

Overton Parish Council

Community Strategy

Revised and Approved
October 2005

AIMS

1. To protect and promote the interests of the parish's community efficiently using public consultation and co-operation with other government bodies and non-statutory community organisations to provide required services that, in accordance with statutory requirements, offer 'Best Value'.
2. To nurture Overton's heritage as a working village with a strong community spirit by endeavouring to protect the village and its attractive rural surroundings through influence over its development and the enhancement of the village environment.
3. To develop and promote culture, leisure and sports opportunities by liaising with leisure and sports providers and referring to recommendations from Overton's Community Profile.

Aim 1

To protect and promote the interests of the parish's community efficiently using public consultation and co-operation with other government bodies and non-statutory community organisations to provide required services that, in accordance with statutory requirements, offer 'Best Value'.

Overton Parish Council

1. To employ a competent clerk and subsequently apply to become a Quality Parish Council
Clerk currently undertaking the AQA Certificate in Local Council Administration.
2. To develop appropriate contacts with elected members and officers of other tiers of government.
3. To provide a regular newsletter – **Overton** News and Views – to be circulated to all households in the parish.
***Overton** News and Views is published 11 months of the year and circulated to all houses within the parish by volunteers.*
4. Strengthen crime reduction partnerships with all relevant organisations to enhance any initiatives and support the police 'Watch' projects:

For the local police officer, **PCSOs and Community Wardens** to attend parish council meetings and to organise regular meetings between a parish representative and the police to discuss local issues.
PC Baldwin attends meetings where possible and liaises with the Clerk, parish councillors and borough councillors.

To continue to investigate the need for CCTV within the centre and other locations in Overton.
Planning permission for CCTV at the Community Centre being sought.

5. To ~~action the recommendations from the Communications Working Group to:~~

~~Erect three new noticeboards around the village~~
~~*Three new noticeboards erected – March 2005*~~

~~Produce a **Support the Overton Village** website for Overton parish~~
~~*Website ready July 2004*~~ **first established in July 2004.**

6. **Regularly** update ~~periodically~~ the Overton Handbook, village map and Rights of Way booklet.

~~The recently updated Overton Handbook has been circulated to all households in July 2004. The village map has been updated in January 2004 and the Rights of Way booklet in 2003.~~

7. Continue to encourage and cooperate with the Overton Business Association by providing a representative to attend meetings and report back to the parish council.
8. Ensure that the information regarding potential funding is disseminated to the parish and that the parish council continues to support local organisations within its own grant scheme.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

9. Monitor all aspects of financial management of the council.
10. Appoint an internal auditor.
~~An internal auditor has been employed.~~
11. To use this document to set the annual precept for the parish council and use the money collected prudently.
12. Review the forward strategy of the parish council by developing the long term strategy and setting an annual action plan each September.
13. To review all documents associated with the parish council – financial regulations, risk assessments, health and safety and standing orders.
14. Liaise with the Parochial Church Council to provide a well tended and managed cemetery for the parish.
15. To annually set aside money that can be given as grants to groups within the parish.
Currently £2,000.00 per year is set aside for this purpose.

Aim 2

To nurture Overton's heritage as a working village with a strong community spirit by endeavouring to protect the village and its attractive rural surroundings through influence over its development and the enhancement of the village environment.

Overton Parish Council

1. Create opportunities to inform the community on all aspects of housing in the parish.

~~Finance and General Purposes Committee~~

2. To continue to consider new opportunities for a site for a cemetery to meet future needs.
~~*A possible site could be available to the west of Court Drove.*~~
3. Continue to provide allotments for the use of parishioners.
4. To support the Overton Biodiversity Society to enhance the local environment with the ultimate long-term goal being the production of a Biodiversity Action Plan. The OBS shall also be responsible for regularly updating the Tree and Hedge Surveys for Overton.
5. To support the Overton Biodiversity Society in preparing and implementing a management plan for Little Meadow (owned by Overton Parish Council).
6. To encourage the provision of additional recycling sites around the parish.
~~*A new recycling centre to be provided as part of the planned car park on Overton Hill*~~
7. To endeavour to make Overton parish free of litter and dog mess:

To employ local litter pickers and support voluntary litter picks arranged by groups within the community.

~~*Litter picker employed April 2005.*~~

Liaise with the borough about problem areas with particular regard to fly tipping.

