



COMMUNITY COMPANY

GrantsHouse Community Newsletter

Summer - 2026

Welcome to the Summer Edition Newsletter: It has been a while since the last newsletter, and we will try to keep them quarterly. We are looking for volunteers to help with the ongoing Newsletters – so if you are interested, please get in touch with Trevor on 07909001865.

New WEB Site: The first thing we would like to bring to your attention is our updated WEB site. The address is the same – www.grantshouse.info – but the whole site has been transformed! It contains all the relevant information on what is going on – so please do have a look. I will often refer to the WEB site in the newsletters as there will be more detail, links etc. Our thanks to **Paul Beeley** for producing a WEB site we can be proud of!

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Action Plan: Most of you will remember the Community Survey that led to the production of the GrantsHouse Action Plan. All of what we do will support one or more of the themes in the plan – they are.

- **Recreation of the playpark – improve access and establish ownership**
- **Green Places and spaces – enhance natural spaces**
- **Community Facilities For All – develop a 'Hub', improve access**
- **Being Proud of our Community – enhance community spaces**
- **Getting About – maintain cycle and foot paths**
- **Making good other Amenities – enhance former Drysdale garages & old school**

Community Hub: Although progress has been slow since the kiosk was demolished, we are now at the stage where the new data gathered from below the slabs has been incorporated into the strategy for dealing with the contamination and the Council are happy for us to proceed – work will start late summer digging out the contamination.

In addition, the new Hub design had a positive initial response from the Council Planners. We have more work to do and we will hold a community meeting and invite everyone to get involved as we develop the final plans.

Please visit the WEB site for more drawings and images like this one.



Green Places and Spaces:

The paths at Houndwood extend to over 1.6 miles – they need constant clearing, cutting back and drainage maintained. Over 375 native trees have been planted and are starting to mature nicely. In addition, a community orchard has been planted with plums, apple, pear and cherry trees. These together with the existing apple trees mean there is a large variety of fruit to be found in the autumn months.

A host of wildlife and some interesting sculptures can be found throughout the walk.

The care and maintenance of the whole area have been made easier by an upgraded tractor and associated equipment – new storage is currently being installed and will make a huge difference to the dedicated volunteers who maintain this brilliant facility.





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Communications:

We aim to continue with the newsletter – but it will revert to being more ad-hoc. This means that some topics won't be covered - so keep checking the WEB site for updates. Additionally, if you would like to be put on the circulation list for other updates, including meeting minutes, please let us know if you would like to be put on the distribution list.

Former Drysdale Garages

The Community Survey highlighted the need to make good some of the other amenities and the former Drysdale Garages in particular. If you have passed the garages recently you will have seen that the whole frontage has had a facelift. New wooden doors have been installed along with planters and new gravel. This allowed the unsightly security fencing to be removed.

The flowers in the planters are providing a colourful array and the whole area looks much better.

The works were funded by the Quixwood Windfarm and the wooden doors and planters were made and installed by the SBC Justice Payback Team.

Our local volunteers placed and filled the planters with soil and then introduced the plants. They also installed the edging and covered the area with new gravel.

Our thanks to all those involved and to the current owners who have supported the whole initiative.



Community Company:

The Community Development Company Ltd is how we apply for grants and deliver the various projects. The company is made up of a board of 'trustees' who run the day-to-day activity and 'members' who get involved in decision making. If you would like to become a member of the company, please let us know.

Community Council:

The community council is due an election this year and was put back due to the parliamentary elections. We will probably run the election in the coming months but may postpone until next year. There are 8 spaces to be filled, and we have been carrying a vacancy (secretary) for the whole of this term. Anyone who is 18 years old and over - and who live in the community can apply.

More information will be put out nearer the time.

Playing Field & Play Park:

You will probably remember we started a project to develop the playing field and replace the playpark. Work on this stopped due to an issue with access. We are trying to establish how we can secure suitable access we will get going on developing the playing field and the Play Park.

Accessible Paths

We are fortunate to have some great green spaces – including the area behind the old service station – known to some as 'The Glade' or the 'Dell' - Houndwood walk of course.

Although the paths are well formed, they can be a challenge for some we aim to make them more accessible.

Work has started in the Glade to even out the steep sections on the West entrance and we will continue to form the path until it is much easier to use. Ideally, we would like to have wheelchair access along the full length.



Micro-Grant: Another reminder that money up to £250 (or £500 in special cases) can be granted to individuals or groups in the Grantshouse community. The funds are made available by Drone Hill windfarm and the criteria to apply is straightforward - if you would like to apply for funds, please check out the web site or use the contact details at the top of the page. Help is available to complete the application so do have a look.



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