

FISHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES in the next 5 Years

- During the past 4 years our work has been frustrated by delays in local government planning, unprecedented lockdown restrictions as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting cost-of-living crisis. And there's little sign of much improvement in the short term.
- Whatever the outcome of the forthcoming General Election there will be some major impacts on how we operate and we will need to look at how we can prepare ourselves what changes we can make to prepare ourselves for whatever the “New Normal” turns out to be.
- Globally, nationally and locally we live in uncertain times. As a result, planning becomes an even more inexact science but, at the same time, it becomes even more important so that, whatever happens, we have a steady base from which to respond to changing needs. There has also been a gap in communication both within the Council and with the village community. Zooming enabled us to meet so that policies and recommendations could be approved but virtual meetings do not allow for short, informal face-to-face discussions before, during or after meetings – and the 2 metre rule rendered virtually impossible the open consultation meetings we would normally have held.

EVIDENCE NEEDED FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1. **RESILIENCE PRIORITIES in response to Covid 19** were agreed to the end of 2021. As it is taking longer than expected to recover from all the after-effects of Covid the time limit has been extended and will be reviewed annually. The Policy's priorities are:
2. Review of existing income streams to see what increases (if any) need to be made.
3. Review of existing costs to see if any could be reduced or cut out
4. Completion of existing Projects within previously agreed financial limits.
5. Urgent priorities from Health & Safety Assessments will be addressed.
6. Urgent priorities from annual Organisational Needs Assessments will be addressed.
7. Financial Management and Reserves will be used to manage uncertainty.
8. Future budgets will be informed by the need for earmarked reserves and general reserves to cope with any recurrence of Covid-19 or other pandemic.

2. ORGANISATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

“The greatest risk facing a local authority is not being able to deliver the activity or services expected of the Council.” This document has been produced to enable Fishbourne Parish Council to assess the risks that it faces and satisfy itself that it has taken adequate steps to minimise them. In conducting this exercise, the following plan was followed: Identify the areas to be reviewed: Identify what the risk may be, evaluate the management and control of the risk and record all findings, review, assess and revise if required

The assessment consists of four sections:

- Finance and Management
- Liability
- Assets
- Councillors' propriety

3. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Village Surveys have been conducted on the implementation of the original Neighbourhood Plan and the changes that residents would like to see in the revised version. Further consultations will take place during the preparation of the revised Neighbourhood Plan.

4. SEA.

The Strategic Environmental assessment of our choice of sites for development will be carried out for us by AECOM whose report will be attached as an appendix.

5. Content and Format.

The Neighbourhood Plan will contain an introduction with background information, followed by details of the proposed allocation of new building sites, design criteria and the required infrastructure – all of which have to be approved by the Examiner. Other issues, raised by residents, will form a separate non-examinable report. The Review Group will provide a list of the proposed content (consisting of projects from the original version not yet started or completed, and new ideas from the 2 village surveys and the new requirements from the next version of the NPPF). The full Council will then have a draft version for detailed discussion.

ACTION required: The Council is asked to approve this paper in principle, If it does so I will happily draft a paper dealing with section 2 above and the Review Group will work on a draft for Section 5 above.

Help will be available and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Smaller Councils Committee has already mapped out its two-year work programme which will support delivering on **climate change; community safety; financial resilience of the smallest councils; and health and wellbeing.**

Meanwhile, if you have any comments or queries, please get in touch.

Geoff