

Newlands Parish Council Amenities Committee Report 2024

The Amenities Committee is one of the busiest committees in any parish council, with a potentially large proportion of the parish precept undertaking land management functions and building/structural maintenance.

Unlike another parish this report will not cover 24 pages.

In 2020 Newlands Parish Council was asked by Winchester City Council if it could transfer the Public Open Spaces and the Play area on the Taylor Wimpy development to the parish. I attended the Cabinet meeting in 2021 June to observe the formal agreement of the hand over, however only to find that the item had been pulled due to a legal technicality, the city council had not followed the required procedures, some six months later the cabinet finally passed the required motion which means that the city council can now Passover the land to the Parish Council once it meets the required standard, we are still waiting to meet the standard.

We have had on order a new youth shelter but have been unable to erect it until the land is transferred to the Parish. There is also an issue with a S104 and the Southern Water which are also unresolved. Over the years there has been two arson issues both just prior to a school holiday, on both occasions the play area had to be closed. The incident was dealt with fairly swiftly, repairs and replacements items were installed, however the second incident in June last year the play area remained closed for a very long period of time, even now there is an item which is still awaiting repair/replacement. Because of these two events it was agreed to look at fencing the play area to give a better protection for the children using the area but the area concerned must be under the Parish Council ownership before it can happen.

However the Parish has not been standing still but planning for the future as best it could, the future includes thinking ahead about the introduction of operating the forthcoming allotments in around two years time when we will be planning the staffing levels in the council itself.

Three years ago the council defined the terms of reference for the formation of a Landscape Sub-Committee to look after the open space areas within the West of Waterlooville development. Last year we entered into a joint relationship for a temporary storage area as the parish council have no storage facilities only the very small parish office and relied on staff storing material in their own homes, this presented further problems on insurance etc.

I would like to record my thanks to Luke the Parish Warden for all the additional help he has given to the council working for the good of the residents of the parish and the PC have invested in a vehicle to move equipment around the development area, this was based on the Parish Council being in receipt of the open space areas...

Works are currently on the on the various landscaped areas to bring them into a situation that they can be handed over to the PC.

Graingers are already looking to transfer parts of its Open Space Areas to the local authorities, there is a concern however that parts of the development are in both Winchester and Havant Councils domains. It is partly why the WofW Forum was formed, however since the start of the pandemic it now only meets online make the integration progress somewhat more challenging.

I have spoken to with Winchester City as to transfer of part of the open space and the Wellington Park Play area at an early date (*forgive me but I will believe it when it happens*). I now have the letter with regards to the partial handover of Open Space at Newlands Walk which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee with a recommendation to Full Council.

This year the Waterlooville Regeneration Programme started and with the support of the Denmead Ward members to support the programme, the Horizon Centre have gained £250k from the Denmead Community Infrastructure Levy monies. A further gain to the leisure facilities in Waterlooville which will also serve the Newlands area.

Mike Read

Chairman of the Amenities Committee
Newlands Parish Council