



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Environment Committee

CLLrs Enright-King, Ennis-Clark, Ingram, Liddon,

10th November 2023

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Duston Community Centre on Thursday 16th November 2023 commencing at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Issued by:

Gary Youens
Parish Clerk, Duston Parish Council

AGENDA

EC54/23. To receive apologies for absence

EC55/23. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2023 (APPENDIX A)

EC56/23. 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*).

EC58/23. 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*).

EC59/23. Litter Bins

- a) To discuss the request from residents to install a litter bin on the Duston Garden Estate. (APPENDIX B)
- b) To discuss the installation of a litter bin at the Haydown Green play area.
- c) To discuss the replacement and relocation of two bins at Mendip Park to more suitable locations. To be funded with CIL monies (APPENDIX C)

EC60/23. Mendip Park S106 Play Equipment Update

- To receive a update upon the Mendip Park S106 play equipment project (APPENDIX D)

EC61/23. Errington Park Path Update

- To receive a verbal update upon the Errington Park path project.

EC62/23. Four-Year Plan Review

- a) To discuss and review the Four-Year plan (APPENDIX E)
- b) To identify and priorities projects for from the Four-Year plan that may require budgetary consideration

EC63/23. Tree Survey

- To receive an update from the Clerk as to which Public Open Space trees are inspected next as per Tree Management Policy

EC64/23. Inclusive Play Equipment

- To review Duston Parish Councils current level of provision of inclusive play equipment and to discuss if it is adequate.

EC65/23. Dog Walkers on Duston Sports Centre Field

- To discuss the problem of dog walking on Duston Sports Centre Field.



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Environment Committee Minutes **Thursday 19th October 2023**

Chair: Cllr P Enright-King

Councillors Present: Liddon, Ingram

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Youens – Clerk

Ryan Ikavnieks – Assistant Clerk

Cllr Andrew Dickinson

EC41/23. To receive apologies for absence

- Apologies for absence was received from Cllr Ennis-Clerk

EC42/23. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st September 2023

- **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st September 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair (APPENDIX A).

EC43/23. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda

- Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests in the items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. There were no interests declared.

EC44/23. Public Participation Session

- There was one member of the public who came to speak upon item EC48/23, they also raised concerns over the location of the gate, suggesting that there may be a risk to the users of the gate if the ground is wet in conjunction with it being a slope and that there are potential trip hazards. They suggested that locating the gate closer to the play equipment would be a more suitable location.

EC45/23. Goal Posts at Errington Park

- Goal posts at Errington Park have been removed not put back up with season. The Clerk said the goals post have not been put back up by WNC contractor as nobody was booking and paying for the pitches.
- **RESOLVED:** To recommend to Full Council the purchase of junior goal posts for Errington Park using CIL and that the clerk contacts Idverde and Trilogy Active to implement this decision.

EC46/23. Air Pollution Monitors Report

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the report on Air Pollution Monitors was received and discussed (APPENDIX B).
 - b) That the Clerk contacts the West Northamptonshire Ward Councillors to request that the current traffic air quality monitoring project be extended to Duston.

EC47/23. Re-wilding Project Update

- Councillors were reminded that the Operations Officer had written a report on the current state of the Re-Wilding Project and ideas on how to best expand the project, was received and noted during the previous Environment Committee Meeting. The Clerk provided a verbal update stating that no substantive work can carried out in relation to the Re-Wilding Project.
- **RESOLVED:** That the verbal update from the Clerk was received.

EC48/23. The Creation of a Formal Pathway between Sam Harrison Way and Mendip Park

- The Clerk said signs have been put on the fence warning of uneven surface. It is understood that the land still belongs to the developer but under contract to the estate management company. The issue of ongoing liability costs of creating path need to be

considered and a formal written agreement with the estate management company would need to be in place to deal with this.

- **RESOLVED:**
 - a) That the Clerk contacts contractors to acquire an estimated plan and costing for the installation of an accessible pathway. This would be funded by S106.
 - b) The Clerk contacts Meedfleet and displays the plans, seeking permission to action the work on the land that they are responsible for.

