

DINNINGTON WARD

Covering Brookhouse, Carr, Dinnington, Firbeck, Gildingwells, Laughton en le Morthen, Laughton Common, Letwell, Slade Hooton and Throapham



Councillor Sophie
Castletine-Dack



Councillor
Ben Whomersley



Councillor
Julia Hall

Report to Full Council

October 2023

Ward priorities

- Improve the local environment.
- Support crime prevention strategies and target antisocial behaviour in hotspot areas.
- Back initiatives to improve the town centre, markets and investment in the local economy.
- To support improvements to highway maintenance
- To support and develop initiatives to improve wellbeing.



How these ward priorities were agreed

We used a range of information to inform our ward priorities for Dinnington, including the 2021 new ward profile, previous ward priorities and the actions taken to address them and feedback from residents. We also considered statistical data and information from service providers presented in a ward briefing. Our Ward is very mixed with large rural areas and some very deprived urban streets. Over the course of our term, we have engaged with residents and existing community groups and parish councils to help them improve their local areas and to inform our priorities, which we review annually.

How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

Our aim is to put communities at the heart of everything we do and to make people healthier, happier, safer and proud by: Working with communities on the things that matter to them; Listening and working together to make a difference; Supporting people from different backgrounds to get on well together.

Our Community Clean days are great examples of communities working together along with volunteers and partner organisations. We chat with residents while on walkabouts and street surgeries as well as engaging through social media, advocating for them when required whilst empowering them to act themselves for and with their community. We have recently partnered with Public Health and Dinnington Group Practice to start a holistic project in line with our wellbeing priority, working towards our residents being happier and healthier.

Working in partnership

To help our ward to thrive, we work with a range of organisations, drawing on their knowledge and expertise. We recognise the amazing contributions made by partners to support our community. The ward has five established Town and Parish Councils. We arrange quarterly in person meetings with these councils, local police and Borough Council partners. Cllr Whomersley sits as a member of Dinnington St Johns Town Council and is also a local school governor. Cllr Castledine-Dack and Cllr Hall work in the town centre and are regular supporters of local businesses, attending business forums and promoting schemes to encourage shopping local.

Progress so far

- **Improve the local environment.**

We have been delighted to support the creation of Dinnington's new Queen Elizabeth II Community Woodland. We have reached out to local schools giving children the opportunity to be involved in clearing the site of litter and then planting the trees. We attended planting days ourselves and promoted these to residents through online newsletters and our social media. We have supported, and where necessary, encouraged the Council to take action to repair damaged verges, street furniture and the town's historic cross. Other activities this term include arranging community clean days and the planting of spring flowering bulbs on Monksbridge Roundabout.

- **Support crime prevention strategies and target antisocial behaviour in hotspot areas.**

We meet monthly with local police teams to review reports from the police and discuss issues raised to us by members of the community. We have provided funding to purchase a large stock of home and vehicle security items to deter and protect people's property and arranged community safety events with local police. We work to tackle dangerous driving in our ward by joining speedwatch sessions and working with officers in the placement of vehicle activated speed signs. As the markets area is a hotspot for ASB, we funded the purchase of gate keys to allow police and shopkeepers to lock the alley gates at night between the market and shopping precinct. We believe communities should feel empowered to help improve their local area through reporting and promote the use of 101 and online reporting in our newsletters.

- **Back initiatives to improve the built environment and local economy.**

Funding for regeneration of Dinnington's high street and market, initially sought through the Levelling Up Fund, has now been secured through the Capital Regeneration Fund and we continue to support this project. We work closely with local businesses to ensure their voices are heard and passionately want to see our wonderful local businesses given the opportunity to thrive in an improved town centre. We used capital funding to enable Laughton en le Morthen Parish Council to renovate their Village Hall, letting them deliver more events for the community.

- **To support improvements to highway maintenance**

We pushed for improvements to be made to the pedestrian crossing at Laughton Common, increasing the visibility of the crossing with halo lighting. We continue to nominate areas to Highways officers to direct funds to where residents want to see improvements. We have consulted with residents of Laughton en le Morthen regarding parking issues and have worked with Council officers to install new road markings at the junction with Church Corner.

- **To support and develop initiatives to improve wellbeing**

It has been a privilege over the past two years to support 17 community groups and enable them to deliver activities to residents that improve wellbeing.

We fund the local children's centre and assist them in delivering the annual Dinnington Together event, which is free to all. This allows local families of all economic groups to meet Santa and some real reindeer as well as giving local businesses, charities and partners a chance to engage with residents through their stalls.

Alongside offering funding to groups, we also promote activities in the ward such as Rotherfed's cost of living support sessions. We produced a 'cost of living special' e-bulletins for residents to make sure they have the information they need to face the current economic climate.

