Deddington Parish Council

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Action Plan 2026–29

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council (PC) is a civil local authority and the first tier of local government. It is an elected corporate body, has tax raising powers via a precept included in the annual council tax and is responsible for the area known as the civil parish.

1.1 Deddington

The parish of Deddington is a community of some 2,500 people in north Oxfordshire. The principal settlement of Deddington lies on the A4260 5.5 miles (9km) south of Banbury and 16.5 (26.5) miles north of Oxford. The parish includes the two smaller villages of Hempton (population c.285) and Clifton (population c.240) connected west to east by the B4031. The parish is 4,246 acres (1,718 ha) in extent.

The landform of the parish is made up of undulating ironstone hills and valleys, including the Swere and Cherwell valleys along the northern and eastern boundaries. Each of the three villages is surrounded by open agricultural land.

There are two sites in the parish designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments: Deddington Castle, a Norman motte-and-bailey castle and earthworks, is owned by the PC apart from the motte or mound where the castle once stood, which is owned by English Heritage; and the site of Ilbury Camp hillfort, dating from the Iron Age, which lies near the western boundary of the parish.

On account of the special architectural or historic interest of many buildings and features in Deddington, including the castle earthworks, mediaeval street layout and vernacular building materials, a Conservation Area was designated in 1988 to preserve or enhance the local character and appearance.

At the heart of the village is the Market Place, dominated by the parish church and its iconic Town Hall. Two small village greens are surrounded by shops, pubs and houses.

To the northwest of Deddington village, adjoining the Swere, there is a community wood known as Daeda's Wood, planted in 1996. This is managed by the Woodland Trust.

1.2 The Council

Deddington PC has 14 councillors, a Parish Clerk, Minutes Secretary and two stewards (in June 2026 we are two councillors short and are actively look for new additions). PC meetings are held either at the Windmill Community Centre or the Old Schoolroom in Hempton, on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. An Annual Parish Meeting is held in May each year. Residents are encouraged to attend PC meetings and are invited to address the council on any issue relevant to the parish. Notices of meetings are placed on the PC's website and noticeboards throughout the parish.

The PC is responsible for complying with the governance and accountability requirements placed on local councils. Deddington PC operates under a number of controls including, *inter alia*, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, a Code of Conduct, a Risk Assessment, and Complaint, Grievance and Disciplinary procedures, all of which are reviewed regularly, together with internal and external audits. Copies of the main policies are on the PC website (https://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/), or available on request from the Clerk.

1.3 Mission Statement

To make Deddington a great place to live, work and visit, by:

- encouraging a community spirit
- preserving and expanding facilities, including recreational and sports
- maintaining the parish identity as it expands with new development

1.4 PC's duties and responsibilities:

(a) Parish Council Office

The PC office is in the Windmill Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington, OX15 0QH. The Clerk is the first point of contact for residents – by post to the parish office; by telephone to 01869 337447; or preferably by email to clerk@deddington-pc.gov.uk.

The Parish Clerk:

- Calls meetings of the councillors (by means of a summons) and publishes notices on the public noticeboards and the PC website
- Attends PC meetings and provides advice on local government law and protocol
- Processes emails, letters, proposals, complaints and reports of problems in the village, then passes these to working groups of the council and monitors work carried out to resolve them
- Receives consultation requests from outside bodies, including planning applications from Cherwell District Council
- Maintains PC documents and oversees the PC's website
- As Responsible Financial Officer keeps the council's accounts, collates the annual budget, handles the council's investments and liaises with the internal and external auditors
- Manages the Hempton Road cemetery
- Manages staff

- Oversees allotments

(b) Assets

- Ownership of the Windmill Community Centre, which is leased to the Windmill Management Company Ltd, a company and charity (members of the management committee and the directors/trustees are all local residents)
- Ownership and management of sports pitches at the Windmill Centre, the MUGA and half-MUGA – and ownership and overall maintenance of the all-weather court (AWC). Bookings are handled by the Windmill Management Committee

- Ownership and maintenance of the Windmill Park (Adventure Playground, Woodland Trail, Pocket Park for younger children and Fitness Trail around the playing fields at the Windmill; a play area in Wimborn Close; and a play area in Welford's Piece, Clifton)

