



Pontesbury Parish Council Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024

With an area of some 3,868 hectares and a population of over 3,227¹ Pontesbury Parish is one of the largest parishes in Shropshire. The Parish centres around the main 'hub' settlement of the village of Pontesbury linked with a number of smaller satellite settlements of Cruckton/Cruckmeole, Asterley, Habberley, Plealey and Pontesford and other hamlets between². The large and scenically attractive parish of Pontesbury enjoys an excellent location. It lies within a mile of the A5 Shrewsbury bypass and much of the southern part lies within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Bisecting the parish the busy A488 links the main settlement of Pontesbury with Shrewsbury town centre, seven miles north. The population has grown considerably since the last census when it numbered 3227, with a low density of one person per hectare. With nearly one quarter of the population aged over 65, this is significantly higher than the county or national averages.

Pontesbury village is the commercial and social hub of the parish, containing over half of the parish's population. Estimated population 1897 in 2016. For its size it has an excellent range of services used by villagers and outlying settlements. The village offers primary and secondary schools, 3 pubs, a post office, shops, chemist, GP surgery and dentist, a community hub & library, pre-school nursery and eating places.

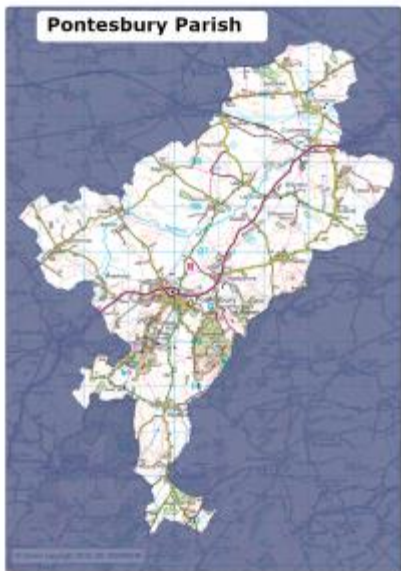
¹ Taken from 2011 Census

² Arscott, Edge, Farley, Hinton, Lea Cross, Malehurst, Nox and Westcott

For electoral purposes, the parish is divided into four wards and has a total of fifteen councillors. The electorate in 2020 was 2636. The parish council owns The Pavilion community building which houses the library and is a base for the local neighbourhood policing team. Other facilities the parish council is responsible for are a play area & BMX track, a village green, public toilets, 120 streetlights, many trees, hedges and numerous bus shelters and street furniture. The Parish council employs a full-time Parish Clerk and a part-time Building Assistant/Cleaner for The Pavilion.

The parish council has a number of sub-committees and working groups who are responsible for or advise on various aspects of the council's work;

- Finance & General Purposes
- Personnel & HR
- Planning
- Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
- Climate Emergency Action Group
- Pavilion Steering Group



Photos

Introduction

Mission Statement for the parish council:

To protect and improve the quality of life for all Pontesbury parish residents

Purpose of this Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan is a strategy that provides a framework for the council to work within and to aid consistency and co-ordination of service delivery. This Strategic Plan will evolve through community engagement and will assist in the decision-making process. It will also provide stakeholders with a better understanding of parish council activities and responsibilities.

As a 'live' document this Strategic Plan will be monitored and updated regularly to demonstrate progress against key priorities.

Community Involvement in the Strategic Plan process

To ensure that this Strategic Plan adequately represents the best interests of the parish, members of the local community are invited to participate in its development. This will help to keep its aims and objectives up to date. There will be an annual consultation and update process launched each year at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Monitoring the Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan will be considered by members at parish council meetings on a regular basis, at least annually, so that progress can be monitored. It will be updated when actions are complete and where progress is impeded the council will consider what actions are necessary and whether further work is required.

This Strategic Plan is a 'living' document. Any updates will be given via the website, Pavilion website/facebook page, the village newsletter and the parish council annual report.

