

WINTER 2022

3 VIEWS NEWS

CIRCULATION MAY 2023

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YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER



THE NATIONAL FOREST

OAKTHORPE



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DONISTHORPE



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ACRESFORD

PUBLISHED & EDITED BY THE 3 VIEWS NEWS TEAM  
COVER DESIGN BY WWW.MAGICWORX.CO.UK  
COVER PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY JONNY GIOS

## Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford

### Parish Council, April 2023

As present Chair of ODAPC, it is my task to provide the Annual Parish Report. I would like to begin by saying it has been a privilege to have worked, for the last four years, with a group of people who have displayed such commitment and dedication. My thanks go to ODAPC Councillors, all working voluntarily, for their input over the last term.

I would like to give special thanks to Councillor Sue McKendrick, Chair for the first three years of this term of office, also our Parish Manager, Kelly Grove, ODAPC's only employee. The last four years have seen some turbulent times and they have worked above and beyond expectations. Their dedication, expertise and hard work have brought us into the twenty-first century, turning us into a proactive, forward-thinking Parish Council.

ODAPC has been given a good grounding for future Councillors to move ahead. Our good wished go to Sue, who is standing down. We wish her all the best and hope she now takes the time to enjoy the interests she had put on hold to devote her attention to ODAPC.

Now the report. Apologies that this is lengthy, but as it is the end of our four-year term, I feel that I need to report on all the Parish Council's achievements over this period.

#### **Chair's Annual Report 2023**

This report covers ODAPC's achievements over the last Term of Office (the last four years).

- ODAPC fund the upkeep and maintenance of all Parish-owned areas, which include ODA Memorial Grounds, Oakthorpe Play Area, the Community Orchard and Acresford Memorial Garden. It pays for all repairs on Parish property and funds quarterly RoSPA inspections on Oakthorpe Play Area. All Parish-owned areas are covered under ODAPC insurance.
- In 2022, ODAPC secured the leasing of Oakthorpe Community Leisure Centre to ME Sports, a community enterprise. This will enable the Parish Council to put more of the Parish budget into projects across the whole Parish and to build up the recommended 'reserve' pot.
- As part of ODAPC's agreement with ME Sports, the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), which had become a Health and Safety issue, was resurfaced. Funds for this came from the COVID relief pot granted to ODAPC by NWLDC.
- ODAPC has recently funded work in the Community Orchard to make it a more useable space for all. As a result of this work, the need for a Parish tree survey was identified. It is now working towards an ongoing programme to cover trees in the Parish. Trees on Parish ground will be dealt with accordingly and any problem trees identified not belonging to the Parish will be brought to the attention of whoever is responsible. You may already have noticed some trees have been cut back, some removed and a number are being monitored.

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- The Parish Council has also replaced damaged fencing alongside the orchard boundary which was causing an issue.
- The memorial gates at Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Memorial Grounds were in a sorry state. These gates are Grade 2 listed and needed specialist care. ODAPC allocated funds to have them sandblasted, repaired and painted. They were rehung in time for 2022's Remembrance Service, have new locks and now open and close easily and safely.
- ODAPC fully support and, wherever possible, are helping with the planned project of the ODA Memorial Grounds Group.
- The Parish Council has purchased three movable MVAS sets, one for each village. These are now all active and busy collecting traffic data which can, in future, be used to build up a case for extra traffic calming. It might be useful to note that these pieces of equipment can only be positioned in places agreed by the highways department.
- Also, if you see 'Speedwatch' volunteers collecting data in the Parish, they too are restricted, by this department, to specific areas where they can collect data.
- ODAPC also secured funding from the Mercia Park development for an MVAS which has been operating on the A444 at Acresford for a while now. This set is shared between ODAPC and several other parishes but is in ODAPC's charge.
- ODAPC obtained some funding, to be spent on various specified items from the Highways Department over the past two years. It chose traffic calming items - some of this money went towards the MVAS equipment we now have. The remainder has been budgeted to install rumble strips at the Acresford crossroads and dragon's teeth entering Oakthorpe from New Street, Measham. These have been approved and we are awaiting their installation. We appreciate there are other areas where there are problems and we will continue to work on obtaining funding for these.
- In 2022 ODAPC, recognising a never-to-be-repeated in our lifetime historic occasion, awarded all children attending the two primary schools in the Parish with a Platinum Jubilee Coin.
- It also initiated a new annual award scheme to be presented to one (or two) year six children from each school. This award is not for academic ability - the recipients need to have displayed an example of 'Good Citizenship' during their primary school years.
- The winners receive an engraved trophy each to keep. Their name also goes on a plaque in school as an incentive and permanent reminder to others of their achievement.
- ODAPC is working on building strong links with the schools and the younger members of the Parish, these children are our future local leaders. The Parish Council has budgeted for three trees with commemorative plaques, one to be planted in each of the school grounds and one in Acresford Memorial Garden, to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.
- At present there are three, publicly accessible defibrillators in the Parish (one on the fence outside Oakthorpe School, two in Donisthorpe, on the Corner Shop wall and outside The Halfway House). These were provided by local community groups, but ODAPC has taken on the cost of their annual maintenance (approximately £180 per unit). We are conscious of the need for more defibrillators in the Parish, but this needs to be budgeted for.