- The management of allotments at Satin Lane, Deddington, and the ownership and management of Hempton's Stonepits allotments
- Ownership and maintenance of Deddington Castle Grounds, greatly assisted by the Friends of Castle Grounds and with financial support from English Heritage
- Ownership and maintenance of other parish green spaces including Goose Green, Welford's Piece in Clifton, Gaveston Gardens green, a green area in Mill Close, a sward of grass at the north end of Wimborn Close and a belt of trees on the west side of Wimborn Close
- CCTV cameras: Four more cameras and a second recorder were added in 2024, making a total of 20 cameras and two recorders covering both the building and the grounds. These act as a deterrence against anti-social behaviour such as vandalism, or abusive and threatening behaviour
- Public noticeboards (see Appendix 1)
- Bus shelters (see Appendix 2)
- Defibrillators (See Appendix 4)
- Other more minor assets are listed in Appendix 15

(c) Open Spaces

One of the main tasks – and expenses – of the PC is grass cutting and maintaining the open spaces in the parish. The parish stewards mow the Adventure Playground, the Pocket Park and the village greens. The PC employs contractors to mow the remaining open spaces – see details below 3.3b (*see also* section 3b, No Mow May/June).

(d) Cemetery

- The PC owns and is responsible for the Hempton Road cemetery. Burials and scattering of ashes can be arranged in conjunction with the Parish Clerk and a list of charges and regulations concerning interments, spreading of ashes and the maintenance of headstones is available at the parish office. The cemetery rules can be found on the PC website under the drop heading 'More' and then 'Policies'.
- In conjunction with the Clerk, the Environment & Recreation Working Group oversees grass-cutting, tree management and hedge trimming.
- Periodic topple tests on gravestones and health and safety inspections are carried out.
- Cemetery records, showing who is buried where, who holds the Exclusive Right of Burial for a grave and their contact details, and which plots are reserved, are held at the Parish Office and are digitised. The ERB Privacy Statement is also on the PC website (https://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/policies.html).

(e) Trees

The PC organises regular tree surveys on parish-owned land throughout the parish – including the Castle Grounds, the cemetery, and the copse and Woodland Trail at Windmill Park; it finances felling, pruning and replanting as necessary (for more detail, see section 3.3).

The PC is aware that more vigilance is needed in the spells of extremely dry and hot weather experienced in 2025 and which we are told to expect in future.

(f) Risk assessment

The PC carries out an annual risk assessment of the play areas, cemetery, Castle Grounds and other publicly used facilities. It also carries out individual assessments for events such as Remembrance Day.

(g) Parish footpaths

Keen walkers among the PC members regularly walk the footpaths throughout the parish to ensure, in liaison with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), that they are passable and that the correct signage is in place. Footpaths include the Circular Walks connecting Deddington village with Clifton and Hempton in a figure of eight.

2. FORWARD PLAN

2.1 Introduction

The Forward Plan is a statement of our vision for the parish and sets out the PC's purpose, objectives and key priorities for the three-year period. The Plan will be subject to an annual review and progress will be monitored periodically by the council and its working groups.

The Action Plan, including forward plans, will be published on the PC's website and other community channels – and will be available in printed format at the parish office.

Deddington PC will continue in its aim to be a professional and effective council which ensures sound financial management and stands open and accountable in everything it does. The annual governance statements show the PC has met and continues to meet these aims and objectives.

2.2 Overview

Local Government Reorganisation

In common with other authorities across the UK, Oxfordshire's local government structure will change from 2027. Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Councils will disappear; three options are on the table for their replacement:

- *Option 1 One authority:* OCC is proposing a single unitary authority for the county of Oxfordshire.
- *Option 2 Two authorities*: CDC's preferred option is for five existing councils to become two new authorities: Oxford & Shires Council and Ridgeway Council. Cherwell would be part of Oxford & Shires Council, along with Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
- *Option 3 Three authorities:* Oxford City Council proposes three unitary authorities. We would be part of Northern Oxfordshire Council, comprising much of the existing West Oxfordshire and Cherwell districts.

Councils are being 'engaged' rather than 'consulted', as the decision is solely in the hands of central government. Representations to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have been submitted, and a decision is expected in July 2026.

We will keep in touch with developments through the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. In particular, we need to know what powers/responsibilities will be transferred to local level and how these will be funded.

