

CUBLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@cublingtonp-c.gov.uk Website: www.cublington.com

Report of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at Cublington Village Hall.

In attendance: Councillors G Antosiewicz, H Vale, M Waters, K Shults, Clerk A Head

Unitary Councillor J Ward and one member of the public.

Cllr Antosiewicz welcomed those present to the meeting and presented the Chair's report for the year.

Cublington Parish Council – Chair's Report & Review of the Year 2025-2026

The last year has been one in which we had to confront a number of issues – some expected, some not. We were really sorry to lose Mike Joy as our clerk at the end of 2025. Mike had worked with the Parish Council for 7 years, and we are extremely grateful for all his hard work and support over that time. We were, however, very pleased to welcome Alison Head to replace Mike. I am extremely grateful to Alison for all the help and support she has already given; and particularly thank her for sticking with us through a time when we have had to deal with difficult issues with very short deadlines. I look forward to working with Alison going forward.

We have been pleased to welcome and work with our new ward Councillors Kathy Gibbon and Julie Ward. They have already supported us with issues that have faced the village this year. We were delighted to learn that Kathy had nominated Cublington Parish Council for the Proud of Buckinghamshire Award.

The issue with the application for the HGV Operators licence was one we only found out about thanks to the diligence of a Council Officer who forwarded it to our clerk. After investigations into the process, we were able to post information for residents on the issues and the process on our village website. We are awaiting the decision of the Traffic Commissioner, but, as yet we have heard nothing further.

The publication of the Buckinghamshire Local Plan was – and it's probably not an exaggeration to call it this – a bombshell. The proposal to build on land between Wing and Cublington to the extent proposed would have unimaginable and irreversible repercussions on our community, environment and countryside. We hosted an open meeting which our ward councillors attended, and we worked hard to contact all residents to make sure they were aware of the proposal and provide information on how to object. We must now wait to see how this unfolds and be ready to object if, and when, this gets to the planning stage.

The other major issue which we continue to face is the volume and speed of traffic through the village. Traffic has long been a serious concern of the Parish Council. We commissioned a traffic survey and feasibility report. We are in the process, together with other villages in the area, of making enquiries about the possibility of the introduction of a 20-mph speed limit. The Road Safety Officer and Ward Councillors visited Cublington in April to review our issues and we await feedback. In the meantime, we are grateful to Sue and Roger Bottle for suggesting and designing the '20 is Plenty' advisory signs which have been placed around the village.

A summary of the feasibility report along with recommendations was published in The Crier and comments were invited. We received a disappointingly low response from residents. We cannot move forward with this without the support of the community as all measures have drawbacks and the cost is not inconsequential. Our task will be to consider how to now proceed. I am really grateful to Kevin and the team of volunteers for the ongoing Speedwatch work. Whoever we have spoken to regarding traffic in the village acknowledges that this is the single most effective way of reducing traffic speeds. It is also helpful in that the data collected can be used to support our work on deciding how best to move forward on the traffic issues. Thank you, Kevin for recruiting, training and organising the Speedwatch team.

We met regularly with our previous LAT who has now moved on; we have yet to meet his replacement. There are many areas around the village that are not our responsibility that we would like repaired and/or improved. Unfortunately, we must recognise that, due to the financial constraints of Buckinghamshire Council, repairs and improvements are not always carried out to a timescale or a standard that we would wish for.

The most positive event of the year was the Best Kept Village award. We couldn't have been more pleased and proud to have won the Gurney Cup. The presentation was a well-supported and enjoyable event and the plaque on Crossroads Green is a welcome addition to the village. We also used the opportunity to present our 'retiring' Councillors with a gift to thank them for their support and hard work on our behalf. We have entered again this year but in a different category – the one for previous cup winners, the Tindall Cup. Thank you Michael for your work co-ordinating and publicising this initiative and to all who contributed to last year's win.

The other good news is that Chatty Cafe, which was nominated for the Proud of Buckinghamshire awards has been shortlisted for the award. Maggie and Sally have been invited to the awards evening on 1st June.

We are still awaiting news on the future of The Unicorn and sincerely hope that a date for its re-opening will be announced soon. Our application to have The Unicorn redesignated as an Asset of Community Value has been submitted, we now need to support the application with information about how the absence of the pub has impacted the community. We are grateful to the Pub Group for all the work they have done and to Orchard Ground and Village Hall committees for offering opportunities for people to meet and socialise while we wait for the pub to re-open.

Orchard Ground and North Field continue to thrive. I am grateful to Orchard Ground Committee for all the work they do on upkeep and running of this valued facility. Thank you Martyn, for co-ordinating and leading the volunteers who support the work on North Field. It is exciting and rewarding to see the progress that is being made. We look forward to developing the pond area.

Hugh, thank you for all you do in and around the village - often behind the scenes. Your extensive knowledge of the village and your commitment to the work of the Parish Council is immeasurable. I would like to acknowledge all the village organisations – too many to name individually - that make Cublington what it is.

Finally, I would like to thank what must be an army of people who quietly do so much behind the scenes in and around the village and contribute to the community in so many ways – cutting hedges, mowing, organising rotas, putting out chairs (and tables), arranging meetings, looking after planters or just keeping an 'eye out' for a neighbour. Cublington is a special community and I know that all the Parish Councillors work hard in a variety of ways to preserve and enhance it. I am grateful for your support.