



Wokingham Without Parish Council

Strategic Vision 2024 – 2029



Contents	Page
Introduction, vision statement and delivering our strategic vision	3
The Parish Council	4
Access, travel and transport	5
Communication and community engagement	6
Protecting and improving the environment	7
Leisure, sport and health	8
Parish council facilities and services	9
Supporting and strengthening our community	10
Working with neighbouring parishes and authorities for the benefits of our residents	11
Contact information	12



Introduction

This document sets out the broad vision and aspirations of the Wokingham Without Parish Council (hereby referred to as “the council”).

It lists the aims and objectives of the council and provides the policy framework within which the elected members take decisions and the officers (staff) conduct their day to day work.

Vision Statement

**Working for our residents to make Wokingham Without Parish
the best it can be**

Delivering our Strategic Vision

In order to bring focus to these objectives, the council has divided its activities into 7 areas. These in turn are each supported by a separate action plan which sets out short, medium and long term projects to help achieve the strategic vision:

- Access, travel and transport
- Communication and community engagement
- Improving the environment
- Leisure, sport and well-being
- Parish council organisation, facilities and services
- Supporting and strengthening our community
- Working with neighbouring parishes and authorities for the benefit of our residents



The Parish Council

Wokingham Without Parish Council is an elected body of up to 13 local people with a remit to represent the residents of Wokingham Without Parish.

It strives to provide a strong local voice on decisions, services and issues which impact the everyday lives of people in this community.

The parish council has a range of powers including looking after Pinewood and St Sebastian's Memorial Hall, commenting (but not deciding) on local planning applications, making financial grants, providing playgrounds and recreation space and campaigning on behalf of local residents for improvements to local facilities.



Map of the boundaries of the parish of Wokingham Without. The parish borders Finchampstead and to the west, Wokingham Town to the north, Crowthorne to the south and Bracknell to the east.



Access, travel and transport

The council wishes to encourage well connected communities and improve access to the services and facilities residents require

The council will:

- Lobby for improvements to highways, road safety and congestion within the parish
- Work to improve the safety, condition and connectivity of pedestrian and cycle routes into and through the parish
- Lobby to ensure plans for new developments incorporate adequate provision of public transport, walking and cycle routes
- Work to sustain retail, community buildings and leisure areas through improved connectivity and appropriate parking



Communication and community engagement

The council strives to fulfil its role as the voice of its residents, and aims to encourage residents to participate more in the decision making process.

The council is committed to raising its profile and taking a strong local leadership role

The council will:

- Work to improve communications with residents, using both traditional and electronic methods to reach out to the broadest cross section of the community
- Work to raise its profile within the local community
- Increase awareness of the council's responsibilities
- Consult with residents to determine what facilities they would like
- Raise awareness of the council's existing facilities
- Provide opportunities for residents to meet with local councillors
- Through development of the Neighbourhood Plan, consult with the community on policies to guide future development



Protecting and improving the environment

The council recognises extensive housing development in the area has a detrimental impact on the environment. It appreciates that the parish's countryside setting contributes to people's quality of life, and a balance is required to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of residents

The council will:

- Work to protect the parish's rural character
- Develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish, to identify and protect valued features of the natural environment
- Lobby for improvements to local air quality
- Lobby for the provision of affordable housing for local people
- Work in an environmentally friendly way
- Continue to review and comment on local planning applications, as a statutory consultee
- Invest in the development of the natural environment



Leisure, sport and health

The council recognises that engaging in sport and leisure is good for health and well-being. It has an important role to play in providing community spaces and facilities for residents, and believes that this is one of the most important services that the parish currently provides.

The council will:

- Seek to ensure that Wokingham Without continues to have thriving, high quality leisure facilities
- Encourage organisations that support residents' health and well-being
- Continue to support and improve facilities at Pinewood
- Continue to improve facilities at St Sebastian's Memorial Hall



Parish council facilities and services

The council will:

- Provide well managed, value for money services to the parish
- Use local labour and suppliers wherever possible
- Develop long term business and financial plans to support the implementation of its strategic plan
- Consult residents on what facilities they would like, and consider how these can be provided
- Endeavour to ensure that all its policies and actions are transparent
- Work to generate income opportunities to keep the burden of costs on residents to a minimum
- Ensure that both staff and councillors are equipped with knowledge and skills
- Improve the council office and parish council facilities



Supporting and strengthening our community

The council wants the parish of Wokingham Without to be an active, vibrant and cohesive community. It recognises the challenges new residents will face in feeling they are part of the existing community

The council sees a role in helping deliver a thriving, integrated community

The council will:

- Work to identify and implement solutions that address local issues
- Make funding for community organisations available through the council's Community Grant Scheme
- Work to facilitate and improve community participation
- Work to maintain a culture and ethos for the council with social impact at its heart



Working with neighbouring parishes and authorities for the benefit of residents

The council recognises the national situation with funding for local authorities, and the resulting pressure on non-statutory services

The council is keen to explore how working with neighbouring parishes and local authorities can help protect the delivery of services valued by the local community

The council will:

- Develop stronger links with neighbouring councils to identify common issues and ways of working together effectively to deliver solutions
- Look to achieve cost savings and facility improvements through collaboration with partners
- Consider opportunities for joint funding of projects where this is in residents' interests
- Consider providing services to neighbouring parishes as a means to generate additional revenue



Wokingham Without Parish Councillors



Cllr Lesley Foxwell
Chair



Cllr Nicholas Martin
Vice Chair



Cllr Richard Fenny



Cllr Pauline Jordan



Cllr James Millett



Cllr Aaron Plume



Cllr Janet Rogers



Cllr Jordan Montgomery



Cllr Kevin Whitehead



Cllr Cris Lancaster



Cllr Seona Turtle



Vacancy

Tell us what you think about our council vision
Come and talk to us!

All full council meetings are open to the public
There is a public question time at the start of each meeting
Alternatively you can contact a councillor or the Clerk

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