- The Parish Council has an annual budget for funding Parish groups. It looks at applications for small grant funding related to the Parish and surrounding area. Some of the groups which have benefitted in the last four years include 'Citizen's Advice' (at times we need to advise parishioners to contact them), 'Measham Paramedics' (who have attended people in our Parish on many occasions) and our 'Parish' magazine 'Three Views News' (looked forward to each month by many of us).
- The 3VN is a good source of information and news for the Parish and immediate area. It mainly relies on advertising for its publication costs but does occasionally need extra help with costs. It is produced and distributed entirely by volunteers.

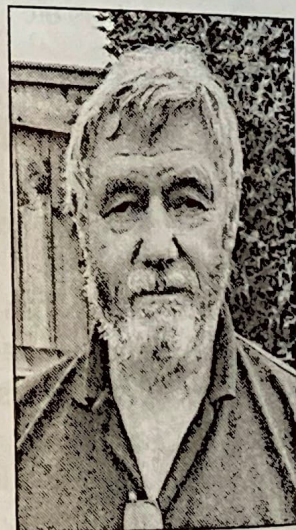
I would like to take this opportunity to give a big thank you to these volunteers for providing us with our monthly installment of news and views. If you can spare an hour or so each month, I believe they are currently short of distributors.

- ODAPC pay NWLDC for the regular emptying of seventeen litter/dog waste bins around the Parish. It also owns and maintains thirty-six seats/benches throughout the Parish.
- As part of the above, it recently secured grant funding for the three rainbow benches and accompanying flowering cherry trees (one in each village) as a thank you to the NHS workers for their commitment during COVID-19 and in memory of all who lost their lives to this dreadful virus. ODAPC has also replaced the kissing bench in the Community Orchard and has introduced an inspection/maintenance scheme to look after Parish benches, bins etc.
- If you are concerned about anything in the Parish which you believe is Parish Council property (or you are unsure whose responsibility it is), please contact Kelly Grove the Parish Manager. ODAPC tries its hardest to be 'on the ball' but if everyone is vigilant, problems can be addressed before they become a real issue.
- The Parish now has nine new planters at all (but one—we are still looking into how we achieve this one) entrances to the Parish. These have been planted with bulbs to grow throughout the seasons, the first of which are now sprouting well.
- Also, alongside the local community groups, the parish council has funded and planted bulbs on verges and other grassy areas in the three villages. Each year, to commemorate Remembrance Day, ODAPC put up over seven dozen poppies on lampposts and at strategic locations (e.g. outside schools, the Church and all entrances/exits of each village, to ensure that all residents and any traffic driving through the main routes are reminded of the sacrifices of our Armed Forces.
- ODAPC also has six official soldier silhouettes which they maintain and put up around the Parish.

