

HOW CAPLE, SOLLERS HOPE AND YATTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Vision and Action Statement

The purpose of this document is to bring together a vision for How Caple, Sollershope and Yatton Group Parish Council for the duration of the term 2023-2027. The document was adopted on 14.5.24.

It is intended as a working document to help formalise and plan the Parish Council's priorities with a clear and consistent approach. This will benefit forward planning of both time and financial purposes and will be developed through the input of current Councillors and consultation with Parishioners.

The main role of a Parish Council is to represent the interests of the community. We provide the first point of contact for our local authority, Herefordshire Council; and a focus for the community to identify concerns, and share their views and ideas. We will provide community leadership and collaboration with local organisations, sharing information within our remit to the community.

Highways and Transport:

Scope of Works & Current Activities:

The Parish Council (PC) currently has the power to engage with qualified contractors, usually called 'Lengthsman' to help maintain the rural roads networks 'C and U' class of road.

The Parish Council will continue to hold a budget to carry out Lengthsman work within our community. A Lengthsman can work on gullies, ditches, verges and general drainage but not the road surface or road markings. We will also continue to liaise with Herefordshire Council (HC) on the wider network condition, including A and B roads in and near our parishes, and items such as grit salt availability and verge cutting plans.

- The Clerk will keep a record and escalate any reports from the public for highways defects. Either the defect will be dealt with by our Lengthsman or escalated to HC.
- We will engage a Lengthsman for general maintenance within the parishes, i.e. clearing gullies, grips, signs, grit bins.
- We will always strive to apply and make best use of the grants and funding available.
- We will keep a record of the road network condition and prioritise jobs for repair or improvement.

Action Plan:

- Condition Assessment
- Prioritise improvements and assign budget
- Review funding opportunities
- Evaluate progress

We aim to:

- Deliver at least one speed indicator device on the B4224
- Carry out a condition assessment of the road drainage network on C & U roads, apply for funding and engage a contractor for the works.

- Engage with Herefordshire Council to assess the possibility of a bus stop for school children on the B4224.

Footpaths/Bridleways:

Scope of Works & Current Activities:

The Parish Council can engage contractors to work on the footpaths, to keep access open and improve the network. This can range from vegetation management; the repair or replacement of stiles; or to carry out improvements for access such as gates. The PC cannot attend to issues with bridges on the network but will handle any issues with HC.

- The Clerk will keep a record and escalate any reports from the public either to the PC or to HC. We will prioritise and engage with landowners, our own contractor or escalate and manage with HC if out of remit.
- We will develop a Parish Footpaths Team to monitor and maintain where possible the public rights of way in the three parishes.
- We will engage with local landowners where possible for vegetation management, repairs or minor access issues.
- We will always strive to apply and make best use of the grants and funding available.
- We will keep a record of the PROW network condition and prioritise jobs for repair or improvement.

Action Plan:

- Condition Assessment
- Prioritise improvements and assign budget
- Review funding opportunities
- Evaluate progress

We aim to:

- Improve accessibility to the footpath network with improvements to current stiles or replacing stiles with accessible gates as budget and grants allow.

Communications:

Scope of Works & Current Activities:

Communications with Parishioners and the wider public is critical to the PC successfully creating a thriving community culture and realising value for everyone involved, alongside informing parishioners how the precept is budgeted and delivered.

The Parish Council now has a number of ways to engage with the community and wider public, and will endeavour to bring as much information to each resident as we can. This will be in the form of:

- Website: Maintaining the current website with as much up-to-date information as possible.
- E-mail: Regular newsletters to our subscribers
- Social Media Outlets
- Hardcopy of information and newsletters via the use of notice boards and delivered newsletters.

Action Plan:

- Information assessment of current website
- Setup of regular newsletter by email
- Consider social media pages/outlets
- Review of notice board locations or improvements
- Review of website and ensure it is a focal point for parish council and community information.
- Ongoing communications - consolidated information from external organisations - such as HC, Police, other PC's.

We aim to:

- Publish a 6-8 weekly digital newsletter
- Publish a 6 monthly printed newsletter delivered to door
- Develop a gov.uk website and councillor email addresses
- Develop a PC Facebook page managed by our Clerk

Community Support and Involvement:Scope of Works & Current Activities:

The PC is committed to understanding the support needed by the community and strives to improve the support within our area for all ages and needs. This could range from coffee mornings, volunteering for maintenance days, arranged walks and community events.

Action Plan:

- Review support groups within our parishes or neighbouring areas.
- Review community events provided by third parties or the PC itself.
- Regularly share updates such as dates/times of what's on.
- Review the budget each year and assess where support can be provided.

We aim to:

- Work in partnership with neighbouring parishes and community groups
- Organise one community event per year either around a national or local celebration event.
- Investigate the availability of defibrillators to the parishes.

