

Strategic Plan

Adopted by the council on July 17th 2023

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.

We pledge to:

1. Work with residents and organisations to enhance the life of our community and improve facilities in the area. Actively engage with stakeholders to understand their views, needs and aspirations for the Fernwood Parish.
2. Work closely with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and any other agencies on all plans for the Parish. Carefully monitor applications/plans to ensure that they reflect the principles contained within the Parish Neighbourhood Plan and Adopted Core Strategy and the safety of people in the Parish is being considered.
3. Encourage appropriate development within the settlement boundary that enhances our community and economic vibrancy.
4. Continue with the Parish Council's plan to take ownership of the open spaces in Fernwood.
5. Investigate all planning applications made by development companies that include the implementation or use of management companies and work with the District Council and developers to make alternative arrangements on agreed developments.
6. Work with Fernwood parish residents, local businesses and the police to ensure the village is safe and all threats to public safety identified are acted upon thus promoting a safer community.
7. 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.
8. Develop Fernwood village hall as a community hub of the Parish.
9. Effectively communicate Parish Council work through the Fernwood Gazette, Parish Council webpage and social media.
10. Use Community Infrastructure Levy receipts to enhance facilities for the Fernwood community.

11. Lobby for transportation improvements in Fernwood to benefit residents of all ages.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Due to the number of residential properties increasing from just over 1000 to more than 4000 through the three housing developers, Fernwood Parish Council will receive approximately three million pounds worth of Community Infrastructure Levy.

Fernwood Parish Council's CIL Policy can be found [here](#). Fernwood Parish Council has committed to use Community Infrastructure Levy for the following projects:

1. CCTV Provision for crime prevention.
2. Village signage and coat of arms
3. Contributions to maintenance costs of new developments.
4. Dale Crescent improvements.
5. Fernwood Village Hall Improvements.
6. Interactive speed signage on Dale Way.
7. Enhancement/maintenance of Costall Woods.
8. Professional and consultancy fees.
9. Replacement of the play park in central Fernwood.
10. Youth Club provision.

Further large projects will be committed to once the council has investigated possibilities and consulted with residents.

Action Plan 2023/24

Fernwood Parish Council strives to work on behalf of parishioners on the issues that matter to the village. We are always keen to receive ideas and suggestions from parishioners on areas of interest or concern and where it is felt the Council may assist. Listed below is our current schedule of activity; this is regularly reviewed and updated as projects finish and priorities change. Fernwood Parish Council pledges the following.

1. Open spaces

The Costal Woods was purchased by Fernwood Parish Council in 2022. We will continue to maintain the Costall Woods including the delivery of a woodland management plan, encourage community engagement within the woodland and ensure protection of wildlife living in the woodland.

Action	When
<i>Maintain the wildlife garden ensuring specialist advice is taken when necessary.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Maintain woodland area including bins, lights and infrastructure</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Community bulb planting</i>	<i>October 2023</i>
<i>Where necessary, conduct ecological surveys on trees and habitat, ensuring the protection of wildlife living in the woodland</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

Commit to completing the transfer of open spaces to Fernwood Parish Council (from Barratt David Wilson Homes to Newark and Sherwood District Council to Fernwood Parish Council in a back-to-back agreement). Progress on this has been much slower than expected, but we will continue to lobby all parties to complete the transfer as soon as possible, whilst also completing due diligence throughout. Once completed, we'll work with FirstPort to look at the provision of a better play park and look to improve facilities for all age groups in Fernwood.

Action	When
<i>Complete the transfer of open spaces to Fernwood Parish Council (from Barratt David Wilson Homes) ensuring due diligence is undertaken.</i>	<i>December 2023</i>
<i>Work with Firstport to review current lay park, including a consultation with residents on playpark needs and improvements for all age groups to improve facilities in Fernwood.</i>	<i>Once land has been transferred</i>

2. Management Companies and open space management and ownership

We will work with N&SDC to ensure the maintenance of the open spaces in the new developments are arranged without the implementation/use of management companies. We will continue to lobby for freeholders to have the same rights under the Law as leaseholders on a managed estate.

Action	When
<i>Work with all parties to complete the transfer of open spaces to Fernwood Parish</i>	<i>December 2023</i>
<i>Work with NSDC and developers to ensure no management company is used in new developments and suitable provision is made for maintaining open spaces</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Ensure Persimmon development will not have a provision for a management company</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Signpost freeholders to relevant authorities for support</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Lobby for freeholder rights of residents with relevant authorities</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Consult with management charge fee payers regarding any proposals that could affect the management charge/provision</i>	

3. Work with NSDC to review CCTV on Rubys Walk and over the playing field off Rubys Avenue.

Action	When
<i>Continue to drive conversation on delivery of CCTV on Rubys Walk and over the playing field on Rubys Avenue (part of the CCTV partnership that has cameras which are centrally managed and footage accessed easily should the police need evidence).</i>	<i>Dependent on N&SDC</i>
<i>Review additional CCTV provision if needed across Fernwood</i>	<i>If required</i>

4. A Coat of Arms was commissioned in 2022 by the previous council with the intention of being used for village signage. Once completed, we will arrange signage at key points in the village and update letterheads to ensure value for money and return on the investment.

