

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 2019 – 2023

Welcome to Halesworth's action plan for the next four years

What We Want To Achieve

Your new Town Council was elected in May 2019 for a period of four years. We see our collective duty, during those four years, as serving the town to the best of our ability, within the limited resources available.

We have set ourselves 8 aims and objectives– the things we would like to achieve for the town during our term of office.

This Strategic Plan explains how and why we want to achieve these things, when and how we hope to achieve them, which town councillor will take the lead on behalf of the Council. We will regularly report to you on how the Council is progressing.

We won't achieve everything! Unexpected events will interfere with the strategy or may require a change in direction, or we may have been unrealistic in what we hoped to achieve.

The resources available to the Town Council are not large. In 2019 our budget is £115,000. The powers the Council has to do things are limited, but we think that by working cooperatively with others, encouraging them to use their own resources and experience in partnership with the Town Council to achieve their objectives we can achieve much.

There are some things that are beyond our powers but which we accept will be very important to the people of the town: a good range of local shops and jobs, better public transport, better health facilities and possibly a second supermarket. These are not forgotten and we will support, encourage and make representation to others to deliver these whenever and wherever we can, even though many of these issues are outside the direct remit of the Halesworth Town Council.

The aims and objective we have set out in this Strategy the Town Council believes are realistic and achievable and with everyone's assistance we intend to make an immediate start in achieving them.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	WHY WE WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS	HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE IT	HOW WILL WE SHOW SUCCESS	LEAD CLLR
<p>1. HTC to be seen by residents, community groups and East Suffolk District Council (ESDC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) as a Council that is working well for the benefit of the town.</p>	<p>a) Working in partnership with ESDC, SCC and voluntary organisations to achieve our aims in order to bring resources to the town.</p> <p>b) A Healthy local democracy and strong civic pride make the town a more vibrant and happier place.</p> <p>c) Encourage Community and voluntary organisations to make invaluable contributions to the health and wellbeing of the town.</p>	<p>a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Regular meetings with District and County Councillors. ii. Develop relationships with key District Council officers. iii. Meeting with new leader and Chief Executive Officer of ESDC. <p>b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Town Council to continue to be active and increase input on its social media and more traditional communication platforms. ii. Hold forum meetings. iii. Review the workings of the TC meetings to encourage public attendance and participation. iv. Report back regularly on progress against strategic plan aims in an engaging way. v. Every household will be informed of this document. 	<p>Conduct a survey with key officers and councillors to record the views of HTC in 2019.</p> <p>Survey residents on views of the HTC on 2019 and repeat in 2022.</p>	<p>Cllr Dave Wollweber</p>

<p>2. To help create a sustainable and vibrant community and voluntary sector to improve and provide leisure, sport and cultural activities and other community services (for example, transport) for all ages in the Town. Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>It makes Halesworth a better place to live and work.</p> <p>Improves physical and mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Helping and working on behalf of others to provide services and facilities.</p> <p>Supporting the more vulnerable members of society.</p>	<p>a) Working in partnership with ESDC and young people, review the present skate park and devise a plan for replacement and/or improvement.</p> <p>b) Review all small public open spaces/children's play areas with a view to improving/ landscaping/ planting.</p> <p>c) Support local efforts to help vulnerable members of the community.</p> <p>d) Support local efforts to provide cultural, art, festival and leisure and sport facilities.</p> <p>e) Ensure that Councillor link arrangements with community groups are seen as helpful, purposeful, and transparent where regular written report-backs are received by the Council.</p>	<p>Working groups in place and plans developed for the replacement or improvement of skate park and open spaces.</p> <p>Appropriate use of Section 106/CIL money for open spaces.</p> <p>Through the Number of grants given to local organisations and monitoring the success of those grants.</p>	<p>Cllr Jill Reece</p>

		<p>f) Continue to use the Town Council budget to financially support local voluntary organisations where appropriate. Review the grants made and ensure they support the strategic plan and give value for money.</p>		
<p>3. Town Council (TC) to have an agreed Neighbourhood Plan for Halesworth.</p>	<p>The TC will benefit from the results of consultations with residents that must be done to produce a NP. We will learn more as to what residents think and want.</p> <p>The TC will receive more Community Infrastructure Levy funding if a NP is in place.</p>	<p>Continue to support a Neighbourhood Plan Support Group (NPSG).</p> <p>Town Council to receive regular monitoring reports from the NPWG.</p>	<p>Draft plan receives endorsement from the TC by 2021.</p> <p>A plan is completed in 2022.</p> <p>A referendum by 2021.</p>	<p>Cllr Tony Allen & Cllr Rosemary Lewis</p>
<p>4. To plan for the possible closure of London Road offices and the proposed changes in the management of parks and toilets in ways that will benefit the town in the long term. Investigate the viability and potential of a new Community Centre for Halesworth.</p>	<p>ESDC wish to divest themselves of the London Road building and the management of the park and toilets. Transfer of ownership to the TC is a possibility.</p> <p>Having a designated building/hub that residents can identify as 'theirs' would be an important asset for the town.(Also see 8)</p> <p>The users of London Road – the Town Council, CAB, the Volunteer Centre, and the Day Centre – will need new premises if the London Road building closes.</p>	<p>Work with other organisations to consider whether a new community centre (as envisaged in ESDC Local Plan) is the best use of available resources and would be sustainable in the long term.</p> <p>Set up a formal working group to explore options that will be sustainable in the long term. (Buildings, Amenities and Parks Working Group)</p>	<p>Proposals are produced that have the backing of TC, ESDC, affected voluntary organisations and residents.</p>	<p>Cllr Anne Fleming and Cllr Peter Dutton</p>