Major Projects Completed
The PC has recently completed a number of major projects; others are underway or in prospect. These have been undertaken as a direct response to a Parish Survey carried out in 2014 and in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan (made in 20240. The results of the survey revealed a widespread demand within the parish for improvements, to play areas above all, and for refurbishment and expansion at the Windmill Community Centre.

(a) Play areas

- **Windmill Adventure Playground and Woodland Trail:**
  The Lookout has been repurposed as an open-sided teenage hang-out space. More equipment is planned for the adventure playground. *Timeframe:* 2026–27
- **Wimborn Close play area**:
  Additional new equipment has been installed thanks to a S106 contribution from the Hempton Gate housing development alongside. Centrepiece is a large, multi-play tractor/trailer.
- **Welford's Piece play area:**
  This has been upgraded and expanded using funds from the Clifton Gate housing development. Centrepiece is another large, multi-play tractor/trailer.

All the parish play areas continue to be very popular with children, families, parents and care givers.

(b) Outdoor sports

The former play area near the tennis courts has been turned into two mini tennis courts to introduce children to tennis. A water supply to the tennis pavilion has been laid.

From this …

… to this

(c) Windmill Community Centre

The Windmill Community Centre is registered as a company and a charity, run by a board of director/trustees and a management committee, both made up of volunteers. Fees from letting the rooms and facilities at the centre provide an income which the committee uses to cover insurance, make running repairs and implement improvements.

Recently completed projects include:

- Refurbishing upstairs kitchenette
- Car park lighting changed to LED
- Both home and away shower rooms upgraded with new showers and new floors
- Exterior redecoration

The programme of refurbishments in 2026–27 continues in conjunction with the Windmill Management Committee and may include:

- Refurb upstairs toilets
- Add air conditioning to upstairs Studio

(d) Ongoing responsibilities

- Maintain relationship with trustees and the Windmill Management Committee (WMC) as laid out in the 100-year lease renewed in 2019
- Consider WMC's annual Budget and Business Plan
- Review and undertake capital projects/major repairs, seeking grants where possible
- Maintain CCTV, wi-fi and EV charging points in conjunction with the management committee
- Maintain sports pitches (in conjunction with the sports clubs)
- Maintain play areas and comply with RoSPA inspection findings
- Maintain an accrual fund to ensure ongoing maintenance, repair and replacement of play equipment

3. WORKING GROUPS

Working groups deal with specific areas of responsibility of the PC in more detail and make recommendations to the full council at its monthly meetings. The groups have each considered their role in the Action Plan. The groups are:

- Finance & General Purposes (F&GP)
- Planning
- Environment & Recreation (E&R)
- Highways
- Large-Scale Developments
- Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
- Resilience & Emergency, and Winter Planning

3.1 Finance & General Purposes Working Group

New facilities provided or underway (as described above) will need upkeep and eventually replacement. F&GP is responsible for forward planning to ensure the necessary funding will be available to finance these from the precept and other funding sources, and that the Action Plan is properly resourced.

Other duties of F&GP include:

- Overseeing the PC's finances
- Receiving and responding to internal and external audits
- Reviewing the PC's assets
- Recommending to the PC how to invest its reserves
- Managing the PC's grants scheme
- Seeking grants and S106 contributions to bring improvements to the parish
- Reviewing costs and fees of burials and memorials at the cemetery, the allotment rents and charge to the annual funfair
- Advising the PC in December every year when the council sets the budget and precept for the next financial year
- Staff matters
- Updating PC documents and policies, including Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Risk Assessments

3.2 Planning Working Group

As a statutory consultee, Deddington PC reviews all planning applications and provides feedback where appropriate to Cherwell District Council (CDC), the local planning authority, representing local views. The Planning Working Group has responsibility for keeping abreast of applications in the parish, occasionally visiting the relevant sites when necessary to do so, and making recommendations to the PC as to what its response should be. The PC does not have the power to approve or reject planning applications, but it can advise CDC and make comments for them to consider, or suggest conditions that might be attached to approvals. Wherever possible, when reviewing applications we will support parishioners seeking to improve their property, taking into consideration any relevant planning considerations we are aware of, and comments from the community.