The Strategy does not include general ongoing responsibilities for facilities and legal responsibilities such as annual audit, maintenance of streetlights etc. – just developmental work planned

Theme 1
Parish Council Governance

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	BUDGET REQUIRED	Resources required
To improve communication between the parish council and residents and businesses to ensure that council activities reflect community need/desires	Complete draft Parish Council Strategic Plan and launch at Annual Parish Meeting for feedback and then amend to produce final Strategic Plan for 2021-24. Hold consultation meetings in Cruckton and Habberley village halls and ensure views from across the whole parish are fed back into the plan	Strategy ready for May 2021 launched at Annual Meeting of the Council or Annual Parish Meeting	£500 allocated in 2021-22 budget for Annual Parish Meeting to launch and gain feedback from community on strategy and strategy printing costs	
	Develop a communications Strategy to ensure greater community involvement in strategic plan for the community with particular emphasis on communicating with under 30s and including the settlements across the whole parish	Strategy completed by April 2021	No	Clerk time Possible volunteer time Local community consultation time
	1.Continue to review and improve website 2.Undertake a website accessibility audit and accessibility statements and procedures put in place for parish council website, Pavilion website and Neighbourhood Plan website	1.Ongoing 2.By December 2021	1.Possible 2.Yes £1000 Earmarked reserves 2021-22	Councillor and Clerk time
	1.Continue to publish a parish newsletter 2.Produce a 2021-21 Annual Report	Ongoing	1.£7600 included in 2021-22 budget 2.£400 included in 2021-22 budget	1. Clerk time 2.Clerk/Chair time
	Review content of notice boards.	Ongoing	Printing costs included in Stationery budget	Clerk time
	1.Build reach of Pavilion facebook page 2.Social media policy to be produced	1.Ongoing 2.By May 2021	No	1.Building Assistant time 2.Clerk time

	Councillor Surgeries in Pavilion – public drop-in sessions	Once Pavilion open	No	Councillor time
To improve effectiveness of the parish council	Action plan for 2021 elections to ensure full complement of councillors	May 2021	£2750 in earmarked reserves 2021-22 and £1000 included in budget each year from 2022-23 for 2025 elections	Clerk and councillor time
	1.Job descriptions & Induction plan for any new councillors 2.Succession planning for key roles	1.May 2021 2. Ongoing	Cost of training if necessary (see below)	Clerk and Personnel Committee time
	Improve links and lines of communication and consultation between all the different settlements within the parish, continue to hold meetings in village halls across the parish.	Ongoing	No	Staff and Councillors and local residents
	Recruit part-time deputy Clerk	April 2021	£21,500 allocation in 2021-22 to include recruitment costs	Clerk & Personnel Committee time
	Review training needs of councillors and parish council staff. Training policy reviewed biannually	Annually	£1500 allocated in 2021-22 budget (new staff and councillors) £1000 per year 2022-23 onwards	
	Work towards and maintain Local Council Awards Scheme standards.	December 2021	£150 included in 2020-21 budget for foundation award	Clerk and councillor time
	Continue to carry out staff appraisals	Annually	Cost of training if necessary	Personnel Committee and staff time
	Investments policy and Reserves policy to be drawn up	By December 2021	No	Staff and Councillor time
	Full insurance review for council portfolio of assets and activities	September 2021	No	Staff and F&GP Committee time
	Five year budget forecast in place	By September 2021		Staff and F&GP Committee time

