

Strategic Plan



'To develop and sustain a sense of community within the parish of Fawley by addressing environmental, economic and social issues and delivering quality services to our Parishioners'.

FAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 - 19

The Mission of Fawley Parish Council¹ is:

*‘To develop and sustain a sense of community within the parish of Fawley
by addressing environmental, economic and social issues and
delivering quality services to our Parishioners’.*

Our strategy is based on three main objectives:

1. THE ECONOMY

Fawley Parish Council wishes are to support the economic growth of the Parish to ensure its future prosperity. This means recognising that local business, enterprises, industry and work opportunities are the main drivers of the local economy and supporting its further development. The Council actively encourages the development of alternative sectors of economic development that supports and encourages employment opportunities and skills training for local people in our Parish.

2. THE ENVIRONMENT

To ensure that economic development of the Parish is sympathetic to its environment. Fawley Parish Council should carefully consider the issues of traffic and parking, public transport, coastal protection, housing and commercial development. We adhere to any relevant legislation. As a Parish Council we recognise that urgent action is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage the impacts of climate change.

3. THE COMMUNITY

As a local council we are close to our community. We take care of it by providing local leadership. This is an important role and as community representatives we want to improve the quality and range of local services. To this end we are committed to becoming actively involved in all parts of our community by working closely with voluntary and community groups so that we are able to articulate their needs through effective communication. We will work in partnership with New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council, and other agencies, including neighbouring parishes, so that we can pursue our ambition to give our local

¹ FPC strategy is based on Dartmouth Town Council Strategy Document 2014

community a better deal on local services and a stronger voice on decisions that affect their day to day lives.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

THE ECONOMY

Fawley Parish Council wishes are to support the economic growth of the Parish to ensure its future prosperity. This means recognising the potential of tourism, local enterprise and job opportunities are the main driver of the local economy, and supporting its further development, while at the same time encouraging the sustainable development of alternative sectors of economic development.

Supported by the following

Policy 1:

To support local infrastructure by:

- (a) Ensuring that any rents/leases of council assets/facilities are achieving the 'best rent obtainable'
- (b) Rolling Maintenance of our properties (see also Policy 4 (a))

Policy 2:

To work with the community and our partners to:

- (a) Provide appropriate facilities to our parishioners to access festivals, culture, music, food and other events of local interest.
- (b) Work with outside bodies to find ways to develop and extend the facilities both sporting and community meeting provision provided by the Parish Council
- (c) Obtaining ongoing funding for community groups and local charitable organisations within our Parish.
- (d) Providing facilities to support the Armed Forces Day and other national events celebrated locally.
- (e) Taking a leading role in arranging the commemoration of the Armed Forces Day and other national events celebrated locally.
- (f) Working with our partners to find ways to develop skill and offer training leading to further job opportunities to local and young people and where possible link to the tourist attractions and local business that are within and adjacent to our parish.

Policy 3:

To work with the Economic Development Officers at New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council and with all other key stakeholders to attract suitable businesses to the Parish by:

- (a) Identifying sectors to attract new business and actively promote Fawley and South Waterside area as a good business location.
- (b) Supporting the provision of competitive employment space for any future developments.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

THE ENVIRONMENT

To ensure that economic development of the Parish is sympathetic to its environment. Fawley Parish Council should carefully consider the issues of traffic and parking, public transport, coastal protection, housing and commercial development. We adhere to any relevant legislation. As a Parish Council we recognise that urgent action is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage the impacts of climate change².

Supported by the following

STRATEGIC POLICIES:

Policy 4:

To ensure that our local environment is attractive and well maintained by:

- (a) Maintaining our corporate properties to the highest possible standard and establishing a rolling maintenance programme to ensure their upkeep
- (b) Working in partnership with other agencies to ensure that the parish is kept clean, tidy and aesthetically pleasing
- (c) Maintaining the appearance of the Parish through the activities and recommendations identified in our responses to planning carried out at Fawley Parish Council meetings.
- (d) Supporting the extension of Conservation Areas.

Policy 5:

To continue to take an active and listening role in the maintenance and improvement of public transport services in the parish, including:

- a) Facilitating public transport in the area supporting improvement
- b) Continuing to support connectivity
- c) Objecting (when necessary) to the withdrawal of transport within the Parish and neighbouring areas.

Working for the improvement of local bus services and develop the wider use of any Fawley Parish Council transport where appropriate to continue to improve connecting the villages within Fawley Parish, Hythe, the wider New Forest Area and Southampton.

Policy 6:

To ensure where possible that Fawley Parish Council protects land owned by the council with a priority of supporting the provision of public open space for community use.

To ensure that adequate provision is made for both on-street and off-street parking for residents and visitors by:

- (a) Formulating an agreed traffic and parking policy in partnership with other local stakeholders, and

² Burton Bradstock Parish Council sustainability statement

(b) Working with all relevant agencies towards its implementation

Policy 7:

Working to support national and local policies for recycling, and in particular supporting a local recycling centre, combined with supporting local community compost and recycling schemes.

Policy 8:

Working with all sections of, and organisations within, our community to preserve and enhance our natural and built heritage.

Policy 9:

We support a thriving community that is environmentally sustainable and socially aware. As a Parish Council we recognise that urgent action is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage the impacts of climate change.

