

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

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# **FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Facilities Committee has a very wide remit covering all the Parish Council owned assets including public open spaces, play areas, street furniture and buildings.

The Committee has four sub-committees through which we work with volunteers who help to manage our land, these are the Community Orchard, Snakemoor Nature Reserve, Sporting Facilities and Allotment Committees, their reports are included.

## **PLAY AREAS**

We now have six playgrounds of varying sizes that we are responsible for. All our play areas continue to be kept in top condition for all users. Weekly inspections are carried out by the Facilities Manager along with independent quarterly and yearly inspections completed by professional bodies. Regular grounds maintenance keeps these tidy and any repairs needed are carried out as soon as possible. The B.M.X track will have its annual service next month where the track has a fresh layer of stone applied and all imperfections are repaired. With the village growing and many young families moving into it, these play areas are seen as an essential part of life.

## **STREET FURNITURE**

The Parish Council continues to maintain bus shelters, these are inspected and cleaned on a regular basis. We also work with Buckinghamshire Council and our in-house ground staff to ensure our rubbish bins and dog waste bins are emptied and cleaned regularly. New benches have been donated by residents and installed at the Airfield and Woodways recreation areas, and Snakemoor Nature Reserve. Should any parishioner wish to donate a bench please refer to our bench policy which can be found on our website.

## **STREET LIGHTS**

This year after carrying out a tender process we have renewed our street light maintenance contract with Eldridge Electrical Ltd who we look forward to continuing to work with for another 3 years. Street lights continue to keep us busy as we look to gradually replace the older columns and make repairs as soon as we practicably can. As in previous years we will look to replace another ten columns this autumn as we slowly upgrade the oldest columns. We have found a significant reduction in our annual maintenance costs as we have installed more new columns and LED lanterns. We have now adopted all the street lights and bollards on the Airfield site.

## **SCHOOLS**

We are working closely with St Mary's school as we try to establish a safer and more efficient site of entry for pedestrians. This is in early stages but we hope to have something done in the very near future.

## **TREES & HEDGES**

The Parish Council is responsible for a large number of trees on its properties and carries out regular surveys to identify any tree work that is needed. All work identified in our most recent tree survey has been carried out. This includes dangerous and decaying trees being felled, overgrown trees causing an obstruction being reduced and crown lifted. We are in talks with Dandara regarding trees that were planted on their site at Aston Road but unfortunately perished in the hot summers. We have asked that these are replaced or that they work with us so that we can replace them ourselves with their funding.

## **ST MARY'S CHURCH**

The maintenance of St Mary's Churchyard has in the past been carried out by contractors. We have taken the decision to bring this work in house and our own grounds team will look after it from June. We have started to do some catch up work already and hopefully residents will notice an improvement as we take this on.

We have repaired and partially re-built the wicket wall between St Mary's school and Churchyard using traditional materials and techniques. This has significantly improved the safety and appearance of this area.

We have started work on the next phase of repairs which will include the lychgate and the stone front wall. A survey has been commissioned initially to determine the extent of the work needed.

We value our good working relationship with the Church.

## **CHURCH END POND**

Church End pond is a focal point of the village where the Parish Council is progressing a very exciting project. We will be installing a solar powered pump to feed groundwater into the pond. The project is fairly complex to deliver and involves drilling of the bore hole which will then be covered and hidden, and the construction of a small structure within the churchyard which will double up as both a bin store and a place to house the solar panel. We need Faculty permission from the Diocese which is in progress and once obtained work can begin. We aim to complete this work by mid-summer.

## **RUDDS/BANKS PONDS**

We continue to look after both Banks and Rudds ponds. Annual maintenance was carried out last autumn, thinning out the reeds so they don't take over, cutting back foliage and edges tidied up.

## **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

Our maintenance team have been working hard around the village. This winter has seen the cutting and trimming of all footpaths and hedges. Various maintenance tasks and repairs have been made. We aim to start cutting grass any day now.

Our in-house team have made a massive difference over the last eighteen months and the results are there for all to see.

They are a friendly bunch so please feel free to say hi when you bump into them.

## **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

We will be entering the Best Kept Village competition again this year. After being placed second on two occasions in the last three years we hope to go one better this year.

Please help us by keeping your village in a clean and tidy state. Judging will take place sometime between 1<sup>st</sup> June and middle of July.

## **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL DEVOLVED SERVICES**

The Parish Council continues to cover devolved services from Bucks County Council. The amount of money received from BCC for this task has only risen slightly on one occasion over the last eight years so the Parish Council have to top these funds up to ensure all grass and hedge cutting is carried out across the village.

## **COMMUNITY LITTER PICK**

A number of community litter picks have taken place both at The Airfield and Banks Park. This is led by one of our very active councillors and he would love to see you there.

Look out for the date of the next event either in our newsletters or on our website or you can sign up to be contacted when the next litter pick is due. Give us a call or pop into the Parish Office next to the village hall.

More numbers are needed and are very welcome.

## **SPORTING FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

We continue to work with the local sports clubs who use our facilities in Haddenham. We were delighted that we were able to get the Airfield Pavilion fully open for the 23/24 football season. It is home to Haddenham Youth Football Club and we also welcomed Aylesbury Vale Toqueers Titans who are Aylesbury Senior team.

The Parish Council were pleased to be awarded grants for pitch maintenance through the FA Football Foundation. The Council already spends a considerable amount on improving the condition of the ground and this additional grant will allow us to get all of our pitches to a rating of good or above. Thank you to HYFC who have assisted in getting all the pitches assessed and have also participated in a Ground Management Course. We just need it to stop raining so we can crack on!

The Whistler continues to grow and we were grateful with their contribution to the improvements at the Woodways Pavilion function room. It has been re-decorated and had improved insulation in the ceiling and greatly improved the appearance of this room. Solar panels have been added to the roof to improve the carbon footprint of the building and hopefully reduce the bills!

The new cricket ground off Aston Road is starting to take shape. Again, the wet winter and spring has made it difficult to complete and fingers crossed this will be finished this summer. Work continues on the design of the new Aston Road Pavilion and we have had several meetings with HCC, the ECB and Bucks Cricket Board to ensure that we can provide a first-class facility that stays within budget! The plans are being drawn up and we hope to apply for planning permission very soon.

The Council continue to support the Tennis Club with a grant to assist in providing coaches for their school coaching program.

It was great to see the Table Tennis Club back at Woodways and they continue to use this facility once a week on club nights.

## **A SMALL LOOK AT SOME WORKS THIS YEAR.**

After listening to our residents' concerns, the access to Banks Park car park from Church Way has been made more safe and user friendly. People were concerned about the tree

roots that had surfaced and pushed up some of the path and was narrow. We have created a more wheelchair and pram friendly path which is being greatly received.



Footpaths have been cleared and are very user friendly!

New areas are being kept fresh with a mixture of wilding and accessible paths!

Overall, a good year for the facilities team, with more to come this year.

# Planning Committee Report 2025/26

## Overview of the work of the Planning Committee

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee for planning and listed building applications. We review all applications and submit comments to Buckinghamshire Council which determines them in its statutory role as the local planning authority. We must respond within set time limits and concentrate on “material” planning matters.