Theme 2 - Leisure and Community Services

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	BUDGET REQUIRED	Resources required
To ensure Local Neighbourhood Policing Team presence is maintained in Pontesbury within the Pavilion	Complete legal and practical arrangements to enable Local Neighbourhood Policing Team to take up residence in the building	April 2021		Councillor and Clerk time
To ensure the Pavilion realises its potential as a value for money community resource.	<p>1.Ensure all members of the community and wider Rea Valley communities are involved in developing the Pavilion programme of activities – cultural, information and support, to be inclusive for all -through representation on Pavilion Steering Group – fill remaining positions on Steering Group to reflect age groups and geography of area served</p> <p>2. Work through the Pavilion Steering Group to draw up a communications and marketing strategy for the building to ensure that activities are inclusive, accessible and reflect the needs of the wider community</p>	<p>1.Ongoing</p> <p>2. Strategy in place by April 2021</p>	£1000 allocated for website and promotions in 2021-22 budget	<p>Steering Group and staff time devising programme of activities</p> <p>Possible Pavilion volunteer involvement</p> <p>Building Assistant time maintaining website and facebook</p>
Ensure long term sustainability of Pavilion	<p>1.Ensure Pavilion income increases - work through Pavilion Steering Group to attract hirers for building</p> <p>2.Continue to work in partnership with Shropshire Library Service</p> <p>3.Complete process of negotiation with PCC in order for Local Policing team to move into Pavilion</p>	<p>1.Ongoing</p> <p>2. Ongoing</p> <p>3. April 2021</p>	Target of £1000 income for 2021-2	Steering group and staff time
To ensure maintenance arrangements of communal green/flower	Ensure that areas maintained by the parish council comply with agreed maintenance contracts – contract up for renewal in April 2022	Contract tender process and renewal in April 2022		Clerk time

beds/play areas/trees/hedges are adequate for maximum enjoyment.	1. Assess maintenance and development required for green open spaces on Hall Bank development 2. Work with Climate Emergency Action Group to assess biodiversity potential of green open spaces on Hall Bank and elsewhere in parish	Ongoing	1. Budget to be negotiated with Shropshire Homes 2. £250 allocated in 2021-22 budget. May attract grants for projects	1. Staff and Councillors 2. Staff and Climate Emergency Action Group
	Continue with biennial Tree survey and associated recommendations for tree work	Tree survey in Summer 2021	£500 for tree inspection survey and additional £1000 budget allocated for tree work in 2021-22 budget. Inspection and additional work will need to be budgeted for in 2023	Councillor and public time
OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	BUDGET REQUIRED	Resources required
To support, foster and celebrate community cohesion and resilience	Partnership work with Good Neighbours Scheme to develop bid for Projects Officer/Co-ordinator for parish and wider Rea Valley. This role is to rebuild community support activities impacted by COVID and to support, initiate and develop community groups and activities to aid and support further community cohesion and resilience	Bid prepared by February 2021	£1000 match funding allocated in 2021-22 budget	Clerk and GNS volunteers time
	Expo event to showcase all local community groups at Public Hall in conjunction with Community Awards Scheme below	Autumn 2021	£500 allocated in 2021-22 budget and thereafter in budget (event to take place at Annual Parish Meeting in future years)	Councillor and Clerk time
	Recognise the work carried out by groups and individuals on a voluntary basis (initially associated with COVID response) through a Community Award Scheme. Scheme to be continued in future years.	Ceremony to be held in Autumn 2021 if Government guidelines permit	Included in £500 above	Councillor and Clerk time
	Welcome pack for new residents to the parish	May 2022	£1000 allocated in 2022-23 budget	Councillor and Clerk time or Projects Officer if bid successful
	Rejuvenate School Green –programme of activities/events e.g. annual carol concert	Ongoing		Councillor/resident working group

