

DORMINGTON & MORDIFORD GROUP
PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Report
2012-2013

Foreword by Parish Council chairman

I am very pleased to present our annual report for the year 2012-2013. As always, the year has seen a mix of progress in some areas and delays in others, but we continue to strive to make the villages we represent better places to live. There is still much to do and there are plenty of initiatives under way.

We have attempted to find a new use for the Iron Room at Checkley, but despite our best endeavours have not found anyone interested in consistently using it. It simply is in the wrong place! We have therefore decided not to renew the lease. However, fortunately Major Hereford has other plans for the building and it will not be demolished as previously thought likely.

Major Hereford has also recently obtained planning permission for the area of green opposite The Moon pub, so the Parish Council now plan to take a lease for part of this area and maintain it for relaxation and leisure.

The affordable housing scheme at Sufton Rise – including allotments and a play area – has at last been submitted for planning approval and we hope that work will commence on the site later this year. The Parish Council will be responsible for managing the allotments so if you are interested in renting one, please let your local Councillor or the Clerk know.

Special thanks this year are due to several Councillors who took on the task of organising events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. These were a great success (despite the appalling weather on the bank holiday Monday!). Councillor John Litchfield and his footpaths team have done an excellent job in maintaining and improving the footpaths in the area, including replacing old stiles with new gates to improve access for all. The Lengthsman has continued to tackle a number of jobs such as cutting back overgrown vegetation and unblocking drains etc. If you see a problem that needs attention, please let us know.

Sadly, at the end of March, we said goodbye to Mel Preedy, our Clerk for the last four years, due to new work commitments. We thank her for her invaluable contribution, enthusiasm, expertise and professionalism and wish her and her family well for the future. On the positive side, I am delighted to welcome Mrs Chris Bucknell as our new Clerk. Chris works for HALC (as did Mel until recently) and she is Clerk to Wellington Parish Council. We have no doubt that she will be a great asset to DMGPC.

Looking forward, we will be seeking your views about Neighbourhood Planning. This gives the community a greater and legal voice in planning decisions, but there is a considerable amount of work for the Parish Council to do to achieve this status – including a local referendum about what is proposed as the plan for our area. Please remember that we are your representatives.

We much welcome your involvement by attending and contributing at our monthly Parish Council meetings, held at Mordiford School (third Tuesday of most months at 7.30pm – not August or December) and through your comments and suggestions which can be made via the Clerk or, of course, directly to any Councillor. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Nick Brewin