



# DUNHAM MASSEY PARISH COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025

[www.dunhammasseyparishcouncil.com](http://www.dunhammasseyparishcouncil.com)

## MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIR, DAVID JOLLEY

On May 13th, we held our Annual Assembly, and it was truly wonderful to see so many residents in attendance. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along. Whether the impressive turnout was due to our ongoing efforts to improve communication and community engagement or simply the appeal of the delicious food and drink provided, we're grateful either way!

As this was my first meeting as Chair of the Parish Council, I'd like to express how honoured I am to take on this role. That said, I speak not just for myself, but on behalf of the entire Parish Council. We work as a team and every councillor plays an equally vital part in driving forward the many projects and initiatives we're involved in.



The Annual Assembly provided both myself and last year's Chair, Caroline Royle, with an opportunity to reflect on the work undertaken over the past 12 months, as well as to outline our plans for the year ahead. We hope attendees found the evening both informative and engaging. Topics discussed ranged from the Bridgewater Canal breach, local infrastructure improvements including lamp post refurbishment, verge maintenance and highways updates, the HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline and the Carrington Masterplan. A copy of the presentation from the evening is available on our website. [ANNUAL ASSEMBLY PRESENTATION](#)

Looking ahead, one of our key priorities is the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. This important initiative will set out our community's long-term vision and planning policies, essentially outlining how we, as residents, want the neighbourhood of Dunham Massey to grow and evolve over time. Richard Abbot will share more details about this exciting initiative in an upcoming article.

Finally, a reminder that the Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of every month, at 7 PM in the Village Hall, although we do have a break in August. We'd be delighted to welcome as many of you to our regular meetings as we did to the Annual Assembly.

Warm regards

Dave Jolley

## HIGHWAYS AND VERGES

### Verges

Dunham Massey is home to a rich variety of roadside verges that have the potential to support an abundance of wildlife from wildflowers and insects (including vital pollinators) to small mammals and birds. As such, it's imperative that we try and find the right balance between maintaining neat, accessible verges and encouraging wildlife and biodiversity.

To help progress this, the Parish Council have been holding quarterly meetings with Trafford's Senior Environmental Contract Manager. Trafford Council recognise that Dunham Massey is quite a unique area compared to the vast majority of the borough of Trafford, so it's important to discuss how the maintenance of verges in Dunham and the surrounding area can be improved and a balance with nature achieved.

Since we commenced the discussions over a year ago, we have been aiming to establish a baseline maintenance routine in key areas of our parish, which includes regular mowing of selected verges, gully clearing, targeted hard surface spraying to control weeds and regular leaf clearance. At the same time, we're identifying areas that require less intervention, allowing nature to thrive more freely throughout the year. Hedge maintenance also plays a role in this effort, though trimming is restricted to the September to February window to avoid disturbing nesting birds. Hedge maintenance remains primarily the responsibility of landowners.

Litter continues to be a concern, particularly during verge cutting times, which we have been highlighting on a regular basis, and a new procedure is due to be introduced that will increase the frequency of litter collection during these periods. Of course, maintaining verges is inherently seasonally driven so it will take some time to fully bed in, but hopefully you will have seen an improvement in the verges in our area and once we have mapped out our plans for the parish, we will share them on the Parish Council website.

### Highways

Many of you will be aware of the government's commitment of an estimated £500 million additional funding specifically designated for filling potholes. Local Councils are required to publish annual reports detailing their spending on road maintenance, the number of potholes filled, and their long-term road maintenance plans. Councils that fail to meet the reporting requirements risk losing 25% of their funding. Trafford Council is reported to be investing £5.4 million in repairing potholes and pavements this year. As a result, we've seen a noticeable increase in maintenance of potholes within Dunham Massey including the resurfacing on Sinderland Lane, which was completed in June.

Despite this progress, we recognise that there are still some areas that need urgent attention, including Black Moss Road and School Lane running towards Big Tree. We have written to Trafford requesting plans for future resurfacing work but the response is that there is no further budget available this financial year. However, any actionable defects that appear, or are reported or observed during their inspections, will be repaired using reactive maintenance budgets. We therefore strongly encourage all residents to continue reporting potholes and other surface issues via the Trafford Council online portal: Roads, Pavements and Rights of Way · Do it online - Trafford Council



## DUNHAM MASSEY MAY DAY



With not a cloud in the sky, the sun shone brightly on the Dunham Massey May Day fete, creating the perfect setting for a fun-filled community celebration. A cheerful crowd of people arrived behind the lively marching band, children of all ages in fancy dress, the Rose Queen and Rose Duke, charming classic cars and even a steam traction engine. The central stage and arena was flanked by stalls of cakes, sweets, and tombola, and the Dunham Massey Parish Council were happy to join in the fun of the day providing games of skill and dexterity with the chance to win valuable prizes.

We attended in a new look stand, decorated with our banners, ready to discuss with residents any matters that impact the Parish in a less formal setting than our monthly meetings. This year we had a particular emphasis on raising awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan we wish to develop with the help of the community. The plan sets out the vision and planning policies we want to see in Dunham Massey by outlining how our community wants its neighbourhood to grow and change over time.

Competitors of all ages had a go on the Buzz Wire challenges and we were amazed at how steady a hand many of you had! We were also delighted with the interest shown for the Neighbourhood Plan with a number of you registering an interest to get more involved in the plan as we move forward. All involved had a great time and the money raised on the stand was donated to the May Day event.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We are going ahead with development of a Neighbourhood Plan which, as we have reported before, will help to give us a greater say in local planning decisions. We had a good response from residents to our request for people interested in forming a consultation group. We are aiming to set up one or more such groups during September and if you are interested in being involved but have not yet told us, please let us know.

The one bit of disappointing news is that the government has announced that it will no longer provide grants to help fund the development of Neighbourhood Plans. The grant scheme has been going for a number of years and has been judged a success in enabling local communities to put together Neighbourhood Plans. It therefore came as a shock to everyone, including ourselves and our proposed planning consultants, when the government announced that there would be no further grants available. The Parish Council is looking at other options for funding but if anyone has any ideas, please let us know by emailing [dunhammasseyipc@gmail.com](mailto:dunhammasseyipc@gmail.com)

For more information on the Neighbourhood Plan please go to the page on our [website](#).

## DUNHAM MASSEY MILLENNIUM GARDEN



Over the course of 2025 the Parish Council has helped fund the restoration of the Millennium Garden. The sign has been restored and repainted and all the timber frames have been replaced too. Through the sterling work of some wonderful Dunham resident volunteers, the beds have now undergone a beautiful transformation with Cordine, Angel Wing and Funfare plants added. There has been lots of perennials put in, with the hope that they can be added to next year.

The bulbs should once again bloom in spring with plenty of tulips and daffodils. The hope is to have the area looking bright, beautiful and colourful for as much of the year as possible for people to enjoy as they enter the village along Charcoal Road. None of this would have been possible without the sterling work of Richard, Tracey, Lottie and Jane who have done all the planting.