



## PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2019-20

Parishes are the smallest areas of civil administration in England and provide the statutory tier of local government closest to the people. Parish Councils are an essential part of the structure of local democracy and have a vital role in acting on behalf of the communities they represent.

Parish Councils have a wide range of powers. They also have the power to raise money through taxation, known as the precept, which is the parish council's share of the council tax.

Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Councillors have considered the aims of the council for the year ahead and produced a summarised Action Plan which details the key objectives it hopes to achieve during the year. This is a working document and subject to change.

Objective	Actions	Progress	Budget (The Budget for 2019-20 can be found on the Parish Council website)
Parish Woodland	The council owns approximately 3 hectares of woodland situated on the north facing slopes of lower Wharfedale between the A660, Old Pool Bank, Cabin Road and a public bridleway/footpath Grid Ref SE 240444	The woodlands are inspected on a regular basis the last being April 2019. It is recommended that work identified be undertaken as soon as possible. Another inspection will be planned in April 2020.	The Amenity, Trees and Hedges budgets cover on going and proposed maintenance work.



Parish Playground / Skate Board Park	Playgrounds are professionally inspected each year and work identified is carried out immediately.	On going repairs and maintenance are carried out as required. The next inspection will be in September/October 2019. The council has identified the need to upgrade some equipment in the longer term and has included the priority within its financial plan.	The amenity budget covers these expenses. The Financial Plan is looking to identify funds for future investment in play equipment.
Neighbourhood Plan	The parish's main objective is to develop a Neighbourhood Plan that will give the local community direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of the local area	The Neighbourhood Planning Group, a mixture of residents and councillors, have made considerable progress over the year on the Plan. Consultants have been appointed and a Draft Neighbourhood Plan is ready for consultation. Following a fixed period of consultation to be announced shortly, the plan will be submitted to Leeds Council for final approval. The Group hopes all stages will be completed in early 2020.	The council received two significant grants from Government to support the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. The council has also set aside considerable funds to ensure the project is completed.
Traffic issues around the village	Traffic and congestion problems continue to cause concern in and around the village	An extensive consultation exercise has been concluded within the village to vote on options to address local concerns. The majority of	The Parish Council acknowledges the significant work of the local residents road safety group in securing some of these improvements.



		<p>residents supported a reduction in the speed limit on Old Pool Bank which is being considered by Highways Officers. Whilst views differed about what to do at the A660 junction with Old Pool bank some actions have been agreed. A new vehicle activated speed sign has been installed, warning signs have been renewed and upgraded, and agreement to reduce the speed on part of the highway agreed. A police vehicle resting place has been completed so that police can carry out speed checks on the A660. A new welcome to Pool/Old Pool Bank sign has been agreed its location yet to be decided.</p>	<p>Leeds City Council Highways Department is the responsible agency for carrying out improvements to road networks. The Parish Council is also in correspondence with Leeds Council about the significant rise in passenger number at the Airport and the knock-on effect of travellers going to and from the Airport.</p> <p>The Parish Council continue to press for road safety improvements around the village. A 20mph scheme around the Primary School is a priority as is getting Speed Cameras on the A660.</p>
Wharfedale Greenway	<p>The Wharfedale Greenway vision is to create a new attractive and convenient traffic free green route that links the communities of Otley, Pool-in-Wharfedale, Burley-in-Wharfedale and</p>	<p>Sustrans have managed the project to date and have produced an estimated cost to create a design and delivery report. The cost will be split amongst the four Parish/Town</p>	<p>All Parishes have agreed the project. Significant funds were set aside in the Special Projects Fund which were drawn down in 2018-19. The 2019-20 budget has set aside further funds which</p>



	Menston for everyday journeys by bike or on foot to railway stations, schools and shops and to encourage recreational journeys of every kind, for visiting friends, taking casual walks or rides in the locality.	Councils and subject to all parties agreeing this division.	may be required as the project progresses.
Christmas Lights	Over the last few years the Parish Council has invested in improving Christmas Lights on Main Street with annual increases in the budget made available.	The Council continues to look for further improvements by providing more lights (Stocks Hill) which have been well received by the village.	The Council looks to support the budget available by seeking financial contributions from other sources.
Grants to Local Organisations	The Parish Council provides grants to local organisations who submit applications within a set policy and timetable	Several grants have been made available in the financial year 2019-20.	A significant budget is set aside each year to which local organisations and groups can apply.
Council Website	The Council website provides a comprehensive set of information about the council, its activities and policies.	The website is updated regularly, draft council minutes are put on the website as soon after each council meeting as possible. The website contains financial information including the budget for 2019-20.	The Council is currently has recently upgraded the website and a new modern website became available in 2018-19. The new website is easier to use, contains more information and will help the council meet its transparency ambitions.



The Local Council Award scheme	The Parish Council gained the Foundation Award. In gaining the award the council is at the forefront of best practice and has achieved excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.	The Council undertakes a regular review of its policies, procedures and plans to ensure they are up to date and in line with good practice.	The Council achieved Foundation Status in 2018.
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