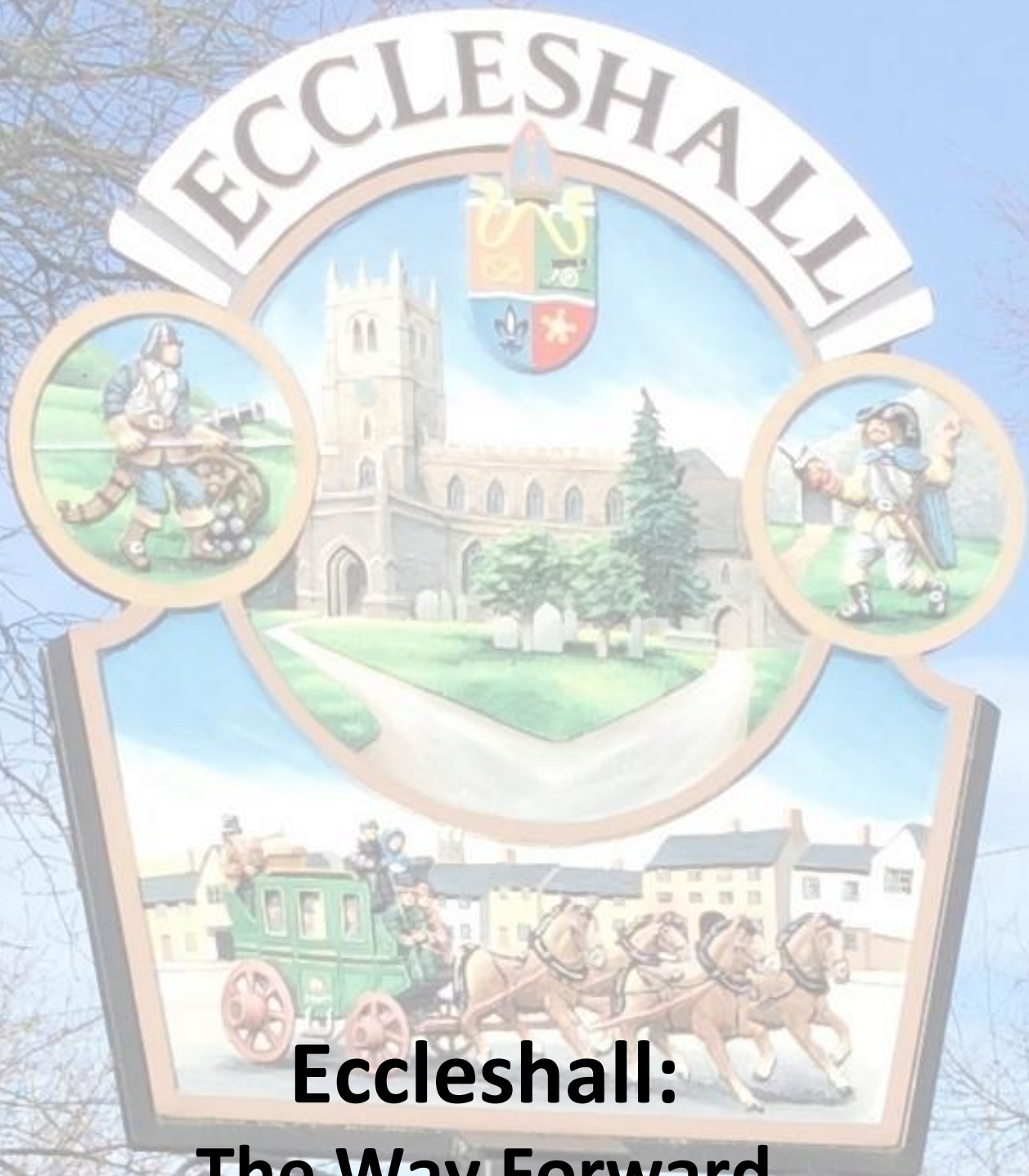


Eccleshall Parish Council



**Eccleshall:
The Way Forward**

2022-2025

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this Forward Plan is to provide a clear framework to achieve the Council's aims and objectives over the long term. This document will enable residents to have a clear understanding of the current plan and future aspirations of the Parish Council as it seeks to improve the parish to the benefit of all who live and work in it.
- 1.2 It is noted that not all aspirations fall under the direct control of the Parish Council, with some lying with other authorities or agencies. In these instances, the Council seeks to use its influence to ensure other providers are aware of the needs of residents and the importance of delivering those services promptly.
- 1.3 This is a flexible, live document and will be regularly reviewed and updated should priorities need to adapt, or other opportunities arise.