The Planning Working Group is also responsible for:

- Considering all matters relating to Listed Building Consents, Buildings of Special Architectural Interest, Historic Buildings and the Conservation Area
- Commenting on Tree Preservation Orders and seeking approval for further TPOs if deemed necessary
- Notifying CDC enforcement officers when we consider there has been a breach of planning consent

- Responding to correspondence and enquiries from the parishioners who have concerns or just need signposting to CDC

3.3 Environment & Recreation Working Group

The E&R group oversees and recommends to the PC the partial or total finance of grass cutting throughout the parish, tree management and dog bin emptying.

(a) Current projects

- Implement an amended 'No Mow May/June' grass-cutting scheme, in which grass in designated areas of the parish is left uncut to promote biodiversity and encourage wildflowers. A notable success has been the reappearance of bee and pyramid orchids in the uncut Goose Green.

(b) Ongoing responsibilities

- Grass-cutting by contractor in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton; 3-year contracts were renewed in spring 2026
  Verges (with approximately half the cost borne by OCC)
- Gaveston Green, Mill Close green, Wimborn Close green, Welford's Piece, Castle Grounds (with contribution from English Heritage), Goose Green
- Ad hoc arrangement for grass-cutting at the cemetery
- Sports pitches and surrounds at Windmill Park with large contribution and input from sports clubs. *Timeframe:* Eight cuts per year – more as requested and paid for by sports clubs
- Grass-cutting by parish stewards: village greens at Market Place; Windmill Park Adventure Playground and Pocket Park. *Timeframe:* as needed
- Weed control: manage twice yearly by contractor
- Hedge management: manage 3-year contract 2026–29 with outside contractor
- Tree management: the next tree survey is underway in 2026, to identify dead, diseased or dangerous trees. The resulting maintenance work will begin in autumn 2026/early 2027. Felling trees beyond a certain size requires planning permission if the tree is within the Conservation Area or is the subject of a Tree Preservation Order. The PC is aware more trees are vulnerable due to extreme hot and dry conditions and to ash dieback. The PC has a policy of replacing felled trees. Suitable locations for new planting are limited.
- Deddington Environment Network (DEN) works in conjunction with the Parish Council to carry out twice yearly litter picks throughout the parish.
- Empty litter bins and dog bins: stewards empty the parish litter bins; Cherwell District Council empties dog foul bins (see App 11 for list of dog bins). *Timeframe:* weekly
- Review dog fouling: *Timeframe:* constantly
- Noticeboard maintenance: in conjunction with parish stewards (see App 1 for list of noticeboards)
- Benches: requests for memorial benches are considered; maintain and replace benches as necessary (moving towards using benches made from recycled plastic which are maintenance free)
- CCTV: maintain and monitor cctv cameras around the Windmill site.

(c) Play areas

Overall aim: to maintain as safe, enjoyable open spaces for benefit of parishioners and other visitors

- Windmill Park Adventure Playground and Woodland Trail: weekly, monthly and annual inspections. Repair and replace as necessary. Keep bark path topped up in Woodland Trail, clear brushwood and saplings
- Windmill Pocket Park: inspect regularly, repair, replace
- Welford's Piece: inspect regularly, repair, replace

(d) Castle Grounds

- Maintain as safe open space for benefit of parish and wider public
- Maintain property agreement with English Heritage which owns the motte mound
- Quarterly reporting to English Heritage
- Cut grass throughout with financial contribution from English Heritage
- Maintain partnership with Friends of Castle Grounds
- Inspect paths, close and repair if unsafe
- Manage trees

(e) All-weather court at Windmill Park

- Annual inspection
- Windmill Management Committee, which is responsible for bookings and day-to-day maintenance, has taken on responsibility for regular cleaning
- Regenerate surface as needed – potentially at 5-year intervals
- Repaint line markings as necessary

(f) Mini tennis courts at Windmill Park

- Annual inspection
- Regenerate surface as needed – potentially at 5-year intervals
- Repaint line markings as necessary
- (Deddington Tennis Club has taken on responsibility for day-to-day maintenance)

(g) MUGA and half-MUGA

Inspect, clean and repair as necessary

(h) Allotments

The allotments in Deddington village are situated at the end of Satin Lane which is a narrow track off St Thomas Street, on land rented from Storey Homes. The PC has asked Storey Homes to donate the allotments to the parish since planning permission to build on them is highly unlikely. Another request will be made in 2027.

There are around 48 allotments under cultivation and there is usually a waiting list of people requesting a plot. If you are interested in becoming an allotment holder, register your interest with the Parish Clerk, who can also provide copies of the allotment rules.

