

2026 Ackworth Parish Council – Chairs Report

Year in the life of the Parish Council - 'What have we achieved in the last year?'

Buildings

- As mentioned last year, the new roof on Bell Lane was completed – ensuring the Centre remains in great condition for our community.
- Our staff team work hard to maintain our Cemetery to keep this village amenity peaceful, respectful and beautiful – which included supporting the additional repairs to the cemetery wall and gate.
- The new Ackworth Quarries Community Centre handover has been completed with staff working tirelessly to get this facility open for resident use.

Public Open Spaces, Play Areas & Sports Facilities

- We continue to support our Children’s Sports facilities within the village with our dedicated care taking team ensuring that pitches are marked, cut and facilities are clean and welcoming. Our playgrounds & outdoor exercise equipment continue to be inspected on a regular basis to ensure in the best condition for our younger community.
- We have refurbished & expanded play at Low Ackworth Park replacing the see-saw, trim trail and large climber.
- Our public open space trees have been assessed on their inspection cycle to ensure they remain safe for our residents enjoying our outdoor space
- A new 40-year lease for Townend/Low Ackworth Playing Field as been agreed between APC and WMDC and is currently being completed – secures the long term use of this public open space for our community

Events & Community

- We've had another year of successful community events - these being the Gala, Remembrance Day service attendance, beacon light for VE80, Christmas Light switch, our 2-day weekend Santa's Grotto, our Pumpkin and Sunflower Seeds sowing and weigh in, community Bulb Planting and Litter picks and our Community Art Competitions and Coffee Mornings with Councillors.
- This year we have focused on exploring grant opportunities to support our community further and have been successful in achieving grants from

Wakefield District Councillors, National Highways, and our first Wakefield Council Culture Grant.

- More focus this past year has been placed on networking with our local schools, including the schools in the recent Art Workshops, which works are on display at the Assembly as part of the Culture Grant – Our Parish Council Project Manager would like to tell you more on this.

What will we continue to focus on for 2026?

- Expansion of the new Christmas Light Provision for 2026
- Continue to focus on increasing attendance to the Parish Council Coffee Mornings with newly theme community events
- Bringing online of Ackworth Quarries Community Centre for both user groups and members of the public
- Handover of the Ackworth Quarries Public Open Space and Woods – retaining & developing a public open space within the village for years to come.
- Continue to explore funding opportunities for Ackworth and its residents.