2. Why have the Parish Council produced this Forward Plan?

- 2.1 The Parish Council believes it is important to set out clearly where the Council has decision-making authority and responsibility, and other matters that are of importance for the community, with respect to which the decision-making authority and responsibility resides with other local authorities, such as the Borough and County Councils, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and other bodies.
- 2.2 Sections 3 to 7 describe the Parish and the Council and sets out the processes through which the Council plans to exercise its authority and responsibilities in the short- and long-term.
- 2.3 Section 8 sets out the process through which the Forward Plan will be reviewed and revised each year, prior to the Parish Council agreeing the Precept and setting the following year's detailed budget.
- 2.4 Section 9 describes the projects, concerns, and objectives that the Council will be prioritising in the short-term in the exercise of its authority and responsibilities.
- 2.5 Section 10 outlines the process by which the Council will determine how it should accommodate, within the established priorities of the Forward Plan, further projects, concerns and objectives for the long-term plan but that are not currently either proposed or fully evaluated. The Parish Council believes it is important to consult with the community on this plan as well as report back and consult on the prior activities, and this section outlines how and in which situations the community shall be consulted and have an opportunity to provide views and feedback.

2.6 In the interests of transparency and responsible financial management, Section 11 contains the draft viewpoint of the current Council as to potential future long-term projects. Each of these will need to be validated, costed, and prioritised before consideration for implementation, following the framework outlined in Section 10. For a potential project to become viable there will also need to be clarity over the funding source that the Council will be considering in order to implement it, as well as clarity over which of the agreed long-term aims are supported by the project.



Parish Council footpath maintenance works to replace a stepper

3. Vision and Aims

- 3.1 By working with residents, local authorities, partner organisations, and other agencies, the Parish Council seeks to make Eccleshall a safe, healthy, prosperous and sustainable community, to maintain and enhance the quality of life that all residents, people that work here and visitors enjoy, and leads to a feeling of pride:

To enhance the quality of life for those who live in, work in, and visit the Parish of Eccleshall

3.2 Long-term Aims

- 3.2.1 To represent the views and interests of the residents of the parish in all its work and during interactions with other authorities, agencies, and bodies.
- 3.2.2 To preserve the identity of the Parish when enhancing facilities and supporting local businesses.
- 3.2.3 To undertake a range of services in line with the needs and wishes of the parish, which will require all the Council members working together to serve and lead the community.
- 3.2.4 To use the powers available to the Parish Council to maintain a demonstrably sustainable and thriving parish with a strong offering to new and existing businesses that support the needs of the local community as well as visitors and our wider society, through building on and preserving the parish's valuable resources in landscapes, history, facilities, leisure, and tourism.
- 3.2.5 To develop the parish as an inclusive and vibrant community by addressing their needs and encouraging all social sectors of the community to build on the existing strong character and community spirit within the Parish.
- 3.2.6 To manage Council finances and assets responsibly and wisely.
- 3.2.7 To exercise its duties within its discretionary powers, maintaining compliance with the latest relevant legislation and advice.

4. About the Parish



Eccleshall Parish Boundary map (Parish Online Maps)

Explore in more detail at <https://bit.ly/EPCmap>

- 4.1 Eccleshall is an extensive Parish comprising some 20,000 acres and lies 6 miles to the north-west of Stafford. Eccleshall is formed of 4 Wards. The 2011 Census recorded Eccleshall having a total population of approximately 6,657 – 60% of whom lived in the town. This is likely to have increased markedly in the latest decade.
- 4.2 Eccleshall lies in the Sow Valley, one of the most picturesque areas of Staffordshire. For many centuries it was the market town for a large agricultural area and the country home of the Bishops of Lichfield. In the 19th Century it became even more prosperous as an important staging post for coaching traffic in the Chester to London Route. The many and varied small shops in town still cater for the needs of residents and visitors alike.
- 4.3 Across the Parish there are a number of notable historic and natural features, including the historic Bishop's Wood, which dates to Saxon times and has remains of a 16th Century glass furnace, Copmere Lake, a site of Special Scientific Interest thanks to the presence of oligotrophic mire rich in Sphagnum moss, the 18th Century Walled Garden at Sugnall, the privately-

owned Eccleshall Castle, numerous historic coaching inns and other buildings dating from the times of the London to Chester Toll Road, and more.