The allotments are managed by the Satin Lane Allotment Society (a member of The National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners Ltd) and the Clerk, with oversight by the PC's Environment & Recreation working group. The Allotment Society collects rents which are passed to the Parish Clerk with a 20% collection fee payable.

In the Deddington Neighbourhood Plan the Satin Lane allotments were designated as Local Green Space which, now that the NP has been made, gives them the same protection as green belt land. The allotments have also been registered as an Asset of Community Value.

The PC owns the Stonepits allotments on the Duns Tew road at Hempton. The Clerk collects rents directly. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested in taking on an allotment.

(i) Dog fouling

There has been an increase in the number of instances of dog fouling in the village. Parishioners are reminded that anyone allowing a dog in their charge to foul any area to which the public has access is committing an offence. The Council uses residents' money to provide bins across the parish for the use of dog owners so please use them as dog mess is a health hazard.

Cherwell District Council is responsible for monitoring dog fouling, the issue of fixed penalty notices and for initiating court proceedings against offenders. By law dog owners must pick up any mess made by their dogs. If owners do not clear up behind their dog and evidence is available Cherwell District Council will investigate and prosecute them. The penalty for not clearing up behind your dog is up to £1,000 if taken to court, but there is also provision for a fixed penalty scheme with a fine of £50 in England. The dog warden will investigate any fouling allegations within the district.

Please use the use dog bins which are located throughout the parish. In 2022 the PC paid Cherwell over £3,000 of taxpayers' money to empty these, so please put them to good use.

Anyone witnessing an incident of dog fouling can report it by contacting CDC Environmental Services on 01295 227007 or via the CDC website.

(j) Combatting Climate Change

The PC works actively with the Deddington Environment Network on projects like:

- Providing more EV charging points in the parish in addition to the two at the Windmill Centre
- No Mow May/June
- Tree management
- Litter picks
- Welford's Piece orchard and wildflower patch
- Wildflowers in the Pocket Park and Adventure Playground
- Bat and swift boxes

(k) Anti-social Behaviour

A persistent level of low-level ASB is always with us, whether it's vandalising children's play equipment, riding bikes in the playgrounds, smoking weed in the cricket pavilion, targeting roof tiles on the Lookout, or teenagers drinking and swearing, particularly when younger children are around. The latest is stuffing up the outside loo with toilet paper. Be aware the premises are covered by CCTV, ASB will not be tolerated and will be reported to the police at all times.

3.4 Highways Working Group (HWG)

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is responsible for maintaining most of the roads in Oxfordshire and has a statutory duty under the Highways Act 1980 to ensure the highway network is safe for public use. Its responsibilities include inspecting and repairing highway structures and safety features (e.g. barriers), responding to reports of defects (e.g. potholes), and managing the highway network to protect it from the impact of new developments. OCC maintains most of the adopted roads, footpaths, cycle ways, and related features like streetlights and traffic signals.

Traffic-calming measures: While DPC can initiate and advocate for change, OCC is responsible for the legal implementation of speed limit changes and larger traffic management schemes. Only OCC has the authority to implement 20mph zones or other traffic-calming measures after considering factors like road environment and traffic usage.

The PC's Highways Working Group:

- Has worked with OCC on traffic-calming measures in Hempton. In 2026 build-outs were installed at both the western and eastern ends of Hempton, with the western one being particularly effective at reducing the speed of through traffic. There are some concerns that the reduced passageway is not wide enough allow large farm vehicles through, and it is hoped that modifications can be made before harvest time.
- Has worked with OCC to install VASs (Vehicle Activated Signs) corresponding with the new 20mph limit in Clifton, Hempton, New Street, Banbury Road, Clifton Road (30mph) and Hempton Road.

