

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 23/24

OUR VISION

Our vision is for the Colney Heath Parish Council to be a “Good Council” which means :

- to be representative of and actively involve all parts of our community;
- to work positively and closely with voluntary and community groups, articulating community needs through effective communication and plans for the parish;
- to be effectively and properly managed;
- to work in partnership with other local authorities and agencies to get the best deal in service delivery for the local community.

Referring to best practice examples we aim to develop the Council’s operational style in line with the culture we wish to create which means being :

- straightforward, open and transparent
- positive, approachable and (except when essential) informal

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

We have been elected for 4 years until the next election in May 2027.

Once we have engaged with our community through surveys, community conferences, and statements of intent, our initial objectives and our plan of action will be refined and developed.

We aim to complete the initial consultation by November 2023 so that the budget for 2024/25 can be set.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2023/24

1 Initial Objective : oppose inappropriate development proposals

The Planning Working Party will be developed to provide time, energy and skills to support the Council in all planning matters. This will include planning applications and subsequent submissions for reserved matters, planning inquiries for appeals, and review of the District Council’s emerging Local Plan.

2 Initial Objective : Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be concerned with formulation of a long-term vision for the developments required to meet the needs of our community. The group will be enhanced with volunteers providing time, energy and skills to develop the plan for the parish. The aim will be to have an approved plan before the election to be held in May 2027.

3 Initial Objective : Enhance our environment

The Environment Working Party will identify tasks and projects intended to protect and enhance our environment. It is envisaged that volunteers will play an important role in this work.

4 Initial Objective : Understand residents’ issues

The Community Organisations Liaison Group will connect with the community groups (institutions, organisations, and clubs) and local businesses in the Parish. This will form the basis of surveys to establish local needs and concerns, and inputs to the development of the Council’s strategy for meeting these needs.

This group will arrange a conference with representatives of community groups to

establish their plans for the current and next financial years to inform the Council's annual plan and budget, and a further meeting to review progress.

5 Initial Objective : inform residents

The Communications Working Party will prepare a bi-monthly newsletter for distribution in hardcopy to all households in the parish. This will include information about activities by the Council and community groups.

The working party will develop a means to encourage residents to access communications from the Council in digital form and to promote the means for the digitally excluded to gain access.

Together with the Community Organisations Liaison Group the working party group will collate events planned by the community for input to a central calendar of events available to all digitally connected residents.

6 Initial Objective : Support community groups

Based on the needs and ambitions defined by local community groups, the Council will develop a plan for the allocation of resources to assist their delivery of services to the community.

The Council will budget to provide grants to support this work, subject to agreement by the community on the effect on the precept.

7 Initial Objective : Resolve legacy issues

The Council will use best endeavours to

- a. resolve the outstanding leases by negotiation, without incurring advisors costs, including those for the Charles Morris Hall and the Football and Social Club
- b. bring the Roestock Park Hut back into useful community use and
- c. provide suitable premises for the Parish office.

8 Initial Objective : Simplify bureaucracy

The Council will examine its administration practices and reduce and simplify these where possible.

9 Initial Objective : Provide value for money

The precept for Band D is double the average for Parish Councils. The Council will review its expenditure including expenditure for services delivered in similar Parish Councils to establish the appropriate rate and budget for 2024/25.