- 4.4 Numerous community groups operate across the Parish, including at Croxton and in the town of Eccleshall itself, such as an Amateur Dramatics Society, indoor bowls club, Women’s Institutes, Allotments, an historical society, and The Ecclian Society – whose volunteers organise baskets of flowers in the High Street and erection of the Christmas trees. Eccleshall also has two football clubs, a tennis club, rugby club and cricket club.
- 4.5 Housing developments in recent years have helped to maintain the town’s vibrant community. Eccleshall is a well-preserved market town with many listed and architecturally significant buildings in the High Street. It is easily accessible and yet retains a charm that many other small towns have lost. The town has excellent facilities, including doctors, library, primary school, retail outlets, opticians, pharmacy, restaurants, take-aways and 7 public houses, most of which serve food. The Community Centre hosts a variety of activities.
- 4.6 Regular events include two Biennials: the Eccleshall Festival and the Croxton Well Dressing Festival, as well as the annual Eccleshall Show, regular music and beer festivals, markets, and live music events. There are also traditional events such as community carols, Christmas tree dressing, and more.



Eccleshall Town Settlement Boundary map (2015 Neighbourhood Plan, available at: <https://eccleshallparishcouncil.co.uk/local-information/neighbourhood-plan>)
Black shows the pre-2015 settlement boundary, red the current boundary, and yellow are areas not yet developed but within the settlement boundary.

5. Eccleshall Parish Council

- 5.1 Eccleshall Parish Council was formed in 1894 and is a corporate body that is formed of 15 elected members – 8 members within the Town Ward, 3 members in Horsley Ward, 3 in Croxton and 1 in Slindon. It has varied powers to act in the interests of residents, within a framework of legislation granted by Parliament.
- 5.2 Like many other parishes, Eccleshall faces the challenge of finding sufficient residents with the time and commitment to serve on the Council and needs to co-opt members from time to time. The Council will encourage and persuade residents to serve on the Council when vacancies occur.
- 5.3 As a local government body, the Council deals with local issues and concerns through its principal powers and duties. Eccleshall Parish Council can be the voice of its community on many issues. Several bodies, including Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council consult with Eccleshall Parish Council to gather local opinion and concerns. The Parish Council is often the body requested to take a lead on issues or initiatives affecting the interests of its area. This is seen as a natural role, as a local council may be the only body with initial access to local information and with the resources and capability to act. As the closest public body to the community, Eccleshall Parish Council is also the first port of call for many residents enquiring about public services and it aims to answer these queries and help the community as efficiently as possible.
- 5.4 The Parish Council supports various local groups and societies and currently finances the watering of the posts and mangers in the summer months, the purchase of the Christmas Trees and funds the Eccleshall Band for Carols round the Christmas tree. A Civic Service is held each year in the Autumn and the Council has representation at the Remembrance Day Parade each November.
- 5.5 The Parish Council owns property and land within the Parish. It holds these assets on behalf of the community and is responsible for maintaining them. Eccleshall Community Centre and Allotments are owned by the Parish Council, with both managed by separate Associations. The Parish Council owns and is responsible for the management, maintenance, and development a number of public open spaces:
- Bishops Court Open Space (Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Playing Field)
 - Eyeswell Open space
 - Croxton Play Area
 - Elford Heath and pool
 - Negotiating for Beech Road Play Area
- 5.6 Eccleshall Library has been running since 2019 as community managed library, via a partnership agreement between Staffordshire County Council and the Rotary Club. As the Rotary Club do not plan to enter into a new 5 year contract to continue this arrangement, SCC have asked the Parish

Council to consider taking over as the new partner to SCC to ensure the continuance of the Library for the community. This has been agreed, in principle, with a view of taking over in August 2024, subject to legalities. The existing excellent group of volunteers will continue to operate the Library with support by the Parish Council where required. A joint steering committee has been formed, with representatives from the Parish Council, the volunteers and SCC, and the first meeting was held in May 2024, to ensure the Library continues to support the community. The Parish Council, SCC and the volunteers agree to explore new initiatives to maximise the potential of the Library and its facilities in the High Street in Eccleshall.



