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## **ACTION PLAN 2024-26**

### **Statement of Policy**

It is the view of the Parish Council that by planning for future activities in the Parish, a proactive attitude is projected rather than that of a reactive response.

The Council believes that Parishes form an important tier of Local Government at a “grass roots” level close to the people.

The Council will seek to play a key role in leading and empowering the local community.

The Council firmly believes in maintaining the fabric of the village and protecting the village environment.

### **Statement of Objectives**

- The Council will always practice open accountability, effective communication with residents, prompt response to residents’ enquiries and suggestions and will hold open meetings. Fifteen Minutes will be allowed at each Full Council meeting for residents to express their views on items on the agenda, unless the Chairman agrees to take other matters.
- Use of the “Two Villages” magazine and the Council’s website will be key instruments in meeting the objectives above.
- In order to support the Clerk, the Council will provide any required reference books.
- All Councillors will undertake training to ensure they are able to fulfil their role and keep abreast of relevant current legislation.

**Plan**

<b>AIM</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>TO BE ACHIEVED BY</b>	<b>OUTCOME/PROGRESS TO DATE &amp; PLAN FOR PROGRESSION</b>
<p>To complete improvements to the roads including:            20mph zone/limit            Mini roundabout on Church Road            Raised pillow on Lion Lane            Village gates on all main roads into the village            Additional Speed Indicator Devices            A safer crossing for school children on Church Road</p> <p>To obtain funding via S106 payments, The Paddockhurst Estate and Parish Council money reserved for the scheme.</p>	<p>To provide a safer environment for all road users especially pedestrians and children walking to and from school.</p> <p>To reduce the likelihood and severity of road traffic collisions.</p> <p>To reduce speeds of vehicles travelling in the village.</p>	<p>This work will be planned by the Roads and Vehicle Working Group who will put together the Walk and Drive in Safety Policy covering these aims for approval by the Council.</p> <p>Support will be sought from the County Councillor and Highways Manager.</p> <p>The Clerk will support the Working Group and Council by gathering quotes, liaising with the Highways Manager and third parties and applying for schemes.</p>	<p>Mini roundabout cannot go ahead unless Vicarage Field development goes ahead.</p> <p>20mph zone was rejected in January 2024, but with a note that it may be possible with engineering works. This is to be investigated by WSCC with a view to reapplying in the future. The Clerk will communicate with the Highways Manager to ensure this investigation takes place as soon as possible.</p> <p>The raised pillow on Lion Lane needs to be applied for via a Community Highways Scheme. This will be progressed via the Roads and Transport Working Group and the Clerk.</p> <p>The Village Gates and SID will be priced up by the Clerk and a final decision made by the Council.</p>
<p>To continue to work with Paddockhurst Estate on plans for Vicarage Field and Old Estate Yard development as per the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>To ensure that the detailed requirements for this development are adhered to and building work can begin as soon as possible.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan Committee will continue to work with Paddockhurst Estate as much as possible and will then work with the developer.</p> <p>Final designs are still awaited although there is little scope for amending the initial plans as the provision of roads cannot be amended.</p>	<p>The landowners are seeking tenders from interested parties.</p> <p>Knight Frank has confirmed that work is ongoing on these sites and the Council will be contacted with an update when one is available.</p> <p>Work to be carried out by the NP Committee with final decisions taken by Council.</p>

Affordable housing for residents.	As far as possible provide suitable affordable housing for residents.	The Neighbourhood Plan Committee working with MSDC, Paddockhurst Estate and any other developers during planning of all housing development sites.	Ongoing.  Work to be carried out by the NP Committee with final decisions taken by Council.
To achieve some of the aims stipulated in the Infrastructure List.	Money from S106 funds needs to be allocated as per our list to achieve improvements to the community centre in order to a) improve safety and b) to cater for the increase in the population and provide adequate services.	Working with MSDC on the allocation of funding and its use.	Work has been carried out at The Ark and the playground with this fund. Further work is planned at The Ark; being progressed by ACE.
To remove excess reeds from Withypitts Pond	To open up the view of the pond and to allow wildlife to thrive.  To ensure the longevity of the pond	Local businesses have volunteered to clear the reeds using their resources. The Clerk will work with them to plan and to ensure safety/insurance requirements are met.	Work is planned for summer 2024 when the water is at its lowest level.
To increase income generated at The Ark.  To improve facilities at The Ark using S106 funding (and any other grant funding available) including: New flooring in the Dunlop Hall Replacing the front doors  To increase the repairs and renewals fund for boiler/pipe improvements and other repairs.	To reduce the impact of running The Ark on the Precept.  To improve hirers' experiences at The Ark to ensure good reviews leading to future bookings and recommendations.	Clerk will work with The ACE Committee to review more cost-effective ways to accommodate hirers (without impacting on hirer experience).  Where capital upgrades are required to achieve this, S106/grant funding will be applied for.	The door entry system can be used to allow sports and regular hirers entry to the building during the week, only requiring the Stewards to open the building in the morning and ensure it is locked in the evening. This leaves them to be able to use their hours for the more demanding hirers such as parties, meetings and weddings.  Review funding available and create a plan of works with The ACE Committee.

To ensure the Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement are adhered to.	To ensure that there are no conflicts on the use of the Plan.	Members will continue to make use of the Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Statement when commenting on applications and will monitor the outcomes.	Ongoing  All Councillors
To ensure the Neighbourhood Plan remains current.	To ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan remains current and in-line with the District Plan as appropriate.	The Neighbourhood Plan will be reviewed during 2024-26 to ensure compliance with the latest policies and requirements.	Work to be carried out by the NP Committee with final decisions taken by Council.
To replace street light lanterns to provide improved reliable lighting.	The lighting owned by the Parish Council requires updating as many of the lanterns are now obsolete. This makes repairs impossible.	Money will be allocated over two years to carry out a replacement programme.	The majority of this work is now complete with 34 lanterns having been upgraded to LEDs, with 13 remaining. The Council has budgeted to complete this work in 2024.
To provide ongoing training for all Members and staff.	To fulfil their roles to the best of their ability and to make the Council as efficient and forward thinking as possible.	All new members are provided with information on their role and current position of the Council. All staff are to be provided with training appropriate to their respective work. The Clerk will provide information to Council on training as it becomes available.	New member information pack is available and will be kept up to date by the Clerk. Several members and the Clerk have attended courses.  This remains ongoing.

Items completed from the Action Plan 2022 – 2024:

- A new playground was installed by MSDC in 2022.
- CCTV was installed at The Ark.
- Village bags were purchased and are used to hand out to new residents.

ADOPTED ON: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

This document will be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects the aims of the Council.