



DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

1

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

Environment Committee

Clr Enright-King (Chair), Cllrs Ennis-Clark, Ingram, Maitland, Pape

10th September 2021

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Duston Community Centre on Thursday 16th September 2021 commencing at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Issued by:

Gary Youens
Acting Parish Clerk, Duston Parish Council

AGENDA

EC010/21. To receive apologies for absence

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

EC012/21 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).

EC013/21. 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).*

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

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

EC016/21. To discuss ideas on improving Limehurst Square

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

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

EC019/21. Date of Next Meeting

- The next Environment Committee will take place on 16th September 2021 at 7.00pm



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Environment Committee
MINUTES 19th August 2021 7pm

CHAIR: Councillor P Enright-King

PRESENT: Cllrs Maitland, Ennis-Clark, Ingram,

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gary Youens – Acting Parish Clerk

EC001/21. To receive apologies for absence

- None

EC002/21. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.

- None

EC003/21. Public Participation Session

- None

EC004/21. To discuss possible ways to reduce litter, fly tipping and graffiti in Duston

- Discussed under item EC008/21.

EC005/21. To discuss how members could help improve the local Environment.

- Discussed under item EC008/21.

EC006/21. To discuss how to tackle drug related issues in Duston.

- Discussed under item EC008/21.

EC007/21. Parish Rewilding

- Discussed under item EC008/21.

EC008/21. Four Year Plan

- A discussion took place about possible proposals for the Duston Parish Four Year Plan.

EC009/21. Date of Next Meeting

- RESOLVED: The next Environment Committee will take place on 16th September 2021 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8:23pm

Notes Environment Committee 19/08/21

Crime – could be mobile CCTV, ANPR cameras, fund a PCSO? Need to do what we can to help tackle anti-social behaviour to make Duston safer.

Need to do a big push to reduce flytipping / litter in the parish. Various ways this can be done.

Trim trail of gym equipment – could be Sports Field, Mendip Park or another location.

Need to do something about the footpaths and alleys in Duston. Many weeds and overhanging bushes.

Make sure we promote and protect Duston history and heritage.

Plant more trees. One in each park around Duston?

Linking Mendip Park / Timken site.

Work with our youth providers.

More “Welcome to Duston” entrance signs such as Cotswold Avenue and Weggs Farm Road.
Boundary markers.

Some nice welcome signs for each park (Errington Park, St Lukes, Quarry, Mendip Grafton, Triumph Gardens). “Welcome to xxxxx Park”.

Electric charging points in the parish. Could be outside the Library, Limehurst Square or the old garage site at Darwin Walk? Duston and the Parish Council need to become more environmentally friendly. Use solar power where possible. Need to be energy efficient.

Seek ownership of all parks and allotments in Duston. For the parks we do own seek village green status to add further protection for them.

Smart looking finger posts.

Rewilding – put fence round it.

Keep the two speed activated signs.

More Public Art?

More planters. On the ground and/or some on lampposts?

Do more to help of our shopping areas such as making sure they have adequate litter bins. A double parish council notice board in each area.

Help community groups such as Duston wombles. Work in partnership with local groups.

May need a small team of environmental officers to keep the Duston clean and tidy. Wearing DPC high vis jackets.

Keep on taking on public open space rather it going to management companies. Local control of POS is important.

Refurbishment of playground equipment that wasn't done last time (such as Clee Rise, Quarry, St Lukes Feld). Refurbish the MUGA at Errington, Mendip and Grafton).

Revise the neighbourhood plan to say more on the problems of HMOs and protect of green spaces.



DELIVERING FOR DUSTON

FOUR YEAR ACTION PLAN 1st November 2021 – 1st November 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 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 asset 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 more 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.

Character and Identity of Duston

Duston Parish Council will preserve and enhance the identity and character of Duston. We will showcase the history of our village. We will

- Install more "Welcome to Duston" boundary signs at our key entrances such as Cotwold Avenue and Weggs Farm Road.
- Support the continuation of the village centre conservation area which has served it so well over the past forty years.
- Look to install finger direction signs around the Parish to highlight our local assets, amenities and heritage. This could be a green & heritage trail walk.
- Once we have successfully obtained the Timken Gates and Rose villa Hut we will see what work we need to do to repair them.
- Install 2 – 3 public information boards explaining the history of the parish and its various buildings.
- After 6 years we need to revise and refresh our Neighbourhood Plan so it is up to date. New local and national policies have emerged since the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted such as Northampton Local Plan part 2. This will help to preserve the physical character of Duston for years to come. This task will be overseen by the Planning Committee.

Environment and Public Open Spaces

Making Duston cleaner, greener and safer is a core objective for the next four years and beyond. We want to improve our local parks. Achieving this will improve the quality life for Duston people.

Crime

- Work with the Police to see if there any local initiatives we can support such as bike marking.
- Install a barrier at Errington Park that may be used if necessary to stop anti-social behaviour in the car park in the summer evenings.
- Always consider Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 that says the Parish Council must consider crime and anti-social behaviour in its decision making.

