



ACTION PLAN 2024-25

(new actions – green - all others are general points)

Parishes are the smallest areas of civil administration and provide the statutory tier of local government to parishioners. Parish councils are an essential part of the structure of local democracy and have a vital role in acting on behalf of the communities they represent.

They:

- Provide views on behalf of the parish on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish
- Work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish
- Alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken
- Help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities

Parish councils have a wide range of powers regarding local matters and have the power to raise money through taxation, the precept, which is the parish council's share of the council tax.

The parish council always welcomes ideas and suggestions from parishioners on particular areas of interest and concern and where it is felt that the parish council may assist – please contact the clerk, contact details below.

This action plan will keep residents informed of the council's plans in line with its aims and objectives:

No.	Aims	Planned Objectives	Budget	Power
1	Accounts and Audit: To ensure that transparent information about payments, annual return, audit documents, budget, precept is available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish on website • Post on noticeboards 	Within Staff Costs budget	Local Government Act 1972 s112
2	Parish Council Administration: To ensure that the parish council administration is run	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish agendas, minutes, calendar of meetings, policies and contact details for councillors on website 	Within Staff Costs budget	Local Government Act 1972 s112

	<p>in an efficient and timely manner and that information is open and transparent To ensure that the parish council complies with all relevant legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post agendas on noticeboards • Support training of clerk and councillors in line with parish council's Training and Development Policy 	<p>Within Training budget</p>	
3	<p>Review Policies: To ensure that all council policies and procedures are reviewed annually and updated as necessary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create list of all policy and procedure review dates • Diarise to ensure that they are added to appropriate agenda for review. 	<p>Within Staff costs budget</p>	<p>Local Government Act 1972 s112</p>
4	<p>Subscriptions To ensure that the parish council has access to advice and training and to support the clerk in their role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish council to approve annual subscriptions 	<p>Within subscriptions budget</p>	<p>Local Government Act 1972 s143</p>
5	<p>Planning Applications To consider planning applications in the interest of parishioners and respond in a timely manner To ensure that parishioners are aware of new applications and are encouraged to make their own representations on new proposals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applications to continue to be added to meeting agendas monthly • Clerk to seek extension for comments if deadline falls before council meeting date • Provide a platform for applicants/developers to address parishioners on proposed schemes • Submit comments to Tewkesbury Borough Council within agreed timescale • Submit comments in respect of appeals, where relevant • Clerk to add details of all new applications to the website and to ensure that the website provides details as to how to comment to Tewkesbury Borough Council on proposals. • To advise the webmaster of all new applications for circulation via the email distribution list. 	<p>Within Staff Costs budget</p>	<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Sch 1 para 8</p>
6	<p>Transparency and Community Engagement To ensure continued compliance with relevant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance to be maintained through website • To continue to support the village newsletter 	<p>Within Staff Costs budget</p>	<p>Local Government Transparency Code 2014</p>

	<p>legislation and to promote openness, transparency and community engagement through the use of various communication media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to support the village website and email distribution list To continue to develop the parish council's social media presence, thereby providing a link to the other tiers of local government 	<p>Part Transparency Fund Grant received 2016 Part within IT budget</p>	<p>Freedom of Information Act 2000</p>
7	<p>Parish Maintenance To keep verges across the parish cut throughout the growing season</p> <p>To improve local facilities where possible</p> <p>Observe the Biodiversity Duty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree action plans with local contractors Receive feedback from parishioners regarding problem areas Report work required to County maintenance teams Directly employ a village maintenance person Consider how improvements can be made to protect habitat 	<p>Within Grass Cutting budget</p> <p>Seek grants</p>	<p>Highways Act 1980 s96</p> <p>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 s4 Biodiversity Duty</p>
8	<p>Parish Footpaths To maintain parish footpaths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive feedback from parishioners regarding problem areas Liaise with footpath warden where appropriate Report any work required to Public Rights of Way Team To liaise with and support where possible the work of the Cotswold Wardens Improvements to gateways/stiles with funding where possible 		<p>Highways Act 1980 ss 43,50</p>
9	<p>Health and Safety To maintain defibrillator at Village Hall</p> <p>Fund replacement bins where necessary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund replacement pads and batteries, as required. Budget provision 	<p>Budget</p>	<p>Public Health Act 1936, s234</p> <p>Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 s.55</p>
10	<p>Community Engagement To support local groups which have no other source of income</p> <p>Widen communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidise hall hire cost of Drop In Sessions 	<p>Within Grants/Donations budget</p>	<p>Local Government Act 1972 s112</p>

	Support Biodiversity Projects Consider Neighbourhood Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with local businesses seeking donations and input • Liaise with other public bodies on matters relating to Southam • Make grants available • Consult the public 		
11	Road Safety To support Community Speedwatch Team To provide VAS equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to provide equipment for Community Speedwatch volunteers • To continue to provide vehicle activated speed signs for use in the parish • To publicise data extracted from the VAS equipment • To act as intermediary with relevant authorities on matters of road safety 	Within VAS Equipment budget	Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s30
12	Emergency Scheme Flood/Snow/Emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider measures which can be taken 	Not yet known	

Southam Parish Council

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