

CATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Mission /Vision Statement

- To represent the local community in a fair, balanced and informed manner in order to improve the quality of life for those living and working in the parish and ensure community well-being and sustainability.
- To deliver services to meet local needs.
- To foster a socially-inclusive and caring community in which all residents have the opportunity to influence their future and that of the parish.
- To manage our assets and finances in an open, efficient and effective manner for the benefit of all residents

Primary Strategic Aims

Strategic Aim	Strategy
To Improve the quality of life for those living and working in the parish.	1. To foster a socially-inclusive and caring community. 2. To promote good ecology and climate change practice. 3. Work with other authorities to improve safety in our community and on our roads. 4. To deliver services and work with others in the community to meet local needs
Represent the local community in a fair, balanced and informed manner	Ensure through effective communications and engagement that all residents have the opportunity to influence their future and that of the parish.
To manage our assets and finances in an open, efficient and effective manner for the benefit of all residents	Ensure we have in place good governance practices and financial controls.

Primary objectives

Key Strategic Aim	Strategic Objectives (What)	Strategies for delivery (How)	Outcome (Measure)
1. Improve the quality of life for those living and working in the parish.	1. To foster a socially-inclusive and caring community.	1. Provide or Facilitate support for residents needing support in the Village. 2. Promote and support wellbeing through Sport and creative activity. 3. Increase access and diversity of use of public spaces and assets 4. Encourage and Support arts and creativity	• Liaise with Rother Hubs to enable local groups and individual to work with the Council to define and deliver services needed. • To have a wider range of access to activities and equipment at the recreation ground to include a more diverse range of users, including young people and older people. • Local groups supported to hold /run sessions to include creativity
	2. To promote good ecology and climate change practice.	1. Support & encourage actions to reduce Carbon use from all community Assets and create green energy. 2. Promote and support projects to protect wildlife. 3. Promote and support local food production. 4. Promote and support projects to reduce carbon from transport.	• Options evaluated to move from Oil heating to green alternatives for the Pavilion. E.g Heat pumps and Solar panels. • Work with local councils to promote ecologic aims and increase tree planting. • Support the provision of allotment spaces to provide local food production. • Support the install of EV charging points in the village car park • Replace street light bulbs with LED

	3. Work with other authorities to improve safety in our community and on our roads.	1. Promote and support a local CSW team in Catsfield to reduce speeding. 2. Monitor Traffic speeds and Volumes to support where needed intervention/policy change by the Police and ESCC Highways. 3. Work with other Parishes in Rother through RALC to promote our needs. 4. Work with Police to maximise support for our Village to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.	• CSW teams regularly active (min once per month). Set up Police supported CSW sessions on a regular basis. (once every 6 weeks). • Maintain Black Cat Radar to provide evidence for intervention by Highways & the Police. • Use Council funds to provide structural road safety improvements, speed reduction and visibility of the pedestrian crossing. • Lobby ESCC for safer road policies via RALC. • Lobby authorities for better drainage for flood protection.
	4. To deliver services to the Parish and work with others to meet local needs	1. Ensure the facilities including the recreation ground are maintained to a good quality and meet resident's needs. 2. Ensure Street lighting meets our needs. 3. Maintain the Village Car Park. 4. Support community groups to keep our village clean.	• All contracted services and assets at the recreation ground are in place and effective and reassessed annually. • Update and improve the play area equipment when funds are available. • Seek to improve sport/fitness/wellness & community facilities at the recreation ground & Pavilion for a wider range of users. • Street lights are maintained • The car park is open for visitor parking, bays are well marked. Abandoned and long stay vehicles are removed. The Area is clear and tidy. • Catsfield Wombles and other volunteer groups are provided with the necessary equipment, insurance and waste disposal

			equipment to maintain voluntary litter picking services. • RDC Planning Policies and planning applications are thoroughly reviewed and decisions challenged if required.
1. Represent the local community in a fair, balanced and informed manner	1. Ensure through effective communications and engagement that all residents can influence their future and that of the parish. 2. Seek professional expert advice where needed	1. Establish effective, regular multimedia communications within the residents. Open and regular communications /meetings /workshops & with residents and groups in the Parish 2. Be transparent, honest and impartial in all Council matters. 3. Consult residents about their needs and ambitions. 4. Facilitate and encourage the community to express their views and represent those views when dealing with other authorities. 5. Review /comment on RDC Planning Applications and planning policies, commissioning expert advice if needed.	• Website is up to date with relevant content. Social media regularly updated. • Use multiple media streams for regular communication with residents. • Adhere to our standing orders, the Nolan Principles and the Civility and Respect pledge. • Consult residents via a village meetings and social media 2025. Publish a strategy in 2025-26 for further consultation. • Represent Catsfield via RALC to challenge RDC ESCC and the Police to provide the services we need. • Review all planning application and provide comments to RDC on local matters. • Consider the development of a Neighbourhood Plan by the community with professional guidance.
3. To manage our assets finances and behaviours in an open, efficient, and	1. Ensure we have in place good governance practices and financial controls.	1. Ensure our Internal Controls are effective and in place. 2. Publication of regular financial reports.	• Controls to safeguard public funds and assets are in place and independently audited annually.

effective manner for the benefit of all residents		3. Set up clear strategic objectives with financial implications. 4. Ensure the public assets we manage are properly maintained and replaced when necessary. 5. Adopt a policy of respect when dealing with each other and members of the public.	• Publish our accounts and budgets annually and a regular interval in the year. • Publish a Strategic plan updated on a 4 year cycle. • Relevant policies are in place to ensure good governance. • Maintain an Asset register with funds available for maintenance & renewal. Assets properly insured and risk managed.
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Key Strategic Aim 1. To Improve the quality of life for those living and working in the parish. KEY Objectives (SMART)