Eccleshall Library, High Street, Eccleshall

- 5.7 The Parish Council also delivers a supplementary programme of grounds maintenance to enhance other public spaces that includes Copmere picnic site, the Washpits, Offley Hay Village Hall and nearby pump site, some verges, and key footpaths.



Copmere End Picnic Site

5.8 Recent achievements include ongoing renewal of Elford Heath; additional Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) around the parish; a major project to clear and improve footpaths and pavements across the parish; and the leadership of the Keep Eccleshall Tidy Team (KETT) and Footpath Marshals network; installing outdoor gym equipment at the Community Centre and the Jubilee Field on Hartlands Road. Councillors have also used the Parish Council's influence and standing to get other bodies to make enhancements, such as listing the Beech Road green as a Community Asset protected from sale. Recent achievements include ongoing renewal of Elford Heath; additional Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) around the parish; a major project to clear and improve footpaths and pavements across the parish; and the leadership of the Keep Eccleshall Tidy Team (KETT) and Footpath Marshals network; installing outdoor gym equipment at the Community Centre and the Jubilee Field on Hartlands Road. Councillors have also used the Parish Council's influence and standing to get other bodies to make enhancements, seeking to acquire Beech Road play area as a Community Asset. A Lengthsman has been recruited to undertake maintenance work. In the year 2023-24 the Parish Council took up several

activities that had been in the last Forward Plan's long-term goals and made progress. This includes:

- A parking survey of the High Street, which confirmed that a problem does exist, but on certain days of the week, times of the day, and is felt most in the eastern end of the High Street. The Parish Council are proceeding to work with the County Highways to explore some potential solutions.
- The Borough Council agreed to lease Beech Road community park to the Parish Council. A working group has been formed to rapidly determine what the community's vision is for this park and proceed with plans.
- A Youth Group is being formed with the support and funding of the Council - this will be launched in Summer 2024
- The Parish Council has taken up the long-term wish to conduct more surveys of local residents - namely regarding the gym, the parking, and Beech Road. This ensures that decisions are made with, as well as on behalf of, the local community. Further surveys will be conducted when new projects are initiated and where appropriate.

5.9 Parish Councillors commit their time to improving the Parish, maintaining it as an attractive and sustainable place in which to live. Individual members undertake responsibility for carrying out risk assessments on Council property and helping to maintain items where possible.

5.10 The Council produces a biannual printed newsletter, which is distributed throughout the Parish, and updates the community through the Council website, social media, and noticeboards across the parish.

