

Wem Rural Parish Council

Action Plan: 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

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 2019 to 31 March 2020

Monitoring Report date: 25 February 2020

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. Review 'theme' of website	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 £2,000		
	Notice boards	Review locations and size	To improve local awareness of community information	12 months		New board to be placed in Northwood Replacement board in Tilley	
Council Assets	Maintenance Plan	To produce and action	To protect Council assets	12 months			
Council Improvement	Local Council Award Scheme	To review criteria	To work towards 'Quality Gold' Level	12 months	No budgetary implications identified	Presentation to Accreditation Panel July 2019 Quality Gold Awarded September 2019.	September 2019
Grants	Community Grant Scheme	To promote Grant Scheme	To gain wider interest.	12 months	No budgetary implications identified	Promoted in newsletter, Rural Review.	
Leisure and Community	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	Budget allocation of £3,000		
				On-going	Community-Led Housing Grant Allocation of	Meeting with Committee members to assist with ideas for community use October 2019. Introduced contact from Shropshire Wildlife Trust to assist with	

Title	Issue	Action	Objective	Timescale	Budget	Update	Completed
					"25,000	walks.	
	To improve the attendance at local facilities.	To promote Groups	To encourage community involvement	12 months	No budgetary implications identified		
	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		
	Community Plan Re-fresh	Prepare questionnaire, consult, analyse results and prepare Plan.	To re-fresh Community Plan	6 months	Budget allocation of up to £5,000	Deadline for responses extended to 30 April 2019 Results received from Shropshire RCC Action Plan to be completed. Adopted October 2019	October 2019
	Investigate need for new facilities	Consult with community to identify any evidence of demand and interest.	To provide opportunities for community cohesion.	12 months	Included in Clerk's duties. Budget allocation of £2,000 for communication		
Parish Appearance							
	Litter picks	Coordinate community litter picks	To keep parish tidy and safe	12 months	£150	Litter picks on-going within local communities. Litter picking equipment purchased as borrowing equipment has proved difficult.	
	Understand and celebrate local landscape and future management	Work with partners to explore projects to document heritage and understand local management plans	To ensure knowledge of local heritage is retained.	12 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Shropshire Wildlife attended August 2019 Parish Council meeting. Flyer in Rural Review Autumn 2019	
	Settlement signage	Review and provide signage that depicts the heritage, history and culture of villages	To preserve settlements' rural identity	12 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Working with Northwood Residents Group re planters and settlement signs. Review of planters due following discussions with Shropshire Council	
Parish Safety							

Title	Issue	Action	Objective	Timescale	Budget	Update	Completed
	Parish Emergency Plan	To work through Wem Economic Forum to produce Plan	To adopt and publish	6 months	Included in Clerk's duties.	Booklet printed and flyers being designed. Launched June 2019. Working with local groups to progress community engagement in project.	
	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	Smartwater 'We Don't Buy Crime' launch September 2019 Launch completed 21 September 2019. Further roll out plans agreed October 2019. Distribution to be at targeted events starting 29 February.	
		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.	To reduce crime and to help parishioners and businesses feel better protected against crime	12 months	Included in Clerk's duties.	PC Heathcote attended June meeting of Parish Council. Reported irresponsible driving along Ossage Lane December 2019.	
		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.		
	Residents personal health emergencies	Support and work with local Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Groups to maintain the presence of this service	To ensure in a diverse and rural parish, local solutions to emergencies are in place to support county and national plans	12 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	3 cPADs to be installed in Parish. Lottery grant application approved August 2019. Permission given for 3 locations. Order submitted December 2019. Installation delayed due to poor weather. Installation due March 2020. Awareness Seminar date 28 March 2020.	
Highways, Transport and Access	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	6 Volunteers for Northwood Community Speed watch Scheme confirmed September 2019 Training of CSW team November 2019. Team now active. Additional training of volunteers requested by CSW team February 2020	

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	Poor visibility at key junctions	Meet with Highways and businesses to discuss issues	Improvement to visibility splays	On-going	No budgetary implications	Meeting scheduled December 2019. Meeting with Highways held. Verges are cut once a year. Hedges can be cut if visibility is hindered but not due to height of hedge.	
	Community Transport	Promote NS Wheelers	To ensure local residents are aware and utilise NS Wheelers	12 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified		
	Rural isolation	investigate options with partners	To ensure residents do not experience 'rural isolation'.	12 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified		
	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.	12 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Awaiting result of CIL Local Funds application. Under appeal – reason for referral incorrect. Possible funding from alternative source September 2019	
	Northwood Traffic Calming Initiative	To install white village gates at entrances to Northwood.	To alert drivers that they are entering a village centre.	12 months	Budget allocation of up to £4,000	SC Highways approved locations. Gates ordered September 2019. Awaiting installation November 2019. Installed and awaiting adjustment of settlement sign and 30 mph signage	
	Flooding in parish	Meeting with Highways	To agree regular gulley clearance and other preventative measures.	6 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Meeting scheduled December 2019. Meeting with Highways held. Areas of concern, Barkers Green, Edstaston and Creamore House Farm area to be investigated.	
	Prees Station	Investigate improvements to car parking with Prees PC and Transport for Wales	Better facilities to encourage use of public transport	6 months	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Contact established with Transport for Wales. Meeting with Prees PC carried out. Possible 2 or 3 car parking places. Request to Transport for Wales (TFW) 22 January 2020.	

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						New liaison officer at TFW advised mid-February 2020. Awaiting contact.	
Economy	Wem Economic Forum	Lead and support Forum	To work towards the Forum leading the communities of Wem Town and Wem Parish	On-going	Budget allocation of up to £1,000	Cllr Wilton-Morgan is chair of WEF. Clerk is secretary.	
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.	12 months	No budgetary implications	December 2018 – consultation documents confirm villages as '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	Recent decisions on non-designated heritage properties to be discussed with Ian Kilby and Andy Wigley. Meeting held – report to PC October 2019	
Climate Change	Urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.	To attend and participate in Wem Area Climate Change Forum.	To pass on relevant information to residents and businesses in parish	On-going	Some budgetary implications – to be identified	Councillor attendance at Forums meetings. Councillor and Clerk to meet separately with Forum Chair.	

