



Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford
Parish Council

End of year report 2025-2026

Cllr Nick Antill-Holmes

As we end another council year it falls to me to once again produce the annual Chairmans report on our activities.

It has again been a very busy year, not only with the annual events that allow us the opportunity to display and share the work we do, but also with councilors personally, as a result of our continued drive to increase our community presence. Councillors have now become trustees and directors of local community groups, cementing our commitment to the community.

The second round of community awards took place on 19th May, this year was one of reflection and it was with great sadness that we lost a valued member of the community Rita Smalley, the awards were dedicated to her memory, the council also replaced the bench on Ashby Road, and this was also dedicated to Rita



Councillors attended the anniversary of The Village Heart, the Picnic in the park at the memorial gardens and of course the Apple Day event in the Orchard, where we managed to give away promotional materials, whilst discussing local hot topics and supporting parishioners with issues that they were facing, we were also joined again by MP Dr Luke Evans

The council has taken back responsibility for the orchard site following the dissolution of the Orchard Allotment Society, we extend our thanks to the group who rented the site over the years, maintaining and managing the plots and their upkeep, whilst council has taken control we are hopeful that a new group may take this on in the coming years.

Cllr Tyler left the council, and this meant we had a casual vacancy; this being the second casual vacancy of the term, three applications were received, one from each of the villages, it was a close contest, but we welcomed Cllr Simon Edwards team in March.

The council has continued to increase MVAS machines to tackle speeding and support the local Speedwatch scheme, we are still working with MP Dr Luke Evans to look at ways to improve road safety in Acresford, we have also been working with Cllr Adam Tilbury to highlight the potential issues further developments at Mercia Park could bring to the area with proposed road closures.

The defibrillator project has now concluded, and we now have 8 units across the parish, including a couple of units managed by other community groups in the area.



A new communications committee has been developed to ensure we keep the parish up to date with our work and ensure that you are all informed of any significant developments, the group has redesigned the precept communication leaflets and we hope that this has assisted in answering any questions you have around the precept we requested from NWLDC.

National Spring Clean fortnight took place in March and armed with our litter pickers we hit the streets to pick up litter, speak to residents and catch up on the great work being undertaken at the Memorial Gardens.



The Friends of ODA Memorial Gardens have worked extremely hard to develop the land and work is well underway to create a local space for residents of the parish to enjoy, we are looking forward to seeing the new archway and railings in place, allowing a more accessible place for all.

This is of course only a snapshot of the work we have all completed this year, as always the work we do is voluntary and we need your support to continue the work that we do, if you wish to discuss any opportunities then please reach out to Kelly Grove Parish Manager who will be happy to discuss with you.

The council will continue to work on our presence in the community and work towards silver council status, in the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Award Scheme.

My thanks go s always to my fellow councillor volunteers for their support over the past year, to the vast number of volunteers supporting our parish, Councillors Ball & Tilbury for their support at district and county level and MP Dr Luke Evans who has supported many local events and who is working to support us with road safety initiatives we are keen to see action on

Kelly Grove as Parish Manager has worked tirelessly over the past year and we thank her for her dedication and support.

In summary the council has continued to work hard to establish itself in the community, continuing to support groups with grants, and develop it's presence but we are however happy to receive feedback at any time, positive or negative on how we perform or how we could improve just pop an email to Kelly or contact via our website.

Finally, 2027 will see the term come to and end and elections will be held in May, we hope that this year we can get enough candidates to achieve a contested election, we need 8 councillors to fill all seats but if we get more candidates a poll will take place, this will allow you as parishioners the opportunity to elect your next council. If you would like more information on what it takes to be a councillor or any aspects of council life visit our stand at any community event, contact any councillor or Kelly who will be more than happy to answer any questions.