



APPENDIX 2
– POSSIBLE PROJECTS



COOKHAM PARISH
COUNCIL

**STRATEGIC
PLAN**

2023-2027

Our Vision for Cookham Parish Council

Community, Place, Voice

7. Parish Themes and Ideas

7.1 Community, Health and Leisure

Community Engagement	Allotments	Parish Owned Buildings	Community Assets	Village Heritage	Cemetery
Sharing information and getting closer to the community	Provision of well managed allotment sites working effectively with tenants	Maintaining Council owned buildings	Managing all council assets effectively for the benefit of the community	Preserving the heritage and character of the village.	Respectful management of the burial ground in Cookham
<p>Develop a communications plan to increase the Council's engagement with the community including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at local events Becoming more visible and public facing Revamp and maximise use of Web pages Use of social media Consider running Councillor Surgeries 	<p>To Manage the three allotment sites effectively and efficiently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support allotment holders where necessary. To ensure the ongoing security of the allotment sites. To promote take-up of vacant allotment plots to drive income for the Parish. To develop the Allotment Association. Review current allotment procedures and administration. 	<p>Cemetery Lodge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure it is under regular review. To ensure we fulfil our responsibilities as a Landlord. <p>Cemetery Chapel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider areas for sympathetic improvement. Continue the 5 year cycle for remedial works and decoration. 	<p>Outdoor recreational spaces and leisure facilities on Parish Owned land.</p> <p>Ensure a tree survey is completed within specified guidelines and subsequent requirements are completed.</p>	<p>Regular reviews of the Councils heritage assets and undertake necessary checks and maintenance work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> War Memorials Tarry Stone seat <p>Recognising the benefits of village heritage outside the remit of the council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanley Spencer Archaeological sites 	<p>Continue to maintain the Cemetery is a respectful and sympathetic manner.</p> <p>Ensure a cemetery memorial survey is completed within specified guidelines.</p> <p>Continue to review the cemetery rules and charges.</p> <p>Review current administration procedures.</p>

7. Parish Themes and Ideas

7.2 The Parish Environment

Environmental Protection	Open Spaces	Climate Change / Sustainable Energy	Roads, Traffic & Infrastructure	Public Safety & Security	Planning
<p>Looking after the village environment and protecting habitats and wildlife</p>	<p>Improving the amenity of our open spaces</p>	<p>Championing inventive and imaginative ways to reduce consumption</p>	<p>Safety first for travellers across the villages</p>	<p>Keeping the community safe working with authority groups</p>	<p>Preserving Cookham's identity and individuality as a village – we are not a suburb</p>
<p>Encouraging the diversity of flora and fauna in our environment and supporting wildlife projects such as Wilding, Watervoles, Flower Meadows, Glowworms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that open space maintenance contractors are aligned with the preservation of the environment. • Promote and engage further with the Keep Cookham Tidy initiative. • Consider anti littering initiatives • Pollution reduction schemes. 	<p>Consider Improvements to our open spaces</p> <p>Investigate the possibility for a tree grove to provide shelter from sun and wind.</p> <p>Work with external organisations to ensure a compatible approach to open spaces. Organisations such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Trust • WildCookham • Investigate signage to places of interest. 	<p>Championing innovative ways of producing energy and promoting energy efficiency in the villages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Cookham Footprint on energy awareness schemes • Solar panel initiatives alongside RBWM • Hydroelectric on Weirs. 	<p>Workwiththe community and RBWM to understand traffic and safety challenges in the parish.</p> <p>Work to address such issues as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe route to school, • Speed Awareness across the parish. • Accessible Routes to key services e.g. Medical Centre. • Investigate VAS Mobile Vehicle speed signs that can be moved to various locations in the parish. 	<p>Identifying key areas for safety concerns and work with the local PCSO team to combat antisocial behaviour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Lighting • Flooding and Emergencies action group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Task to support the development and approval of the Neighborhood Plan. Continue to review planning applications for the parish. • Respond to applications in line with the community voice. • Continue to refer to the Village Design Statement. • Consider a quick reference guide to key planning policies.

