

Wem Rural Parish Council

Action Plan: 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Wem Rural Parish Council aims to:

- To provide effective, efficient and accountable local government for the parish, enabling residents to be involved in the life of the community and its future development.
- To be a strong voice for residents and local businesses, working to improve the overall parish area both built and natural, while preserving the uniqueness of heritage areas.

The Council's objectives are:

- To understand and communicate the views, needs and aspirations of residents and businesses to statutory and non-governmental bodies as required.
- Increase public involvement in the community through ensuring the parish council and its activities are open, transparent and accountable to residents.
- Support local business and economic activity in the parish.
- Work with other Councils to provide safe, healthy and timely opportunities for recreation, leisure and education.
- To support the work of parish voluntary organizations through grants and practical support
- Respond to planning applications and other statutory consultations on time, ensuring that recommendations made to Shropshire Council adhere to the community plan, any statutory regulations, and the interests of the community.
- Promote, within our community, activities which support the principles of environmental sustainability and an ethical society, working with others to keep public places clean and safe.
- Ensure that Councilors and Staff have access to high quality training and development opportunities and that they meet all required standards, for example working towards achieving Quality Council status.

A Business Plan for 2018 – 2022 was adopted in April 2018 which included the principles of the Council's aims and objectives.

The Council monitors progress of the Business Plan through an Annual Action Plan. It is a 'live' document which the Parish Council updates on a regular basis, enabling the Council to track and monitor progress against the objective and timescale. The Action Plan is publicly available, so residents can also monitor progress.

To ensure the Action Plan truly represents the Parish's best interests, the Parish Council will invite the local community to participate in its development.

The Action Plan will continue to be the main way of telling you what we are doing to meet the needs of the community.

It is a two-way conversation. Please tell us what you think about it. We welcome your comments. If you require any further information that would help you understand what we are trying to achieve, please let us know.

We can also provide additional information on the issues raised in the Plan.

Wem Rural Parish Council

Action Plan 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Monitoring Report date: 5 September 2018

Title	Issue	Action	Objective	Timescale	Budget	Update	Completed
Parish Council Governance Communication	Website	To keep website up to date and to expand Business and Club & Society's sections. Include sections of the Police and reporting issues to Shropshire Council	To improve local awareness and stimulate community spirit	On-going	Included in Clerk's duties.		
	Rural Review and Annual Report	To ensure 4 editions are published. Include sections of the Police and reporting issues to Shropshire Council Include Annual Report	To improve local awareness and stimulate community spirit especially for those who cannot access the website.	On-going	Included in Clerk's duties. Budget allocation of £2,500	June 2018 Edition published with Annual Report.	
	To engage with residents whose main source in information is social media	To set up accounts on appropriate platforms	To use Social Media on a regular basis	On-going	Included in Clerk's duties.	Presentation to Council by Cllr Whyte, May 2018. Facebook page set up May 2018	
Council Improvement	Local Council Award Scheme	To review criteria	To work towards 'Quality' Level	12 months	No budgetary implications identified	Councillor Profiles added April 2018. Progress / Application to be agreed July 2018 Presentation to Accreditation Panel 30 July 2018. Recommended for Quality Award.	
Grants	Community Grant Scheme	To promote Grant Scheme	To gain wider interest.	12 months	No budgetary implications identified		
Leisure and Community							

