

Community Committee Update

1. Introduction

At its meeting on 13th October 2025, the Parish Council considered a paper discussing closer working with the Derry Hill & Studley Community Committee. There are greater opportunities for this with the alignment of boundaries following implementation of the Community Governance Review.

It was resolved that Cllrs Todd and Williams would represent the Parish Council at a meeting with representatives of the Community Committee to discuss closer working.

This meeting took place on 3rd November. The purpose of this paper is to report back with the recommendations arising from the meeting.

2. Background

The Derry Hill & Studley Community Committee (DHSCC) was formed following the Platinum Jubilee celebrations with the objective of delivering events to celebrate important occasions, foster community cohesion and make Derry Hill and Studley a great place to live.

The Committee is volunteer-based and operates on a best endeavours basis.

To date it has delivered events including:

- Christmas market and lights switch on
- Best Kept Village entry
- Village tidy ups
- Wassailing
- Community Single Wicket Cricket competition
- The Coronation weekend
- The VE Day +80 events
- A Wellness & Sustainability event.

The other community feature delivered by the DHSCC is The Hub (<https://derryhillandstudley.org/>), a website that provides the village with “What’s On” listings, profiles of community groups and organisations, and information about local history and past events.

Some of the above events have been delivered in collaboration with the Parish Council. The DHSCC has also received financial support from the Parish Council for past events and for establishing the Hub. Otherwise, it is dependent on income generated at the events and occasional sponsorship of events by other parties.

Events planned over the next year include:

Month	Event	Remarks
December	Xmas Lights and Market	Now in its 3 rd year this event will be held on Sat 6 th Dec at the Lansdowne Hall. The Committee incurs costs related to hall hire and the brass band. Their income is limited to the profits made on drinks and snacks sold at the event plus some limited revenue from stall holders

Month	Event	Remarks
January	Wassail	In its 2 nd year this event is planned to be held on Sunday 4 th Jan 2026.
March	Newcomers welcome	This would be a new initiative where all those who have moved to the area in the previous 12 months would be invited to join the DHSCC and other local groups at Lansdowne Arms for a welcome evening. Costs for the event would likely include some refreshments provided by the pub. <i>NB There may be opportunity for synergy with the "Freshers Fayre" idea being developed by our Engagement and Participation Working Group.</i>
May	The DH&S Weekend	This is a new event in the planning which would see the community coming together for a weekend of activities and events. Included will be an Area Tidy Up (preparation for judging of Best Kept Village) and the annual Single Wicket Cricket competition along with some new and tried and tested activities to deliver a weekend of interest and fun to the community.
July	The DH&S Fete	The DHSCC has now taken over the running of the Fete and will deliver this on 11 th July in the normal fashion and at the normal location. The fete tends to be self-funding and, all being well, generates sufficient income to allow for the distribution of funds to local groups.
October	Community Tidy Up	The final event in this period will be a tidy up morning designed to keep on top of litter and infrastructure in need of repair.

3. Update from Meeting on 3rd November

Representatives of the Parish Council met with representatives of the DHSCC on the evening of 3rd November 2025, to discuss how the two organisations can better work together. The Parish Council was represented by Cllrs Todd and Williams, with Cllr Barnes and the Parish Clerk also in attendance.

Three options were discussed:

- Option 1: Parish Council supports with funding through the regular grant funding process.

This is how the Parish Council has supported the DHSCC in the past. However, changes to the Grant Funding Process (with a bi-annual window for applications) would make it difficult for the Council to support events with a shorter planning cycle.

- Option 2: include an annual allowance in the Precept Budget for support for the DHSCC, with the DHSCC applying to draw down the budget for specific needs.

Each request would be subject to approval at the next Parish Council meeting. This call-off process would be similar to the process established for funding defibrillator maintenance. It would provide flexibility, control and confidence to the DHSCC that funding would be available to support event planning.

- Option 3: bring the DHSCC into the Parish Council as an official sub-committee, comprising councillors and volunteers.

This option would provide benefits, such as improvements to governance and a strong financial basis, but would be likely to make the DHSCC less agile and may deter community volunteers.

The consensus of the meeting was that Option 2 provided the better model, with liaison improved by having two Parish Council representatives on the Community Committee.

4. Funding Requested by the Community Committee

The DHSCC is seeking the following annual support from the Parish Council:

Month	Event	Costs related to	Value
May	The DH&S Weekend	Refreshments for the Area Tidy up and hall hire	£50 + £100
October	October Community Tidy Up	Refreshments and hall hire	£50 + £40
November	Insurance	Multi event insurance	£484.50
December	The Hub	Web licences	£325
December	Xmas Lights and Market	Hall hire and Brass Band	£240
January	Wassail	The Wassail drink ingredients and Morris Dancers	£75 + £100
March	Newcomers welcome	Drink and nibbles	£100
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED			£1,564.50

It is noted that the DHSCC also needs to fund multi-event insurance this November, ahead of the Christmas Market Event, and will need to renew the licences that support the Community Hub at the end of December.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Parish Council continues to support the Derry Hill & Studley Community Committee deliver events that foster community cohesion. It is further recommended that:

- Cllrs Todd and Williams be confirmed as representatives of the Parish Council on the Community Committee through to May 2026.
- That a Budget Allowance of £1,000 be included in the Council's Budget and Precept Request for 2026/27, to be made available to the Community Committee, by application to the Clerk on a call-off basis and subject to Council approval at the following available full Council meeting.
- That a financial allocation of £809.50 should be made to cover the Community Committee's multi-event insurance cover and web licence renewal for this financial year, with the Parish Clerk authorised to make the payments on receipt of application. Allocation to be made from the Community Facilities Budget, funded from the 2025/26 Precept.
- That a memorandum of understanding is created and signed by both parties to detail the expectations on both sides of the working relationship.

Cllr John Barnes