welcome to Duston" signs at Weggs Farm Road, Chiltern Avenue & Cotsworld Avenue	Jun-22
To install finger directional signs around parish	Dec-23
Install "a trim trail" somewhere in Duston in an appropriate location like Mendip Park or Sports Field	Dec-24
Adopt a biodiversity policy. We will look to have some rewilding to support wildlife.	Dec-22
Install more new play equipment at Melbourne Lane and the Quarry aimed for the younger children.	Jun-22
Do a public consultation on putting in a gateway between Timken Estate & Mendip Park	Dec-25
Keep all four of our defibrillators for the next four years.	Ongoing
Identify Areas for Rewilding to help wildlife	Ongoing
Look to install planters & hanging baskets in each shopping area	Dec-23
Village green status for each park we own and maybe also St Luke's Field	Dec-23
Tree Planting	Ongoing

Consider funding a PCSO for Duston	Ongoing
Install a bench by Bus Stop opposite Timken Way North	Aug-22
Paving outside Duston Library	
Clerk to bring to Council a tree Policy	Feb-22
Get an additional Vehicle Speed Sign	Dec-23
Commerative bench on verge opposite Timken Gates	Ongoing
Refurbish equipment MUGA at Errington Park, Mendip Park & Grafton Way	Ongoing

<u>Planning</u>	
To revise and update the Neighbourhood Plan	Complete within 2 years
To look at all unregistered land in the Parish	Ongoing
Install 2 – 3 public information boards explaining the history of the parish and its various buildings.	Complete within 2 years
Establish a working party to see how we can enhance Rosevilla Hut & Timken Gates	Dec-26
Get installed electric charging points in appropriate location	Dec-26
Establish a working party to make recommendations to council on CIL / S106 can be spent	Ongoing

Duston Together & Wellbeing

Duston is made up of various estates. Residents do not always know the groups out there that can help. Therefore Duston Parish Council will help bring this all together as we are about “connecting the community”. It should be easy to sign post what organisations are out there that can meet particular needs of our residents. Knowing what local organisations are out there will improve community wellbeing and satisfaction.

Our amenities

Shops, restaurants, café and pubs play both a vital economic and community function. Keeping these facilities are vital in making Duston a great place to live. Having basic amenities nearby in a reasonable

walking distance helps to reduce car travel. We will look to support each of our shopping areas in the ways that we can.

Concluding Remarks

It is a key role of Duston Parish Council to provide community leadership and take things forward. To make Duston a great place to live and work we need vibrant communities. Duston Parish Council is ambitious for the future. Our aim is for the Parish Council to be responsive and delivering for residents.

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Supporting the Queen's Green Canopy

We are supporting the Queen's Green Canopy initiative by inviting people to plant a tree to mark the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne in 2022.

Town and parish councils are encouraged to plant trees and schools, community groups and clubs invited to apply for free saplings from The Woodland Trust through their website for planting from October to March. Across 2021 and 2022 The Woodland Trust have over three million saplings in tree packs, available on a first come first served basis. Find out more and apply by visiting [The Woodland Trust](#).

Arrangements are also getting under way by the Council to celebrate the Queen's Green Canopy with a range of further local tree-planting initiatives in the run-up to next year's Jubilee celebrations, and residents will be kept informed and updated as these activities take shape.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

For more information and how to get involved visit [Queen's Green Canopy](#).

See the [planting advice video](#) from former Northamptonshire High Sheriff, Paul Parsons.

Pages in this section



The Queen's Green Canopy: Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

Celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by being part of The Queen's Green Canopy.

Anyone in the UK can plant a tree to celebrate The Queen's jubilee.

Credit: WTML



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

The **Queen's Green Canopy** will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built.

This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

Live in Northern Ireland?

We're really sorry - recent changes to regulations mean we're currently unable to ship trees to Northern Ireland.

Get involved

Whether you're joining neighbours or a community group, or planting as a school or organisation, every tree makes a difference.

Any trees planted from October 2021 to the end of the jubilee year in 2022 can be part of the QGC. Tree planting season is October to March – this is when roots are dormant and new trees will have the best chance of flourishing. Why not use the summer months to plan your planting and arrange a day of celebration?

Before you apply you'll need to:

Know the six digit grid reference for the land you wish to plant using the [grid reference finder](#)

Have permission from the legal landowner

Read through our short list of [FAQs](#). They are packed full of important and useful information which will help your application.

It's also a good idea to contact your local council's tree enquiries team before you apply, as they may have important guidance for planting in your area.

Please note we are currently taking applications for March delivery.

Join The Queen's Green Canopy

Request a free tree pack for your school or community group.

[Apply now](#)

More ways to take part

If you're not eligible for free trees, want to plant sooner or on a bigger scale, you can apply for alternative schemes or buy trees from our shop.

