

What is a Parish Priority Statement and how can it benefit Catsfield?

A Parish Priority Statement (PPS) is a statutory document (from 2023) which outlines in broad terms what Catsfield considers to be the priorities for development in the Parish for the next 15 years. This must be taken into consideration by Rother District Council (RDC) in their preparation of the Local Plan (consultation on that begins in January 2026).

There have been no other PPS's created in Rother to date. Catsfield Parish Council are working with RDC to produce the first in Rother.

In making the PPS, unlike Neighbourhood Plans (NP), we are not required to submit detailed evidence to support the PPS. This means it can be produced quickly (within 6 months) and at minimal costs to Catsfield. A PPS does not carry the same statutory weight or impact as a NP, but it does give us the opportunity to state our views which must by statute be taken into consideration by RDC.

We now have the opportunity to state what we consider to be important and terms of the type and locations of housing development, but we don't have a lot of time to do that.

The process of producing a PPS for Catsfield requires us to think about our priorities for the future and to define our values and outlooks. The PPS can be aligned with the Parish Councils Strategic plan for Catsfield to provide a framework for future decision making by the Parish Council and for the deployment of resources – both time and money.

Before we can submit and PPS, we must consult with residents to establish their views, consolidate those views and then consult on a draft PPS before submitting a final version to RDC, before the RDC Local Plan is completed in late 2026.

How will we produce a Parish Priority Statement for Catsfield?

Stage 1. Dec 2025-Feb 2026

Publish the Parish Council's strategic aims for Catsfield. This does not address housing development because that is not within our remit as a Parish Council. (RDC has the authority on housing)

Issue a survey/questionnaire to receive residents' views on any subject that they wish to comment on to include the Parish Council's draft strategic plan and their views on housing development in the Parish.

Analyse the survey responses.

Stage 2. Produce and consult on a draft Parish Priority Statement. Feb-April 2026.

This will be published via a further survey, the Parish Council's website, Social media, Email.

Public meetings will be held to review the draft Statement.

Responses will be collated and a final version of the Parish Priority Statement will be produced and sent to Rother District Council by June 2026.

RDC will then be legally required to consider the Parish Statement when producing the RDC Local Plan.

How will the Parish Priority Statement be Used?

Defining the Community priorities and development priorities of the Parish will enable the Parish Council to decide what objectives to work on in the Parish and inform our responses to local planning applications, applications for grant funding, responding to consultations and lobbying local bodies such as the District and County Council, or the soon to be new Unitary Authority for our part of East Sussex.