Since 1 April 2025 the Planning Committee has held 15 meetings and considered 71 applications for planning permission, listed building consent & tree work. Detailed briefings are prepared by the Chair and Clerk for every application.

Most applications are for householder extensions, but can still be contentious, for example where proposals raise concerns about overlooking, loss of daylight, inadequate parking, or inappropriate design or materials. We continue to offer informal guidance to both applicants and neighbours.

On larger developments, the Parish Council concentrates on layout, access, walking & cycling connectivity, water & flood management, and the details of any assets proposed for transfer to the Council including open spaces, playgrounds, street lighting, and S106 obligations in respect of sport, leisure & recreation. We liaise with developers, attend site meetings and deal with the legal documentation of land transfers.

## Current larger developments

We are currently tracking and have responded to the following developments:

- Land west of Churchway (Redrow Homes) Phases 1 (153 homes on site) and Phase 2 (120 homes pending reserved matters application ie full details)
- Land east of Churchway (Greencore) 89 homes (pending reserved matters application)
- Land south of Lower Rd/east of Stanbridge Rd (Rectory Homes) 86 homes (outline application)
- Land at Station Rd 192 homes (outline application)
- Land at Haddenham Airfield (Lands Improvement Holdings) c.700 homes (outline application)
- Land east of Stanbridge Rd (Miller Homes) c.100 homes (application expected after initial on-line consultation in late 2025)

## Current overall growth situation

Since the start of the Aylesbury Vale Local Plan period in 2013 (when there were about 2000 homes in Haddenham) the overall picture now is:

- Developments completed/nearly completed: 1134 homes
- Developments approved in principle not started: 119 homes
- Developments awaiting decision/application expected: 1078 homes

## Future Haddenham

The original Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan covers the period from 2013 to 2033 and in 2015 its housing chapter was quashed at a judicial review, its other policies remain, and many of the projects included in it have been or are in the process of being delivered. The Parish Council has kept under consideration an update to the neighbourhood plan with the timing in the changing policy and political landscape difficult to manage. In 2025 it was agreed to undertake a growth Scenario consultation

and ONH Planning consultants were engaged to support this. In parallel a Strategic Environment Assessment was also carried out by AECOM. The work was funded through a Locality grant. It was good to meet many residents and hear their views during the consultation. As a result it was agreed to start work on a new neighbourhood plan that maximises rail connections. However, the recent publication by Buckinghamshire Council of the site allocations for the new local plan and the designation of Haddenham for strategic growth requires a review of this decision.

## **Buckinghamshire Local Plan**

Buckinghamshire Council is preparing a Local Plan for the entire county for the 20-year period to 2045. During the year it undertook an initial consultation on general principles, called for sites for possible development, and in February published an assessment of those sites, a consultation on which closed on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Haddenham has been included in the New and Extended Settlement Study (NESS) which assesses land surrounding Haddenham as capable of providing 7,350 homes with 3,500 considered to be deliverable in the plan period. The Parish Council has submitted a detailed response raising serious concerns about the assessment and what it would mean for the village. The outcome will be known later in 2026 when the Regulation 19 public consultation is held for the draft plan before it is submitted for Inspection.

## **Major Projects**

The Planning Committee leads on major projects and during the year has progressed these as follows:

### **Streetscapes**

We have worked with Buckinghamshire Council on a scheme to improve Thame Road for pedestrians and cyclists by installing a new raised parallel crossing point close to the station. This is based on a proposal from the Streetscape project and is funded through a S106 contribution from the airfield development, topped up by grant awarded to Buckinghamshire Council.

### **New cricket pavilion with community facility at Aston Road**

After working on the initial plans with Haddenham Cricket Club, Bucks Cricket Board and the England and Wales Cricket Board, earlier this year we obtained planning permission and then drew up a detailed specification which is currently out for tender.

### **New burial ground at Aston Road**

We have set up a working group to finalise the design and layout of the burial ground as we have been told we need to submit a planning application to get environment agency approval. The group has also reviewed draft regulations for managing the new burial ground.

### **Extension to Banks Cottage**

In partnership with Haddenham Dental the Parish Council has agreed to fund, and has obtained planning permission for, an extension to the building which will be fitted out by the dental surgery to provide an additional treatment room, better access, reception, and upgraded utilities, which allow the surgery to provide more NHS treatment. The detailed specification has been agreed and is currently out for tender.

## **Improvements to Haddenham Village Hall**

We have a working group with representatives of the Village Hall Management Committee to bring forward plans for the improvement of the main hall, Walter Rose room, Mabel Parkinson room and Foyer. An options appraisal is currently under consideration.

## **Other work**

### **Land Transfers**

The Parish Council has agreed to adopt large areas of public open space, sports pitches, play areas and street lights on new developments. This includes the land to build pavilions and the new burial ground. The land is transferred when the development is complete, the developer has maintained the land for 1-2 years and all snagging issues have been resolved. The next land transfer to the Parish Council is anticipated in late spring and will include the land to build the pavilion, the new burial ground and surrounds at Aston Road, including a former milking shed which will become a new maintenance yard. The transfer of phase 2 public open space at the Airfield has been slow to progress.

### **Conservation Area Review**

Buckinghamshire Council appointed consultants to carry out a review of the Haddenham Conservation Area who met Parish Council representatives to receive input to the process. When the draft was published the Parish Council submitted a detailed response and hosted a public consultation. The revised Conservation Area Appraisal is still to be adopted by Buckinghamshire Council.

### **Community Speedwatch**

We provide support and receive monthly reports from our volunteers who conduct regular sessions concentrating on speeding hotspots like Stanbridge Rd (the biggest problem), Thame Rd, and Pegasus Way. Offenders are referred to Thames Valley Police for follow-up action. Data from the new Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign is being downloaded and analysed. Due to the work of the volunteers the Thames Valley Police Roads Policing Team have attended.

### **Flooding**

In September 2024 and March 2025 many properties in Haddenham were flooded, mainly those close to the stream (Environment Agency designated main river) that runs through the centre of the village. The Parish Council has since held an engagement event with residents to share information on riparian responsibilities for maintaining the stream and find out more about the problems they have experienced. We were asked to look into the possibility of carrying out a survey of the full length of the stream to identify the blockages to allow a plan of work to be undertaken to reduce the flooding risk. This is a costly and time consuming exercise, so an initial assessment of the work involved has been funded and will be used to plan future work.

David Truesdale, Chair of PC Planning Committee

# FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

## **Precept and budgets**

We continue to work to a 5-year business plan and produce a detailed Action Plan to monitor its delivery. These were updated and adopted for 2025-26 during the budgeting process for setting the precept in January 2025. We face the same challenges that everyone is currently facing of trying to balance the budgets in the face of escalating costs.

When setting the precept for 2025/26 we were told by Buckinghamshire Council that the tax base would remain the same, with the additional new properties being occupied we would anticipate an increase in the tax base, this creates a greater challenge when setting the budget. We were therefore pleased when setting the precept for 2026/27 to be told the tax base had increased this year. The precept for 2026/27 has been set at £618,510, which represents a 4.5% increase in the band D equivalent equating to £8.35 per annum.

