

**POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – 15 MARCH 2023**

**STRATEGY OF COUNCIL**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report introduces the policies and intended actions of the Council in relation to the Strategy 2019 – 2023 and itemises what the Council has done under each. It should be noted that 2 years of this period were affected by COVID 19 and the restrictions placed on public gatherings and meetings.

**2.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: THE COMMUNITY**

**2.1 Policy 1**

The Council 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 ways to engage with residents and partners.

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 may include involvement from the Police, other community groups, District and County Council representation.

**2.1.1 What we have done**

- Both the Council and the Sports side websites have been upgraded with the Council now able to post news and information immediately; both websites meet the accessibility criteria
- The Council has undertaken one street meet and one general consultation in the previous 12 months as well as three locality specific consultations with residents
- The Council with NFDC consulted on the Dog Walking Area at Gang Warily.
- The Clerk and Councillors consulted users of the School Holiday Club/Calshot Youth Club as to what they would like to see
- A Community Consultation was recently undertaken.
- Monthly newsletter commenced end of January 2023
- Social media is used to gain feedback from residents
- The Annual Parish meeting in 2019 focussed on Enforcement of environment issues arising from fly-tipping, stray dogs, abandoned cars etc.
- The Annual Parish Meeting this year is focussing on the cost-of-living crisis

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### 2.1.2 What we have not done

- We have not undertaken the consultation levels that we would have liked to have undertaken however we are planning more for the next 12 months
- We have not prepared and distributed a newsletter style of information

## 2.2 Policy 2

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

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

### 2.2.1 What we have done

- We have continued to build on our youth service and engage with our partners.
- Our venue and facilities are fully accessible and welcoming to all ages
- We arranged Diamond Jubilee celebration events for the community
- We support senior citizens use of facilities at Gang Warily
- We arranged a tea party for volunteers
- With the help of the Falcon Inn we convened a tea in memory of Queen Elizabeth
- Our websites are encouraging use of the council facilities and we are endeavouring to make them more attractive and reduce visual barriers to use
- We operate a grant system, a warm room, family access to showers and a community washing machine

### 2.2.2 What we have not done

- We have not undertaken any specific consultation and engagement with hard to reach groups
- We have not consulted on what residents would like in the open spaces

## 2.3 Policy 3

To ensure Fawley Parish Council has effective communication channels so we can engage with all our residents. This will be achieved by:

- a) Using social media.

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- b) Having an effective website.
- c) Regular public meetings.
- d) Utilising media channels.
- e) Active use of Parish notice boards.

### 2.3.1 What we have done

- We have issued regular press releases on Council activities
- We have utilised facebook
- We have upgraded our websites that are fully accessible
- We have reviewed our meeting structure and introduced a Planning Committee
- Our Parish noticeboards have been reviewed by councillors and are in use by the Council

### 2.3.2 What we haven't done

- We have not held regular public meetings aside from council meetings
- We haven't asked people how they wish us to communicate with them

## 2.4 Policy 4

To work with statutory and voluntary organisations to improve community safety, in order to support:

- a) 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) The protection of local communities from the threat and consequence of criminal and anti-social behaviour.
- c) Reducing both crime and the fear of crime and re-offending in our parish.

### 2.4.1 What we have done

- Our youth service has been undertaking detached work to known areas with youth issues
- Our youth workers are undertaking training including childrens first aid for mental health and drug and alcohol use
- We are assisting with the reinvigoration of Pubwatch on the Waterside
- We have fed into the Community Safety Strategic Assessment for the New Forest

### 2.4.2 What we haven't done

- We have not developed a community safety strategy

## 2.5 Policy 5

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.

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- a) We will support local Parish activities for local groups where no organisation/company/group exists. The council may provide planning guidance or coordinate events when they occur on Council land or in Council buildings.
- b) Where organisations/companies/groups seek to use council land/buildings 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 costs and organisation. If it is proposed to be a regular event support will only be provided for the first year. In exceptional circumstances an additional application for further support may be made to the council for approval.

### 2.5.1 What we have done

- We have run events for Armed Forces Day, Fireworks Night, Christmas Fair and other bespoke events
- We have supported Fawley Village Events

## 2.6 Policy 6

To take an active role in supporting the provision and improvement of public transport services in the Parish

### 2.6.1 What we have done

- We are working with HCC to improve the bus shelter provision in the New Forest
- We have responded to HCC consultations on road and rail transport
- Councillors have identified an alternative to the train from Hythe to Southampton

## 3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: THE ENVIRONMENT

### 3.1 Policy 7

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

- a) Working in partnership with other agencies to ensure that the parish is kept clean, tidy and aesthetically pleasing.
- b) Maintaining the appearance of the Parish through our responses to planning applications.

#### 3.1.1 What we have done

- We have tasked our grounds and maintenance team to keep in good order the Parish lands
- We have provided planters and hanging baskets in summer and winter
- We have undertaken and supported litter picking volunteers
- We have offered to undertake additional activities under devolution agreements however the principal authorities have not taken us up on this

### 3.2 Policy 8

Working to support local re-use, re-purpose and recycling initiatives

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### 3.2.1 What we have done

- We have supported the Mens Shed
- We are planning this Council's green waste composting area

### 3.3 Policy 9

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

#### 3.3.1 What we have done

- We have taken care to respond to planning applications related to the natural and built heritage
- We supported the Waterside Heritage Group with grants
- We arranged for the retention of historical material in Hampshire archives
- We arranged for a presentation to the Parish meeting by St Barbes Museum staff

### 3.4 Policy 10

We support a thriving community that is environmentally sustainable and socially aware. As a Parish Council we recognise that action is required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage the impacts of climate change. Embedding sustainability in all Parish Council decisions and actions – starting by:

- a) 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 the Parish Council procurement activity to remove and/or reduce our direct carbon footprint through the purchase of energy efficient, low carbon intensive goods and services.

#### 3.4.1 What we have done

- We have implemented an electric heating system at QE2 and de-commissioned the gas boiler heating
- We have commenced moving the fleet to electric vehicles
- When we have replaced hand tools we have replaced petrol motor driven with battery operated

## 4.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 – THE ECONOMY

### 4.1 Policy 11

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

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

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- c) Working with our partners to find ways to develop skills 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.
- d) Supporting and encouraging local businesses to maximise their business opportunities whilst creating a vibrant shopping experience within the Parish

### 4.1.1 What we have done

- We have provided employment space
- We have provided space for training facilities

## 4.2 Policy 12

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

### 4.2.1 What we have done

Despite meetings and offers from the Parish Council to the District and County there has been no movement or engagement by either Council. This appears to be contrary to devolution agreements in other areas.

For further information please contact:

Stephanie Bennett

Clerk to the Council

02380 890761

[Stephanie.bennett@fawley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Stephanie.bennett@fawley-pc.gov.uk)