Liaise with the borough council regarding the resiting of litter bins within the parish.

To seek the cooperation of the whole community to keep Overton tidy.

8. To support any opportunities to enhance public access alongside the River Test.
9. Work towards the development of a traffic management strategy for the parish.
10. Investigate the need for further traffic calming measures within the parish:

Review the current traffic calming measures with other tiers of government, amending where necessary.

Work with other bodies to reduce the speed of traffic.

11. To look at pedestrian and cycle access around the parish.

Pursue the idea of providing cycle ways around Overton

Explore the idea of protecting narrow quiet country lanes from overuse and preserve them for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy. To be carried out in conjunction with Hampshire County Council.

To ensure that new developments have pedestrian and cycle access to the village centre.

Provide cycle racks in the village centre.

To be provided at the Community Centre by BDBC.

Look again at the merits of providing a pedestrian crossing in the village centre.

Carry out a pavement audit within Overton to highlight areas for maintenance and places where dropped kerbs and wheelchair access are needed.

Encourage walking to the village primary school and promote the safety of access routes. Support the proposed school Travel Plan.

Carry out a Footpath Audit to enable the parish council to draw up a plan for maintenance in conjunction with Hampshire County Council. To include cutting of undergrowth and overgrowth, maintenance of stiles and better sign posting of footpaths.

12. Improve and maximise usage of public transport and oppose reductions to existing provision.

Continue to work with the franchisees and appropriate tiers of government.

To report changes to public transport services through News and Views and on the Public Transport Notice Board
To investigate the options for improving access to the railway station by ensuring current parking facilities are enhanced.

By trying to reduce the use of the car by providing a bus to the railway station to coincide with the trains.

Ensure that parishioners are fully informed about the existing shuttle service, and investigate the idea of extending the service.

13. Monitor verge and grass cutting in the parish.
14. Hold regular meetings with the Hampshire County Council's Local Highway Engineer.
Carried out on a monthly basis.
15. Seek to introduce more appropriate lighting systems and fill gaps in the network.
16. Continue to review the highway sign survey to reduce pavement clutter and visual impact.
17. To provide grit bins in suitable locations within the parish and ensure that they are kept full by informing the county council.

Planning Committee

1. Utilise the Village Design Statement to support decisions made on future planning applications and take steps to review it on a regular basis.
2. Be actively involved with the Local Plan Review – to resist inappropriate large-scale developments, which might impinge on Overton parish.
3. Inform the community of formal landscape designations such as SSSIs, AONBs, Conservation Area, TPOs, listed buildings etc.
4. Resist/minimise the permanent loss of high-grade agricultural land or vistas of high scenic value and ensure that the latter have safeguards within the Local Plan.
5. Work to minimise noise and light pollution
6. Raise the awareness of opportunities to seek building/environmental improvement grants.

7. Monitor and liaise with other organisations to control non-permitted advertising and unsightly signing.
8. To monitor and respond to the various stages of the south east plan.
9. To closely consider all applications for mobile phone masts. To actively discourage the erection of masts within the close proximity of houses, and to consider the impact on the surrounding landscape when placed in open country.

Aim 3

To develop and promote culture, leisure and sports opportunities by liaising with sports providers and referring to recommendations from Overton's Community Profile.

Overton Parish Council

1. ~~To arrange to lease~~ **Liaise with the** St Mary's Hall ~~to the~~ Management Committee. To provide two parish council representatives for the Management Committee.
2. ~~To complete the refurbishment work planned for St Mary's Hall.~~
3. To support the United Halls Group to form a combined strategy for the provision of hall facilities within the parish to benefit the residents and to work towards procuring funding for such a strategy.
4. Liaise with Overton Recreation Centre.
5. To support the work of youth groups within the parish such as Overton Youth and Lordsfield Swimming Club.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

1. Enable and encourage children of all ages to play safely in designated play areas benefiting from good design:

To maintain the parish council owned play equipment at Edward Kersley Playing Field together with some enhancement of the landscape.

To maintain the skateboard facility, basketball net and other facilities at Sapley Lane Playing Field (owned by Overton Parish Council) together with tree, hedge and wildflower planting. Other amenities such as new seats, trim trail and bicycle track are also being considered.

To continue to provide or support the provision by other bodies of play facilities around the parish.

2. Secure more and retain existing open spaces for sport and leisure and continue efforts to expand public access to them.