We continue to hold the commuted sums received when amenity land, play areas and street lights and has been adopted on new developments in an investment account, and this has given a good return in recent years which allows us to balance the budget using this reserve. The commuted sums are intended to cover approximately 10 years' maintenance costs of the new assets. During 2025/26 the commuted sum reserve has been used to purchase additional equipment for the new in-house grounds maintenance service, including a new van, which helped us to do this without passing on the cost to residents.

The Council continues to set aside ear-marked reserves in line with its pro-active asset management approach to ensure it can responsibly manage its growing portfolio of assets. We have also set aside funds for projects where there is a significant cost in the future that we have planned ahead for which includes the new burial ground, updating the neighbourhood plan and an extension to Banks Cottage to provide additional dental services.

## **Staffing**

The decisions to bring the grounds maintenance service in-house and review new roles for the office staff have resulted in an increase in the number of Parish Council employees from four in September 2024 to eight by January 2026.

We now have a team of three maintenance operatives employed by the Council to maintain our own assets as well as our devolved responsibilities. The new team (Shane, Josh and Bryan) has become well established over the last year and we can see a significant improvement in the appearance of the village. We will continue to review the staffing levels of the maintenance team as other areas are brought in-house and more land is adopted. In addition to the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Facilities Manager two new office roles have been created to replace the former Assistant Clerk role. We have welcomed to the team Steph as the new Finance and General Admin Officer and Matt as the new Committee and Communications Officer. Next we will be recruiting for a new Caretaker role, and future plans include roles for a Burials Officer and Planning Officer as they are needed.

## **Grants**

We continue to support community groups with funding through our grant awards. In the 2025/26 financial year, the following groups have benefitted from funding: Haddenham Community Library, Zero Carbon Haddenham, Haddenham Beer Festival Trust, and a

donation to the Poppy Appeal. We also award grants through a heritage fund reserve to encourage sympathetic repairs to public-facing wicket walls and supported work to a significant collapse of a wall at Fort End . We maintain a contact list of local contractors and consultants who may be able to help with heritage work and approvals.

### **Gold Award**

The Parish Council is proud to have been awarded a Gold Award by the National Association of Councils Local Council Award Scheme in 2022, which is due for review in 2026 with work almost complete for an application in May. The Gold Award is a prestigious recognition of the Council's attainment of the highest levels of governance, community leadership and council development and represents our commitment to exceptional performance and continuous advancement.

David Truesdale  
Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee

# Climate Emergency Report 2025/26 – APM 19<sup>th</sup> March

With climate issues slipping down the agenda and climate action facing increasing headwinds around the world, it is more important than ever that we continue to spread a positive message, whilst running projects that can make a tangible difference within our own community. As well as reducing carbon footprints, there are significant side-benefits to these actions that can help with household budgets, from cutting the cost of motoring to saving money on energy bills and reducing food waste.

## **EV hire service powered by Zimbl**

We have been operating for ten months now, and the number of registered users continues to grow, although we still need more people to sign up – this is very easy to do via the Zimbl app and costs nothing.

The primary use case is to replace a household's little-used second (or even third or fourth!) vehicle with occasional hires, but we also have users who have gone entirely car-free. Either way, they can drive clean, modern EVs charged in part with solar energy from the village hall's panels. Feedback has been very good, with residents appreciating the initial briefing given to all new users, as well as the convenience of having the cars delivered – although they are still available to be picked up from the village hall if preferred.

It is also good to see the increasing numbers of privately-owned EVs around the village, a trend that will only be accelerated by the current oil price shock and the increasing availability of affordable second-hand cars, as well as new models with ever longer ranges. We are fortunate that most people in the village are able to charge at home and benefit from cheap overnight electricity, but the increasing use of the village hall charger shows there is still a need for public charging, and we remain committed to installing chargers at the Airfield Pavilion Car Park, despite the ongoing land ownership issues. The salary-sacrifice EV leasing scheme is now up and running, enabling staff to take advantage of affordable EV leases at no additional cost to the Parish Council.

## **Home energy**

Following two successful Energy Efficient Homes fairs in previous years, we have been trying a different approach this year, working with Buckinghamshire Community Energy (BCE) to offer free home energy assessment visits to villagers with EPC (energy performance certificate) ratings of D or below. There are still some slots available, so please get in touch if you would like to book. For the future, we are in discussion with BCE over a potential project that would provide solar and battery storage to residents free of charge, paid for by a community share issue.

On our own buildings, the solar and battery systems are delivering significant bill reductions for the Woodways and Airfield pavilions. We will continue to investigate further opportunities for installations, and plans for the new cricket pavilion include both solar and a ground-source heat pump. The grounds maintenance team are also now using a plug-in hybrid van, meaning that their driving around the village is electric powered whenever possible.

## **Food waste**

We have been delighted to work with the charity Foodrise, who completed a course with Haddenham Junior School eco-councillors exploring commonly wasted foods and creative ways to use them up. This was followed up with a workshop for families at the Airfield Pavilion, which received excellent feedback:

“My 7-year-old daughter and I loved it! She's already asking when the next one is and wants to bring her brother. It really inspired her – she now wants to apply to be her class Eco Councillor next year! The workshop leaders were excellent and made it fun and informative for everyone.”

“We loved it! Thanks for putting it on – a great little family afternoon. The ladies that ran it were fabulous.”

“Thank you for organising the Love Food, Hate Waste workshop. It was well organised and really informative.”

The potential next step is for the children who attended the first course to go on to train their peers so that the message is spread as widely as possible.

### **Nature-based solutions**

We are excited to be kicking off a major new project in collaboration with Future Nature (the consultancy arm of BBOWT) to survey all hedges on Council-owned land. This survey will help us identify opportunities to improve hedge biodiversity and develop a long-term management plan. As part of the project, Future Nature will train local volunteers in surveying techniques, so please get in touch if you would like to be involved. As well as improving carbon sequestration through better management of hedges, the project will also strengthen our arguments for preserving hedgerows in future developments.

Meanwhile, we will continue to work with **ReLEAF** to plant and maintain trees and hedges on PC land.

# Zero Carbon Haddenham (Buckinghamshire) (ZeroCH)

1.1 ZeroCH is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) regulated by the Charity Commission. The Charity Commission requires ZeroCH to provide details of its trustees, an annual trustees' report (TAR) and details of its financial position.

## 2.0 Charity Registration Number: 1193437

2.1 The charity (previously Haddenham in Transition a non-charitable action group) was set up in February 2021 and is managed according to its constitution, details of ZeroCH are available on the Charity Commission's website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>).

## 3.0 Trustees

3.1 There are currently 7 trustees who are the charity's voting members (see below). Trustees are appointed by a majority vote of serving trustees at properly convened meetings. Meetings are held usually monthly and are open to all interested parties. General meetings are held on an annual basis and comprise of a Chairman's report, Secretary's report, Treasurer's report, appointment of trustees and alterations to the constitution.

## 4.0 The objects of the CIO are:

4.1 To conserve, protect, and improve the physical and natural environment for the public benefit, in particular, but not exclusively, by:

- a) Promoting a reduction in the use of fossil fuels and an increase in the use of renewable energy
- b) Promoting waste reduction by reuse, reclamation, recycling and repair
- c) Promoting good, low carbon, environmental practise in the production, distribution and consumption of food
- d) Promoting the mitigation of CO<sub>2</sub> production by local carbon sequestration projects such as tree planting
- e) Promoting the use of low carbon means of transport

4.2 To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the environment in particular, but not exclusively, by promoting good environmental practice and awareness of related issues.