Places/Buildings and Land of Community Interest:Scope of Works & Current Activities:

As a small community, there are places of interest that are a very important part of the historic landscape and community. The Parish Council does not currently have any direct responsibilities for any land or buildings but it will do its best to support any that it legally can in the interest of the wider community, for example churches, monuments, viewpoints.

We currently use a neighbouring parish village hall for meetings and some events.

Action Plan:

- Assess the current NDP for places of interest - historic, geographical and natural assets.
- Consult the public on those identified or recommendations of those to be included.
- Review these and prioritise if any can be supported (financially or through maintenance/working groups/3rd party support)
- Review any public spaces or potential public spaces

We aim to:

- Support and engage with Brockhampton village hall

Environment: Climate Emergency and BiodiversityScope of Works & Current Activities:

Parish Councils have a duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity. The PC will review and improve our own environmental impact, and also support Parishioners to assess and improve their own environmental impact. Through sharing relevant information via newsletters and via the website, we can support access to the latest environmental schemes. We can also review how we manage our verges and any land we think could benefit from our input to protect and enhance its biodiversity. The PC can assist or arrange events such as litter picking.

Action Plan:

- Review of own environmental impact and where improvements can be made
- Share details of environmental schemes for homes, businesses and land
- Support any groups or arrange litter picking days if deemed beneficial to the community.

We aim to:

- Support any environmental activities within the parishes
- Support the Wye Valley National Landscape and CPRE's ambitions for a Dark Skies Herefordshire
- Support planning applications that include sustainable measures in compliance with the adopted NDP

Crime and DisorderScope of Works & Current Activities:

Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Parish and Town Councils have a duty to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area.

This means that they should review how they exercise their powers and deliver their services to comply with Section 17. Parish and Town Councils are in an ideal position to represent the views of their communities and ensure that local crime reduction strategies represent those views.

The most effective way to reduce crime at a local level is by following an evidence-based problem-solving approach. Parish and Town Councils can pay for crime and disorder reduction by using their precept for funds, grants and payments from developers under the Town and Country Planning Act, Section 106.

Action Plan

- Invite the Local Community Policing Team to each Parish Council meeting and to any community events
- Engage with the Local Policing Community Charter to identify and report the three main areas of concern within the parish.
- Consult with parishioners to understand where concerns lie
- Research and consider SmartWater for protection against theft
- Report any incidents of fly-tipping, littering (if identifying information is available) to Herefordshire Council
- Share newsletters or information about local policing events via the website and newsletter

- Maintain actions to address littering, speed, anti-social behaviour, rural crime

We aim to:

- Work in partnership with all relevant authorities including West Mercia Police Community Policing Team and Safer Roads Partnership, and Herefordshire Council.
- Organise free crime prevention sessions for residents of the parishes
- Listen and endeavour to address any concerns raised by parishioners

Visitors/Tourism:

Scope of Works & Current Activities:

Visitors to our parishes play an important part to many rural businesses and historic buildings. The Parish Council is committed make visitors welcome and enjoy our rural areas by making information and areas easy to access.

Action Plan:

- Review what information is available to visitors and where.
- Assess and action what we can provide and when, such as information boards, improvements to footpaths, rest areas, viewpoints, etc.

We aim to:

- Encourage visitors to the area and support local tourism
- Provide accurate, succinct and easy to find information on local areas of interest

Planning with the Parishes

The Role of a Parish Council on Planning Matters is to represent local views and should:

- Provide local knowledge
- Raise areas of concern
- Inform, debate, and add value to the process
- Contact and involve District Councillors if required.

Parish Councils are statutory consultees in the planning process and must be informed of all planning applications, and any amendments to those applications, within the parish. The PC can only comment on these planning applications in the same way as any other member of the public, however, any comments by the PC must be agreed during a properly called public council meeting. Comments agreed in the council meeting are submitted in writing by the Parish Clerk to the relevant planning authority.

The Parish adopted a Neighbourhood Development Plan in 2019 which was supported by the community and sets out the parishes' ambitions for development until 2031. At the time of writing this plan, Herefordshire Council are consulting on a draft Local Plan 2021-2041. It is understood that the Parish Council may need to instigate a review of the NDP as a result of the Local Plan.

Action Plan:

- Maintain an active Planning Working Group to monitor planning applications
- Encourage parishioners to consult the NDP prior to submitting a planning application to HC
- Encourage local response to Herefordshire Council's Local Plan Consultations
- Assess HC's draft Local Plan for any impact on How Caple, Sollershope and Yatton

We aim to:

- Respond to planning applications using the adopted NDP as a guide
- Review the NDP if required following guidance from Herefordshire Council