- 1) As a Parish Council we will show our sustainability commitment and leadership by:
Helping to spread information about climate change impacts , share learning through parish events/ newsletters and encourage adaptation and mitigation actions,
- 2) Embedding sustainability in all Parish Council decisions and actions - starting by:
 - a) Systematically reducing the carbon footprint of Parish Council activities, achieved by auditing the carbon emissions from Parish Council operations/properties and developing year on year actions to reduce emissions;
 - b) Using planning powers under the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 to promote sustainable development, low-carbon lifestyles and development that is resilient to climate change in our parish;
 - c) Using the Parish Council procurement activity to both reduce our direct carbon footprint through the purchase of energy efficient, low carbon intensive goods and services and by influencing our supply chain through setting demanding standards and/or changing tender practices.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

THE COMMUNITY

To work in partnership with other local authorities and agencies so that we can pursue our ambition to provide our local community with a better deal on local services and a stronger voice on decisions that affect their day to day lives.

Supported by the following

STRATEGIC POLICIES:

Policy 10:

Fawley Parish Council's Community Engagement Policy aims to outline the means of engagement with its residents and partners and how these might develop and improve over time. In so doing it recognises that the services it provides must reflect the needs of its parishioners and the locality.

The Council strongly believes that its residents should be involved in decisions affecting them and their neighbourhood and in shaping the future of their Parish. This will be achieved by identifying the most appropriate way to engage with residents and partners.

(1) The Parish Council engages with its residents and partners by;

- (a) informing, consulting and involving
- (b) being inclusive and engaging with all of its residents and partners
- (c) Ensuring views are listened to and used to develop, enhance and improve services, the environment and the quality of life of those who live and work in the Parish.
- (d) Arranging regular open meetings for residents which would include involvement from the police, other community groups, District and County Council representation.

(2) The objectives are;

- (a) To improve, plan and shape the future of the Parish according to local needs and priorities
- (b) To improve the quality and delivery of services
- (c) To use engagement to ensure decisions are fit for purpose and meet the needs of the Parish
- (d) To be a stronger, more active and cohesive Parish.

Policy 11:

To work with, and for the benefit of, all parts of our community from the young to the elderly:

- (a) By supporting senior citizens' groups
- (b) By encouraging use of the Local council amenities and other associated community facilities by local groups.
- (c) By continuing to provide assistance to any Food Banks in the Parish and other community groups as required.
- (d) By engaging with the young people of our Parish through consultation and by maintaining our existing close relationships with local schools and youth organisations
- (e) Ensuring every effort is made to engage with 'Hard to Reach' groups
- (f) By examining our relationships with all local organisations to ensure that the local community is receiving best value.
- (g) Supporting residents' requirements for accessible and useable local open spaces.

Policy 12:

To promote a 'Digital by Default' ethos, not forgetting those who are digitally excluded that continues to build, maintain, and improve communication with councillors, the residents of Fawley Parish and local organisations.

- (a) Our aim is to obtain their views by all means necessary, including the local press by way of regular press statements, newsletters, notice boards, social media, and by development of an improved Parish Council website.

Policy 13:

To support the aspiration of local residents for Facilities and events that will interest and benefit local people of all age groups by working with any relevant stakeholders to realise this aim, and working to ensure its continued viability.

- (a) We will support local Parish activities for local groups where no organisation/company/group exists. Where the council is required to organise the event for it to occur the council 'Event Organiser' will coordinate such events where they occur on Council land or in Council buildings.
- (b) Where organisations/companies/groups seek to use council land/building and they obtain financial gain from the event then the current fees for using such facilities will apply.
- (c) Where there is a joint interest from the council to run an event with an organisation/company/group then this will be on the basis of supporting the start up (if it is proposed to be an annual event). This will ONLY be to support (where possible within available resources) year 1 start up unless; in exceptional circumstances additional support from the council is required. In any case this will need to be approved by council.

Policy 14:

To work with other agencies and stakeholders to identify land and affordable housing for local residents, such development to be of a sensitive nature, including provision of employment and facilities

Policy 15:

To continue to refine our own activities so as to provide both best practice and best value to the ratepayer. This will include an investigation into the benefits gained by having Quality Parish Status.

Policy 16:

To develop and maintain an effective health and safety policy for our staff and for all others using Parish Council assets or facilities.

Policy 17:

To continue to liaise and work closely with the District Council regarding the possible transfer of assets and/or services that are considered both desirable, cost-effective and sustainable.

Services that might be considered include, inter alia:

- (a) Grass and verge cutting Maintenance of spaces currently maintained by the District and/or County Council

Policy 18:

To continue to develop good working relationships, where necessary, with parish councils in neighbouring communities with a view to sharing of information and liaison on matters of mutual concern. This will include both initiating and hosting cluster meetings

Policy 19:

To work with statutory and voluntary organisation to improve community safety, in order to comply with our duty to consider the implications of crime and disorder.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states - Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

- (a) To support a Community Safety strategy that encompasses anti-social behaviour and disorder (including behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.
- (b) To support the protection of local communities from the threat and consequence of criminal and anti-social behaviour.
- (c) To support in partnership the aim to reduce both crime and the fear of crime.