Theme 3 Parish Appearance, Environment, Planning, Public Services

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	BUDGET REQUIRED	RESOURCES REQUIRED
Complete Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan	Neighbourhood Steering group work to draw up draft plan	Draft plan completed by December 2021 Referendum and submission 2022	£2000 in budget for 2021-22	Neighbourhood Steering Group, Consultant and Clerk time
	Appoint consultant to help with work on gap analysis, policies and plan drafting	Spring 2021	Submit bid to Locality for £12,000	Neighbourhood Steering Group and Consultant time
	Continue to promote and engage local community with plan through website, public events – draw up a communications strategy. Hold meetings in Cruckton and Habberley village halls and ensure that views from across the whole parish are fed back into the plan	Communications strategy by February 2021 Throughout 2021 and 2022	Included in Locality bid	Neighbourhood Steering Group, Consultant and Clerk time
To alleviate flooding issues around Brook Road which affect residents of Mary Webb close	Flood alleviation measures to be included in Hall Bank Junction improvements	Summer 2021	See Hall Bank Junction under Traffic section	Councillor time in partnership with Severn Trent, Housing Plus and Shropshire Council Highways and Flood prevention team
To convert remaining streetlights to LED	Tender to be drawn up and quotes gained Lights to be converted	Summer 2021	£24,000 – CIL Neighbourhood Fund and/or reserves allocation	Clerk/Councillor working party
To provide community allotments	1. Explore possible location for community allotments – if available then 2. 2. Fund capital infrastructure for site 3. Set up Administrative infrastructure for site	1. Summer 2021 2. Spring 2022 3. Spring 2022	£? from Cil Neighbourhood Fund Ongoing budgetary revenue demands	Clerk and Councillor working party
Raise awareness of zero tolerance to dog fouling	Dog fouling deterrent project Pontesbury wide – increased signage, communication plan	April 2021	No	Clerk, councillor and local resident working group

Upgrade public toilets	1.Redecorate/steam wash 2.Refurbishment and capital expenditure project to improve public toilets	1. Summer 2021 2. Summer 2022	1.£500 2. ? CIL Neighbourhood Fund + £3000 Earmarked reserves	Clerk/Councillor/Volunteer working group
Replace play area equipment	Review equipment and plan of action either to replace piecemeal or wholesale	Plan of action in place by Summer 2022	£?CIL Neighbourhood Fund and S.106 or grant bid	Clerk/Councillor/resident volunteer working group
To ensure local emergency solutions are in place that support county and national emergency plans.	Work with Shropshire Council and emergency services to raise awareness of how the local community can respond in emergencies.	Ongoing	No	Clerk & Councillor time and in partnership with Minsterley Parish Council
	Support and work with Rea Valley First Aid Responders to maintain these services along with programme of first aid courses.	Ongoing	No - use of village/community halls for training	Clerk time working with Rea Valley First Aid Responders

Theme 4 Highways, Transport and Access

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	BUDGET REQUIRED	RESOURCES REQUIRED
To seek solutions to speeding traffic and pedestrian safety concerns.	PPC working group continue to work with Hanwood and Minsterley Parish Councils and Shropshire Council on traffic calming solutions	Ongoing	Possibly some CIL Local Fund monies for strategic approach matched with percentage from CIL Neighbourhood Fund	Working group time in partnership with police and Shropshire Council Highways team
	Hall Bank Junction Improvements	Summer 2021	£40000 CIL Neighbourhood Fund earmarked	
	Bus and coach park at Mary Webb	December 2021?	£approx 10,000 CIL Neighbourhood Fund allocation	

Increase safety by Improving lighting and gritting on Minsterley to Pontesbury cycle/footpath	1.Solar lighting project for cycleway 2. Improve gritting regime for cycle/footpath	1. Completion by June 2021	1. £2000 from CIL Neighbourhood Fund earmarked for installation. 2. ?	Clerk and Councillor time in partnership with Minsterley Parish Council
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Theme 5 Climate Emergency

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	TIMESCALE	BUDGET REQUIRED	RESOURCES REQUIRED
To fulfil resolution of reaching zero carbon levels for the parish by 2030	Work with Climate Emergency Action group to draw up an Action plan to reach zero carbon with yearly targets for each year 2021-2030	June 2021	No	Clerk, Councillor and CEAG time along with wider community
	Carbon Audit for parish council activities and quick win projects	April 2021	£750 allocated in 2021-22 budget plus £250 for biodiversity projects (in theme 3 above) Potential for grant application	Clerk, Councillor and CEAG time along with wider community
	Roll out action plan and various projects over next eight years	Ongoing	Will need to be a budget allocation each year	Clerk, Councillor and CEAG time along with wider community

<i>Adopted:</i>	
<i>Minute no:</i>	
<i>Next review date:</i>	November 2021 for budget setting 2021-22