Parks & Open Spaces

- Duston Parish Council will continue to try and get the freehold of the remaining public open spaces within the parish from WNC. We believe we can be more responsive to local community requirements and do it to a better standard.
- Duston will seek to get the freehold of both allotment sites in Duston which are situated on Berrywood Road and Bants Lane.
- We will seek to clear up two small anomalies where public land appears to be unregistered. These are the war memorial near St Luke's Church and the other area is the small public grass area on Witton Road. DPC wishes to protect these spaces in their present form and therefore seeks to take ownership of them.
- Be proactive to ensure no more Public Open Space is given over to Management Companies. This would mean the Parish Council itself considering whether to adopt the Public Open Space.

- For the parks we currently own we will apply for village green status to give them added protection. We will also see if it is possible to get village green status for St Luke's Field.
- We will install smart welcoming / information signs near the entrance of each park we own to make inviting.
- Consult with local residents and the police about access between Mendip Park and Sam Harrison Way.
- Install more new play equipment at Melbourne Lane and the Quarry aimed for the younger children.
- Install new climbing frame or something similar at Haydown Green.
- Refurbish at Errington Park MUGA and replace the old ones at Mendip Park and Grafton Way.
- Install "a trim trail" somewhere in Duston in an appropriate location.
- Look to see how we can improve both Duston cemetery and St Luke's Churchyard. These are important public green spaces for Duston residents.

Going Green

- Look to install electric charging points an appropriate location.
- Look to plant a tree in St Luke's Field, Errington Park, Grafton Way and Mendip Park & Duston Sports Centre.
- As we look to take on more assets we will develop both a biodiversity policy. We will look to have some rewilding to support wildlife.
- To encourage public transport we will see if there are any more areas in Duston that need a bus shelter. Look to replace the old tired ones at St Francis Church and Newton Road within the next four years.

Community Services

Providing high quality community services is vital to improve community well-being.

- Manage both Community Centres so that they are in good order in terms of upkeep, maintenance and cleanliness.

- Keep all four of our defibrillators for the next four years.
- Continue our annual Duston Fun Day and Christmas Market.
- Have a calendar of events as far as resources allow.
- We will continue with our Grants scheme with the following in mind
 - Support Duston based community organisations, especially where there is a clear benefit to residents and Duston facilities.
 - Give special consideration to the financial support of new community Duston based organisations that may have difficulty in attracting funding from other sources through lack of track record.
- Improving the wellbeing of our residents is crucial. Work in Partnership with Duston Good Neighbours Scheme, the Wellbeing Café, DOPWA and other similar organisations that enhance the welfare of our residents.
- Continue with our speed activated signs for the next four years at least.
- Build up a volunteer base that are willing to help and support Parish Council initiatives.
- Ensure we offer an effective youth provision.
- Duston Library is a vital community asset and the Parish Council will do what it can to ensure it continues.

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. Our shopping areas are -

- Village Centre
- Malvern Grove
- Limehurst Square

- Main Road
- Quarry Road
- Alsace Park

We will look to ensure that each shopping area has the following

- We will ensure each shopping area has at one bin.
- Where there is a single parish notice board we will look to replace it with a double one. The smaller ones have limited space to advertise documents and events.
- Investigate whether we can have at least one planter in each of our shopping areas. Maybe also planters on railings or lampposts.
- A physical one-off directory "Duston Discovers" to all domestic properties that advertises each of our shops, restaurants, cafes, bars & schools. Places that have a physical presence in our village. If successful this can be produced again after 2 years. This is supporting local businesses.
- We will keep our directory of local businesses on the website regularly updated.

Community Leadership

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. We will support and facilitate ways in which this can be done.

- Press our statutory partners to provide the necessary levels of resources to our Parish.
- Duston Parish Council will continue to be an advocate for the whole community.
- To help achieve our objectives and more Duston Parish Council aims to have a small team of Environmental Maintenance Officers that will keep our neighbourhoods up to the standard residents expect. Their core focus will be help maintained Council owned land and assets to a high standard. A team of Environmental Officers maybe be able to do things like -
 - Bus shelter maintenance (not owned by a bus operator)

- Road Sign cleaning
- Weed spraying
- Removal of low level graffiti / fly posting
- Maintenance of street furniture
- If there is a Community Governance Review then Duston Parish Council will argue that its boundary should in future follow the New Sandy Lane up to Weggs Farm Road. Long term we would like to see this space to be of community use.
- Our website meets the latest government accessibility requirements. This will help people with visual impairments.
- Champion additional sporting, leisure and recreational facilities for Duston.
- Recognise and celebrate our local voluntary and charity sector. We need to promote the Duston based voluntary organisations to the community.
- Ensure that Councillors and staff are sufficiently trained to deliver public services to the people served by the Parish Council.
- Will look favourably with West Northamptonshire Council about the possibility of devolving services locally.
- Lobby to ensure any S106 money or CIL allocated to Duston is spent: Come up with proposals to give to West Northamptonshire Council on how this money could be spent.
- Now Duston is no longer part of the Borough of Northampton the Parish Council will need to become the leader of local civic events.

Conclusion

Duston Parish Council is ambitious for the future. Our aim is for the Parish Council to be responsive and delivering for residents. Duston is a great place to live and work.

