

AGM Chairmans Brief

As the 2025/26 committee year draws to a close, it's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate what has been an incredibly busy, productive, and successful year for our Association and the wider Hempsted community. The Hempsted Residents Association (HRA) committee has shown real dedication, energy, and commitment — going above and beyond to ensure Hempsted remains a safe, welcoming, and thriving place to live.

This year has been defined not just by progress, but by people — a committee that has rolled up its sleeves, got stuck in, and delivered real results for residents.

We've strengthened relationships with newly elected local councillors and the City Council, making sure Hempsted's voice is heard loud and clear on the issues that matter most — from traffic management and green space maintenance to shaping how housing developments fit within our community.

But what truly sets this year apart is the action taken. The HRA hasn't just talked about issues — it has tackled them head-on. Committee members have worked tirelessly to resolve over ten open space issues across the village, from clearing fallen trees to improving bin provision. They've helped bring wider attention to key infrastructure concerns, even contributing to BBC News coverage on bridge issues affecting Hempsted.

The team has also stood shoulder to shoulder with residents, supporting the working group in response to Permal, while continuing to protect and improve everyday life in the village — helping to maintain vital bus routes, improving local travel information, and championing initiatives like Terracycling.

And it hasn't stopped there. The committee has worked proactively with partners to address speeding and road safety, and engaged directly with Bellway to tackle real, on-the-ground issues such as construction mud on roads, dust affecting residents' homes, trapped wildlife, and even burst water pipes. This is a committee that doesn't sit back — it steps forward and gets things done.

Alongside all this hard work, the HRA has continued to bring the community together. Our events have once again been a huge success, creating moments that truly define village life. From two brilliant quiz nights to our ever-popular stall at the school fête, the community has turned out in force — raising over £1,000 to support activities and resources for young children. A fantastic achievement and a clear reflection of Hempsted's generous spirit.

We've also shared some wonderful moments together at the Easter Party, the Church Christmas Tree Festival, Carols on the Quays in partnership with Gloucestershire Constabulary, the Bridge Party, and the VE Day celebrations — with the hugely popular "Hunt the Tommys" event bringing smiles across the village. These are the moments that strengthen our community — and your committee has been right at the heart of making them happen.

This year also marks the departure of Rev Nikki, whose contribution to Hempsted has been truly valued. She will be greatly missed. As a community, we now have a shared responsibility to carry forward the values, relationships, and sense of togetherness she helped nurture — and the HRA is fully committed to playing its part in that.

Looking ahead, the new committee for 2026/27 will build on this momentum with the same drive and determination — continuing to support the community, backed by the ongoing enthusiasm and involvement of our members.

Finally, on behalf of the HRA, I want to give a huge thank you to our committee members, volunteers, active members, and residents. Your time, effort, and passion are what make all of this possible. This isn't just an association — it's a community, and together, we are making it stronger every year.