Action Plans	Objective	Action	Measure of success	Who	When. Year-Qtr	Costs £	Funding Stream
Aim 1.1 To foster a socially-inclusive and caring community.							
1.1.4 Assess feasibility to extend and re configure the Pav to create a more diverse user base by 2028	To have a wider range of access to activities and equipment at the recreation ground to include a more diverse range of users, including young people and older people.	Q2 2025 Assess if Fields in Trusts will allow development. If yes draw up a proposal for consultation and evaluation.	Better use of the Rec by greater numbers and a wider age and ability range of residents. Increase health and wellbeing	Lead Cllr Keith Robertson	Outline feasibility 2025 Q2. Draw up plans and consult if project is potentially viable. Q4 2025. Build if project is proven viable 2027-28	£500,000 Est	Loans, Cil and Grants. Poss income streams from Hire?

Aim 1.2 To promote good ecology and climate change practice.

1.2.1 Assess replacing Pavilion Oil boiler with Solar, Heat pumps and battery storage. By June 2026	Under floor heating & hot water from Heat pumps & Solar. All power from solar and battery storage.	Q1/2 2025 consult with experts to establish options for this project. Draw up a proposal for evaluation.	Zero oil used. Reduce electric use from grid by XX% and Feed excess supply back into the grid to reduce spend.	Lead: Cllr Diane Wilson.	Q2 2025 to assess. Q2 2026 to install	Investigate. Clerk time and poss advice £500. 2025 Main install £20,000 Est Net of Grants 2026	From budget 2025-26 for initial investigation. Main project Cil and Grants
1.2.2 Support the provision of allotment or community spaces to provide local food production.	If possible, acquire land for the provision of community allotments. (not individual allotments).	Publish request for land in 2025	Food grown on the land is grown and consumed by the local community	Lead: Cllr Sharon Harris	TBA depending on availability of land		
1.2.2 Replace current street lamp bulbs with LED bulbs	Reduce the power used to light the streets and reduce costs.	Establish feasibility and costs through our street lights contractor.	Costs reduced by (est 50%) with payback (TBA) and reduction in energy used.	Parish Clerk	2025	TBA	Cil or other reserve.

1.2.3 Adopt a dark skies policy	Reduce light pollution	Work with local groups /advisors and other Councils to establish a dark sky policy	We have a policy in place that will influence planning decisions in the Parish	Cllr Sharon Harris.			
Action Plans	Objective	Action	Measure of success	Who	When. Year-Qtr	Costs £	Funding Steam
Aim 1.3 Work with other authorities to improve safety in our community and on our roads.							
1.3.1 Install 30mph limits at edges of the village. By June 2025	Reduction in speed north and through the Village to 75% within 30mph	Subject to approval (pending Dec 2024) work with ESCC to get the speed limits reduced in 2025	Fewer accidents. Fewer 40mph speeds through village and S bends	Lead Cllr: Keith Robertson	2025-26	£15000 estimate for speed signs.	CIL
1.3.2 Install Welcome gates north of the Village to reduce speeds. By Dec 2025	Reduction in speed through the Village		Fewer accidents. Fewer 40mph speeds	Lead Cllr: Keith Robertson		£5000 est	Cil
1.3.3 Work with ESCC to improve the	Safer footpaths for residents walking	Establish where current		TBA			

footpaths/pavement north of the Village.	into the village centre	footpaths are. Assess what improvements are needed.					

Key Strategic Aim 2 To represent the local community in a fair, balanced and informed manner. KEY Objectives (SMART)

Action Plans	Objective	Action	Measure of success	Who	When. Year-Qtr (T)	Costs £	Funding Steam
2.1 Improve our Website, social media and other communications to enable better communication with residents.	Regular communications with residents	Establish targets for communication and the Communication channels needed. Update tech for our website and collect contact data for residents/groups Produce regular messaging and comms for the community with the relevant channel	We reach 75% of residents on a regular basis using the appropriate comms channel.	Lead: Cllr Des Christian & Parish Clerk.	2025	TBA	Precept (budget 2025-26)

2.1.2 Agree Strategy for the next 5 years with residents	We have clear and agreed strategic plans and actions for the next 5 years	Produce a strategy doc for presentation at the April/ May Parish Assembly and other public meetings.	Strategy agreed	All Cllrs	May 2025	Nil	NA

Key Strategic Aim 3. To manage our assets, finances and governance in an open, efficient, and effective manner for the benefit of all residents KEY Objectives

Action Plans	Objective	Action	Measure of success	Who	When. Year-Qtr (T)	Costs £	Funding Steam
3.1 Upgrade our document processing and handling systems	Documents are secured to minimise risk of loss or fraud. The cost of processing documents is reduced.	Assess/ Implement a document sharing system and upgrade our email system to a secure .Gov platform.	Emails can be managed in house and align with our comms objectives. Documents are secure and access controlled. The costs (Paper costs and Clerk time) in doc handling is reduced.	Lead: Cllr Des Christian & Parish Clerk.	2025	TBA	20205-26 Budget

			Better able to manage Council business				
3.2 Adopt of policy (National NALC) of respect	Maintain high standards of respect and expect high standards of respect when dealing with other Councilors and the public.	Adopt the NALC policy.	Better working environment.	All Cllrs	2025	Min	Budget 2025-26