## 5.0 Main activities undertaken for the period 2025 to 2026 (in alphabetical order)

5.1 Apple press - An apple press and associated equipment (pasteuriser) is available for all residents enabling them to make apple juice and cider and save wasting apples. An online booking process has been developed and the availability of the press will be promoted during the summer of 2026.

5.2 Bean feasts - Project to promote lower carbon diets, raise money and improve community cohesion. First falafel night held 15<sup>th</sup> November at the village hall – ingredients where possible purchased from Blooming Fruity, including British-grown Hodmedods fava beans for the falafels. A very successful and enjoyable evening – we have booked for a second one on

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May – all welcome (visit [www.zeroch.org](http://www.zeroch.org) to join our mailing list and keep up to date with plans). Potential future events could include Italian, Indian and Mexican food.

- 5.3 Café zero - A community café running alongside the Repair Café which provides a place to meet each month for refreshments and a chat with displays about the ZeroCH the group's work. The café supplies filter coffee, tea, hot chocolate, milk shakes and a range of home-made cakes and biscuits. Caffeine free drinks and vegetarian and vegan cakes and biscuits are usually available.
- 5.4 Charity Administration - Maintain and update Zero Carbon Haddenham's (ZeroCH) registration on The Charity Commission's website. Ensure ZeroCH acts within the Charity Commission's remit. Record, produce and distribute meeting minutes in accordance with ZeroCH constitution and The Charity Commission. Produce annual report for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with Zero Carbon Haddenham's (ZeroCH) constitution and The Charity Commission. Record, produce and distribute the AGM report. Produce trustees annual report (TAR) for The Charity Commission. Review and update annual risk assessment for ZeroCH's charitable functions. Produce necessary documents in accordance with ZeroCH constitution and The Charity Commission and maintain the Charity's insurance.
- 5.5 Energy Cooperatives - Exploring setting up energy co-operatives with local environmental groups and businesses.
- 5.6 Library of things (under development) - Seeking ways to create a 'Library of Things' that can be hired including, but not limited to, tools, catering equipment and furniture. The library negates the need to purchase items that would be rarely used. This would require a permanent base for ZCH that could be used to host other activities and disseminate information – any suggestions gratefully received!
- 5.7 Programme of Events alongside the Repair Café / Café Zero – Programme of Events alongside the Repair Café / Café Zero – The HPC generously provided funding to cover the hire of the conference room at the village hall for 12 mornings. We have hosted Bucks Wastebusters (composting and recycling) and Bucks Community Energy (home energy advice), as well as holding our own toy swaps and tabletop sale, plus used the additional capacity to facilitate recycling collections. As well as repeating these, future events could include a clothes swap / fashion show, mending workshop, promotion for the potential community land trust...
- 5.8 Recycling the tricky stuff - Objective is to keep stuff out of landfill / incinerators by recycling items that cannot be recycled at kerb side or locally. Grant obtained from the Thriving Communities fund a community grants scheme run by Fairhive Homes and also the Village Fete. To date we have recycled around 300 kg of empty pill packets - over 4 million packs !, over 57Kg storage media, 10Kg stationery, 10Kg oral care, 3Kg contact lenses, and more than 21Kg electrical cables. Collection is once a month at the Vale Harvest Saturday. The focus has been on empty pill packets but as funding is coming to an end, we strongly encourage people to take their products to local recycling points e.g. at Specsavers and Boots.
- 5.9 ReLeaf - The ReLeaf project teamwork in conjunction with the parish council to plant trees and hedging to offset the carbon emissions of the village. The exceptionally dry summer of 2025 meant the team had to do a considerable amount of watering and maintenance work at the Tibbs Road playing fields site in order to keep alive the 115 trees and 1450 hedge plants

they had planted there. Thankfully this tremendous effort proved to be successful and the trees seem to have survived. The council and ReLeaf are devising a co-ordinated watering regime for 2026 and to help implement this Releaf has secured a Heart of Bucks grant to purchase some new watering equipment.

Planting plans for 2026 include, in spring, a semicircle of blossom trees in the Country Park at the Grove development, and in autumn in the same area, the team will start to replace the 100 trees that have perished here in the recent summer droughts.

In August we were visited by the Heart of Bucks Community Foundation and awarded a special certificate by Pippa Kirkbride, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in recognition of what we had achieved with their generous grant, and our significant contribution to lower the village's carbon footprint by planting so many trees at Tibbs Road.

- 5.10 Repair Café - The monthly Haddenham Repair Cafe holds events on the first Saturday morning of the month at Haddenham Village Hall. The team of volunteers are keen to repair broken things – anything portable. If it looks like it can't be repaired, we'll help find spare parts for it. Supported by Zero-Carbon Haddenham and Buckinghamshire Council, the aim is to encourage 'repairing' rather than 'replacing' as the logical first step when things break. This is because repairing keeps things out of landfill and reduces unnecessary consumption. The Repair Café hopes to be able to help tackle most repairs where a little glue or a replacement screw or part is needed. There will be some things that the Repair Café is not likely to be able to fix – broken screens on mobile phones for example. And it has had to draw the line where things are not portable – large pieces of furniture for example – but if it can be carried to the Repair Café we will look at it! Some things are (badly) designed so they are hard or even impossible to repair so even if the Repair Café can't offer a fix it can offer advice on disposal, replacement or other options for repair. Haddenham Repair Cafe has operated every month since November 2021, taken on over 850 jobs and succeeded in fixing over 660 items with a 78% repair success rate to date. Advice has been given to owners on how to repair their items thus keeping them from being discarded and replaced by new.
- 5.11 Thermal Imaging scanner - Zero Carbon Haddenham have a handheld FLIR Thermal Imaging Scanner available for loan to Haddenham village residents. This device is a camera which takes special infra-red pictures which can be used to reveal any hotspots caused by poor insulation where heat is escaping from the walls, roof, windows or doors of a property. For those who have used ZeroCH's scanner in the past, this is a completely new and improved device with better resolution and the ability to merge the thermal image with a conventional photograph for better identification of features. There have been a handful of loans of the thermal imaging camera for the season November 2025 to February 2026. A £10 deposit / donation per night was asked of users. On occasion people have found energy leaks from new houses and were grateful to be able to present the images captured to the developer as evidence to get remedial work done. We are seeking someone to manage this project going forward.
- 5.12 Zero Waste Street Food / Summer and Winter Fest / Beer Festival – An ongoing two-part project covering recycling and reusable serve-ware at Haddenham's monthly Village Hall street food events and Haddenham's annual Summer and Winter Fest / Beer Festival events. Supported by grants from Bucks Council's Waste Prevention Fund in collaboration with event organisers. Recycling: Introduced food waste collection. Replaced general waste bins with recycling hubs to maximise collection and compliance. Reusables: Replaced disposable

glasses at the bar with reusables. Provided real bowls, plates and forks as an alternative to disposables. Sourced reusable food trays.

## Haddenham Safe Walking & Cycling Group

Our group campaigns to make the village a nicer and safer place to navigate for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as users of wheelchairs, mobility scooters, buggies, pushchairs... We also campaign for safe routes to neighbouring communities.