Title	Issue	Action	Objective	Timescale	Budget	Update	Completed
	To improve the range of local facilities.	To work with and assist in practical ways and through the Community Grants Scheme and Community-Led Housing Grant. Work with Edstaston Village Hall Committee to help improve facilities	To increase capacity of groups and facilities with the aim of improving the well-being of parish residents To increase facilities provided	On-going On-going	Budget allocation of £3,600 Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Initial grant of £600 approved April 2018.	
	To improve the attendance at local facilities.	To promote Groups	To encourage community involvement	12 months	No budgetary implications identified	Edstaston Village Hall article in June edition Rural Review.	
	Broadband in the Parish	Monitor progress of the project 'Connecting Shropshire' as it relates to the Parish. Survey of connectivity to be carried out and to explore other means of broadband if necessary.	To ensure the maximum speed is available to residents and businesses in the Parish.	On-going	No budgetary implications	Update of Airband Mast at Oaklands, Edstaston reported within Rural Review June 2018. Mast due to go live end June 2018. July 2018 – testing still being carrying out. August 2018 – confirmed mast live. Surveys being carried out on properties. September 2018 – awaiting results of site surveys to assess coverage of mast. Invite to be extended to Airband to attend PC meeting	
	Community Plan Re-refresh	Prepare questionnaire, consult, analyse results and prepare Plan.	To prepare to re-freshed Community Plan	12 months	Budget allocation of up to £5,000	Quotations to be sought from Shropshire RCC. Information received June 2018 Clerk report to PC September 2018. September 2018 – draft questionnaire produced. Awaiting feedback from Shropshire RCC	
Parish Safety	Parish Emergency Plan	To work through Wem Economic Forum to produce Plan	To adopt and publish	12 months	Included in Clerk's duties.	Clerk and Cllr Glover are part of Working Party preparing Plan.	
	Perception of crime in the Parish.	Work in conjunction with the police and other services to promote the various 'Alert' and 'Watch' services, and the Police and Communities Together (PACT) initiative.	To reduce crime and to help parishioners and businesses feel better protected against crime.	12 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified		

Title	Issue	Action	Objective	Timescale	Budget	Update	Completed
Highways, Transport and Access		Continue to work with West Mercia Police to share information on local crime and safety issues. This includes inviting the Local Neighbourhood Team to Council meetings and forwarding any enquiries and concerns to them. Facilitate access to the Police by including Police contact information on the Parish Council's website and newsletter.	To reduce crime and to help parishioners and businesses feel better protected against crime	12 months	Included in Clerk's duties.	Clerk liaising with LNT Inspector Ryan and Sgt Greenaway on standardised reports.	
			To reduce crime and to help parishioners and businesses feel better protected against crime	12 months	Included in Clerk's duties.		
	Speeding Traffic	Continue to report specific incidents to Shropshire Council and the Police.	To ensure Shropshire Council conducts regular reviews of traffic volume and speed on the major roads through the Parish	On-going	No budgetary implications	On-going	
	Community Transport	Promote NS Wheelers	To ensure local residents are aware and utilise NS Wheelers	12 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Promoted in newsletter June 2018	
	Rights of Way	To identify and map issues within the rights of way within the Parish especially the Shropshire Way.	To improve footpaths, generate/increase awareness and usage and ensure that footpaths are regularly maintained	On-going	No budgetary implications		
Ability to drop off and pick up children at Newtown Primary School	To work with partners to identify solutions and obtain funding to the congestion at drop off and pick up times.	To provide with partners a safe and community friendly solution.	March 2018	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Clerk and Ward Councillors to liaise with School, NCRA, Shropshire Council and Police. Meeting at School held. Proposal to extend car park and introduce one-way system. Parish Council to be requested to carry out a feasibility study. NCRA to confirm whether any restricting covenants exist. Parish Council seeking advice on potential number of parking bays. Response from Shropshire Council's Property Services received July 2018.		

Title	Issue	Action	Objective	Timescale	Budget	Update	Completed
						To progress with School September 2018.	
Economy	Wem Economic Forum	Lead and support Forum	To work towards the Forum leading the communities of Wem Town and Wem Parish	12 months	Budget allocation of up to £1,000	Cllr Wilton-Morgan is chair of WEF. Clerk is secretary. AGM held July 2018. Positions confirmed as previously.	
Planning Policy	Future Development in the Parish	Review current policy	To clarify position during the period of Shropshire Council's review of the Local Plan.	3 months	No budgetary implications	SC Cabinet Report 2 May confirms WRPC's wish that certain settlements are designated "Community Cluster".	
Planning	To review the way in which the Council considers and makes responses on planning applications	Attend training events	To submit more robust and clear responses	On-going	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Councillor training held 8 May 2018. Councillors attend Affordable Housing Seminar at St Martins June 2018. Councillor attend SALC Planning training June 2018. September 2018 - Shropshire Council's Tom Shrosbree attended PC meeting is explain 'Right Home Right Place'	