EC49/23. Memorial Benches

- **RESOLVED:** That request for personal memorial benches will be assessed on a case by case basis and that the full cost incurred be funded by the requestee.

EC50/23. Trees at Pond Farm Close

- There is an ongoing issue of a resident complaint with the large trees at Digby Close blocking out light on Pond Farm Close. It is understood that the trees are not causing any structural damage to property and are in a healthy condition. These trees are not the responsibility of Duston Parish Council.
- **RESOLVED:** That a resident issue surrounding trees from Pond Farm Close blocking light to a residential property was received, noted and discussed. No action from Duston Parish Council should be taken.

EC51/23. No Mow May

- **RESOLVED:** That the recommendation to Council is that Duston Parish Council should not participate in No Mow May in 2024.

EC52/23. Environmental Schedule of Works

- **RESOLVED:** That the report and update from Resources & General Purposes Committee on Environmental Strategy for Insourcing and Outsourcing was received and noted (APPENDIX C). The Environment Committee supports the new strategy.

EC53/23. Clerk Update

- The following updates were received from the Clerk.

- New Bench in Mendip Park – Contractors have been engaged with and work shall commence imminently.
- Anti dog fouling signs – The Covid-19 Play Safe signage is in the process of being replaced by Anti dog fouling signs, the Operations officer is preparing the new signs to be installed.
- Planters for outside Co-op – The planters have been ordered, and are set to be delivered on Friday 20th October 2023.
- Planters for outside Duston Community Centre - The planters have been ordered, and are set to be delivered on the week commencing on Monday 30th October 2023
- Planters for Limehurst Square – Due to manufacturing issues, there has been a delay in receiving the Planters For Limehurst Square, however, we have received an E-Mail stating that they should be delivered on Monday 23rd of October 2023
- Concrete base for two benches adjacent to Errington Play Area – Contractors have been engaged with and work shall commence imminently.
- Relocation of Covid Remembrance bench in Cemetery – The bench has been removed from its original position due to a large amount of bird fouling and the old concrete base has been crushed up and filled up. The new location has been designated and Contractors shall be installing it imminently.
- **RESOLVED:** That the update from the Clerk on outstanding Environment Projects was received and noted.

The meeting closed at 8:34pm

Hi Ryan,

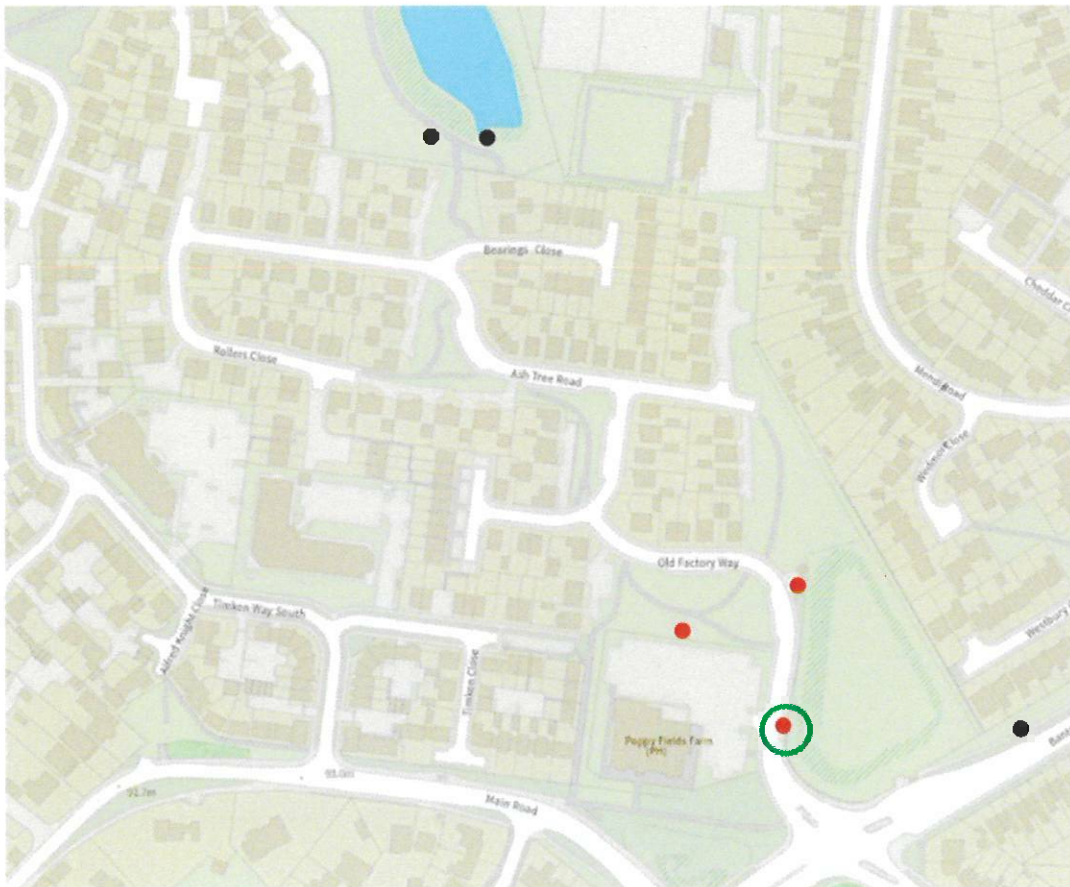
Thank you for coming back to me and letting me know that a Duston Gardens bin is on the agenda! I have consulted the 'DG residents WhatsApp' group that discusses all things DG and spoken to fellow dog walkers about a good bin location.