The long-standing campaign for the **Haddenham-Thame Greenway** is due to bear fruit this year, with a public consultation due on the recommended route(s) in the second half of the year, which is in line with Oxfordshire County Council's 'ambitious' goal of submitting a planning application in 2027. A petition organised by our fellow campaigners in Thame gained over 3,600 signatures and was presented to parliament with the help of the two local MPs, Freddie van Mierlo and Greg Smith, in February. Further activities will include a 'glow ride' around Thame on the evening of March 20<sup>th</sup>, and a walk from Thame to Haddenham over the summer. **If you would like to join the mailing list for updates on this crucial project, please email [haddswac@gmail.com](mailto:haddswac@gmail.com).**

Following a long hiatus, investigations into **a safe route to Dinton and onwards to Stone and Aylesbury** have also resumed. The project will be a great amenity for Haddenham, but also residents of Westlington, Dinton and Upton, so we are pleased to see that a local 'Friends of Dinton's Greenways' group has been established to support the project.

Within the village, we are delighted that Bucks Council is due to install **a raised parallel crossing (a double crossing for pedestrians and cyclists) on Thame Road by the station** during the summer, following a positive response to the public consultation. This will make crossing the road much safer, at a location where pedestrians have previously been hit by vehicles, as well as acting to slow traffic. I'm sure everyone will be very pleased that extended double yellow lines will also prevent cars parking on the run up to the chicane. This welcome development is the result of the parish council pressing Bucks Council to spend the developer money earmarked for walking and cycling along Thame Road – we look forward to seeing further improvements flowing from the PC's **Streetscape** project, which provides a roadmap for much-needed improvements to our village streets and is regularly referenced by Bucks Council's highways team in their comments on planning applications. We also hope it will move us closer to the implementation of **a village-wide 20 mph limit**.

Meanwhile, we continue to work with the Parish Council on **Level Ways**, a pioneering project (the first of its kind in the country!) to develop a safe, trip-free walking circuit connecting the Woodlands independent living scheme housing to the village centre, doctors and pharmacists. We are encouraged by the recent promise of support from a very senior county councillor. We are also planning to undertake a survey of all the dropped curbs around the village soon, in order to identify any accessibility issues – volunteers to help with this would be very welcome.

We are also very grateful to the **Speedwatch volunteers** who give up their time to run regular speed monitoring sessions that make a real impact in reducing dangerous driving and taking uninsured drivers off the road. They are always keen for more volunteers, so if you worry about speeding in our community, please get in touch.

More generally, we are always keen to hear from potential new members. You can also keep up to date by following the HaddSWAC Facebook page. And don't forget to subscribe to **our newsletter, Signposts**. You'll find paper copies at various locations around the village, but the best way is to have it emailed to you hot off the press. If

you download the latest issue from the Village Society website, you'll find instructions on how to subscribe inside.

Alan Thawley, HaddSWAC chair, 13 March 2026

Just one example of the media coverage of the Haddenham-Thame Greenway petition presentation to 10 Downing Street – no word from Keir Starmer yet!



# Parochial Charities

The Parish Council appoints the trustees to 3 parochial charities whose objects are to support residents of the village in need. The charities are:

- the Joseph Franklin Charity (1813)
- the Reverend John Willis Charity (1854)
- the Alms Corn Charity (1901)

The John Willis Charity owns the allotments which are leased to the Parish Council.

The Parochial Charities were pleased to welcome three new Trustees: Frank Pitman, Hilary Davies, and Leslie Wilkinson. The Trustees were also delighted that John Wilson decided to rescind his resignation and continue serving as a Trustee.

At the Annual General Meeting, John Wheeler was nominated and accepted the role of Chair, and Frank Pitman was appointed as Treasurer.

In December 2025, the Parochial Charities awarded grants to twenty-three applicants, each receiving £120. The Trustees are currently considering introducing an additional grant application window, as it has been noted that the number of applicants has been declining.

# Snakemoor Local Nature Reserve Volunteers Annual Report

## Activities carried out:

1. Seven new bird boxes have been installed, replacing damaged and unusable items.
2. Hedgerow saplings have been planted along the driveway, filling gaps and providing shelter for wildlife.
3. A further bench was donated and installed by HPC in February.
4. The orchard area has been improved, with excellent fruit crops last autumn.



5. Considerable effort was put into keeping saplings watered during the very hot and dry period last summer.
6. Working Groups were held on 29.3.25 and 18.10.25, with smaller teams carrying out other ad hoc activities.
7. The annual meadow mowing was very kindly carried out by Michael Whitney.
8. McCormick has generously helped the reserve with gathering up after the meadow was mown.

## Issues ahead:

1. Development of agricultural land near to the reserve poses a threat to Snakemoor. Even if not immediately adjacent - building works, noise & light pollution, human activities and other disruption is likely to inhibit or damage the livelihood of the nature reserve.
2. Having the use of battery-powered tools at Snakemoor is a great benefit to the reserve. Training in their proper operation is an important need for their safe use by volunteers.
3. Damage to nesting birds from grey squirrels has worsened considerably. A pest control programme is recommended to prevent further losses.



# Haddenham Community Speedwatch

Haddenham Community Speedwatch team comprises 15 volunteers (including 2 coordinators), who run monthly roadside sessions throughout the year (day time only), recording the registration number of vehicles travelling faster than the village-wide\* speed limit (\* *NOTE: the actionable limit is 35mph, calculated as 30mph + 10% + 2 mph = 35 mph*)

These speeders are formally reported (with video evidence), to Thames Valley Police (TVP), who then contact the speeders by letter and add their vehicles to a nationwide database. If the vehicle is recorded committing a repeat offence within 6 months or if the speed is significantly over the 30mph limit, the registered owner is contacted personally by the Police.

Community Speedwatch reporting may also identify vehicles with no valid MOT or Vehicle Tax, which will also be reported to TVP.

Over the last 12 months, Haddenham Community Speedwatch have completed 34 sessions and have reported 404 vehicles travelling over the limit. (See Data Table below)

The maximum speed logged by the team during the last 12 months was 54mph – the vehicle was logged by the Garden Centre on Stanbridge Road just after 4pm on a Friday, when a significant number of pedestrians and other road users were also using the road.

The % of speeders\* along Stanbridge Road averages at 10%. However, during one particularly bad session, 23% of vehicles were speeding – clearly an issue for other road users.

The significant volume of speeders along Stanbridge Road has been highlighted to the Parish Council, as well as TVP and this has resulted in a recent Speed Enforcement session, to reinforce the speed limit in the village.

Speeding by a Red Rose bus has been reported directly to the operator, who will also be contacted by TVP – Public Transport has to abide by the speed limit, just like any other road user.

The Haddenham Community Speedwatch Team have also supported nearby villages as they train volunteers to use the Speedwatch camera to report offenders to TVP, hopefully driving home the message that speeding is not acceptable where the limit is set at 30mph.