5.11 The Parish Council's digital presence is represented by:

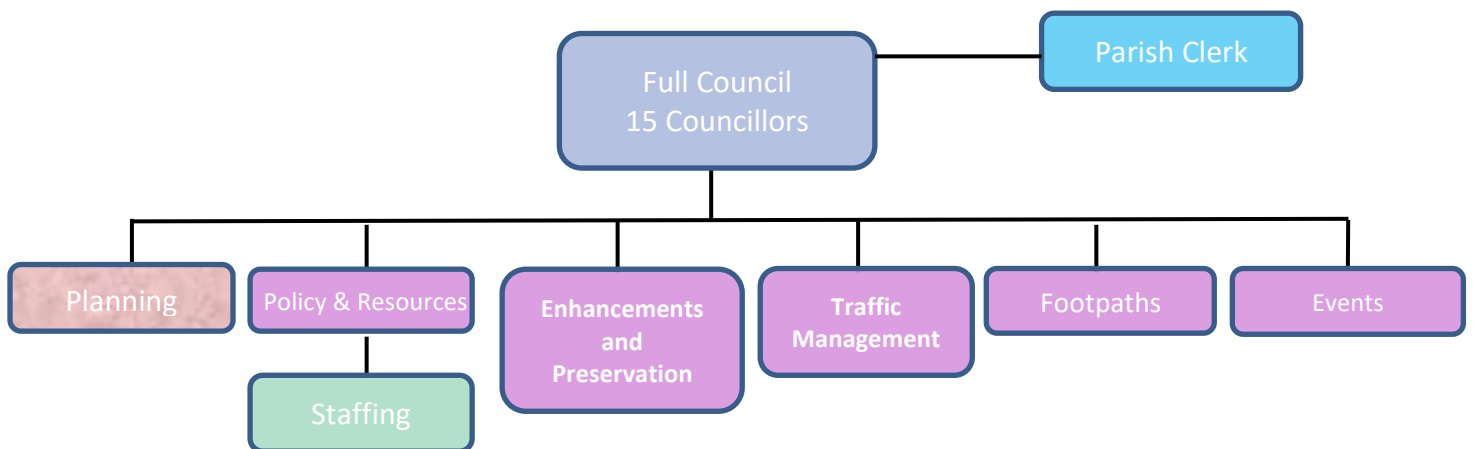
- <https://www.eccleshallparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/EccleshallPC>

6. Council Operations and Structure Operations:

- 6.1 Eccleshall Parish Council operates at the third tier of local government, with residents electing Parish Councillors every four years.
- 6.2 Eccleshall Parish Councillors are unpaid and receive no allowance for their time other than travel costs for duties beyond the Parish, and relevant training. Details of all the Councillors can be found on the Council website.
- 6.3 The Council elects a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and committee Chairmen annually and reports to the community at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM). In the APM it reviews the previous year and allows residents to raise issues of interest or concern.

- 6.4 A statutory annual meeting is held in May at which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council are elected by the Council members at the start of the civic year (which runs from May to April).
- 6.5 The Parish Council has one part time permanent employee – the Clerk, who is both the Proper Officer and the Responsible Financial Officer. It also has a self-employed contractor who undertakes maintenance works to rights of way, a self-employed contractor to handle the speed indication devices, a contractor who undertakes the Lengthsman scheme works and a self-employed handyman who looks after the Parish Council assets such as benches, noticeboards and bus shelters.
- 6.6 The decisions of the Parish Council are carried out by the Clerk and other staff. The Clerk is fully qualified, holding the Certificate in Local Council Administration and the Certificate of Higher Education in Community Governance.

Structure:



- 6.7 The Parish Council has five main Committees – Policy and Resources, Traffic Management, Enhancements and Preservation, Footpaths and Events. There is also a sub-committee for Staffing. Councillors are encouraged to sit on at least one committee and to attend training sessions.
- 6.8 The Council has a separate Planning Committee on which all Councillors sit. This has delegated responsibility for responding to planning applications within the Parish. It should be noted that Eccleshall Parish Council is not a statutory Planning Authority but is routinely consulted by the Borough Council, which is the decision-making authority.
- 6.9 Each committee has a Chairman nominated and chosen by Councillors. The Council also convenes working groups for specific tasks when beneficial.
- 6.10 Recommendations from committees other than Planning are presented to the full Council for decisions apart from Events, which has some delegated decision making powers that enables it to act to secure event bookings, for

example. Decisions are founded on majority vote from all Councillors present at the meeting at which the decision is made, and with a minimum quorum of five.

6.11 In addition to the above structure, the Council may create Working Groups, which are shorter term groups that aim to tackle specific topics. At present the Council has the following Working Groups:

- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Forward Planning
- Young People
- Parking
- Beech Road

Working groups do not have any decision making powers or permanency. Their function is to consider specific aims and report back to the relevant committee to recommend a course of action.

Meetings:

6.12 The Full Council usually meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, and the Planning committee meets twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday (apart from August and December) to consider planning applications in a timely manner. Times and dates of the meetings are advertised on noticeboards as well as the website. Meetings generally start at 7.30pm. All meetings are open to the public, with a period set aside for members of the public to address the Council.