Action	When
<i>Agree plans for Coat of Arms</i>	<i>July 2023</i>
<i>Review costings for village signage to ensure value for money for residents</i>	<i>September 2023</i>
<i>Amend website and council stationery (electronic)</i>	<i>September 2023</i>

5. Expand the current calendar of events to encourage wider community engagement. Develop a varied calendar of community events for the benefit of all ages and communities in Fernwood.

Action	When
<i>Deliver large community</i>	<i>August 2023</i>
<i>Deliver October trail</i>	<i>October 2023</i>
<i>Deliver Christmas market</i>	<i>December 2023</i>
<i>Deliver D-Day celebration 2024</i>	<i>June 2024</i>
<i>Deliver Christmas fireworks and market</i>	<i>December 2024</i>
<i>Deliver coffee mornings throughout 2023 & 2024</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Continue to Tuesday warm place sessions</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

6. Maintain Fernwood Village Hall and work the promote the venue to improve experience for users and improve rental income. Continue investigations the possibility of extending the village hall.

Action	When
<i>Review the section 106 provisions for extending the village hall to ensure residents are benefitting from developer funding</i>	<i>July 2023</i>
<i>Review architecture designs to ensure they meet the long term needs of users, cause limited disruption to residents in the village and provide best long-term solution for extension</i>	<i>September 2023</i>
<i>Consult with village hall users on future needs</i>	<i>October 2023</i>
<i>Promote the village hall</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Support residents who wish to use the village hall on a one-off and long-term basis</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

7. Using Community infrastructure Levy, continue to support the Friday night Youth Club. Work with the Fernwood Youth Offer Partnership to assess demand and work to develop the service.

Action	When
<i>Review extension for a further year should there continue to be demand for the club</i>	<i>November 2023</i>
<i>Work with partners in the Fernwood Youth Partnership to ensure effective provisions and activities for all target age groups</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

8. Fernwood remains under-served for a village of its size with bus services running limited times of day, not serving key routes or times. Whilst transport remains the domain of NCC, we will lobby NCC to improve bus services for residents of all ages, with particular attention to frequency and route improvements.

Action	When
<i>Consult with residents on current bus provision</i>	November 2023
<i>Lobby NCC to improve bus services for residents</i>	Ongoing
<i>Investigate community transport alternatives to improve services for all ages.</i>	

9. Ensure paths and roads within the responsibility and jurisdiction of NCC are maintained safe and suitable for purpose. That the available parking within Fernwood is improved in order to create safer driving conditions. To ensure that the correct road restrictions are used to maintain a safe driving speed entering and within Fernwood

Action	When
<i>Lobby NCC and Via to ensure road signs are accurate and maintained.</i>	Ongoing
<i>Lobby NCC and Via to ensure road for improvements to parking solution in Fernwood, particularly Goldstraw Lane</i>	Ongoing
<i>Work with Via/NCC to see what improvements can be made</i>	Ongoing

10. Investigate the plans regarding for the water tower, keeping residents updated and consult with residents on potential plans

Action	When
<i>Consult with the current owner of the clock tower on future plans for the building</i>	July 2023
<i>Lobby owner to ensure the building is maintained to a safe standard</i>	Ongoing

Ongoing business of Fernwood Parish Council

- Continue to maintain Dale Green, grit bins and dog poo bins.
- Regular liaison meetings with developers in the village so residents can be kept up to date on their activity.
- Representation at NCC, NSDC, British Gypsum, Police, Health meetings.
- Promote Parish Council meetings and keep residents up to date through the Fernwood Gazette, social media and noticeboards. Develop and publish the Fernwood Gazette and distribute it to all households and businesses in the Parish.
- Support groups and organisations whose activities enhance community life.
- Liaise with local landowners/businesses on issues affecting the village.
- Ensure staff and Parish Councillor training up to date for the running of the Council and services it provides.
- Review Council policies and procedures to ensure they are up to date and in line with current legislation/guidance.
- Consider and respond to consultations on issues specifically affecting the parish now and in the future.
- Control and management of Parish public finances and administration of the Parish Council.
- Application to the Local Council Award Scheme – Quality Award – to be considered in 2024