



Ashingdon Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2026



Cllr. David Catchpole
Chairman



Kath Parkin
Clerk to the Council

Contact:

Parish Office:

The Cricket Pavilion,
King George V Playing
Field,
Ashingdon Road,
Ashingdon SS4 3HF

Telephone:
07950947731

Email:
ashingdonparishcoun-
cil.gov.uk

The Winds of Change

THE winds of change are starting to blow through local government. Within the next couple of years we will see the demise of both Essex County Council and Rochford District Council. We will become part of a new Unitary Authority made up of Southend, Castle Point and Rochford the new authority will be headed by an elected Mayor.

We understand that Parish Councils will remain but these may see some changes in their format.

Council activity during the year:

As part of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in **May/June** your Council joined with other parishes in compiling a Community Asset Register to enable councils to safeguard assets for their local community. Ashingdon Parish Council put forward taking over the ownership and management of King George V Playing Field in Ashingdon including the sports pavilion. We await a decision from RDC.

In **July** Council received details of a outline proposal for a development (Rochford Park) by Hemspan for 2,000 houses straddling Brays Lane and a factory in Greensward Lane. They held a public consultation and needless to say it met with a hostile reception from local residents. We await to see if a formal proposal is forthcoming.

The above development and many other speculative proposals in the area sparked a strong reaction from residents, and 15 members of the public attended the **September** council meeting asking council to produce a Local Plan in an effort to restrict development in the area. This resulted in an Extraordinary Council Meeting, held on 8th September with 17 residents present, the matter was fully discussed and Council voted 4 to 1 in favour.

Council also received a request from a resident of South Fambridge to install a Defibrillator in the village. This was passed by council and is now in place.

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In **October** we welcomed a new Councillor Michelle Nunn who lives in South Farnbridge and takes a very active role in both the village and council. She has already organised a small book exchange library.

Letters were sent out to residents inviting them to form the Steering Group regarding the Local Plan.

Council also received a delegation from residents with regards to an outline proposal by Bellway to build 300 houses north of Brays Lane. Council submitted a strong objection to it and we wait to see the outcome.

In **November** council agreed to install three more seats in King George V Playing Field. These will be installed by RDC in the Summer.

Council also conducted a No.7 Bus Survey which was delivered to all residents and appeared on our web site concerning the reduced service during school holidays. There was a good response. The result has been sent to the Arriva, ECC Transport and our local MP.

At the **November** meeting council set its Precept for the financial year, it looked at every aspect of expenditure and where savings could be made and **reduced the Precept by 20% to £133,700. This equates to £98.24 pa on a Band D property, £1.89 per week.**

In **December** council started the process in forming a steering group to produce the Local Plan, despite contacting those residents who had shown interest we only received 6 positive replies, which was too few to form a group, so council has dropped the idea.

At the **January** council meeting council agreed to install fencing around the new play area at the King George V Playing Field, this will make the playground safer for children and stop dogs fouling the area. Timescale to be decided.

GRANTS:

During the year grants were made to the following organisations: 1st Ashington Scout Group £700, BASIC £500 and Life House £250.

