

FLORE PARISH COUNCIL

FOUR YEAR PLAN

MAY 2021 – MAY 2025

FOREWORD

As a Parish Council, we are always trying to achieve the best for the village. We have considered our working practices and taken the decision to put a long term strategy in place in the form of a Business Plan. Its aims and objectives are as follows:

- To democratically represent all residents of Flore
- To provide the best possible service and amenities to meet the needs of all our residents and local taxpayers and to manage these within the most economical budget available
- To use Best Practice in all areas of its activities
- To forge partnerships with all other agencies to ensure that the wellbeing of our residents is enhanced
- To allow each and every voice of our community to be heard.

This plan is designed to form a long term vision for the Council to follow, many of the issues identified may take several years to be realised and significant sums of money will be required. It is our intention to review the Business Plan annually and to publish, progress and make any changes necessary as a result.

The purpose of the Plan is to;

- Set out the objectives and plans of the Parish Council, acknowledging the important role of community groups who have a vision in common with the Parish Council
- Help the Parish Council fulfil its role within the community
- Communicate the Parish Council's vision and plans to local people
- Provide a basis for local people to become involved in shaping the future of their village.

We would welcome your comments and would appreciate your views on its content.

If you require any further information that would help you understand our aims, please let us know.

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COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The work the Parish Council conducts is vital to the operation of the village and the community within it. It is equally important to keep the community informed of this work and encourage community involvement and interaction. The Councillors all work on a voluntary basis.

The Parish Council understands the need for good, clear communication as this helps residents understand what the Council is doing on their behalf. We will listen to the views of local people and make representations on their behalf whenever possible and will promote our work via the Flore Messenger, Flore Village website and Facebook.

We hope that this will encourage feedback that may help influence decisions and ensure they reflect the wishes of the community.

The Parish Council's website has been running for a few years and hosts policy documents, financial statements, minutes and agendas of previous Parish Council meetings. A new Facebook has been started by one of our Councillors and this can provide quick reactions to problems in the Parish.

The Parish Council will:

- Try to find ways to encourage parishioners to attend its meetings so that they are able to see how the Council operates and understand the decision making process
- Continue to reviews its website and social media accounts and investigate ways to improve and enhance them
- Continue to review its policies and procedures to ensure that it is run in a legal and business like manner

HOW WE WORK

As well as holding monthly meetings (the second Tuesday of the month in the URC schoolrooms at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise on the agenda) to discuss all matters relating to the village, the Parish Council also has a number of key areas that are looked at by individual Councillors and reported back at each meeting. They have no power to make decisions and must report back to the Council for the Council to further consider their recommendations.

From time to time there may be a requirement for additional working groups to be formed for the duration of a specific project. Committees and areas of responsibility are listed below:

Finance Committee

Kathryn Baines

Geoff Fellows

Chris Littlewood

Geoff Holden

Sue Halkett

Pension and personnel

Geoff Fellows

Sue Halkett

Tree warden

Chris Littlewood

Brodie Lodge Playing Field Committee

Geoff Fellows and Freya Davies

Flood Warden

John Thomason

Millennium Hall Committee

Andy Anderson

Street lighting and war memorial

Kevin Beasley

Parish council newsletter, Facebook and Youth Council lead

Freya Davies

Webmaster

Geoff Fellows

Highways representative

Simon Levell

Village Assets

All councillors

OUR FOUR YEAR PLAN

These focused committees and councillors with key areas of responsibility discuss monthly and agree actions to be taken. These actions may be reactionary such as fixing a bench or attending to a bus shelter, or they may be strategic and relate to projects for the future improvement of the village.

Reactionary actions are resolved at our monthly council meetings but our strategic objectives require more planning.

The business plan sets out our strategic objectives during the next four years.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

At a high level, our strategic objectives can be defined as:

- To help create a socially inclusive, caring and economically viable community which embraces all its residents irrespective of age, culture, income, race, gender, sexual orientation or religion and which seeks to develop their wellbeing, knowledge, understanding and mutual cooperation.
- To provide high quality, efficient, cost-effective and sustainable services.
- To promote and encourage the provision of a range of leisure, social, recreational and community facilities in the parish
- To provide a channel for the views and expressions of the local community and to be responsive to its needs and aspirations
- To develop partnership and agency working with public and private sectors in terms of resources and finance for the benefit of the community
- To liaise with and support local community associations
- To develop partnerships with residents, local businesses and local organisations
- To develop council meetings as a method of public engagement

- To improve the Parish Council's role within the local community
- To be an advocate for local residents and business and to address local issues.

To meet these objectives we need to identify specific projects and areas for improvement. Some of our specific objectives for 2021 – 2025 are:

- To seek the opinion of village residents about any areas that they would like to see prioritised and developed by way of a questionnaire to each household e.g new Village/Sports Hall
- To continue to work with the Linear Village Green working group to enhance the centre of the village following the bypass
- To advance plans for traffic calming in the village
- To compile and maintain an emergency plan for the parish in the format required by the County Council Emergency Planning Officer including an Emergency Flood Plan
- To encourage and help to develop more facilities for all ages
- To ensure that Councillor attend training courses to keep them up to date with the law and best practice
- To consider planning applications in the parish and to comment accordingly, in line with general planning policy and the Neighbourhood Development Plan
- to report any planning or environmental infringements to the appropriate authority
- To pursue the possibility of purchasing the car park at the White Hart if the opportunity arose
- To locate suitable land for a community facility.
- To start reviewing the Flore Neighbourhood Plan.

Reviewed July 2022