

Strategy for the Council Term 2019-2023

Purpose and Role of the Parish Council.

- Improve quality of life in the parish
- Make the parish a desirable place to live
- Increase community involvement in local affairs
- Act as advocates on behalf of the community with other local bodies
- Seek consensus
- Protect people and local amenities to make it a vibrant and dynamic community

Future Projects and Activities

- **Review of the Neighbourhood Plan**

This could be carried out as a full review from first principles or a “light touch” approach reviewing the existing policies and wording.

[It was agreed that the MSDC SHEELA review of District wide development sites should be completed before any major work was started but should be done within the term of the current Council.](#)

- **C319 Traffic Calming**

Whilst some work has been done by WSCC this is an ongoing issue for the Parish and Gatwick’s proposed Masterplan and the impact of work at both Philpots Quarry and Ibstock brickwork clay extraction need to also be considered.

[This is ongoing. The Asset & Highways Committee to consider the implications of purchasing a dedicated portable Speed Indicator Device and whether there is a benefit in the parish having its own or continue to share access to the 2 within the local Cluster.](#)

- **North Lane Recreation Ground Pavilion**

Early in the New Council term a decision needs to be made on the future for the pavilion. Options include refurbishing the current building, replacing the building and demolishing the existing building with no replacement.

[This is a priority project to progress.](#)

- **Local History Archive**

The Archive is currently dependant on an individual. The PC needs to consider the value of the Archive to the community and any role the PC has in its possible future. Potential future storage of the physical archive has been identified in the Village Hall (subject to improvement of the old Chair and Table Store as part of the project to replace the staircase access to the Village Hall Flat).

This is currently being considered by the Hall Management Committee. The committee hope to have some firmer costs by October so that a proposal can be brought to the October Parish Council meeting.

- **Local Heritage Trail**

A working group of councillors along with a local resident has produced a West Hoathly Heritage Trail Leaflet. Information Boards in support of the Trail are to be produced (most of the cost has been covered by grants from the Parish Bonfire Society and Gatwick Airport Community Trust). The preparation of the Trail has led to an identification of improvements that could be made to the appearance of parts of the village. The Parish Council proposed that future work should look at preparing a Trail around Sharpthorne.

The leaflets are now available. There will be 3 Information boards for which the final details are being agreed. Once these are in place the Trail will be officially launched. It is hoped this will be in September.

- **Recreation For All**

The playgrounds in West Hoathly and Sharpthorne provide facilities for younger children. The PC should explore options for providing facilities for older children and adults and making these easily accessible in all weathers. This should consider how the playarea can be accessed along a defined path.

This needs to be scoped before progress can be made.

- **Consider how feasible it would be to develop a cycleway from the parish to East Grinstead.**

Whilst options available are limited this is still a project the Parish Council would like to pursue if at all possible.

A Task Group will be set up to look at all possible options. A first meeting of Paul Brown, Anne Halligey, Claire Hilton and Douglas Denham St Pinnock will meet in September. After the first meeting which will look at background and scope the residents will be invited to attend further meetings.

- **Encouraging Pride of Place**

Supporting and celebrating local volunteers to help look after and maintain parish assets and greenspaces.

Consider options for improving the appearance of the parish (e.g. the garages at the end of Garden Mead)

This will be considered at a later date.

- **Managing the parish tree assets**

The PC has a responsibility to ensure there is an ongoing plan for the management of the parish owned trees.

The Parish Council has agreed to sign up to the Tree Charter and become a Charter Branch.

- **Communications**

The Parish Council and Community websites have been set up and evolved over the last 7 or 8 years. It is an appropriate time for the Parish Council to review how

and what it communicates both in print and on-line with systems being refreshed and updated. The current websites do not conform to the new accessibility regulations.

This will be considered at the Parish Council meeting in September.

- **The Clerking Role**

The new council should look to the future and decide how best to set up the role of Proper Officer to best support the needs of the parish.

This will be considered by the Finance Committee who will meet in September.

- **Lobbying**

The PC must continue to be an advocate on behalf of the parish with WSCC, MSDC and other bodies with respect to

- Highways Issues
- Mineral Planning (in relation to Philpots Quarry and Ibstock Brickworks)
- Local Planning
- Gatwick Expansion
- Local Fracking Developments

This is ongoing