

WILTON TOWN COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN

Introduction

The Town Council took the decision several months ago that it should be more pro active and less reactive. The Council decided that to achieve this it needed to have a long term strategy; this was to be in the form of a Forward Plan. A small sub committee of the Finance & General Purposes committee was set up and chaired by Cllr Trevor Batchelder, this Forward Plan is the result of the work carried out by this committee. The plan is designed to form a long-term vision for the Town Council to follow; many of the issues identified may take several years and significant amounts of money to achieve. The Town Council has not set any dates or targets for the identified issues as some will take the help and resources of external bodies, and this will be dependant on the available resources. It is hoped that this Forward Plan will help attract external funding over a number of years to help the Town Council achieve its aims, and it will be a rolling document, reviewed annually and amended as the various aims and objectives are achieved, and new ones identified.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Key: TC – Town Council
F&GPC – Finance & General Purposes Committee
A&PC – Amenities & Planning Committee

Communities

To engage with voluntary groups in the area with practical support and via grants, and to encourage the provision of and use of existing Town Council buildings and facilities.

AIM: To ensure that the parish has sufficient buildings for the wider community to use, and to make those who need access to such facilities are aware of them.

ACTION by F&GPC: To conduct an audit of Town Council buildings and facilities, **and take on community assets and services from Wiltshire Council, including the Sheep Fair Field, public toilets, CCTV, and the unused buildings at Bell Lane**

AIM: To support of local volunteer groups and sports organisations with the work that they carry out, within the parish community.

ACTION by F&GPC: To distribute by the grants system monies to those organisations that qualifies for such grants.

Heritage and Civic Life

To focus on heritage projects such as archives, museum, cemetery and the rich local history as represented by the civic office of Mayor.

AIM: To preserve the social history of the parish for future generations and to make it available to the public. To help those people that has an interest in their family history.

ACTION by A&PC: To create a heritage page for the Town Council website with information and links to other appropriate websites. Digitalise the cemetery records, and make them available on line.

AIM: To recognise the valuable contribution that local volunteers past and present make and have made to all aspects of local life.

ACTION by TC & Mayor: To continue to support and help organise the annual Remembrance Sunday service in conjunction with the local branch of the British Legion. To develop an annual Wilton Civic Awards ceremony to be held each spring.

Health

To encourage access to open spaces and promote health and wellbeing by providing allotments and supporting sports groups and organisations. **To improve the youth, leisure and sporting facilities in the Town**

AIM: To improve the health of the parish by better exercise and the production of healthy locally produce food, which will also achieve a reduction in food miles.

ACTION by A&PC: To pursue the transfer of ownership of the Sheep Fair Field from Wiltshire Council to the Town Council for use as allotments and open space, and to conduct a feasibility study to establish likely cost.

AIM: To provide healthy and safe play facilities, to encourage young people to spend more time out of doors and to engage in physical exercise.

ACTION by A&PC: To pursue the possibility of introducing further play areas, in particular skate parks and bike ramps.

AIM: To encourage walking and cycling as a hobby and as a means of helping people maintain or improve their fitness levels.

ACTION by A&PC: To improve and where possible increase the quality and amount of foot paths and bridleways in the parish. Liaise with other organisations that provide details these, and also details of walks and cycle tracks

Environment

To encourage sustainable lifestyles, a high quality local environment and appearance of the Town; to make every effort to prevent dog waste fouling the area.

AIM: To improve the visual aspect of the area.

ACTION by A&PC: To take steps to provide or encourage the principal authority to provide plants/bulbs in grass verges/areas, including identifying parcels of land which would benefit from such planting, and to undertake such planting schemes where appropriate on its own land. **To install new welcome signs at the town entrances on the A36/A30/C**

AIM: To provide a safe and pleasant environment for walking.

ACTION by A&PC: Work in conjunction with Wiltshire Council to improve overgrown, dirty and cracked pavements.

AIM: to help to improve the environment of the Town by better use of the available land, the education of residents and the children of the parish through initiatives in our local schools etc. To attract external funding for environmental projects and training. To support the environmental groups that exist .

ACTION by TC: To continue to support the work of the environmental groups and local Community Land Trust.

Planning

AIM: To use the land resources of the Town to ensure that the Town maintains its individuality and separateness from Salisbury, whilst developing a housing strategy to cope with future demand, which makes the best use of available land and which protects, as far as possible within the Town Council's power, the green belt for future generations.

ACTION by A&PC: To develop a Neighbourhood Plan with the support of Wiltshire Council to support sensible development, maintaining the openness of the Green Corridor.

Transport

AIM: To enable those without access to private transport to enjoy a better quality of life, to provide local solutions to local transport problems.

ACTION by F&GP: To promote the improvement of public transport and encourage its increased use by the general public. To support local community transport initiatives' such as the Wilton & District Link Scheme, and to support Wiltshire Council's and the Swindon & Wiltshire Economic Partnership's joint scheme for the re-opening of Wilton Station.

AIM: To encourage cycling as a form of transport around the Town and its surrounding area, and as a means of improving the health of residents. The reduction of carbon based emissions.

ACTION by A&PC: To assist in the provision of decent cycle paths in conjunction with the relevant authorities and organisations. Encourage and support the Town and surrounding villages as a venue for Olympic Legacy cycling events.

Representation and Communication

AIM: To help ensure that the decision makers are aware of and take note of public opinion. To increase the awareness of the facilities and business in the Town, and to improve and promote economic activity in the town. To act as a source of information to those people who may be considering moving to or visiting the area. To ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the sporting, community facilities, social groups and volunteer organisations. **To make more use of Castle Meadow for community events and to make more use of Old St Mary's Churchyard as a quiet space for people to meet and chat.**

ACTION by TC & F&GPC: To listen to the views of the local population and make representations on its behalf whenever possible. To promote the work of the Town Council by better use of electronic media. Continually update the development of the Town Council website to include local community and volunteer groups and local business and relevant links to other suitable websites. To use the website as a method of community feedback so residents may raise their concerns by better use of the website's communication facilities. To facilitate the creation of a Town Team as a

working group comprised of representatives of those local organisations keen to promote all aspects of the Town to its residents and wider world. To identify a venue for, and then set up and run, a Tourist Information Centre. To install a Town Trail for visitors and tourist alike, to help integrate the new residents and businesses on the Wilton Hill/Erskine Park sites into Old Wilton.

Reviewed November 2015