

A photograph of Corfe Castle, a medieval ruin on a grassy hill. The castle's stone walls and towers are visible against a blue sky with white clouds. The foreground shows a grassy field and some trees.

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH ACTION PLAN

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What is a parish action plan?

A parish action plan is a document the Parish Council produce based on information gathered on how the community sees itself developing over the next few years. It is a living document that develops over time reflecting the views of the community as a whole and contains an action plan which identifies practical steps that can be taken to help the community achieve its vision for the future.

Note: A list of actions completed are listed at the end of the document.

How are parish action plans created?

Parish actions plans can only be created if there are projects which will enhance the local area.

New project ideas are welcomed from all, either by popping along to a full council meeting and within the public half hour raising the project idea, or alternatively by talking to one of your councillors or your clerk. Anyone associated to the parish can raise an idea, from residents, local business owners and people who come to work in the community.

If an idea which is presented to council is approved, not only will it be added to the action plan, but the project will be assigned to either the Clerk or a working group will be set up to see the project through.

This year we are creating our parish action plan online, so that action progress can be updated, new project's added, all whilst keeping you informed on what is going on in your parish, along with saving paper when copies become outdated. Updates will be added in a different colour so that you can easily identify the latest actions.

What are the benefits of creating a parish action plan?

There are numerous benefits that can be derived from the creation of a parish action plan including:

- Enhances communication between the Council and parishioners,
- Revived interest in the community for some of its residents after Covid lockdown's,
- Greater awareness of the community and what it has to offer for new residents,
- The plan can provide evidence of need which can be used to lobby service providers,
- The plan can provide evidence of need which can be used to support funding bids,
- The plan promotes partnership working between residents, the parish councils, the local authority, and other service providers,
- The plan can be used as a celebration and snapshot of the community's history.

Action Plan

Project or Policy	Details of Project	Current Position	Finance implications	Next steps	Working Group Assigned
Playground / Recreational facilities	Replace adult fitness equipment	On-going research	£10,000	Consider as part of future budget proposals.	Playground: Cllr Blinkhorn, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Dru Drury, & Clerk
	Future playground enhancements	Current suggestions: • New surface for basketball area • Running track	TBC	Consider as part of future budget proposals.	
	Health & safety assessments & repairs	Weekly internal assessments, plus external quarterly & annual inspection carried out to identify any issues in need of attention. '24 Annual external inspection carried out & findings returned to council. The caretaker will work through the findings throughout the year.	Case by case basis. Earmarked reserves to cover	Continue monitoring	Caretaker & Clerk.
Highways	Wish List	In Dec '22 Corfe Castle Parish Council submitted a "Wish List" of various Highways improvements to Dorset Council. The list included installing more drop-down kerbs, increase double yellow lines along West Street, removing a parking bay by the Museum, & improving car parking signage. Update January 2024 Drop down kerb work is complete. April 2024 CCPC carried out a Highways Consultation, feedback will be presented in July 2024	TBC		Cllr Dru Drury, Cllr Rowell Cllr Spicer Short

Project or Policy	Details of Project	Current Position	Finance implications	Next steps	Working Group Assigned
Environmental issues	Raising awareness about biodiversity and climate change	- Regular speakers at monthly Environment Group meetings, and talks given to groups such as Aquarius and the Corfe Castle Gardening Club. - Grow connections with local groups and organisations, especially those involving young people i.e. the Primary School, i.e. Brownies & Youth Club.	All finance to come from environmental group reserves.	Organise speakers for 2023 meetings. Organise events for 2023.	Environment Working Group: Cllr Sumbler Chairman, Vice Chairman. Mr Kemp Mr Luke, & Mr Pink
	Biodiversity schemes	Identify areas for tree planting, & wildflowers. Undertake a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting Project, with the first hedge planting site completed at the Play Area	Environmental group reserves.	Organise planting sessions winter / spring 2022/23, and autumn / winter 2023/23.	
Electrical Charging points	Electrical Charging points in resident's car park	Initial investigations continue into need / want of electrical car charging points within the resident's car parking area. Permit holders have been sent questionnaire. Update December 2022 – A working group has been formed. A survey has been commissioned resulting in higher-than-expected costings. Further investigation into grants will continue. Update July 2023 survey commission and quotes received revealed costs are too great to continue at this point. Project to be re-visited from time to time.	Costs to be met from grant and users	On hold	-