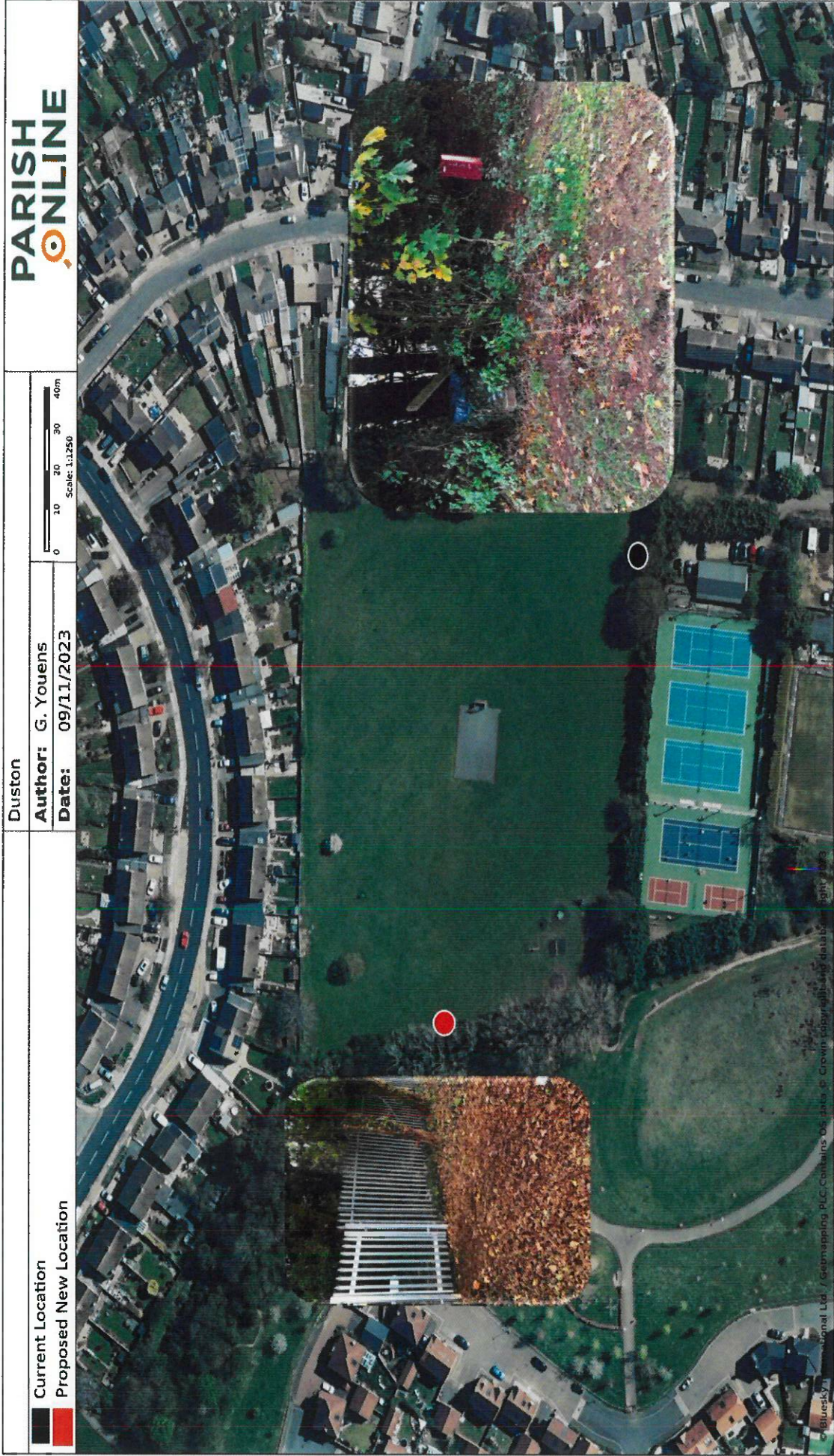
I provided them with a map showing existing bins (black) and possible locations of a new bin (red). After much discussion which included location in relation to existing bins and houses (we want to avoid smelly bins in the summer), we have come up with the preferred location (circled in green). This is opposite the vehicular entrance to Poppyfields and so would capture DG residents walking around the estate, external visitors on foot walking through and also pedestrian visitors to Poppyfields.

