

HAXEY PARISH COUNCIL – POLICY STATEMENT

Aims and Objectives

1. The current general and specific Aims and Objectives of Haxey Parish Council are summarised below. The Parish council's ability to fulfil some of these intentions is dependent on it maintaining its Power of Well-Being or any subsequent, equivalent, power introduced by Government:
 - a) **General Aims and Objectives.**
 - i. Efficient functioning of the Parish Council as set out in legislation and the acceptance of responsibilities and promotion of local issues, on behalf of Parishioners, as they emerge.
 - ii. Undertaking relevant training by Parish Councillors and Officers to ensure that the Council is able to perform its statutory duties to the best of its ability and take on responsibilities that result in the improvement of facilities and governance for the local community, at the Parish level
 - b) **Road Traffic and Transport.** Through its powers by influencing and by working in partnership, the Parish Council will seek to address the following:
 - i. Speeding in the Parish.
 - ii. School safety.
 - iii. Parking.
 - iv. State of roads and pavements.
 - v. Improvement of community transport.
By
 - vi. Encouragement of safer cycling.
 - vii. Overview and liaison with the Principal Authority on Parish footpaths and bridleways.
 - c) **Housing and Development.**
 - i. By influencing the Planning Authority, restriction of housing development in certain Parish locations¹.
 - ii. Ensuring an appropriate mix of all types, size and tenure of housing in the Parish.
 - iii. Identification of any need and location of Affordable Housing in the Parish.
 - d) **Environment.**
 - i. Environmental improvements in the Parish.
 - ii. By working in partnership with appropriate bodies and by ensuring bodies with statutory responsibilities are made aware of local conditions in order that they can make informed decisions, reduce the risk of flooding in the Parish and the surrounding area.
 - iii. Reduce the amount of litter and dog fouling in the Parish.
 - iv. Continued support to existing Parish Allotments and any subsequent expansion, if required.
 - v. Continued efficient management, on behalf of Parishioners, of Parish owned land.
 - vi. Continued provision of burial/cremation facilities for the Parish.
 - vii. Potential provision of a Parish Handyman.
 - e) **Local Facilities.**
 - i. Promote access to Council services.
 - ii. Promotion of Parish Information.
 - iii. Promotion of facilities for young people.
 - iv. Production of a Community Emergency Plan.

¹ The PC may have to revisit this if the Government fulfils its commitment to reform the planning rules.

f) **The Community.**

- i. By working in partnership with appropriate bodies and by ensuring bodies with statutory responsibilities are made aware of local conditions in order that they can make informed decisions, reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- ii. Promotion of Christmas lights throughout the Parish.
- iii. Improvement of Parish information and visibility to Parishioners of historic documentation.
- iv. Continued improvement and promotion of the Parish Website.

Provision of Information to the Community

2. Provision of Parish Council information to the community is by the traditional means of notice boards around the Parish and the Parish Council maintains a web site. The Parish Council also contracts a local “free to all households” magazine to publish a monthly report on its’ main activities and also uses the local newspaper to air any local issues and advertise for services required. On more general information provision, there is currently a North Lincolnshire Council Library facility in Haxey Memorial Hall and a mobile library which visits Westwoodside and East Lound fortnightly. There is a part-time “Local Link” in the nearby town of Epworth and the Parish Council believes that in the future, there is a requirement for the provision of this type of facility more locally in the Parish.

Opportunities for Community Involvement

3. Other than the direct communication with Parish Councillors and normal conventional communication avenues available to Parishioners, community involvement is achieved through the attendance of the Public at monthly Parish Council meetings which is encouraged and time can be made available at these meetings for the Public to be able to speak. Moreover, there is the opportunity for active community involvement in Parish issues at the Annual Parish Meeting and there are also opportunities to air community views through the “have your say” elements available on the Parish website. Recent activity on the Haxey Parish Community Led Plan also gave the greater community the opportunity to contribute to and develop the plan and now that the plan is complete the follow on organisation, the Parish Plan Action Group, which is open to anyone in the community, gives the opportunity to become involved with the implementation of the Parish Plan and subsequent liaison with the Parish Council.

Opportunities for Formal Representations to the Council

4. There are opportunities for formal representation to the Council through the process of requesting the Parish Council to be addressed by a Parishioner or group of Parishioners having given prior notice to the Parish Clerk. There is the statutory opportunity to address issues by Parishioners formally at the Annual Parish Meeting and petitions can also be presented to the Parish Council by Parishioners.

Involvement in Partnerships

5. Haxey Parish Council does not currently have any formal involvement in partnerships with other organisations; however, there is Parish Council representation on the Parish Plan Action Group, the Parochial Church Council (Churchyard Only), Axholme South Neighbourhood Action Team and the Farm Watch Group, the Westwoodside and Haxey Playing Fields Associations, the Haxey and Westwoodside Village Hall Committees; the Haxey Combined Charities Trustees, the Haxey Parish Allotment Association, the Haxey Endowed School Estate Trustees, the Joint Advisory Committee with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. Moreover, the Council is aware of the potential advantages of forging partnerships for the good of the Community and is open to using the Partnership Vehicle in the future to support any relevant projects that the Parish Council may promote.

Role of Councillors and Officers

6. As well as the statutory roles of elected Councillors and appointed Council Officers, both are generally available to the Community as a means of communication and providers of information on Parish issues.

Specific Areas for Community Involvement

7. Community involvement is considered to be extremely important by Haxey Parish Council and now that the Parish has an adopted Community Led Plan, specific areas for community involvement include:
 - a. Road Traffic and Transport including speed reduction, school safety, improvement in the state of roads and pavements and improvement in public and community transport.
 - b. Housing and Development including Affordable Housing, housing mix and control of development sites.
 - c. Environmental Issues including environmental improvements, reduction of flooding risk and reduction in litter and dog fouling.
 - d. Local Facilities including improved access to Council facilities, facilities for young people and the production of a Community Emergency Plan.
 - e. Community Issues including crime and anti-social behaviour and improvement in the provision of Parish information.