



Heybridge Parish Council

Corporate Strategy Plan 2015 -2020

1. Aim of the Corporate Strategy

1.1 The aim of this document is to ensure that the overarching strategy of the current Council is outlined, enabling Councillors and Staff to cross check individual decisions against the strategic plan. It should also provide any subsequent Council with a statement of aims providing a point from which to start.

1.2 Heybridge Parish Council recognises that this administration's term of office will end in 2019 and that it may be that there is a change of Councillors at this time. Additionally, it may occur that there are changes in legislation, with localism and powers of competency on the horizon which may affect this strategy, and so it should be subject to further review.

1.3 If you wish to input into this review, then we welcome ongoing comments on the strategic direction of Heybridge Parish Council by contacting the Clerk in writing.

2. Mission Statement

The Parish Council aims to support a caring cohesive inclusive community, a forum for local democracy and to promote the Parish and its amenities to the wider audience.

3. Aims of the Council

The Aims of the Council are to:

- 1- Provide services economically, efficiently and effectively to help meet the needs and wishes of residents.
- 2- To provide public venues to be utilised for business and pleasure.
- 3- Work in transparent open manner.
- 4- Encourage local views and opinions and act upon them as appropriate.
- 5- Work in partnership, or otherwise, with other statutory and voluntary bodies, businesses and individuals to facilitate improvements to Heybridge environment and amenities to meet the needs and expectations of residents.
- 6- Work to make the environment and our services safe, ethical, and sustainable.
- 7- Endeavour to appraise all the activities in Heybridge to ensure that the Parish Council is best placed to meet the needs of the local people and economy.

- 8- To help create a socially inclusive and caring community which embraces all its residents, irrespective of age, culture, income, race, sexual orientation or religion, and which seeks to develop their well-being, knowledge, understanding and mutual co-operation.

4. Services

The services which the Parish Council are responsible for providing for the residents of Heybridge are:-

- Plantation Hall and its facilities
- Daisy Meadow Car Park
- Amenity areas (The Roothings, Rowan Drive, Larch Walk)
- St. Andrew's Closed Churchyard
- To provide a critical appraisal to all initiatives that affect Heybridge Parish
- Annually setting a fair and legal precept to provide these services, allow for contingency and maintain reserves according to our legal obligations

5. Strategies (current to 2020)

The Parish Council will achieve this under several strategies:-

I. Localism Act 2011.

The Council intends to obtain the Power of Competence. This will give the Parish Council the opportunity to bid to provide some local services which are currently provided by other levels of local government.

The balance of opportunity and risk must be assessed in order to ensure ongoing excellent value to Heybridge rate payers.

II. Developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

III. Communication Strategy.

The Council commits to use the internet as a communication stream for any relevant communication and in any case to ensure that:-

- a. Agendas and minutes of the Council meetings are available in good time.
- b. Promote public participation during Council meetings held in public.
- c. Forthcoming events under control of the Parish Council are regularly posted and in good time.
- d. The Parish Council recognises that not all residents have internet access and so agendas and minutes will remain available for viewing within the Council office at Plantation Hall.
- e. To explore the possibility of having paperless meetings to promote sustainable environment.
- f. Distributing a quarterly magazine, Heybridge Herald, to every household within the Parish.

IV. Police and Voluntary Organisations.

The Council will continue to strive to maintain strong and successful links with relevant groups to ensure a cohesive approach to wellbeing within the Parish. The Council will continue to work with Essex Police to share information on local crime and safety issues.

The Council continues to work with the Maldon District Council Community Protection Officers and Street Scene Enforcement Team regarding dog fouling, fly posting, litter and fly tipping issues.

V. Staff and Councillors “Fit for Purpose”.

Councillors are held to account by the electorate. In addition they are bound by the codes of conduct adapted locally to deliver additionally stringent controls ensuring excellent conduct and behaviour. Councillors commit to providing and undertaking relevant training as well as networking with other Town/Parish Councils.

The Parish Council remains responsible for employing the Council staff. The Council commits to supporting staff by liaising with the Parish Clerk where and when necessary.

VI. Facilities including Plantation Hall usage.

The Hall is the very heart of the Community and is available for use by residents. The facility is made available at competitive rates throughout the year. The Parish Council is looking at extending the Hall to further meet the needs of the growing community.

VII. Good Governance

The Parish Council aims to be a professional, competent, caring, and to be open and accountable in all it does and to ensure the sound financial management of Parish Council resources.

VIII. Allotments

The Parish Council continues to actively seek land within the Parish that would be suitable for use as allotments.

IX. Donation Awarding Grant

Through the donation awarding grant policy, the Parish Council continues to support community groups to provide services which benefit Heybridge Parish.

X. Community Emergency Planning

The Parish Council remains active in keeping a regularly updated Community Emergency Plan which assists the Chelmsford and Maldon Resilience Planning Team. The Council continues to work with other members of the Resilience Team to build up community resilience and emergency preparedness.

Clerk

3 September 2015

Adopted by full Council on 17th September 2015. To be reviewed annually at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Reviewed May 2016.