<p>5. To enable the Thoroughfare and Market Place to remain a thriving destination centre for the public. Work with others to enhance its attractiveness and economic viability. To investigate solutions to prevent unauthorised vehicles stopping in the Thoroughfare.</p>	<p>The Thoroughfare is identified by residents (NP consultation) as 'the heart of the town' and the shops and cafés and the overall ambience contributes to the enjoyment of visitors.</p> <p>Town centres are under threat from out of town/online retailers.</p> <p>To encourage a greater diversity of shops to Halesworth.</p>	<p>Introduce CCTV as a deterrent to monitor crime and anti-social behaviour, plus traffic and parking issues in the Thoroughfare.</p> <p>To work with ESDC, business forums, local businesses and the Tourism Group to look at options for improvement. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Potential for connectivity between the Thoroughfare and the Market Place and the Thoroughfare and signage to the Town Park. b. Look at development opportunities for the Market Place. c. Hold discussions with the owners of the town centre land off the Thoroughfare to ensure development can enhance and improve the environment. d. Improve parking and traffic management. e. Review street furniture and 	<p>CCTV installed by end of 2020</p> <p>Working party set up to look at Market Place and Thoroughfare developments.</p> <p>Negotiations with ESDC re: hours free parking, concluded and potential review of Thoroughfare Traffic Regulation.</p>	<p>Cllr Karen Prime</p>

		planting to ensure continual improvement and cohesive design of the whole street.		
6. More affordable rented/social/ shared ownership housing in the Town.	By encouraging accommodation that caters for those of working age and their families, and who are unlikely to be able to afford a 100% mortgage or market rents, the future economic viability and vitality of the town will be enhanced.	Work with ESDC Housing Department and Housing Associations to encourage more of this type of accommodation in the Town. (Use info and data from NP). Encourage private developers to comply with social housing requirements. Investigate whether any of the plans in 4 could be used in this context?	Full and frank discussions and lobbying will be had with all housing partners including developers.	Cllr Peter Dutton and Cllr Dave Wollweber
7. Make Halesworth a 'Green Town'.	The next decades will see great strides in environmentally sustainable schemes across all aspects of life. Many of these are beyond the scope of the Town Council on its own but we can 'play our part'. The NP consultations show that residents are very interested in environmental issues. Flood risk is a real concern for some areas of the Town.	Work with businesses and residents to become 'plastic free' as far as is possible. Through working with the Environmental Agency and water companies, ensure work is carried out on flood prevention and improvement of river water quality. Work with other organisations to increase tree and flower planting. <i>(NP group to include design policies in the Plan that encourage environmentally friendly developments e.g. new</i>	Liaison with all relevant agencies, minimising flood risk and encouragement of 'green' development, established as on-going project. New houses are zero carbon rated. Work to encourage electric car charging points in the town.	Cllr Annette Dunning

		<p><i>houses are zero carbon rated)</i></p> <p>To encourage new cycle paths and walkways to reduce car usage and improve safety.)</p>		
<p>8. Prepare for the sale of Patrick Stead Hospital and establish the building as a community asset and run for the benefit of the town's community. The hospital is already listed as an Asset of Community Value, HTC wishes to expand on this to protect the building. Locally list the building.</p>	<p>The Patrick Stead building is a landmark in the town and is much loved. The loss of it to commercial use or its demolition would be a great loss to the town. It will not be easy to raise the money to facilitate sustainable community use so it is important for the TC to give as much support as it can.</p>	<p>Call together interested parties and individuals to raise awareness of the future of Patrick Stead and the desirability of setting up a Community Group to work on plans.</p> <p>Hold discussion with National Health Property Service.</p> <p>'Locally list' Patrick Stead Hospital <i>(Local listing is a concept that is designed to ensure that the historic and architectural interest of buildings that are of local importance but do not meet the criteria for being nationally listed is taken account of during any planning process.)</i></p>	<p>Community Group set up</p> <p>Discussion with NHS Property Service when property put up for sale.</p>	<p>All HTC Councillors</p>