6.13 Other committees meet when required, usually at least 3 times a year.

6.14 The minutes of meetings are included on the Parish Council's website.

7. Governance of the Parish Council

7.1 The Council works within the framework of its standing orders and financial regulations, which lay down the rules by which it operates and conducts its business. The standing orders are based on a model prepared by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). All Councillors are expected to adhere to the Council's code of conduct, which has been adopted from NALC. Committees and working groups work to terms of reference agreed in Council or in executive committees.

7.2 Parish Councillors are expected to adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct and within The Seven Principles of Public Life (the "Nolan Principles")¹. The Council will ensure that its affairs are managed in accordance with the principles of good governance.

7.3 The Parish Clerk administers the Council business and carries out all the functions required by law and acts as the Council's responsible financial

¹ <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/standards-for-councillors-in-local-government> or <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/councillor-development/new-councillor-hub/councillors-role-0>

officer (RFO). The Council will strive to be a good and fair employer by providing fulfilling work opportunities and the best conditions for its staff.

7.4 The Parish Council commits to:

- Promote public participation in all meetings and initiatives.
- Deal with enquiries from the public professionally, politely, and efficiently.
- Be an active custodian of the Council's property and documents.
- Ensure that best value is achieved in terms of the procurement of goods and services for the Council based on competitive quotations.
- Review training needs of both Councillors and staff, on an annual basis.



Some scenes from the Parish Council's Platinum Jubilee Weekend in 2022.

8. Maintenance of this Forward Plan

- 8.1 This Forward Plan will be reviewed and maintained on an ongoing basis, to ensure that current and forward planning for the business of the Parish Council remains aligned to community and Council aims and objectives.
- 8.2 Consultation on forward planning will be conducted within and across the community using robust methodology where the impact is deemed to be significant and the approach to consultation matches the needs and costs.
- 8.3 The maintenance of the Forward Plan shall be the primary responsibility of a Forward Planning Working Group, who shall report to the Policy & Resources Committee to advise on budgetary considerations related to long-term projects under consideration, and whether enough information on benefits, costs, sources of finance, community support, and level or priority are present to allow a reasonable decision to be made by the Council.
- 8.4 Each year the Forward Plan shall be formally revised and re-adopted to ensure that the Current Year Plan and Long-term Planning sections shall reflect the aims and needs of the community at that time.



The pool at Elford Heath

9. Current Year Plan, April 2024-Mar 2025

9.1 Current Objectives with timescale

	Objectives		Actions planned	Responsible Committee	Timescale	Budget
15	Open Space Management (including, Eyeswell, Jubilee Field, Elford Common, Copmere Picnic site, outdoor gyms and play areas, watering, Christmas trees and flood mitigation works)	3.2.2, 3.2.3	I. Benches, Notice Boards & Bus Shelters	Enhancements & Preservation and Footpaths	Q1 to Q4	£2,000
		3.2.2, 3.2.3	II. Repairs and maintenance	Enhancements & Preservation	Q1 to Q4	£1,400
		3.2.2, 3.2.3	III. Croxton play area improvements	Enhancements & Preservation	Q1 to Q4	£1,500
		3.2.5	IV. Footpaths	Footpaths	Q1 to Q4	£4,000
		3.2.2, 3.2.3	V. Verge maintenance	Enhancements & Preservation	Q1 to Q4	£2,000
		3.2.2, 3.2.3	VI. Outdoor Gym	Enhancements & Preservation	Q1	£300
		3.2.2, 3.2.3	VII. Grass cutting, maintenance and Elford Common	Enhancements & Preservation	Q3	£10,000
		3.2.2, 3.2.3	VIII. Watering, Christmas Trees,	Enhancements & Preservation	Q2 to Q3	£9,600
		3.2.2, 3.2.3	IX. Lengthsman	Enhancements & Preservation	Q1 to Q4	£3,000
B	Support for public events	3.2.2, 3.2.5	I. Other events	Events	Q1 to Q4	£4,000
C	Enhance Public safety	3.2.4	Maintenance of Speed indicators	Traffic	Q1 to Q4	£1,585
D	Contribution to mitigating the climate change issue	2.2.2, 3.2.3	I. Investigate appropriate activities II. Bee friendly environment	Sustainability	Q 1 to Q4	£500
E	Library	3.2.2, 3.2.4	I. Staffordshire County Council and the Parish Council have reached an understanding that subject to a formal agreement, the Parish Council will take over the lease of the Library from August 2024, to form a partnership with SCC. The Library will continue to be run by the group of outstanding	Parish Council	Q1	£5,000