- Is aware of the concerns across the parish about speeding. Parishioners can contact the Clerk who will pass their concerns on to HWG who will continue to liaise with them.
- Will continue to collaborate with OCC officers to implement the most effective means of ensuring compliance with speed enforcement across the Parish, including the use of Community Speed Watch (CSW) groups.
- Supports our CSW groups, requesting funding for them as appropriate.
- Monitors signage and enforcement of bans on HGVs (heavy goods vehicles) on designated roads

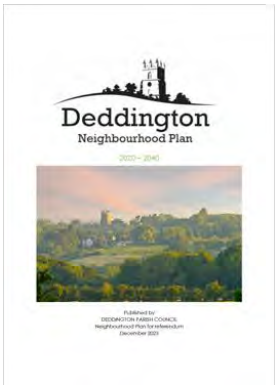
- Liaises with OCC on the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging points in Deddington, due in 2026. DPC will approve installation providing they meet certain criteria, as previously agreed.
- Disseminates information about and is proactive in applying for grants for EV vehicle charging points across the Parish and ensures that these are suitably located in line with current legislation.\ encourages the recruitment of 'pothole tsars', supporting training offered by OCC. The role of pothole tsars is to identify and report potholes across the Parish to ensure speedy repairs.
- Works with our County Councillor in maintaining and monitoring the Civils list – a list of repairs to roads, pavements and road signs, works carried out by OCC Highway maintenance teams.
- Encourages parishioners to make use of OCC's 'Fix My Street' online facility
- Identifies present and possible future Highway requirements for S106 and S278 monies.
- If appropriate, will either meet or arrange OCC site visits with parishioners in order to understand and respond to issues.
- Continues to maintain a current good relationship with OCC and encourages them to include the PC as stakeholders and consultees when disabled bays are to be installed or scheduled for removal.
- Monitors the impact on traffic flow and speeds, with the assistance of CSW groups, in areas of new developments.
- Members will participate in OALC training, funded by the Parish Council.
- Members will attend OCC and other Highways meetings if thought necessary.
- Will annually inspect the parish planters annually and keep a list of those maintaining them.
- Will continue to document and send proposed road closures to the Deddington News and social media.
- Participates annually in an OCC meeting to identify parish Highways issues and concerns.
- In 2026 is working on the introduction of automatic traffic counters (ATCs) in New Street, Clifton Road and in Clifton. These will monitor the number, speed and weight of traffic passing over them.

3.5 Large-Scale Developments Working Group

This working group

- Reports on and investigates planning applications for major developments within the parish and monitors what community benefits might be obtained if consent were granted by CDC. In particular, the group is watching the major development around Heyford Park and Ardley and working, along with neighbouring parishes, on mitigation and S106 possibilities.
- Maintains and updates a list of desired improvements to the parish's amenities, public services and highways which may be fundable from time to time through S106 and S278 agreements or other forms of planning gain related to proposed developments affecting the Parish
- Aims to protect the interest of future residents on new estates concerning responsibility for play areas, drainage and attenuation ponds, estate roads and rubbish collection

3.6 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



The Deddington Neighbourhood Plan was created by the steering group with the assent of the Parish Council and was approved by Cherwell District Council (CDC) in February 2024. A referendum on the final plan, in which all electors in Deddington parish were eligible to vote, was held on 2 May 2024. The result was 791 yes and 58 no. Turnout was 46.8%. The plan was 'made' by CDC at a meeting of the full council on 22 May 2024.

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was to ascertain the parish's wishes concerning where future housing and businesses should be located, identify environmental priorities and improvements to local facilities and services, and provide guidance to CDC and the PC.

The 2024 NP allocates a site for 90 houses north of the fire station and Earls Lane. Generous community benefits are promised with the development including a built nursery, a car park in Earls Lane to enable the Health Centre to expand, a biodiversity zone and orchard. The PC is continuing to monitor that these pledges will be honoured now that the site has been acquired by Oxford-based developer Lucy Developments.

The PC should also do its utmost to ensure that:

- The play area in the new estate is handed over to the PC with attendant commuted sum, or alternatively is maintained by CDC or replacement unitary authority – and not by a management company at the expense of the residents
- The balancing ponds (drainage facilities) become the responsibility of CDC or replacement unitary authority (and not the management company)
- OCC or replacement unitary authority adopt the roads within the estate so that they are not the responsibility of the residents

The aim of this is to make sure the new residents receive the same benefit from their Council Tax as the main body of residents throughout the parish and are not double taxed via management fees.

The PC should monitor planning decisions by CDC or replacement unitary authority to ensure the provisions of the Deddington Neighbourhood Plan are properly taken into account.

The 2024 Deddington NP lasts for five years, and work is already underway to look at what revisions will have to be made before then. CDC's emerging Local Plan and central government's housing and planning policy (the NPPF) will be closely monitored. This would require the formation of a new neighbourhood plan steering group, which ideally would include, as well as councillors, a number of parishioners from the wider community, as was the case with the original NP steering group.