Project or Policy	Details of Project	Current Position	Finance implications	Next steps	Working Group Assigned
God's Acre	Investigate requirements for Natural burials and scattering of ashes.	On-going. Training undertaken by the Clerk. Investigation work started Dec 2023 to create a Garden of Remembrance where ashes could be scattered.	Unknown at present	Investigation required	Gods Acre Working Group: Cllr Clarke Cllr Humphries Cllr Spicer-Short & Clerk
	Explore whether to enhance visitor facilities e.g. shelter	On-going, as above.	Unknown at present	Investigation required	
	Level up old graves.	The Caretaker continues to level old graves where necessary for Health and Safety reasons.	Budgeted caretaker hours to level graves.	On-going	
Repairs and maintenance of parish assets	Bus Shelters & stone walls around the Parish	Caretaker to remove Ivy from all Parish Council owned bus shelters and stone walls. – Ongoing project Update October 2023 a new roof was installed on the bus shelter by Halves Cottages. Work continues to maintain Bus shelter and stone walls around the parish.	Provision will need to be set aside from future budgets for roof maintenance.	Caretaker to carry out	Caretaker & Clerk.
	Playground Slide	30 min per week, over and above normal hours when necessary to clean the slide, when birds nesting in nearby Ash Tree. Update October 2022 with relevant treeworks orders, the trees around the youth shelter and slide were pruned.	Caretakers Hours	Caretaker to carry out	Caretaker

Project or Policy	Details of Project	Current Position	Finance implications	Next steps	Working Group Assigned
Planning consultations	Corfe Castle Community Land Trust – Affordable Homes	Formal response to planning application agreed and submitted. Update June 2022– Application has been withdrawn a new application is expected.	None	Awaiting planning application verdict from Dorset Council	Planning working group: Cllr Rowell, Cllr Spicer Short Cllr Sumbler
	General planning	Monitor all planning applications for the parish.	None		
	Treeworks applications	Monitor all Treework applications for the parish	None		Cllr Blinkhorn, Cllr J Dragon
Norden to Corfe Cycle / Footpath	Dorset Council to install a cycle / footpath from Norden to Corfe Castle.	Dorset Council investigations on-going	None to the parish council	Pursue Dorset Council	Dorset Council
Pavement repairs in village centre	Replace broken/tarmac stones or contribute to wider Dorset Council replacement scheme	Corfe Castle Parish Council has a reserve of £5,000 for this but this would only deal with a small number of the most damaged stones. It would need substantial Dorset Council input to make a visible difference	No confirmed figures.	In abeyance until Dorset Council comes up with scheme	TBC
	Pavement outside 28/30 East Street regularly broken as it is only off-street space for trades/disabled bus etc	Dorset Council once offered to fund 1/3 of cost of permanent East Street repair. Dorset Council do repair on a stone-by-stone basis.			
Website Overhaul	To create a new user-friendly Parish Council website	January 2023 work has started to design a new user-friendly informative Parish Council website.	Part of Clerks standard hours	On-going	Clerk

