

Little Waltham Parish Council
Strategy Statement for Financial Year 2024 – 2025

This document sets out the strategic plans and aspirations of the council for the next year. The objectives in the plan correspond to both the needs and demands of the local area and the wider context.

The strategy is designed to enable the Parish Council to plan and to meet our goals, whilst retaining some flexibility to deal with any unexpected circumstances which may arise.

1. Recreational Facilities

The Council are responsible for a few recreational facilities and has the plans and aspirations set out below:

- To continue to maintain the area of the recreation grounds let to the Parish Council by Chelmsford City Council including maintenance of the grass, trees and vegetation, the area to include the former Cricket ground
- To upgrade the Pavilion into a 'community hub' facility. The Council needs to consider what is required for this project, and decide on the best plan for this 'hub' to benefit the community.
- To continue to maintain and upgrade the children's play area
- To continue to maintain and upgrade the tennis courts including the installation of outdoor gym equipment.
- To continue to maintain the area for football including maintenance of the goalposts
- To continue to provide allotments to residents behind the recreation ground and at the Blasford Hill site.

2. Services and assets for the Community

With the aim of providing a clean and tidy environment the Council will:

- Continue to engage a contractor to provide litter picking services, gardening services and emptying litter bins
- Consider hosting occasional community litter picks
 - To continue to review the efficiency of this service
 - To consider arranging community litter picks on an ad hoc basis
- Continue to provide grass cutting services for certain areas in the Parish
- Continue to maintain flower tubs around the Parish.
 - To consider replacing the broken tubs and to add new flower tubs around the village gates
- Continue to maintain the Parish Council owned bus shelters within the Parish
 - New notice boards are required.
- Acquire and maintain litter bins in the Parish
 - To review the condition of existing bins and consider if new or additional bins required.
- Acquire and maintain dog bins
- To participate in the Essex County Council salt bag scheme.
- To maintain the defibrillator located in the red telephone box in The Street

- To provide and maintain seating within the Parish
- To maintain the village sign
- To maintain the War Memorial in The Street
- To support the Community Speed watch scheme and local group
 - In view of residents' concerns in relation to speeding to continue to promote and support the group
 - In particular to reinvigorate advertising for volunteers and consider its use in newly developed areas of the Parish
- To maintain notice boards in the Parish.

3. Administration

To meet the administrative costs of the running of the Parish Council in the discharge of its legal statutory duties including the cost of employing the Clerk.

The new Clerk requires training this year and to attain the CiLCA qualification when possible. The training time, costs and requirements need to be considered.

4. Community engagement and assistance

The Parish Council will assist local community groups financially with the provision of grants under its small grant scheme.

5. Communication with residents

The Parish Council is committed to effectively communicating with residents and to do so will:

- Provide and maintain noticeboards
- Continue to produce the Parish magazine on a quarterly basis
- Maintain a website
- Utilise the Facebook page

6. Representations on behalf of residents

The Parish Council will continue to consider and make representations both in writing and by attending committee meetings in relation to planning applications, planning enforcement, planning consultations, licensing matters and other relevant consultations effecting the Parish.

The Parish Council will continue to liaise with other public sector organisations to attempt to address issues raised by residents in relation to highways, streetlights, traffic and parking issues together with fly tipping, fly posting and maintenance of public rights of way.

7. Events for the Community

The Parish Council will consider organising community events for the Parish, for the benefit of all residents and to build a sense of community within the Parish. We will consider events such as: Play in the Park, D Day Commemorative event, summer fayre, movies in the park and Christmas celebrations.

The Council will create a Sub Committee to focus on organising these events.

The Parish Council will ensure that the events are inclusive and serve the whole community.

8. Health and Wellbeing

The Parish Council will give consideration to the 'Health and Wellbeing' agenda for the benefit of all residents and consider how existing strategy already fits into this agenda and any other actions or initiatives that may be taken.

9. Biodiversity

The Parish Council will consider the biodiversity requirements for our Parish and liaise with organisations to fulfil these requirements.