## Speedwatch Data Table April 2025 - Mar 2026

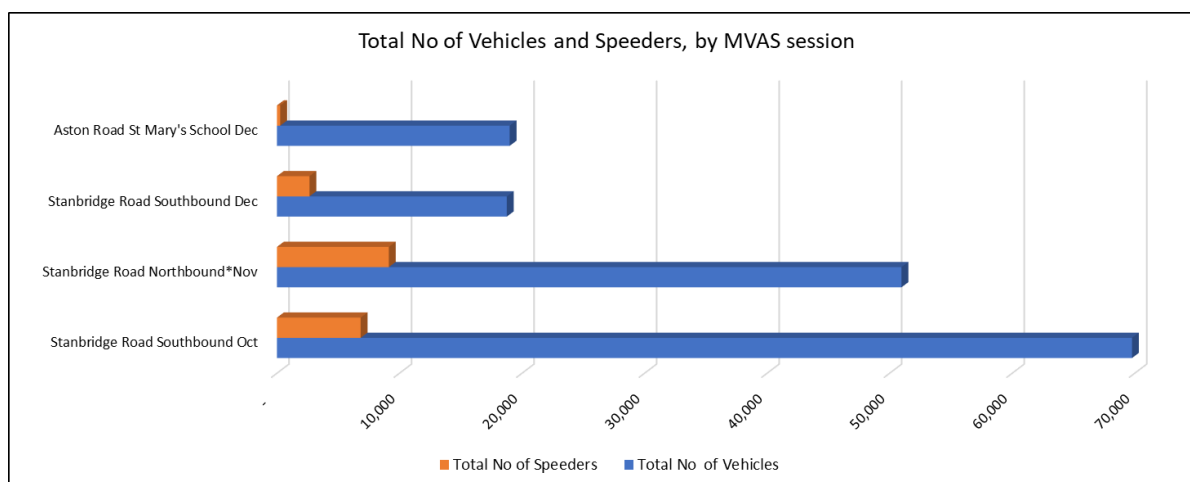
Location	No of Speedwatch sessions	Total vehicles logged	Logged Speed (MPH)			
			36 - 40	41 - 45	46 - 50	51 - 55
<b>Aston Road / Tiggywinkles</b>	2	8	8			
<b>Pegasus Way / Co op</b>	2	9	9			
<b>Stanbridge Road / Cricketers Way</b>	12	74	72	2		
<b>Stanbridge Road / Garden Centre</b>	16	306	287	12	5	2
<b>Stanbridge Road / Franklin Road</b>	1	3	3			
<b>Station Road / Railway Bridge</b>	1	4	4			

### MVAS (Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign)

Since October 2025, David Moore (one of the Speedwatch volunteers) has supported the PC with the installation setup and data capture from the MVAS equipment, which not only advises a driver that they are exceeding the speed limit, but also records the volume and speed of passing vehicles 24/7.

This has provided some useful insights into the volume of vehicles using Stanbridge Road and Aston Road, including the number of speeding vehicles (by day / by hour).

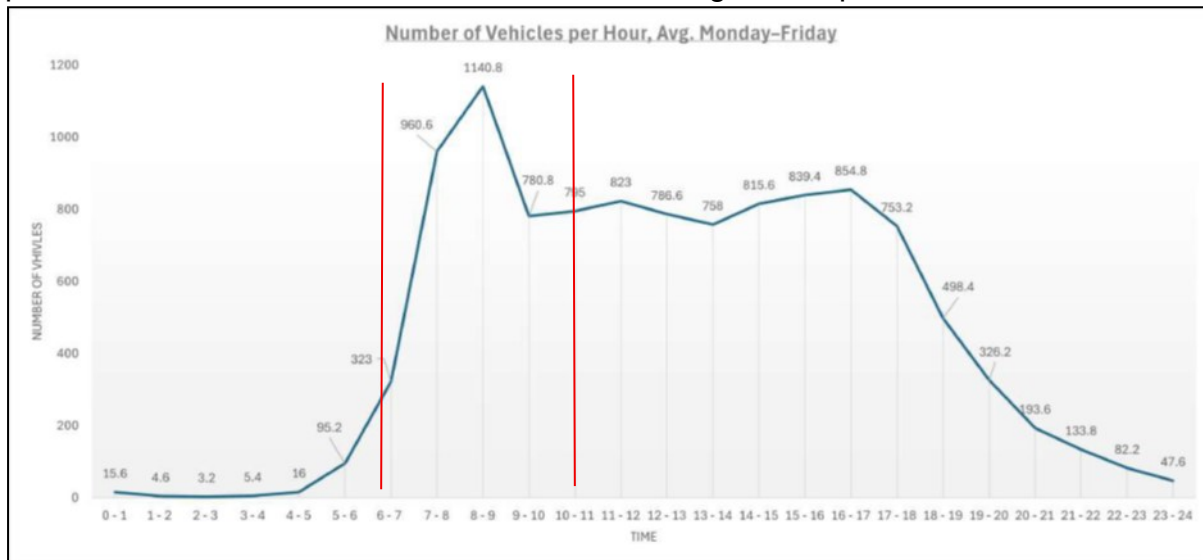
MVAS Reporting - Haddenham													
Date			Location	Total No of Vehicles	Total No of Speeders	% of total vehicles speeding	Vehicles speeding by day during period						
From	To	Days					Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
06-Oct-25	31-Oct-25	22	Stanbridge Road Southbound Oct	69,777	6,833	9.79%	983	956	993	1146	1342	748	665
05-Nov-25	30-Nov-25	22	Stanbridge Road Northbound*Nov	50,968	9,133	17.92%	1095	1133	1738	1526	1426	1104	1111
01-Dec-25	09-Dec-25	9	Stanbridge Road Southbound Dec	18,762	2,655	14.15%	699	645	373	273	261	231	173
11-Dec-25	31-Dec-25	20	Aston Road St Mary's School Dec	18,995	272	1.43%	44	43	53	34	35	39	24



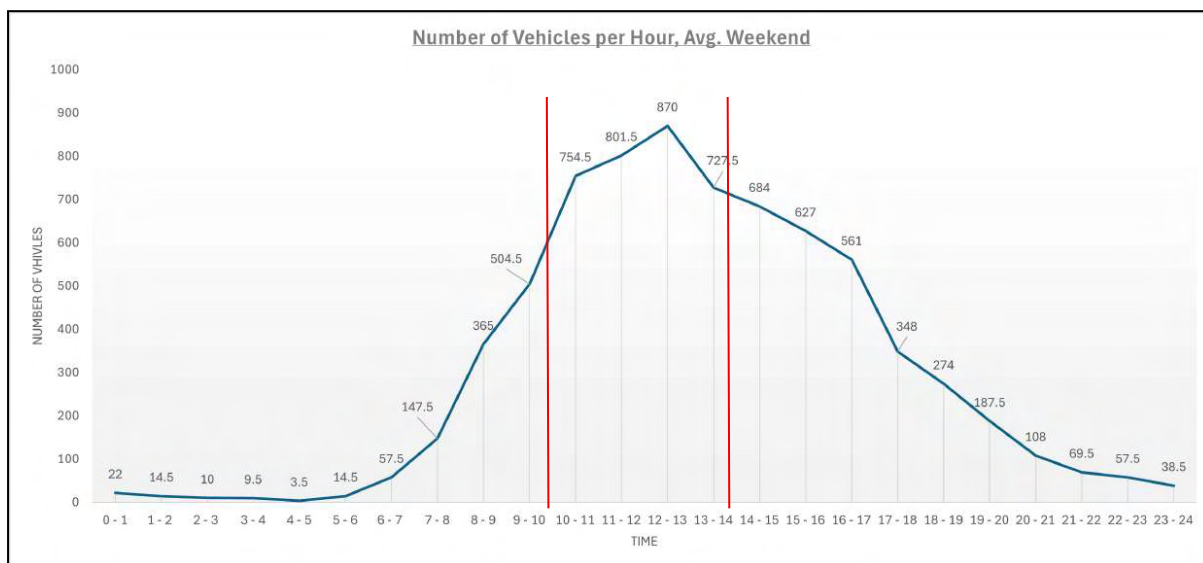
More detailed information was graphed by Matthew Cox (HPC)

