



29 June 2026

Hi

I am writing as the new Chair of the Douglas Crescent Gardens' Committee. I and five others were elected at the AGM on Thursday 18 June 2026. The Minutes, prepared by Andy Ellis, were circulated to the Proprietors by Alan Weddell on 23 June and in the covering email he provided each of our addresses and emails (also provided at the end of this letter).

We are incredibly fortunate to have Douglas Crescent Gardens which is a super amenity. The previous Gardens Committee: Alan Weddell, Andy Ellis and Debbie Ellis; along with our gardener Ian Drumayne and volunteers have done an amazing job of managing and working in the gardens to make them the wonderful space and facility they are today. I especially want to thank the retiring Committee for their commitment to managing our Gardens.

The new Committee members are committed to encouraging wide and ongoing engagement of each of you in discussing how our gardens work. Discussion at the last 2 AGMs has flagged the need to review and modernise the working practices of the DCGA and the Gardens Committee, and this will be a priority.

The Committee needs to get up to speed and share out tasks and responsibilities, and we plan to do this over the coming weeks. Recognising we have lots of skills and knowledge amongst Proprietors, we are keen for anyone who doesn't want to be on the Committee but would like to participate and volunteer, to offer their services; and the Committee would also be delighted to co-opt additional members.

Once the Committee gets going, we will share information on: Committee discussions and decisions, and other relevant information, probably four times a year. We will invite and welcome feedback. It is too early to call this a 'Newsletter' but hope things will develop, and between Committee Members and all of you, the early e-mails will evolve and become more structured documents over time.

Various actions were agreed at the AGM which will determine our early priorities. Hence when the Committee met on Sunday 28 June (our first meeting) we agreed to pursue the following:

- Review and update the Rules & Regulations, which remain largely based on those drafted in 1893, ensuring they are in line with modern good practice and the properties' Title Deeds;
- Investigate the use of polling as a form of "Teledemocracy" to consult and engage with Proprietors;

- Assess projects to be addressed in a costed 3 - 5 year rolling programme of essential infrastructure works for the Gardens, for example: repairs & painting railings; paths & steps; water supply to top lawn & borders; and improved vehicular access for contractors.
- Explore options for improving the biodiversity and visual interest of the daffodil bank during summer and autumn months through sympathetic, shade-tolerant, low-maintenance meadow plantings.
- Review and update the DCGA website;
- Consider installation of a DCGA Gardens Notice Board like other Gardens in the EWH Site.

We welcome comments on our proposed priorities and other suggestions from you. The Gardens can be even more successful and act as a hub for communicating and socialising as well as enjoying the environment if more users of the gardens get involved and we share tasks.

Kind regards
Alan

On behalf of Lucas, Trevor, Jean, Robin, Anne and me
29 June 2026