



Drinkstone Parish Council

5 year Strategic Plan
April 2021

Background

- Since May 2018 the focus of the Parish Council has been to prepare, develop and secure a referendum for the Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan. Due to current restrictions surrounding Coronavirus the planned referendum is still to take place, however the plan now carries significant weight and has already been used on a number of occasions to influence the outcome of planning applications. In addition the poor broadband and speed of traffic identified in the plan have been actioned. With this piece of strategic work now in its final stages, the Parish council will start to develop a new strategy, rolling over some of the issues identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, whilst forming the vision for the next 5 years based on feedback from the Parishioners, and a joint commitment to improve the environment and facilities in the village, along with a review of the councils operational standards.



The Future

- It is a shared view of all the members of the council that a less introspective agenda should take priority in the future. Community first and foremost will be the mantra forming a vision that can be broken down into 4 strategic platforms, forming the guidelines for all future spending and activity for the next 5 years.
 - Community First
 - Environment & Bio Diversity
 - Operational Efficiency
 - People Development



Community First

- To ensure that the focus of the Parish Council is above all to put the community of Drinkstone first, before making any decisions and financial commitments, and to continually remind itself that it exists to support and improve the lives of its Parishioners, whilst maintaining its legal responsibilities.
 - Initiatives to consider
 - Bus service/Community Transport
 - Communication to residents/ improving the profile of the council
 - Pavements & road safety
 - Mobile & Broadband infrastructure
 - Traffic speed
 - Community Awards
 - Alliance with Village Hall
 - Footpaths and Bridleways identifying potential new permissive routes
 - Planning & Light pollution
 - More litter bins



Environment & Bio Diversity

- In the Neighbourhood plan questionnaire, Drinkstone residents value the rural nature of the village but also seek good, modern communications. More than 80% stressed the value of open space, countryside access, peace and quiet, footpaths, the villages rural character, and environment that is viewed as friendly and safe, and local wildlife.
 - Initiatives to consider
 - Painting the railings in the village
 - Bulb planting on the grass verges
 - Planting by Drinkstone signs as entering the village
 - Benches on footpaths
 - Bee Corridors
 - Ditch maintenance
 - Community Orchard
 - Tree & Hedgerow planting in conjunction with local landowners
 - Flooding



Operational Efficiency

- The strategy dictates that the council maximises the amount of expenditure and time to the community and facilities. To facilitate this the council will commit to an on-going review of its operating costs:
 - Initiatives to consider
 - Targeted reduction in operating costs
 - Review of standing orders
 - Meeting durations and frequency
 - Reduction in un-necessary bureaucracy
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Private sector funding
 - Maximise use of Grants
 - Lottery Funding



People Development

- It is often said that people are an organisations greatest asset. This is no different for Drinkstone Parish Council which needs to future proof itself through attracting, developing and retaining volunteers and employees to ensure there is a succession plan in place (subject to elections) to continue to support the community for many years to come.
 - Initiatives to consider
 - Formal induction on joining as a Councillor
 - Training via SALC and other organisations
 - Regular review of portfolio responsibilities
 - Attracting a cross section of the community to council positions
 - Encouraging involvement through working parties
 - Formal and informal feedback
 - Creating a positive can do culture
 - Making being a councillor fun!!!!



Suggested Portfolios

- **Village Assets**
 - The Cricket, Phone box, Defibrillator Cabinet, litter and Dog bins
- **Allotments**
 - Allotments, Rattlesden Rd Land
- **Highways**
 - Roads, Pot holes, roadside ditches, speeding, flooding
- **Planning & Development**
 - All planning matters and community infrastructure projects
- **Community Engagement and Communication**
 - Village Hall, Parish Mag, Web site, clubs and charities
- **Footpaths & Rights of way**
- **Nature & Bio Diversity**
 - Trees, planting, hedgerows