MVAS data captured during Oct 2025 (22 days) - Stanbridge Road Southbound (by the Garden Centre) provided the following insights:-

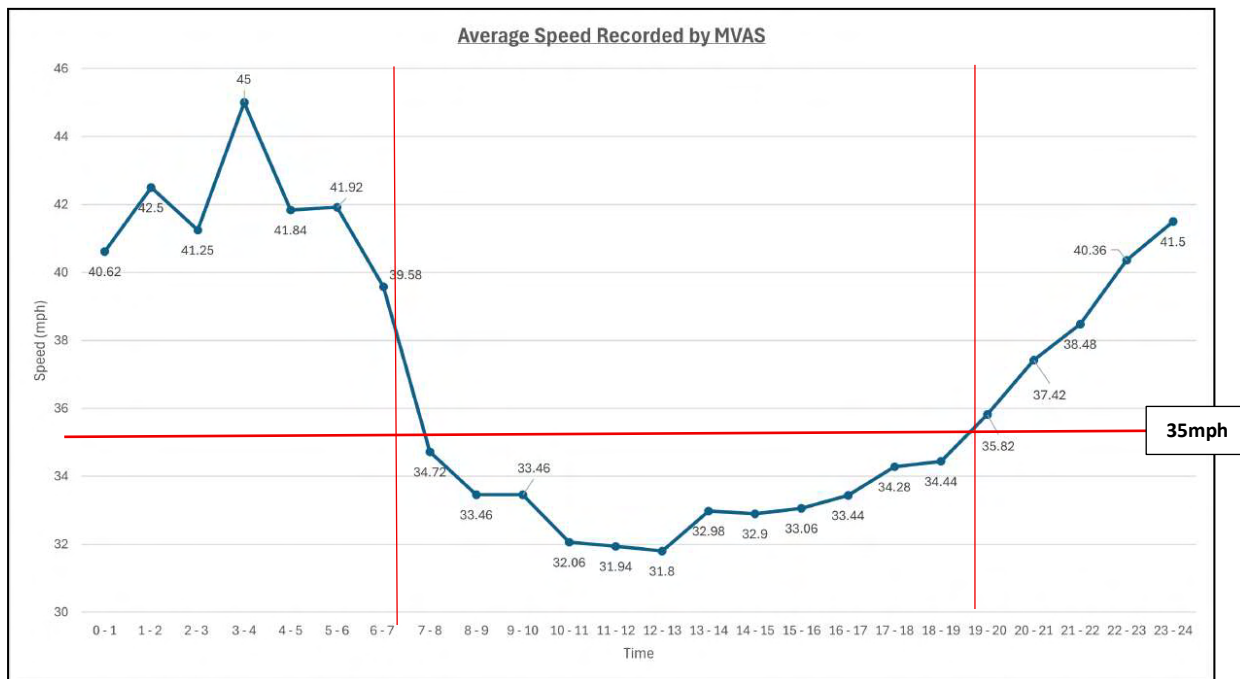
**Monday to Friday** data showed that the average number of vehicles per hour peaked between 7am and 10 am, but remained high until 5pm.



At **weekends**, the average number of vehicles per hour peaked between 10am and 2 pm.



Most speeding occurred in the hours of darkness (9pm – 6am)



Additional MVAS locations are planned within the 30mph limit, to allow volume / speed data to be captured from the other key roads, such as Thame Road, Woodways, Pegusus Way and Station Road, to support discussions with Bucks Highways and any potential future planning proposals.

# TOWNSEND COMMUNITY ORCHARD

In 2025 the community orchard celebrated its tenth year of existence and ten years since the original 40 trees were planted. This special occasion was marked with a special anniversary event at The Airfield Pavilion in September and over 40 people attended.

Originally intended as an outdoor event, the committee had to change it to indoors at the last minute due to adverse weather. Nevertheless over 40 people attended and enjoyed a lovely mixture of music, home-baked refreshments, children's games and crafts, and a "Memory Lane" with photos of the orchard and its volunteer team from the last 10 years. We even had a cameo appearance from our founder Dave Lyons.



We had to cope with another exceptionally dry summer and instigate a watering rota. Thankfully all the trees seem to have survived, although some defoliated due to the heat stress and this spring will tell if they are still alive.

The unusual weather conditions also brought in some incidences of "Fireblight", a contagious bacterial disease that affected a few trees and necessitated pruning out the diseased branches. We'll continue to monitor all the trees for this during 2026. One of the espalier trees that succumbed to the drought in 2024 has been replaced with a fan-trained Morello cherry.



The committee hosted five community engagement events during the year. In April we held an ethical Easter egg hunt with many children enjoying hunting for wooden eggs and making bird feeders.

For the annual village Scarecrow Festival we installed a full size number "10" that highlighted our anniversary year to which visitors could add colourful fabric, making a very vivid piece of community art. For the fourth year in a row we held a Bat and Moth spotting evening in August, and were blessed with good weather, lots of sightings and lots of excited children. As mentioned earlier our annual open air music evening became a great indoor 10th birthday party and raised a good amount for the orchard funds and the musicians charity of choice, Water Aid. A special thank you goes to our fantastic musicians: Rick and John, Brian Fattorini, Casual Sax and the Bus Pass Duo who have played for us over a number of years and generously given us a lot of support. January 2026 saw the annual Wassail ceremony, and, very kindly, the wonderful Feral Voices choir from Long Crendon returned to lead the singing.



As I do each year, I would like to thank the very hard working volunteer team and committee who do so much to take care the orchard and ensure it has a "special place in the village heart".



If you would like to join the committee or volunteer team, you can get in touch by emailing [communityorchard.haddenham@gmail.com](mailto:communityorchard.haddenham@gmail.com).

Diccon Proctor,  
Chairman, Townsend Community Orchard committee



# Haddenham Community Library Report

In the last twelve months the library has continued to grow and consolidate its services and links across the community, offering a varied range of services and activities.

Funding from the Parish Council has supported us in delivering services and improvements to the library, as well as purchasing of new book stock.