7. Parish Themes and Ideas

7.3 Governance and Fiscal Responsibility

Finance	Governance	Administration	Contract Management	Delegation of Authority	Training
<p>Best practice management of the Parish Councils funds</p>	<p>Doing things by the book</p>	<p>Further Improvements to the Parish Council and Offices to enable resilience in the Council</p>	<p>Good practice for our service providers ensuring best value for money for Cookham</p>	<p>To review how devolution of services could benefit Cookham</p>	<p>Working to ensure Councillors and Office understand their responsibilities</p>
<p>Ensure good financial Management and ensuring best practice is achieved where possible;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain satisfactory Internal and External Audits. • Provide timely reporting, • Continue annual budgeting process • Consider an investment plan. • Risk Management 	<p>Continued Best Practice Council Governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Corporate Plan • Operate under Standing Orders and Financial Regulations • Annually review governance. • Review policies on a regular basis and add policies where needed. • Keep Parish Councils legal powers under review. • Aim for the Council to adopt the General Power of Competence. • Investigate the possibility of a Youth Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the use of technology to support the council's work. • Ensure that sufficient HR Management, and support structures are in place for all staff. • Ensure that Health and safety procedures are clear and risk assessments are completed where necessary. • Continued facilitation of Council meetings. 	<p>Ensure contracts are awarded to give the best value for money for residents.</p> <p>Ensure contracts are regularly reviewed in line with best practice.</p> <p>Ensure there is a robust tendering process for new contracts.</p>	<p>Investigate devolution of some services from RBWM and what it would mean for the parish, both financially and within council resources.</p>	<p>To develop a training plan for Councillor and Staff.</p>

Project Areas within the Committee Structure:

Evolving Cookham

- Planning process & Developments (Neighbourhood & BL Plans)
- Integration of new buildings/sites into the Community
- Infrastructure & CIL allocations

Environment & Wildlife

- Combatting Pollution
- Partner with Wild Cookham
- How do we make our open spaces more wildlife friendly?
- New Trees & maintaining Hedgerows
- Protection of special species

Energy & Sustainability

- Partnering with Cookham Footprint
- Championing smart energy solutions
- Solar Initiatives
- Investigate Hydro Energy Solutions

21st Century Parish Council

- Investigating technology to support the Parish Council's work.
- Selection of cost effective software solutions to help efficiency
- Reduce risk through information security and data management

Communications & Engagement

- Finding ways to increase engagement with the Community
- Being a visible and approachable Parish Council
- Social Media, community groups, newsletters, website

Project Areas within the Committee Structure:

Community Health & Wellbeing

- Initiatives to increase activity
- Promoting wellness walks / circuits
- Working with Medical Centre, Pharmacy & Patient Groups
- AM Fit Gyms
- Mental Health / Meditation

Democracy & Resilience

- Feasibility for devolution of services
- CIL Payment Designation
- Training program, Leadership and succession planning
- Administration support

Road Safety & Traffic

- Initiatives to protect the community - speed reduction, pedestrian safety, crossing points, safe route to school, safe route to amenities
- Vehicle Activated Signals, cycle routes, school safety campaigns

Alfred Major for the Future

- Review whether the AM meets the public's requirements
- Balancing amenity in a changing climate
- Accommodating sports, travel, recreation, wildlife and utility

Assets & Infrastructure

- Managing assets for the benefit of the community
- Ensuring that the PC maintains assets

Community - Possible Projects

Community

Support Cookham's thriving Community

By April 2027, at the end of Cookham Parish Council's four-year term of office, we will have:-

- Enhanced the community amenity of PC managed assets/open spaces.
- Increased our allotment holder satisfaction.
- Supported improved road safety, active transport community health and flood initiatives within Cookham.
- Proactively engaged with community organisations to achieve our goals.

