

# Wortley Parish Council Business Plan



2023-2025

## **Mission Statement**

“To promote and enhance the wellbeing and quality of life for all residents in the parish of Wortley”.

## **Aims**

To ensure the Parish Council conducts its business by means that are sustainable, environmentally friendly and present the best value towards achieving the Mission Statement.

## **What is the Parish Council's Role?**

In summary this is :

- To listen to and represent local peoples' interests
- To improve the local environment
- To ensure areas of land and properties they hold as owners are administered efficiently and in the best interests of parishioners
- To submit a collective view on relevant planning applications
- To maintain open spaces including public rights of way
- To support voluntary and community groups for the benefit of the parish
- To attract Government, lottery and other grants into the local area
- To provide leadership in the community
- To promote local business growth
- To encourage parishioners to participate in village life/activities as appropriate
- To produce a Business Plan to guide future activities and expenditure
- To manage the allocated 'precept ' monies and maintain audit records.

## **How Does the Parish Council Fulfil this Role?**

Wortley Parish Council has 6 parish councillors (this number is specified by the Council) who, by attending meetings, discuss, debate and decide on local matters affecting the villages and local people.

Parish Councillors may also serve as representatives on local management committees and organisations, as well as having a collective responsibility in the Parish Council business Plan.

## **Meetings**

The Parish Council normally meets every 2 months at 7.30 pm at Wortley Hall. Notices of the meetings will be published on the Village Notice Boards and on this website.

All members of the Parish are welcome to attend and at each meeting there is an agenda item to allow members of the public to bring to the Council's attention matters of concern to them and to ask questions of the Council.

## **Precept Information**

A "precept" is the money a parish council raises in order to carry out its duties and functions for the year. This is paid by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council who include it as an item in their local Council Tax bill sent to every household each year. For the 2023-2024 financial year Wortley Parish Council has precept monies, the final amount will be confirmed and allocated from April 2023.

## **Objectives**

### **1. To maintain effective communications between Parish Councillors and all members of the village community.**

- Allow parishioners and press to attend Council Meetings
- Post agendas on notice boards and/or website
- Make copies of minutes accessible to public by the website
- Post agendas on the website for any relevant planning meetings when deadlines fall outside of Parish Council meetings

- Publish and post minutes of such planning meetings on notice boards and / or website
- Maintain the villages notice boards

2. **To protect and enhance the natural and built environment in the villages.**

- Maintain tidy appearance of both Wortley , Howbrook and Bromley villages and Wortley Village Square.
- Maintain footpaths and perimeters to ensure safety.
- Maintain links with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council on the management of verges and hedges
- Maintain tidy appearance of streets
- Provide and maintain grass verges, benches and seats
- Monitor the following:
  - Village litter bins to ensure they are regularly emptied
  - Encroachment on roadside wastes / fly tipping by reporting to Council
  - Highways issues
  - Rights of way issues
  - Drainage problems
  - Parking issues
- Work closely with Barnsley Council and respond to any relevant consultation on local developments.
- Liaise with other local parish councils to consider joint arrangements where appropriate
- Report to the appropriate authority any planning or environmental infringements.

- Consider relevant planning applications in the parish and comment accordingly, in line with the objectives.

**3. To provide and improve facilities in the village.**

- Maintain and consider improvements to the Recreation Ground
- Maintain all assets in good condition
- Maintain Wortley Village Square
- Seek to ensure that Rights of Way are maintained in good condition at all times and liaise with the relevant Authorities to counter the threat of improper use.

**4. To maintain community safety**

- Report any health and safety issues
- Liaise and request police reports as appropriate from PCSOs.
- Maintain the villages emergency plans
- Work closely with Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators

**5. To act efficiently and in accordance with legal requirements**

- Satisfy all audit requirements
- Pay invoices promptly
- Produce, maintain and publish a Parish Council Business Plan every two years
- Produce budget and set precept to meet objectives of Parish Council Business Plan
- Review relevant Council Emergency Plan annually

- Consider the development of a risk and asset register as appropriate
- Keep business procedures and policies up to date
- Councillors and Clerk to keep abreast of legislative changes

### **Targets for 2023/24**

- Hanging baskets in village
- Continue developing the Parish Council Website
- Relevant issues as they emerge

### **Much of the work of the Parish Council continues from year to year but the following were the main projects/targets for 2022 /2023**

- Develop a Parish council Website
- Church gate war memorial completion
- Bus stop re- staining at Wortley and Howbrook
- Christmas trees and Royal Jubilee decorations

### **Challenges for the Future**

The Parish Council is very aware of the importance of both the understanding and being informed of the needs of the residents in order to represent their interests.

This is the first published Business Plan produced by Wortley Parish Council and we found that the process of preparing the plan gave added focus on how we deliver services and a better idea for future planning. It is our intention to continue to produce a business plan every two years.

March 2023