The context for a revised Neighbourhood Plan will be different from the current NP in that the steering group (and PC) may have to negotiate with a new unitary authority rather than CDC. The new steering group will concentrate on identifying what improved infrastructure the parish needs, as well as focusing on where any new housing should be established.

3.7 Resilience & Emergency Planning Group

The group keeps current the parish's Resilience & Emergency Plan, which lists the cascade of individuals and services to be alerted in the event of an emergency such as major fire, excessive heat and potential wildfires, explosion, flooding, road blockage, extended power outage or epidemic; identifies places of refuge, etc. It also includes a comprehensive list of emergency contact details, both telephone and web contacts (see the Emergency & Resilience Plan on PC website).

Snow: The group monitors the salt bins and maintains a list of volunteer snow wardens who can help clear paths and access routes for the elderly and vulnerable in the event of snowfall or icy conditions (see Winter Plan on PC website).

Battery back-up at the Windmill: In 2025 the PC was successful in being granted funding from SSE's Powering Communities to Net Zero Resilience fund for a battery back-up for the Windmill's array of 56 PV panels. The prime reason for the installation is that the Windmill is the main community hub in the parish in the event of a major power outage. Deddington sits on a ridge and overhead power lines lead to multiple short outages. The second reason is to reduce dependency on the grid and reduce the Windmill's energy consumption.

As the 2020 Covid pandemic demonstrated, Deddington is fortunate to have a large number of community-minded people who step in to help their neighbours and the parish at large in an emergency. The PC honours and supports them.

4. OUTSIDE BODIES

Parish Councillors are nominated each year to sit on a number of outside bodies which include the following:

- Board of governors of Deddington Primary School (no nominee in 2026)

- Board of trustees of Deddington Charity Estates (two Councillors nominated as trustees)
- Friends of Castle Grounds
- Friends of Deddington Library
- Windmill Centre
- Deddington Environment Network
- Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (when a councillor is available)
- Thames Valley Police Rural Community Forum
- The PC is currently the freeholder and custodian trustee of the Holly Tree Club
- The Parish Transport Representatives group, organised by OCC

5. FINANCE

Expenditure: Deddington PC's budget for the year 2026–27 was set at its December 2025 meeting at £110,884.
Income: The precept received from Cherwell District Council for 2026–27 is £83,748.

Additional income will be received from:

- Solar panels at the Windmill Centre
- Cemetery fees
- Allotment fees
- Interest from investments
- Grass cutting contributions from OCC and English Heritage
- Fees from cricket and football clubs for use of Windmill sports pitches
- S106 contributions from developments in the parish
- As of 31 March 2026, the PC held the following reserves:
    - **Capital Reserve:** £307,111.60 which can be spent only on capital projects, some of which have already been earmarked (see above)
    - **Revenue Reserve:** £252,975.48, much of which is earmarked for refurbishments, repairs and maintenance or is held in reserve for specific projects. In addition, the PC is obliged to hold the equivalent of 6–12 months' precept in reserve as a contingency fund. Part of the revenue reserve is identified as the basis of a sinking fund; this can eventually be called on to replace, at end of life, the new play areas and other facilities and assets now being installed in the parish.

This Action Plan will be reviewed annually as part of the PC's annual review of policies.

APPENDIX: LIST OF ASSETS

The parish has a number of minor assets (most but not all owned by the PC), including the following:

1. Noticeboards

- In the undercroft of the Town Hall (2)
- Outside Deddington Primary School in Earl's Lane
- In the bus shelter in Main Street, Clifton (2)
- Hempton village centre
- On the wall of the Holly Tree Club, Horsefair
- Outside wall of the Windmill Centre
- Entrance to Castle Grounds
- Pedestrian entrance to The Grange
- Hempton allotments

2. Bus shelters

- Market Place
- A4260, east and west, near the Grange
- Hempton Road, south side
- Main Street, Clifton
- Hempton, opposite St John's Way

3. Bus stops without shelters

- Outside the Holly Tree Club
- Outside the Town Hall (although the undercroft is currently available as a shelter)
- New Street, opposite and alongside Deddington Manor

4. Defibrillators

- Co-op in Market Place
- Windmill Centre
- The Duke at Clifton
- The Old Schoolroom in Hempton

5. Village signs and planters

Nine village signs, seven with raised stone flower beds located at the entrances to Deddington and adjacent villages. Some maintained by sponsors or residents.