## Significant achievements

Library services and improvements:

- Increasing library issues and membership numbers – membership up 9% in the last year, bucking a national trend. Issues also up year on year.
- Appointment of several new library trustees, and recruiting a steady flow of volunteers.
- Rolling implementation of new branding and library mascot logo.
- Improvements to our Children’s area, including new bean bags and a dressing up box.
- Rearrangement of shelving to better promote stock areas, including Classics, Crime, Fiction, Local History, and OS maps, resulting in better usage.
- Purchase of additional stock to reflect diversity within the local community, supported by funds from local partners.
- Expanding our established programme of regular activities and events, including:
  - Additional story times to attract school children as well as pre-school, daily piano drop-in sessions, and introducing a monthly programme of afternoon talks. This is in addition to the previous story times, bounce and rhyme, knit and natter, and ‘All things Digital’ support sessions.
  - Daily children’s activities throughout all school holidays, including Summer Reading Challenge

Fundraising and Charity:

- Fundraising events:  
Well attended one-off events including a book signing for Robin Ince, An Evening with Jane Austen (with author Kathryn Sutherland), and daytime Chinese Tea Tasting. These have raised over £1000 for the library.
- Fundraising initiatives and sales, including:
  - Installation of new Sum Up machine for donations, and facilitating donations via QR code.

- Sale of notebooks handmade by local resident Gordon Macintosh, raising £200 for new children's books.
- Lego Sale and regular book sales, raising additional funds for the library.
- Hosted Mary White's 30<sup>th</sup> and final Macmillan Coffee Morning, with plans to continue to host this with a new organiser.

#### Community Support and Outreach:

- Working with local groups to host talks and events, including NHS Nutrition and wellbeing talk, Energy Champions drop in, Bucks Open Weekend art workshop with More Than Brushes, monthly talks by Haddenham resident Hugh Granger, and several art exhibitions in the library.
- Hosted U3A Mah Jong group twice a month, and weekly Knit and Knatter group.
- Welcomed regular visits by local nursery and childminder groups.
- Hosted several work experience students and Duke of Edinburgh volunteers – supporting local young people to gain experience of a work environment and contribute to their community.
- Participation in local events such as the Fete, Scarecrow trail and community info events to raise the profile of the library.

#### Future Plans

- Programme of improving signage throughout the library.
- Working with Home Instead to host a Companionship Café to combat isolation.
- Exploring ways to better promote adult learning opportunities to our library users and local communities.
- Continuing an active events programme and ways to boost fundraising opportunities.

The Haddenham Community Library Trustees and Management thank the Haddenham Parish Council for their continued support.

Prepared by Anna Baldwin and Harriet Craig – Library Managers 10/03/2026

# HADDENHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Management Committee is pleased to present its report for 2025/26. The committee has continued to oversee the effective operation, maintenance and strategic development of Haddenham Village Hall, ensuring that the facility remains a safe, accessible and well-managed asset for the community.

## **Operational Performance**

2025 has been an exceptionally strong year for hall usage with 1,552 bookings by 127 unique user groups or individuals and 3,157 hours of paid use. This sits at over three times the national average for hours of use of a village hall, demonstrating how high local demand is and the effectiveness of the Hall's operational management.

The committee continues to monitor usage patterns closely to ensure that the facility remains responsive to community needs and that capacity is well managed.

## **Environmental Impact, Cost Savings and Decarbonisation**

The solar installation completed in the previous year has delivered significant benefits. Reduced reliance on grid electricity has resulted in notable cost savings, helping to offset rising energy prices and supporting the financial sustainability of the Hall. The system has also contributed to the decarbonisation of the building's energy use, lowering the Hall's environmental footprint and aligning with the committee's long-term commitment to environmental responsibility.

These savings have enabled the committee to reinvest in essential maintenance and improvements without placing additional pressure on hire fees or reserves.

## **Maintenance and Improvements**

A number of planned improvements were completed during the year:

- **Repainting of the Main Hall and MP Room**, improving the appearance and usability of both spaces.
- **Acoustic enhancements** in the Main Hall, which have significantly improved sound quality for regular hirers and community groups.
- **Installation of internal security cameras** in the foyer and Main Hall to support safeguarding, deter misuse and protect the building.
- **Introduction of a table tennis table**, which has already become a popular addition for recreational users.

These works form part of the committee's ongoing commitment to maintaining the building to a high standard and ensuring it remains fit for purpose for a growing and diverse community.

## **Refurbishment and Development**

The committee continues to work in partnership with Haddenham Parish Council on wider refurbishments to the hall. Current plans under development include improving accessibility and compliance and Enhancing storage provision for user groups. These improvements will support the long-term sustainability of the Hall and ensure that it remains suitable for multi-use community activity.

## **Governance and Constitutional Change**

On 1 April 2025, Haddenham Village Hall formally transitioned from a registered charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This change provides a more modern and flexible

governance structure, offering clearer legal identity, reduced administrative burden, and improved protection for trustees. The committee has overseen the transition carefully to ensure continuity of operations and compliance with Charity Commission requirements.

The Management Committee has met regularly throughout the year, maintaining strong oversight of operations, compliance, maintenance and strategic planning. Trustees continue to bring a wide range of professional skills and community insight to the management of the Hall, ensuring robust governance and effective decision-making.

**Beth Knighton**

Chair of Trustees

Haddenham Village Hall Management Committee

# Haddenham Youth Work

Haddenham Youth Club continues to be a busy and much-valued part of village life. Meeting every Thursday from 4–6pm, we see an average of around 45 young people attend each week. The consistency of those numbers shows how important the club has become for many local families.

One of the most encouraging developments this year has been the growth in youth leadership. Four Year 9 students now help regularly at sessions, setting the tone and acting as positive role models for younger members. Rory Keen also joined the team in October 2025 as part of his Duke of Edinburgh volunteering. Seeing older students step up in this way has helped to build a strong and respectful culture within the club.

The atmosphere on a Thursday is energetic and welcoming. Many young people arrive straight from school — often hungry and ready to burn off energy — and the mix of indoor and outdoor space allows them to do exactly that. There are structured sports and activities alongside time to relax and talk with friends. For many, it has become a reliable part of their weekly routine.

One of the most important roles the club plays is helping young people stay connected. As they move from primary school into different secondary schools across the area, the youth club gives them a place where friendships can continue. That weekly point of contact helps maintain the relationships they built in earlier years and provides a steady sense of belonging during a time of change.

Buckinghamshire Council has continued to play an important role by providing funding, staff support and professional guidance. This input has helped the club grow steadily and operate safely. Our partnership with the school also remains positive, with regular communication to ensure the space is used well and sessions run smoothly.

We have made a few practical improvements this year. A pool table, generously gifted last summer, has become a favourite feature and is in use every week. More recently, an internet hub has been installed to improve connectivity in a building where network coverage is limited. This has already made a noticeable difference to communication and activity options.

During the summer, Haddenham Parish Council organised a special event to welcome incoming Year 6 pupils before they moved up to secondary school. Activities included zorbes, dodgeball and a range of other exciting sports, giving new members a chance to experience the club in a relaxed and fun setting.

Feedback from parents continues to be very encouraging. Many have shared how much their children enjoy coming each week and how valuable it is for them to have a safe, structured place to spend time with friends.

Haddenham Parish Council's support goes far beyond funding. Their continued encouragement and practical backing have made a real difference to the wellbeing of young people in the village. We are always grateful for wider community support, and anyone

interested in volunteering or contributing in any way is welcome to contact the Parish Council.

Looking ahead, we are exploring grant opportunities that could help us improve the space further and expand the activities we offer. With strong attendance, developing young leaders and supportive partnerships in place, Haddenham Youth Club remains a place where young people feel welcome, connected and supported.

David Rollins  
Youth Worker