

Heddon on the Wall Parish Council – Strategic Plan

Our Mission Statement: Here to maintain and improve our village for all

This is our Strategic Plan. In it, we'll share details about the Parish Council and the areas we are responsible for and our approach. We'll set out our priorities over the next 5 years, ensuring that we're responding to our community, the feedback we receive and that we're offering value for money.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL: A Parish Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. Heddon on the Wall Parish Council sit within the hierarchy of Northumberland County Council. We receive a small amount of your council tax (this is known as a precept) to be used directly in the community.

Probably the most common topics that Parish Councils get involved with are planning matters, crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

Outside of the areas that we have direct responsibility for, the Parish Council have limited powers to make decisions, but we do have the ability to negotiate and work with the organisations for areas such as our roads and pavements. These and most of the other grassed areas are managed by Northumberland County Council.

AREAS WE'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR: We're directly responsible for a number of areas in the village. These include;

- Welfare field which is the area near the school which is sometimes called the MUGA (multi-use games area) or the park.
- Butterfly Garden and Roman Herb Garden in Heddon Common.
- Gorse Hill and some of the grass verges on the Vallum estate.
- Taberna Close
- Library and business units

- Allotments
- Selman Park
- Memorial Park

OUR APPROACH: Our Strategic Plan will identify and implement our Missions Statement, key objectives, and direction of the Parish Council activity for and on behalf of the village.

The actions of the Parish Council falls into two key areas:

- Ensure daily activities are managed to support and maintain the village; and
- Improve the village via the Strategic Plan to implement projects and activities that enhance and sustainably support the village in the coming years.

Day-to-day running of the village (including maintenance, liaison with other agencies, governance, planning and finance) will continue under the instruction of the full Parish Council.

The Finance, Premises and Strategic Planning committee oversees the production and implementation of the Strategic Plan and recommends to the full Parish Council achievable actions. This committee also manage the detailed delivery plan to monitor and report against all activities to time, cost and quality constraints.

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Maintaining the village for all

Ongoing activity that supports community cohesion, maintenance of our assets and responding to critical events such as storms, flooding etc.

- Enhancing Parish Council governance, roles, responsibilities and accountabilities
- Defining the role of the full Parish Council and engaging with our community including; Residents, Businesses, Churches, School, Volunteers, Knott Hall, WI, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Heddon United FC Juniors
- Maintain allotments ensuring facilities are in a good state of repair
- Maintain business centre and library premises
- Grounds maintenance contract delivery ensuring Parish Council land is maintained
- Village maintenance contract delivery ensuring the Parish Council assets are maintained
- Communication and transparency of activity through the Parish Council website and relevant Facebook pages and bi-monthly contributions for Heddon Gossip
- Liaison with Northumberland County Council – Highways Recommendations, Glass Recycling, Bus Routes
- Supporting key events such as Remembrance Sunday, religious dates of note, Christmas festivities and local groups
- Review of planning applications
- Supporting volunteer led activities such litter picking and planter maintenance
- Monitoring and signposting residents to Newcastle Airport Noise Complaint Line / Aircraft Noise Action Group

Improving the village for all

Current projects

- Working on feedback provided by residents in response to the Heddon Village Survey
- Sponsor a Tree being planted in the Memorial Park and Welfare Field
- Library – boiler replacement project
- Exploring 'Warm Hub' arrangements, working with local Churches, Knott Hall, WI and businesses
- Drafting new proposal and tendering document for grounds maintenance contract
- Memorial Park Refurbishment
- Proposals over the future use of Selman Park
- Hadrian's MOSAIC – ongoing maintenance once in place on the Bridleway
- Roman Herb garden – procurement and sourcing of plants and herbs for garden beds
- Welfare field / MUGA enhancement and improvement
- Christmas Lights project future proofing for 2023 onwards
- Village Character Assessment
- Working collaboratively with St Andrew's Church to explore options for a Community Cemetery once graveyard is full
- Change Environment