Some refurbishment and replanting are needed. *Timeframe:* 2025–26

6. Public benches

At various locations in Clifton, Hempton, and Deddington including Market Place, New Street, Castle Grounds, Castle Street, Windmill Park, Chapman's Lane and Cosy Lane. Some are memorial benches, though the PC is responsible for maintenance of all.

7. Bike racks

At the bus shelter on larger village green and at the Windmill Centre.

8. Millennium Maps

The six-panel board hangs on the wall of the Town Hall undercroft. The Windmill Centre boards were removed from the Hempton Lounge as they were fading in the light, and copies are in the Parish Archive Room. The Primary School also has copies. The originals are securely housed in the PC storeroom. The map of Clifton 2000 hangs outside Manor Farmhouse.

9. Public litter bins

There are over 30 litter bins around the parish (28 in Deddington, two in Clifton and one in Hempton). Several of them in and around Market Place, at the Windmill Centre and at the Castle Grounds are emptied by the stewards. A programme of replacement was carried out in 2023 thanks to sponsorship by local businesses and organisations.

10. Wheelie bins (240 litre)

- Hempton Road cemetery – two green and two brown bins
- Castle Grounds – four green bins
- Windmill Park Adventure Playground
- Potential future storage: Bin and salt compound at the Windmill. *Timeframe:* 2027

11. Dog foul bins

Deddington:

- Church Street
- Cosy Lane
- Earls Lane by the old Vicarage
- Corner of New St/Hudson St
- South end of New St
- Hempton Road north-side verge near Gaveston Green
- Hempton Road south side verge near village nursery
- Hempton Road cemetery
- Windmill Centre (by cricket nets)
- Windmill Centre (by half MUGA)

- Windmill Centre (west side of playing field)
- Castle Grounds – 5 (2 on fence, 1 in entrance, 1 on field, 1 by Betty's bench)
- Jerusalem Lane

Hempton

- On green and by St John's Way bus stop

Clifton

- Welford's Piece and green opposite Duke at Clifton

The dog bins are emptied by CDC; the annual charge April 2023–2024 was approx. £2,500.

12. Salt Bins

Clifton

- On main road by bus stop

Hempton

- Opposite Duns Tew Road
- By bus stop opposite St John's Way
- Old School Room

Deddington

- Hempton Road, outside the village nursery
- Mill Close
- The Grove
- High Street, at the junction with Hudson Street
- Market Place by Town Hall
- Bullring by Castle House
- Outside Featherton House
- Goose Green
- Windmill Centre
- The Grange (2)

Salt stand – Holly Tree Club and at Windmill Centre

Add Clifton Rd – Fardon Way and the green New st/Thomas street.

Add Hobart Way x 2 bins – as mailed before the one on the left of the entrance needs another bag – the right bin full.

Private bins

- Fire station
- Health Centre
- Primary School

13. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

- Deddington: 3
- Hempton: 2
- Clifton: 1

14. Hempton Road cemetery items

- Small noticeboard for cemetery users
- Outdoor work area and bin store
- (Three green bins, two brown bins as listed previously)
- Standpipe
- Wheelbarrow

- Two watering cans

15. Other items

- Christmas tree stand and manhole
- Coat of Arms on Town Hall
- Grant of Arms in church
- Tank under village green
- Ladders on church kitchen roof
- Ladders in Windmill Centre
- Six cones stored in the Church
- 500 space blankets and wind-up radio for use in an emergency in Windmill
- Three wheelchairs (Windmill Centre/ Deddington parish church/ Hempton church)
- Time capsule in the Town Hall undercroft floor (1996)
- Standpipe in Hempton
- Stewards' shed at the Holly Tree Club (shared with Royal British Legion)
- Windmill Centre container
- Satin Lane allotments – shed and watering troughs
- Mowers, strimmer and leaf blower
- Water fountain at Windmill Adventure Playground
- Boards displaying names and dates of PC chairs
- Original letter from J.R.R. Tolkien to Deddington Library 1956

Pic credits: Local residents, except p2, pic of Daeda's Wood by Nick Cobbin for the Woodland Trust