



## **THE FERNWOOD PARISH COUNCIL FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

**June 2017 – May 2022**

(Updated February 2019)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Fernwood Parish Council is fully committed to protect and enhance the community within the parish. As members of the National Association of Local Councils, we will seek professional advice and guidance where necessary so ensuring that as a council we provide the best possible service to our community.

### **STRATEGY**

1. Consult with residents and organisations to enhance the life of our community and improve facilities in our area.
2. Work closely with the District and County Council Planning departments on all planning matters and carefully monitor such applications to ensure that they reflect the principles contained within the Village Neighbourhood Plan and the Adopted Core Strategy.
3. To widely promote the desire of the Parish Council to take ownership (Freehold) of the estate land and to maintain the character of the village.
4. Encouraging appropriate development within the settlement boundary that enhances our community and economic vibrancy.
5. Actively challenge all planning applications made by development companies that include the creation or use of management companies.
6. Actively engage with all stakeholders to understand their views, their needs and their aspirations for Fernwood village.
7. Work with Fernwood village residents, local businesses and the police to ensure the village is safe and all threats to public safety identified and acted upon thus promoting a safer community.
8. To continue to develop good working relationships with Parish Councils in neighbouring communities with a view to sharing of information and liaising on matters of mutual concern.



## **ACTION PLAN 2017 – 2022**

1. Promote and celebrate Fernwood as a great place to live, work and play.
2. Increase public participation at Parish Council meetings.
3. Campaign for the rights of Freeholders to have the same rights under the Law as Leaseholders on a managed estate and to enable them to challenge their service charges by taking the matter to Tribunal. The Tribunal having the power to take an independent view and decide what constitutes a reasonable charge.
4. Review communication methods and implement improvements where necessary - to include:
  - a. Parish Council website
  - b. The Parish Council Facebook page
  - c. Information screens in the village hall.
5. Consider in conjunction with the appropriate authorities, facilities for all age groups within the Greater Fernwood Area.
6. Support groups and organisations whose activities enhance community life.
7. Consider installation of better signage around the village.
8. Obtain details of when speed restrictions and a new crossing are to be imposed on the Great North Road.
9. Fernwood Parish Council is committed to ensure training of all members and staff is up to date and continuous. Training will cover the following key areas as a minimum:
  - a. The working of Parish Councils, including duties, finance, powers and the role of the councillor, chairman and clerk
  - b. Local Government structure generally
  - c. Planning
  - d. Risk Management, including Health and Safety
  - e. The Parish Council as an employer
10. Consider the provision of additional storage space for equipment currently stored in the Village Hall.

**Action Plan to be monitored regularly by the Chairman.**

**Review Progress and report on Action Plan during January each year**