			volunteers supported where required by the Parish Council. A joint steering party has been set up to ensure the Library continues to provide Eccleshall with a first class library service and use of the facilities for local groups. The Parish Council will assist the library in further supporting the community.			
F	To develop the parish as an inclusive and vibrant community by addressing their needs and encouraging all social sectors	3.2.2, 3.2.5	I. Establish a Youth-oriented policy through the establishment of a Youth-focused Working Group	Youth Working Group		

Note: the figures allocated are not indicative of total project costs, but the amount set aside in the current budget towards the aims.



Eyeswell Open Space



Mobile Skate Park, June, 2022



Croxton Play Area



Inflatable fun on the Jubilee Field, June, 2022.

9.2 Current Objectives with no defined timescale

Note that the projected total costs listed here have not been approved and are simply an indicative estimate to aid long-term planning. Sometimes the projected costs will be met in one specific future annual budget, and for other items the Council will set aside budget into Ear-marked reserves to ensure the future objectives can be met. Projected costs will be revised as evidence and data become available.

	Objective (aim)	Actions planned	Responsible	Budget 2024-25	Anticipated Additional cost in future years
A	To ensure that the Parish has Neighbourhood Plan in effect when the SBC revise the Local Plan (aim 3.2.7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Keep up-to-date with SBC plans and timelines ii. Ensure EPC is fully aware of residents' priorities iii. Set up a Working Group 	Planning Committee and ultimately Full Council	£6,000	£6,000 (est max)
C	Provide accessible outdoor spaces and facilities to enhance the wellbeing of residents (aim 3.2.2, 3.2.5)	i. Contribute to improvements in recycling and litter mitigation	Footpaths Committee (KETT)		As required
		ii. Help to improve the parking situation in the town	Traffic Management		As required



Some of the active and aspirational projects of the Parish Council

9.3 Current Ear-marked Reserves (set aside for future expenditure)

These funds are allocated from current or prior year budgets to facilitate long-term planning for specific purposes (so-called ‘ear-marked’ reserves). Sums have been rounded to the nearest £ - full details are available on the Parish Council website.

	Long-term Objective	Specific Item	Relevant aim	Next Review Date	Reserves Apr, 2024
A	To ensure that funding is available for long-term community projects too large for a single financial year (aim 3.2.4,3.2.5)	i. Clock Maintenance	3.2.3	Annual	£1,100
		ii. Community Centre	3.2.3	Annual	£10,000
		iii. Open Spaces	3.2.3	Annual	£6,000
		iv. Highways (pavement clearance works)	3.2.3	Annual	£4,589
		v. Allotments fund	3.2.3	Annual	£1,000
		vi. IT infrastructure	3.2.6	Annual	£1,500
		vii. Traffic Projects	3.2.2	Annual	£495
		Flood Works			£405
B	To ensure that irregular Council expenditure is managed across multiple years (aim 3.2.6)	i. Neighbourhood Plan			£,6000
C	Beech Road Play Area acquisition and improvement	i. Acquire ,develop and improve	Enhancements & Preservation	Q1 onward	£6,000
	Total Ear-Marked Reserves				£37,089
	<i>(last year's reserves at the same point)</i>				<i>£59,571</i>

10. Forward Planning Framework

- 10.1 There are many challenges affecting Eccleshall Parish but not all of them are within the direct control or responsibility of the Parish Council. In any case, the Parish Council is the voice of the community recognising the issues and developing initiatives to address them.
- 10.2 Whenever possible EPC will take action directly, using the powers available. However, often the powers required sit with a different statutory authority or another external body.
- 10.3 The Parish Council advises other authorities or bodies on how to respond to those issues and the actions to take. This often requires working in partnership with community groups and individual parishioners with key expertise.
- 10.4 The Parish Council recognises that consultation with the community – those who live in, work in, and visit the parish – is vital to provide evidence-based forward planning. Consultation will be appropriate to the scale of the revisions proposed.
- 10.5 Current sources for public consultation:
- “Eccleshall – The Next Ten Years and Beyond” – a public survey of the town by the County Councillor, 2019.
 - Parish Survey, 2019.
 - “Blue Sky Thinking” Exercise by the Parish Council, 2020.
 - Ad-hoc discussions with parishioners and traders by Parish Councillors.
 - Councillors’ own experiences and skills where relevant to the issue.
 - Stafford Borough Council Published Strategies
- 10.6 This plan will be shared via the Parish Council’s online presence and hard copies will be available at the Eccleshall Library for reference.

