

Woodchester Parish Council: Priorities to 2024

Consultation draft May 2022

This document sets out the priorities identified by Woodchester Parish Council for the period from 2022 until the next local elections in 2024. Some of these are new projects and some are ongoing commitments to our statutory responsibilities such as development control consultations and emergency planning. It is important that we focus our time and resources on issues and projects we feel we can deliver, and which will benefit the most people in our community.

The proposals take into consideration the original Parish Plan produced in 2005 and the subsequent review carried out in 2012. These can be seen on our website www.woodchesterparish.org

The Parish Council would welcome your comments:

Have we identified the right priorities?

Can these realistically be delivered in the three year period until the next local elections?

Is there anything else that should be identified as a priority and needs our attention in the near future?

1. Better Communications:

The Parish Council believes that the way we operate and how we communicate is important. We will better communicate what we do by:-

Producing a dedicated two page update, in every edition of the Woodchester Word. This will be distributed to every household in the Parish and published online on our website.

Holding an Open Forum at the beginning of every Parish Council meeting.

Updating the Parish website to keep it relevant and accurate.

Producing and distributing a "Welcome Pack" for all new households.

Refurbishing our village notice boards as required, and ensuring they provide useful information.

2. Roads, Transport and Travel:

The Parish Council will continue to be represented on a County Wide Action Group pressing for traffic management and speed reduction. We will continue to work with Gloucestershire County Council and our neighbouring Parish and Town Councils on Road Safety and related issues.

We will continue to report potholes, problems with drainage and push for resurfacing of badly damaged roads. We appreciate the efforts of our County Councillor in helping us resolve Highways issues.

We will encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport whenever possible and promote the use of community transport schemes such as the Community Connexions bus service and local Car Clubs.

3. Housing and Planning:

We will continue to respond to all statutory consultations on new building, extensions and alterations and change of use. Our aim is that building development should respect the design and character of our villages.

4. Village Facilities:

We will maintain the **village phone boxes and the defibrillators** located in them and encourage volunteers to keep the book swap tidy and organised.

Create a new children's play area. This is a major new project and we will be leasing land currently owned by Gloucestershire County Council. The project also involves completing all necessary site surveys and preparatory work; consulting with the community, agreeing the design details and raising match funding through grants and sponsorship.

We are investigating new opportunities to bring the former **St Dominics school buildings** into mixed Community and commercial use.

5. Volunteer and Community groups:

We will continue to offer grants of up to £500 available to voluntary and community groups within the village.

We will encourage and advise interested members of the community who wish to plan and organise events which will bring people together.

We will encourage litter picking and offers of help to keep the village clean and tidy.

6. Greening our village:

We will identify places where we can plant trees and sow wildflower mixes to create bee friendly habitats.

Help people understand and explore the countryside around Woodchester by promoting the local footpath network, guided walks and talks.

Work with the Cotswold Voluntary Warden Service to ensure local paths are accessible to all and provide more seats so people can take a rest.

We will raise awareness and understanding of climate change and its impacts, by providing information on our social media, and signposting to the work of local Climate Action Networks. We will consider the wider environmental impacts of all our decisions.

Is there anything else we should be doing? Do you have suggestions or comments?

Please send your comments by email to Katharine@woodchesterparish.org.uk by June 2nd 2022