1. (GPC / WG) Alfred Major for the Future - Develop, agree and begin to implement an integrated multi-year plan for Alfred Major recreation ground, to take account of changing circumstances and further balance and improve its community amenity, including its health, sports, biodiversity, and active transport benefits.
2. (GP C) Enhance the community amenity of our other open spaces.
3. (GP C / Allotment Reps) Revive our allotment association.
4. (Full C /Traffic Working Group (TWG)) - identify issues and work with appropriate groups to improve road safety of key areas (eg Sutton Road, Station Hill) in Cookham.
5. (Full C / TWG) Investigate and support integration of local roads, paths and cycle ways to improve local active transport, including possible need to integrate new housing developments.
6. (Flood C) Agree future Flood Committee remit, taking into account lessons from 2024 floods.
7. (All) Consult and proactively involve local community organisations in our projects wherever appropriate. Councillors to visibly take part in village voluntary activities with local organisations such as National Trust, Wild Cookham, etc.

Place - Possible Projects

Place

Protect and enhance Cookham's environment

By April 2027, at the end of Cookham Parish Council's four-year term of office, we will have:-

- Ratified and implemented our new Cookham Neighbourhood Plan.
- Agreed and adopted a biodiversity policy, and significantly improved the biodiversity value of the open spaces we manage.
- Further enhanced the maintenance of our key Parish assets.
- Embraced where practicable new opportunities to enhance our village environment

1. (Full C / Planning C/ CNPWG) Fully ratify our Cookham Neighbourhood Plan, ideally by Autumn 2024
2. (Planning C/ GPC) Implement at least one project involving place from the Cookham Neighbourhood plan (to be determined)
3. (Planning C) Agree proactive strategy for engagement with proposed new large village developments.
4. (Full C) Agree and adopt a biodiversity policy to comply with our legal obligations
5. (GPC) Significantly increase the biodiversity value of at least one of our PC managed sites
6. (GPC) Enhance maintenance schedules for our key public monuments and buildings, eg War memorials, the Tarry stone, Cemetery buildings. Build on our Keep Cookham Tidy and Wildflower meadows initiatives.
7. Work with other groups to support low carbon energy projects within the Parish (is this in PC scope, or covered by Neighbourhood Plan?).
8. (All) Embrace advantageous new opportunities where practicable - eg make best use of any future CIL funding, new opportunities to maintain village footpaths and verges.

Voice - Possible Projects

Voice

Advocate for Cookham

By April 2027, at the end of Cookham Parish Council's four-year term of office, we will have:-

- Enhanced communications both to and from a diverse range of our parishioners.
- Clarified processes to advocate for the Cookham community, particularly to the RBWM.
- Increased opportunities for Parish Councillors to interact with parishioners at village events.

1. (Full C / WG) Develop Communications Plan to identify how the Parish Council can best listen to the voices of a diverse range of our Parishioners on village issues, including the investigation of the possibility of a Youth Parish Council. Identify the messages the Parish Council wishes to communicate and implement the most appropriate media for these (eg signage, webpages, interfaces to social media if appropriate)
2. (Full C) Clarify appropriate processes for councillors to help advocate for the Cookham community, particularly to the RBWM, but also to other organisations which serve our parishioners.
3. (All) Actively engage with Cookham Parishioners at a least two public village events per year. Further develop 'grab and go' stall kit for village events.

Excellence - Possible Projects

Enabling by Excellence

Deliver excellent Parish services

By April 2027, at the end of Cookham Parish Council's four-year term of office, we will have:-

- Ensured appropriate levels of training and office support to enable council to act strategically.
- Enhanced council processes and software to deliver all our activities and services in a timely, efficient, compliant and transparent manner.
- Reduced the carbon footprint of PC assets and activities.
- Planned, raised and spent appropriate amounts of funding to deliver our vision

1. (Staff C / Finance C) Implement swiftly the recommendations of our audit review
2. (Full C / Staff C / Finance C) Develop and implement a training plan for councillors and staff.
3. (Full C / Staff C) Streamline key council processes to further optimise the balance between timeliness, efficiency, transparency and compliance.
4. (Full C /Staff C/ Finance C) Identify and implement appropriate software packages to enhance the delivery of council services.
5. (Planning C) Document and share links to key planning policies and information.
6. (Full C / Finance C) Improve the energy efficiency of key Parish Council assets, and evaluate switching to green energy where possible
7. (All C / Finance C) Identify and phase project budgets in a timely manner, so appropriate funding can be planned for these.

