

Romsley Parish Councils 5-Year Plan 2023-2028



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Introduction

Purpose

This 5-Year Plan has been produced as a statement of Romsley Parish Council's vision, values, objectives and key priorities over its term of office. The Plan will be a "live" document that sets out what the Parish Council can realistically achieve either directly or indirectly through influencing and working with other principal authorities such as Bromsgrove District Council (BDC), Worcester County Council (WCC) and West Mercia Police force (WMP).

The aim of the Plan is to provide Romsley Parish residents with clear insight of what the Parish Council is trying to achieve and how it expects to deliver this. The Plan will identify what the Parish Council plans to focus on and will be used as a guide each year to set the budget for the next financial year.

Vision

To ensure that the Parish is a safe and desirable place to live and work.

Mission

Strive to understand the needs of the residents and organisations within the Parish, respect their views, seek to address these needs within the resources and powers available and always for the majority.

- Communicate in a positive, transparent and cordial manner, encouraging residents to engage with life in the Parish and the decisions that affect it.
- Strive to provide best value for money and high-quality services and facilities where they are within our remit and lobby for the Parish to receive them when they are provided by others.
- Preserve, develop and support community activities and facilities, including open spaces and natural environments which are practical, desirable and affordable.
- To build a sense of community, village spirit, togetherness and inclusiveness through all our actions.

Plan progression

Monitoring progress against the list of priorities which make up the Action Plan will take place at Parish Council meetings. The Plan will be reviewed annually and will be updated, as necessary, to keep the document relevant and timely.

The Plan will be available to view and download from the Parish Council website.

Community engagement

To ensure this Plan is consistent with residents wishes the Parish Council will continue to proactively communicate via differing forms of media including its website, social media, the Parish newsletter and noticeboards as well as encouraging residents to attend council meetings.

Constructive feedback will always be welcomed and where appropriate, if in the interests of the majority and financially viable, will always be considered for inclusion in the plan.

Structure & Responsibilities

Romsley Parish Council has been serving the residents of Romsley since 1894. There are three tiers of local government, each with different responsibilities.

- 1. Romsley Parish Council** is the first and most local tier of government, closest to the electorate. The council has an important role to play in promoting the village, representing its interests and supporting the different groups within the community.
- 2. Bromsgrove District Council** is the second tier and is responsible for services including environmental services (e.g. street care and cleaning), development planning and strategic planning policies for all development via a Core Strategy (including housing).
- 3. Worcestershire County Council** is the third and final tier of local government and are responsible for highways (relating to roads and pavements), health, education, social services, and public rights of way.

Romsley Parish Council has seven councillors who are elected every four years.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected annually by the councillors at the annual Parish meeting in May.

Councillors are unpaid and commit their time to improving and maintaining Romsley on behalf of its residents.

The council meets monthly, except August and December, at St Kenelms Church Hall, Bromsgrove Road. All meetings are open to the public and dates are published in advance.

Romsley Parish Council is funded by a precept collected on behalf of the council by Bromsgrove District Council and for 2023-24 was £55,675.00.

Parish Councils responsibilities

- Allotments
- Bus Shelters
- Community Centres, Conference Centres, Halls, Public Buildings
- Drainage – of ditches and ponds
- Entertainment and the Arts
- Footpaths
- General Spending – parish councils can spend a limited amount of money on anything they deem of benefit to the community that is not covered by the other specific responsibilities described in this list
- Highways – lighting, parking places, right to enter into discussions about new roads and road widening, consent of parish council required for diversion or discontinuation of highway, traffic signs and other notices, tree planting and verge maintenance
- Legal proceedings – power to prosecute and defend any legal proceedings in the interests of the community, power to take part in any public enquiry
- Litter – provision of litter-bins and support for any anti-litter campaigns
- Planning – parish councils must be notified of, and display for residents, any planning applications for the area.
Any comments submitted to the planning authority by the parish council must be taken into account.
- Recreation – provision of recreation grounds, public walkways, open spaces, village greens, playing fields
- Rights of Way – footpath and bridleway maintenance
- Seats (public)
- Signs – danger signs, place names and bus stops signs
- Traffic Calming

Priorities & Actions

1. Communication

Purpose:	To develop positive and constructive communication between the Parish Council, Residents and other local Community groups
	Action
1. 5-Year Plan	Produce, publish and utilise as a working document
2. Council meetings	Regular meetings organised which are advertised and open to the public
3. Noticeboards	Maintained to promote relevant information and items with community interest
4. Newsletter	Produce and distribute to each household within the Parish, 3 editions/year
5. Website	To be updated regularly with relevant information
6. Social media	Communicate relevant information on Facebook group pages
7. Consultation	Commitment to conduct a residents' survey regarding the type of village events that are of interest

2. Governance

Purpose:	To demonstrate full accountability through appropriate procedures being followed and actions taken
	Action
1. Finance control	Ensure a robust process continues for monthly and annual cost reconciliation
2. Budgeting	Annual budget to be drafted and made available
3. Planning applications	To review all planning applications and comment in the best interest of the community
4. Auditing	Annual auditing to be carried out by approved independent external organisation
5. Diversity	Strive to develop a diverse council membership that represents all residents views
6. BDC, WCC & WMP engagement	To ensure contacts are established and appropriate engagement is had in the best interest of residents

3. Open Spaces

Purpose:	To ensure our open spaces are safe, clean and tidy for the enjoyment of the Community and its visitors
	Action
1. The park	To ensure that the park and play areas continue to be a safe and enjoyable place to visit
2. Footpaths	Monitor footpaths, working with relevant stakeholders, to ensure they are kept safe and well maintained
3. Dog waste	Continue to provide dog waste bags and promote owners' responsibilities through effective signage
4. Litter picking	To organise and/or support other community groups litter picking events to keep the area clean and tidy
5. Planters/flower beds	To support the maintenance and general upkeep
6. Allotments	To ensure allotments are used and maintained appropriately

4. Community

Purpose:	To provide and support activities that make the Parish a safe and pleasant place to live and work and that has excellent community spirit
	Action
1. Events	To organise a range of events that are of interest and of benefit to the Community
2. Waste disposal/recycling	To explore ways of improving waste disposal and recycling following events that are held
3. Animal wellbeing	To review event activities ensuring they are not detrimental to pets, livestock and wildlife
4. Community groups	Establish links with other local groups and seek to jointly promote activities as agreed
5. Road safety	Continuously review and implement solutions working in conjunction with relevant authorities
6. Police engagement	Promote and support regular police surgeries in the Parish
7. Public transport	Ensure that appropriate public transport continues to be available and lobby relevant authorities when needed

Contact details

Romsley Parish Council

Website: www.romsleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: Romsley Parish Council

Clerk: Ruth Mullett

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Bromsgrove District Council

Website: www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Worcester County Council

Website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk

West Mercia Police force

Website: www.westmercia.police.uk