

Dawley Hamlets Parish Council Chair's Report 2026

Community Governance Review

The most significant development this year has been the Community Governance Review, which confirmed that our parish will continue to exist independently and retain its name. This outcome reflects the strong sense of identity, pride, and engagement that our residents consistently demonstrate.

As part of the boundary adjustments:

- Smallhill Road and Nightingale Walk wards will move out of the parish.
- Lightmoor Ward, currently part of The Gorge Parish Council, will join our parish from May 2027.

These changes will bring new residents into our community and create opportunities for collaboration, while preserving the continuity and character of the parish.

Parish Activities

Throughout the year, the council has continued to work hard on behalf of residents. Key areas of activity include:

- **Supporting community events and volunteer initiatives**, including the FoHP&E Scarecrow Festival and the Interfaith Santa event. We also continue to provide and maintain three parish Christmas trees, which remain a much-loved feature of our festive season.
 - **Maintaining public spaces and improving local amenities.**
This year we invested in a Parish Maintenance Officer, Bill Stewart, whose work has made a noticeable difference across the parish. His consistent, high-quality work on footpaths, hedgerows, and open spaces has been widely appreciated. We have also invested in waste bins, grit bins, and other small but important improvements that support everyday community life.
 - **Continuing to fund a Community Action Enforcement Team**, ensuring a visible presence and helping to address issues such as parking problems, littering, and antisocial behaviour.
 - **Strengthening communication between councillors and residents**, particularly through council meetings and close working relationships with local groups, including the parish's two Local Nature Reserves.
 - Dawley Hamlets Parish Council remains in a sound financial position, with a Band D council tax of £29.04 and no increase for 2026/27. The parish continues to deliver consistent, well-managed services on a modest precept, and another clean audit reflects strong financial stewardship and a clear commitment to keeping costs down for residents while maintaining high standards of service.
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Looking Ahead

Our priorities for the coming year include:

- Continued investment in community facilities and local improvements.
 - Ensuring that local voices remain central to decision-making and that the parish council remains accessible and responsive.
 - Preparing for the inclusion of Lightmoor Ward in 2027, including reviewing service delivery and ensuring we are ready to meet the needs of an expanded parish.
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Closing Remarks

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all councillors, volunteers, community groups, and residents for their dedication and support throughout the year. Together, we have shown resilience, unity, and a shared commitment to our parish. These qualities will guide us confidently into the next chapter of our community's development.

Cllr Bob Wennington
Chair of Dawley Hamlets Parish Council