Project or Policy	Details of Project	Current Position	Finance implications	Next steps	Working Group Assigned
Campaigns to preserve Purbeck	Affordable homes and Second homes	Growing concern about impact of second homes nationally but muted Purbeck response, Corfe Castle Parish Council have agreed a policy of discouraging growth in second home ownership. Update August 2022: Corfe Castle Parish Council put forward the following motion to Dorset Associated of Parish and Town Council “That DAPTC support the provisions in the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill to discourage the growth in second homes by a 100% surcharge on council tax and seeks further discretionary controls on the growth in holiday lets and if passed a resolution be forwarded to NALC, the Local Government Association and Dorset MP’s”. Agreed Resulting Action: DAPTC to write to NALC, the Local Government Association and Dorset MPs in support of the motion. Update: November 2022 Motion submitted by DAPTC to NALC for possible discussion at the next NALC Policy Committee meeting. Update December 2022 DAPTC are writing to the Local Government Association and Dorset MPs – copies of the letters will be available in due course.			

Completed / No further action possible.

Project or Policy	Details of Project	Actions Taken	Finance implications
Woodyhyde Footpath	Complete footpath	Landowner and tenant in discussion over access. National Trust have repaired their gate at the bottom of the field, Dorset Council have installed a new gate at the top of the field and are awaiting landowner / tenant discussion outcome before installing new fingerposts. Woodyhyde Campsite have offered to install a new culvert to reduce water levels within the bottom of the field. Update November 2022: Land and house have been sold to a private individual. Once sale of home is confirmed contact with new home / landowner will be made. Update October 2023 landowner has rejected plans to install a permissive path.	None
Highways	Drop-down kerb requirements around the parish.	CCPC to investigate drop-down kerb / pedestrian accessibility around Corfe Castle Square. Approved December 2022 Update Jan 2023 - Corfe Castle Parrish Council are to meet with Dorset Council to discuss pedestrian accessibility issues around Corfe Castle village square. Update meeting with Dorset Council postponed, work still progressing. Update Nov 2023 work complete	None
Planning Consultations	Swanworth Quarry application for extension of site	In Sept 2020 CCPC were mindful to make no objection subject to a number of conditions. AONB have objected and the application has not been determined to date. Update December 2022 – Dorset Council are expected to confirm their decision in Jan '23.	None
Campaigns to preserve Purbeck	Threat to remove Ambulance Cover	Swanage led campaign which Corfe Castle Parish Council has supported	None
Repairs and maintenance of parish assets	Caretaker works 5 hours a week which is insufficient to do both cleaning and repairs	Council agreed to keep current Caretaker hours at the same level, but with a provision of additional hours as and when required in consultation with the Clerk	Provision set aside in Budget for additional hours
God's Acre	Update Rules and Regulations	New Rules and Regulations implemented - October 2022	<£100. New signage.

Playground	New play equipment "Out of the Ruins"	Complete – January 2022	£27,655 net from reserves
Playground	Roundabout	Repaired	£1,200 new from reserves
Traffic & Parking	Speed Indicator Device (SID)	A SID has been installed and is moved as per guidelines every few weeks by 2 parish volunteers.	Equipment bought, using project reserves. Minimal on-going cost.
Traffic & Parking	Community Speed Watch	A Community Speed Watch Scheme has been initiated and a group of 11 volunteers carry out regular roadside sessions.	Equipment bought from Dorset Police, using project reserves. Minimal on-going cost.
God's Acre	Long term budget strategy to be agreed as costs exceed income	Council agreed to increase the interment & memorial rights fees from April 2022. Council agreed administrative fees should represent the true administrative costs.	-
God's Acre	Explore dedicated parking area for Funeral Directors vehicles and family cars.	Gravel pathway wide enough for vehicles laid when field first handed over to trustees. Suitable for vehicle access.	-
Residents Car Park	Drainage	A new drainage system has been installed on the Northeast section of the car park.	Paid for from reserves.
Environment Group	Our Secret Field	The Parish Council have decided not to continue with this project. The National Trust will now oversee.	
Environment Group	Encombe Tree Nursery	The Parish Council have decided not to continue with this project. The Encombe Estate Trust will now oversee.	
Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Multiply activities were organised through Crazy 4 Corfe	Donations from residents and local businesses given to Crazy 4 Corfe.