Harwell Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Chair’s Report | Friday 15 May 2026 | Cherry Hall

The year in one sentence

Harwell has become more open, more planned, and more confident in turning community priorities into practical work.

More open
Social comments enabled
More responsive updates

More planned
Forward Plan adopted
Budget linked to priorities

More practical
Pump Track+
MUGA / AGP groundwork

Communication that residents are using

Engagement has moved from noticeboard to conversation

2,000%
Content interactions

802%
Link clicks

350%
New follows

429.6K
Views

What this means

Residents are seeing, clicking, and following council information.
Social media is now a practical engagement channel, not just a broadcast tool.
The next step is to turn attention into evidence, feedback, and participation.

Clearer standards, better service

Service Policy

Sets expectations for how the council serves residents
Emphasises care, honesty, pride in the parish, and stewardship
Applies across councillors, staff, contractors, and volunteers

Feedback & Resolution

Replaces a complaints-first approach
Treats concerns as a chance to learn and improve
Creates an annual accountability loop

Wider governance

Planning response reasoning
Public participation
Scheme of delegation
Published policies and procedures

Forward Plan 2025-2030

A five-year framework for making choices openly

Community: Wellbeing, inclusion, and support

Facilities: Infrastructure, grounds, and recreation

Heritage: Culture, civic pride, and place

Environment: Biodiversity and climate resilience

Governance: Transparency, engagement, and performance

Projects moving from idea to delivery

Pump Track+

Construction underway during 2026
Built with OXtrails, contractors, volunteers, and residents
Recent damage is disappointing, but repair and protection keep the purpose intact

MUGA / AGP

Planning and S106 work authorised
Feasibility, layout, specification, and tender foundations being prepared
Future member approval before final delivery

Open spaces

Grounds team making visible daily difference
Equipment investment improves standards
Apprentice role supports resilience and local employment

Giving Harwell a stronger voice in planning

Neighbourhood Plan milestone

Harwell Parish designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 3 March 2026

Formal starting point for the Neighbourhood Development Plan

A route for residents to influence what is protected and prioritised

Why it matters now

Growth, infrastructure, roadworks, and services are connected issues

A plan gives local priorities more structure and weight

The next year is about meaningful community participation

What the public-facing activity tells us

Residents want practical updates

Road closures and bus changes
Potholes and reporting routes
Infrastructure scheme updates

Residents respond to visible projects

Pump Track+ progress
Community requests for help
Interest in recreation and youth provision

Residents need routes in

Annual Parish Meeting
Forward Plan feedback
Neighbourhood Plan engagement

The year ahead

Open and protect: Pump Track+

Progress: MUGA / AGP planning, funding, and specification

Engage: Neighbourhood Plan with residents and local groups

Embed: Forward Plan, communications, and performance reporting

Maintain: Open spaces, play areas, and everyday parish services

Thank you to residents, volunteers, staff, councillors, local groups, and businesses.

The aim is to keep listening, keep explaining, and keep turning plans into visible improvements.

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Research sources

Main public sources reviewed:

Annual Parish Meeting notice - Harwell Parish Council website, 5 May 2026: confirms the meeting as an opportunity to hear parish updates, share local group reports, and have residents' voices heard; Friday 15 May 2026, Cherry Hall, Harwell Village Hall, 7pm.

Forward Plan 2025-2030 - Harwell Parish Council Forward Plan 2025-2030: sets the vision of a professional, community-centred council, and identifies priorities including Pump Track+, Neighbourhood Plan, MUGA, Council Performance Dashboard, communications strategy, and recreation ground expansion.

MUGA / AGP papers - Harwell Parish Council February 2026 agenda and appendices: record the proposal to progress an AGP/MUGA at Harwell Recreation Ground, planning submission, and Section 106 funding application.

Neighbourhood Plan - Harwell Parish Council April 2026 appendices: confirm Vale of White Horse District Council designated Harwell Parish as a Neighbourhood Area on 3 March 2026, formally starting preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Pump Track updates - Harwell Parish Council website and Facebook-shared updates, March-May 2026: construction underway, community and business support acknowledged, and later update noting damage by motorised bikes while the site was still under construction.

Budget and precept - Harwell Parish Council plain English budget summary, January 2026: links the 2026-27 budget to the Forward Plan and invites residents to comment on priorities and trade-offs.

Governing documents - Harwell Parish Council governing documents page: lists the Service Policy, Feedback & Resolution Policy, Public Participation Policy, Planning Response Reasoning Policy, Scheme of Delegation, and related governance documents.