I hope this is useful to the Duston PC Environment Committee.

Thanks,

Duston Garden Resident





Duston

Author:

Date: 31/10/2023



Multi-play Structure
With Slide

10.0 M

11.4 M

Balancing trail /
Funrun Fitness
Trail

5.8 M

15.85 M

DELIVERING FOR DUSTON

FOUR YEAR ACTION PLAN

1st April 2022 – 31st March 2026

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 for local residents.

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 actually deliver for residents. Duston Parish Council can fill some of the space left by the now defunct Northampton Borough Council. We will look favourably with West Northamptonshire Council about devolving services locally to Duston Parish 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. We will work alongside all sections of community including young people.

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 Councillor Surgeries	Ongoing
Suck up grass cuttings left by Veolia / Idverde	Dec-24
Engage with Limehurst Square Shops	Ongoing
Christmas Carols at Limeshurst	Ongoing
A resident survey to all domestic properties in Duston	Dec-22
A feasibility study & consultation into a band stand in Errington Park	Feb-23
Be proactive at opportunities in adopting Public Open Space 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. Both mental and physical wellbeing is vital to our residents.	Ongoing
Build up a volunteer base that is 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 it in Parish Council ownership	Ongoing
To obtain ownership of both Bants Lane Allotments & Berrywood Road Allotments	Ongoing
To see how we can enhance both 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-22
Install "Welcome to Duston" signs at Weggs Farm Road, Chiltern Avenue & Cotsworld Avenue	Jun-22
To install finger directional signs around parish	Feb-24
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, the Quarry and Haydown Green 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	October 2022
Clerk to bring to Council a tree Policy	Feb-22
To ensure we provide an effective youth provision	Ongoing
Get an additional Vehicle Speed Sign	Dec-23
Commerative bench on verge opposite Timken Gates	Apr-23
Look to improve the entrances to DPC owned parks	Ongoing
Refurbish equipment MUGA at Errington Park, Mendip Park & Grafton Way	Ongoing

Planning	
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 our basic amenities nearby, in a reasonable walking distance, helps to reduce car travel and thus pollution. 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. *To be the best parish to live in West Northamptonshire.*

