Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council Business Plan 2025 - 2026

Introduction

This 2025 - 2026 Business Plan contains the planned activity for the Parish Council for the financial year commencing 1st April 2025.

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 “planned activities” or “special projects.” The Business Plan will guide the direction of the Parish Council in its programme of work and use of its resources. All activities are subject to further consideration by the Parish Council. The precise terms of implementation may be adapted or projects withdrawn, as the Council considers appropriate.

The Planned Activities

In 2025 - 2026 the Parish Council’s ongoing activities will be:

A. Provide allotments for local residents as required by statute, and ensure these are efficiently and effectively managed.

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 working group to scrutinise planning applications in the Parish. To coordinate local consultation, and to make representations to the Milton Keynes Planning authority on local matters.

E. To promote the preservation of the historic built environment and the natural environment and biodiversity within the Parish and work with our stakeholders - local community groups, our allotment holders, MKCC, the Parks Trust, our schools, the LRA, our churches, our residents - to support the recovery of nature and increase biodiversity in line with the targets of the Environment Act 2021.

F. To provide a dog hygiene bin service to encourage the local environment to be a safe and pleasant place for residents to enjoy.

G. Provide opportunities for local children to play outdoors in supported activities during school half terms and holidays.

H. Provide social 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 parking for football and other individual and team sports for children and adults.

J. Engage with residents to understand their concerns and demands through opinion surveys, maintaining a website and social media, 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 City 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 residents to raise questions and petitions about matters of local concern, and respond with action appropriately.

M. 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.

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

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

P. Promote awareness and engagement of residents in local democracy by providing information about local issues.

Q. 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.

R. Maintain membership of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (BMKALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks. (SLCC)

S. To provide Great Holm Community Centre as a base for the local Pre-School and for general community use by both individuals and organisations.

T. To continue to monitor and replace the Loughton Sports Field fencing as and when required.

U. To organise and minute an Annual Parish meeting where local residents can engage in discussion about the key matters of local concern.

V. To endeavour to support a community hub – an inside space that people can come together, that also includes room for a community larder.

Special projects for 2025 - 2026

In 2025/2026 the Parish Council will investigate the feasibility of the following projects:

A. To increase our community events to help build a sense of community spirit.
B. To organise a Parish Council residents coach trip in the spring of 2025.
C. To hold another Summer Community Funday in August 2025.
D. To hold another Christmas Community event in December 2025.
E. To attend the November Remembrance Day Service at All Saints Church and lay a poppy wreath at Loughton Memorial Hall.
F. To provide some form of public art in the Parish.
G. To resurface a section of the car park outside Loughton Pavilion in front of the changing rooms.
H. To introduce community engagement sessions specifically aimed at people aged 55+
I. To produce and host a new more user friendly, assessable website.
J. To install playpark signage to acknowledge the funding received for these individual projects.
K. To replace the Astro (MUGA) at Great Holm Park, Kensington Drive.
L. To replace the toilets at Loughton Pavilion.

Approved by Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council on Monday 20th January 2025.