- In the last two years the Parish Council has arranged for the replacement of the Council noticeboard damaged by pipeline contractors and has also funded the replacement of the community noticeboard on Narrow Lane, Donisthorpe.
- ODAPC has pursued reports of problems with footpaths, stiles and footbridges in the Parish and have been successful in getting positive results. (Only through constant reminders and badgering the responsible Council departments or developers)
- Several Parish Councillors are regular walkers and follow up on any problems they see, but you can also help by reporting issues you spot to the Parish Manager.
- In partnership with Ashby Woulds Town Council, ODAPC jointly manages the cemetery in Donisthorpe. Members of ODAPC are selected to represent the Parish at the Joint Burial Board quarterly meetings. Discussions are usually about the state of the grounds, health & safety issues e.g. older graves in disrepair, and any vandalism/litter issues (fortunately these are rare).

As you can see, your Parish Councillors are involved in many ways, working to keep your Parish a safe and pleasant place to live. If you wish to become more involved, come along to some of the monthly meetings or consider joining the Council. Whatever, your help is always needed to be vigilant and communicate anything you consider to be an issue. I am sure the new Parish Council will agree with me here.

**Mick Warren, Chair, ODAPC 2022-2023**



Next Parish Council meeting:  
**Wednesday 17 May 2023, 7.00pm at Oakthorpe Leisure Centre.**  
 Annual meeting of Council followed by  
 full Council meeting. All are welcome to attend.  
 Queries can be sent to the Clerk at [manager@odapc.co.uk](mailto:manager@odapc.co.uk)  
 for consideration at the meeting.

## Speed Watch News!

With traffic volumes and speeds increasing, residents of Donisthorpe were delighted to see a determined campaign result in permission to run the first Donisthorpe and Moira Community Speedwatch scheme and to install a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (known as MVAS) within the Parish boundary.

The MVAS is currently set up on Hill Street and captures traffic volumes and speeds around the clock. Between mid March and mid April, **10,500** vehicles have broken the 30mph limit in that spot with the **highest recorded speed being 60 mph**. That's around 100 meters from a children's nursery!

**Why is speeding a problem?** We're a community village with an expanding younger generation. The risk of injury to a pedestrian involved in a collision increases exponentially with impact speed. A crash at 30mph has twice as much energy and destructive potential as a crash at 20mph. **A pedestrian hit at 30mph has a 1 in 5 chance of being killed.**

The **Community Speed Watch** initiative saw 21 eager volunteers gather for training on the approach and equipment. It was a really simple process, but accuracy and team work were going to be key to ensure the data captured and provided to the Police could be used to follow up with offending individuals. By the end of the session, everyone was keen to get their slot on the rota and their hands on the radar gun!

Speed Watch schemes are governed by the Council and Police, who decide on where and when monitoring can take place. Our four suggested hotspots of Acresford Road, Hill Street, Church Street and Donisthorpe Lane were reviewed and signed off to ensure volunteers stood at a point where they could be clearly seen and drivers had time to have reduced their speed to within the limit. In groups of three and with glorious hi-vis coats, the volunteers were impossible to miss and that in itself showed what an effective deterrent and reminder we were whilst in position.

In a 30 mph zone, volunteers can only record vehicles observed at 36mph or above. The numbers recorded would have virtually doubled if it had been 33mph and above! Here are some facts and figures from the first scheme which took place between March 25<sup>th</sup> & April 7<sup>th</sup>. A huge thank you to the volunteers for their support.

### **28 hours monitored in total**

231 drivers = 36 mph or over

26 drivers = 45 mph or over

8 drivers = caught twice!

90 drivers = 40 mph or over

Highest speed = **59 mph**



All the data will support the ongoing campaign for additional traffic calming, including poles around the village to make better use of the MVAS. Acresford Road provided the majority of our high speed examples and is an obvious area for focus. We have also taken on board comments that additional farm related signage could help and encourage more caution.

In these tough times there's a financial benefit to reducing your speed too. On local roads, accelerating quickly and braking heavily can cost you both at the pump and at the garage by wearing through tyres and brake pads. Driving in a more fuel-efficient way will cost you very little time, but it can save you hundreds of pounds a year.

Ultimately though, we are appealing to you, **our community**, our residents, the people whose families live and play here every day to please **SLOW DOWN**. Ask visitors that are coming to see you to **SLOW DOWN** and if you have businesses in the area, please ask your customers and suppliers to also **SLOW DOWN** – **remember 30 is plenty!**