11. Long-term Planning – Potential future objectives

The following issues and potential actions form the basis for ongoing public consultation. Items on this list may occasionally be selected by the Parish Council for attention as deemed appropriate through consultation, discussion, or the occurrence of events and opportunities. Each will need to be evaluated for cost, sources of funding, relevance to the aims, and prioritisation by the community.

11.1 Traffic and Parking Issues:

Potential actions:

- a) Identify potential parking solutions.
- b) Consider options for managing speed limits within the Parish.
- c) Highlight the solutions in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- d) Make proposals to the relevant authorities, including Borough and County.

Councils

11.2 Future Planning Strategy

Potential actions:

- a) Establish a working group to lead on the Neighbourhood Plan revisions.
- b) Identify future viable projects suitable for Section 106 funding.
- c) Coordinate and assist community projects in their development.

11.3 Surgery and School Capacity

Potential actions:

- 11.3.1 Work with local groups and the Patient Participation Group to encourage investment in improved Surgery facilities.
- 11.3.2 Investigate availability of grant funding and access to new development levies.
- 11.3.3 Identify in Neighbourhood plan.

11.4 Youth Facilities

Potential actions:

- a) Task the working group to coordinate the actions identified.
- b) Use data from 2021 census and survey of residents to quantify the issue.
- c) Identify locations and equipment that would alleviate the lack of youth facilities.
- d) Investigate grant funding and/donations from all sources.
- e) Propose how EPC can support these actions

11.5 Community Events

Potential actions:

- a) Coordinate with event organisers to identify ways for EPC to support (as needed)
- b) consult and test the interest for introducing new Council-led community events.

11.6 Ensure local business growth and prosperity:

Potential actions:

- a) Consult local businesses to identify ways in which EPC can support business growth to serve residents and visitors.

11.7 Improve community consultation and communication

Potential actions:

- a) Further increase the capacity to engage with and receive feedback from the local community through online mechanisms including improving and strengthening the Parish Council's website.
- b) Introduce "Meet Your Councillor" regular events.
- c) Improve and strengthen the Parish Council's communications with the local community through social media and its newsletter.
- d) Improve use of the Parish Council's website, including the 'News' section and possibly the 'subscribe' feature, as an alternative to social media.
- e) Use surveys, focus groups, and other interactive methods to engage with

the community and increase participation in the process for long-term planning.

11.8 Climate Change Emergency
(working through the Climate Change Working group)

Potential actions:

- a) Identify specific projects to contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of the parish.
- b) Identify suitable locations for Electric Vehicle Points.
- c) Identify suitable locations for tree planting schemes.
- d) Identify suitable schemes to support home insulation, fuel supply, and energy replacement.
- e) Support sustainable transport schemes.

11.9 Flooding
(working through the EFLAG community group)

Potential actions:

- a) Identify areas prone to flooding from Severn Trent data and residents.
- b) Include flooding issues in Neighbourhood Plan.
- c) When considering planning applications ensure risk of flooding is communicated to Stafford Borough Council.
- d) Support the local Flood Action Group (EFLAG).



One of the many floral displays in Eccleshall

Eccleshall Parish Council welcomes any comments and feedback to help with future developments and updates to the plan, to reflect the changing needs of the community. Your comments can be emailed to the Clerk at clerk@eccleshall.staffslc.gov.uk

Adopted Date	
Review Period	1 year
Last Review Date	May, 2024
Next Review Date	May 2025

You can download a copy of this document from the parish council website – scan the QR code or navigate to:
<https://qrco.de/bdJbRf>

