Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council Business Plan 2022/23

Introduction

This 2022/23 Business Plan contains the planned activity for the Parish Council for the financial year commencing 1st April 2022.

This Business Plan will list the areas of work of the Parish that will ensure that the needs of the community are met. It will work with partner agencies and stakeholders, to ensure resources are expended efficiently and effectively.

These are categorised below as either “special projects” or “planned activities”. The Business Plan will guide the direction of the Parish Council in its programme of work and use of its resources. All the activities are subject to further consideration by the Parish Council as to the precise terms of implementation and if appropriate some items may not be proceeded with or done in a different way, as the Council considers appropriate.

Planned Activities

A. Provide allotments for local residents as required by statute and ensure these are efficiently and effectively managed; including reviewing whether to make further provision than made currently.

B. Ensure core administrative functions such as protecting finances, maintaining appropriate insurance, preparing budgets, accounts and records are conducted to a good standard as well as agendas and minutes for meetings.

C. To ensure all external and internal audit recommendations are dealt with and to ensure financial regulations, policies, an asset register and risk assessments are reviewed appropriately to ensure they are fit for purpose.

D. Maintain a planning committee to scrutinise planning applications in the Parish and to coordinate local consultation and to make representations to the local planning authority on local matters.

E. To promote the preservation of the historic built environment and the natural environment and biodiversity within the Parish

F. Provide a dog hygiene bin service where required to promote the local environment to be safe and pleasant for local residents to enjoy

G. Provide opportunities for local children to play outdoors in supported activities during school holidays at Easter holidays, summer half term and summer holidays

H. Provide social activity opportunities for older and other residents in the Parish, especially those lonely and/or isolated.

I. Provide a sports ground in Loughton with ancillary pavilion and car park for football, cricket and other individual and team sports for children and adults.

J. Engage with local residents so as to understand their concerns and demands through opinion surveys, maintaining a website and social media, newsletters, leaflets, local notice boards and to use these channels to inform residents of Parish Council activities

K. Have regular contact with key local stakeholders including MK Council, the Parks Trust, Thames Valley Police, local schools, voluntary organisations, charities, sports & social associations in order to work effectively in partnership with local organisations

L. Enable local residents to raise questions and petitions about matters of local concern, and respond with action appropriately

M. Work closely with and sponsor financially the local Neighbourhood Action Group to maximise voluntary service to the local community

N. Promote local groups and associations within the Parish through a limited grants programme to help provide support and opportunity for development of charities and other community not for profit associations.

O. Manage resources effectively and efficiently and to publish accounts & budgets for accountability and transparency

P. Work together with MK Council to improve local landscaping services and the footpaths.

Q. Promote awareness of and engagement of local residents in local democracy through providing information to local residents about local issues and debate.

R. Foster a greater perception of shared welfare and community through local events and other activities. To recognise exceptional community service provided by individuals and/or groups and organisations.

S. Maintain membership of the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks

T. Provide the Great Holm Community Centre as a community centre for a pre-school and for community use by organisations and individuals

U. Hold an Annual Parish Meeting at which local residents can engage in discussion and debate about the key matters of local concern

Special projects for 2022-2023

A. To install solar panels at the Community Centre in Great Holm and the Pavilion in Loughton, if funding application is successful from MKC

B. To install commemorative benches (and an oak tree in Loughton), at the top of The Green in Great Holm and at the corner of Church Lane and Leys Road in Loughton.

C. To install defibrillators outside the Community Centre in Great Holm and the Pavilion in Loughton

D. To repair the footpaths outside the Pavilion in Loughton, with MKC

E. To install EV charging points at both the Pavilion and Community Centre car parks