

It has been another steady and, in many ways, heartening year for Hulcott. As a very small parish of around 30 households and less than 100 permanent residents, our strength lies not in numbers but in the care people show for the place, and for one another.

Over the past year, the Parish Council has continued its role as a quiet steward of the village, keeping a close eye on matters that affect daily life while seeking to preserve the character and calm that residents value so highly.

One of the highlights of the year was the annual village green clean-up, which once again brought people together to look after a space at the heart of Hulcott. These small, shared acts speak volumes about the spirit of our parish.

The year also brought challenges. The disruption and damage caused by Hale Solar Farm construction traffic was our most significant issue. Through constructive dialogue and persistence, we were able to secure meaningful changes, resulting in a noticeable reduction in traffic movements through the village and associated roadside damage. We are continuing discussions with the developers and Buckinghamshire Council regarding post-construction remedial works to roads and verges and will keep residents informed.

We have also made the case that it would be appropriate for the developer to offer recompense to the village for the disruption caused and again, will update the village as matters progress.

The Hulcott Together WhatsApp Group has continued to have a positive impact on village togetherness, helping to keep residents informed and connect neighbours who may not otherwise see one another regularly.

Alongside these challenges, there were moments of genuine enjoyment and community. The recent Bangers and Bubbles event on the green was a welcome reminder of how important it is to pause, meet, and enjoy village life together. Thank you to everyone who attended, particularly those who helped with setting up and tidying away afterwards, and especially to Deborah for the catering.

Hulcott continues to evolve gently, as all places do. It has been especially moving to hear that Pam and Bob's legacy will live on in the village through the forthcoming arrival of her granddaughter Neve, along with Nathan, Sarah and Tommy. You will be very warmly welcomed into Hulcott.

As Chair, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and all residents for their continued interest, patience and support over the past year. The Parish Council remains committed to listening, acting where it can, and being transparent in all it does, while keeping costs low and governance proportionate to the size of our parish.

Hulcott thrives because people care about our green spaces, our quiet lanes, and the sense of belonging that comes from knowing your neighbours. The Council will continue to do its best to protect these qualities, while responding calmly and thoughtfully to whatever lies ahead.

On behalf of the Parish Council, thank you for being part of Hulcott.

Chair, Hulcott Parish Council