

Dethick, Lea and Holloway Parish Council Chair's Annual Report for 2025/2026

It's that time of year again when we look back at the accomplishments of the Parish Council over the past twelve months and look forward to the challenges the coming year will bring.

As we all know, our finances are now being stretched and the parish council are acutely aware of the increase in our annual outgoings and the mounting cost of any work needing to be done. However, as always, our books are carefully balanced by our Clerk and our finances continue to be healthy due to his diligent and thorough approach. He also keeps us up to date with any changes which affect the day to day running of the council. Many thanks to you Tony.

This is also a good opportunity to thank my fellow councillors for their continued support and also those outside the council who take responsibility for essential tasks around the parish.

The Leashaw landslip saga continues to roll on but if Derbyshire County Council are to be believed, we can expect the repairs to start in May. We will be heading towards the four-year mark by the time the work is completed. A public meeting will take place on May 21st to enable Charlotte Hill Cabinet member for Potholes, Highways and Transport and officers from DCC to give an update and answer questions.

Other projects still on the pipeline are the bus shelter which has been delayed due to problems sourcing the timber and the damage to the grass triangle on Church St. This is under consideration for the latest option of planters strategically placed around the perimeter. Bollards are not permitted. The maintenance issue of the public toilets is still ongoing.

On a more positive note, the cemetery gates have been refurbished and now look very smart. The cemetery regulations have also been fully reviewed. A memorial inspection for safety testing has been carried out and any issues raised are being dealt with. We have also arranged for a tree survey in the cemetery, memorial grounds and recreation ground and as a result of this, an application for tree works has been submitted to Amber Valley Borough Council.

Other tasks for this year include the installation of grass matting in the recreation ground to reduce maintenance needs. We are also currently involved with the effort to resolve the issue of parking outside Lea school which has raised safety issues and incidents of dangerous manoeuvring. A second meeting with key stakeholders will hopefully take place in May.

There is no doubt that the parish council plays an important role in the community. To this end, we continue to require more councillors, as some of our number have stepped down over the past twelve months after giving their time and effort over numerous years. We are pleased to report however that our most recent recruit is Hugo Atkinson, who at 18 years of age, aims to represent the younger members of our parish. If anyone else would consider investing a couple of hours a month for the benefit of the community, please consider joining us and become a parish councillor.

Cllr Joy Stevenson, Chair Dethick Lea and Holloway Parish Council.