



Holcot Parish Plan

2024-

V1.0 April 2024



HOLCOT
PARISH COUNCIL

The Holcot Parish Plan 2024-

The Holcot Parish Plan was prepared in 2024 with the objective of setting the future key priorities for the Parish and Parish Council.

All households were given the opportunity to comment on the draft priority areas, and based on questionnaire feedback listed below are the 6 key areas parishioners confirmed are of critical importance to the Parish and its people.

1. The Council – overarching delivery of all priorities
2. Key priorities
 - a) Road Safety
 - b) Protecting Assets and Services
 - c) Crime and Policing
 - d) Involving Residents in Community Projects
 - e) The Environment

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**1. THE COUNCIL –
Being an effective,
representative, and
well-run council;
enabling community
life to thrive; and
listening and
responding to
residents’ needs.**

Meet our legal responsibilities as a Council in a transparent and professional manner.

Maintain effective rigorous financial control

Use the website, ensuring it complies with regulations and includes a diary of community events.

Provide information and ways of consulting via existing paper-based and social media channels.

Build on our relationships with other agencies, influencing wherever we can.

FY24/25

Develop a Holcot Parish Plan to provide a single source strategic framework for development of the Parish

Develop our communications strategy aligned to the Holcot Parish Plan to ensure various routes of engagement seek community views and evidence local need to facilitate Council decisions

Facilitate informative and engaging Annual Parish Meeting that showcase local clubs and initiatives.

Ensure councillors and the Clerk have the skills and training to carry out their roles effectively on behalf of the parish.

FY25/26+

Actively seek councillors that reflect the demographics of our parish

Where cuts are made by other agencies, and the community values the provision, consider what the Parish Council can do to maintain delivery (within budget constraints) of services throughout the parish.

Move away from periodic paper-based communication to parishioners

2a. ROAD SAFETY –
Working with
residents, local
organisations, WNC
Highways to address
and resolve matters
relating to speed,
weight, road safety,
road management,
pavements and public
transport

Ongoing

- Continue to build on relations with WNC Highways department (HW)
- Move ahead with the chicane on Sywell Road

Vehicle speeds

- Maintain existing Vehicle-Activated Speed Indicator Devices (VASIDs)
- Complete grant-process and installation of 3rd VASID at already agreed location
- Work with HW and Police to approve and implement 20mph and 'Holcot Cottages' signage
- Continuously investigate other measures to reduce speeds across the parish, eg ANPR, further VASIDs, traffic calming
- Help promote and administer Speedwatch at approved sites across the parish with a councillor lead
- Prepare the pathway for further traffic-calming measures (priority list already-identified)

Vehicle weight

- Continue to publicise the 7.5t weight limit through the parish, and work with HW and police to limit impact on parishioners, eg signage/ANPR

Maintenance

- Continue to report and monitor issues across the parish (through the work of the volunteer Highways Coordinator); and continue to promote the ways residents can report any issues they are aware of with the roads and **pavement** such as blocked drains; potholes etc. (Fix My Street)
- Keep open dialogue with WNC about the potential of volunteers doing more such as cleaning road signs and undertaking litter picks at the roadside.

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2b. PROTECTING ASSETS
AND SERVICES –
Continuing to support
and strengthen assets
(buildings and land) that
the Parish Council own;
and protect and enhance
assets and services of
community value across
the parish.

Continue to support the

- Village Hall
- Church
- Church Rooms
- Playing Field
- Old School Site
- Allotments
- White Swan- (communication of events only)

Continue to monitor unofficial Assets of Community Value that further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community: and identify formal applications where necessary.

Continue to invest in and maintain Parish-owned assets such as bus shelters and benches.

Work with WNC to keep public footpaths open and in good order.

Review leases and maintenance/arrangements at appropriate times.

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2c. CRIME AND
POLICING – Working
with residents,
Northamptonshire
Police, local NCPOs
and local
organisations to help
reduce levels of
crime in the parish.

Ensure the Brixworth based NCPOs continues to support the parish, responding to various issues.

Build on existing links with Northamptonshire Police to progress actions that are relevant to the parish, such as through the Community Safety Action Group.

Continue to engage with WNC and the Police on matters relating to speed, road safety, road management and pavements.

Make requests to WNC regarding the infrastructure needs of the parish (through the work of Holcot Parish Council's Road Safety Working Group) and if necessary, consider match funding

Encourage more involvement from residents in looking out for their neighbours by working together and sharing information to reduce crime. Actively publicise neighbourhood watch with the aim of reinstating a local group.

2d. INVOLVING RESIDENTS
IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS
– Working with residents
and local organisations to
facilitate new initiatives
and support existing
volunteering opportunities
to enhance parish life.

Identify councillor or resident leads to take forward new volunteering initiatives.

Set up a community wide survey to gain insight into the needs of the parish.

Work with residents and community groups to facilitate new volunteer projects where local needs and requirements arise. Ensure any necessary training for volunteers is in place.

Build on our list of volunteers and identify ways to further engage the community in meaningful and well-organised volunteering opportunities. E.G. extend membership of Friends of Holcot, Gardening group etc

Investigate how other parishes are successfully training and involving parishioners in litter picking and road sign cleaning activities. Keep abreast of and build upon best practice and innovation in volunteering initiatives happening in other parishes.

Support, where appropriate, local groups and societies to ensure there continues to be activities that reach out to different demographic groups and interests. Ensure the needs of all geographical areas of the parish are considered.

Seek to identify ways to better engage with young people in the parish to listen to their views and meet their needs.

Work with WNC to expand Keep Britain Tidy initiatives.

Where there are gaps in the provision of services, identify existing groups and agencies to work with to bridge those gaps.

2e. THE ENVIRONMENT – Ensuring that reducing environmental impact is paramount in effecting the decisions we make as a council; and encouraging residents to take action to protect the environment.

Parish Maintenance

- Complete the programme of changing streetlights across the parish to LEDs
- Continue to publicise the change in law surrounding dog fouling and smoking in public places in line with WNC PSPO.
- Ensure all amenities – public seating, landscaping, bins are maintained and improved as necessary.
- Work with residents and community organisations to identify initiatives to enhance and protect the environment of the parish such as supporting tree preservation, wildflower verges; opportunities for additional tree planting; and exploring the involvement in a parish in bloom

Sustainability

- Investigate the installation of electric charging points (to include rapid chargers) for cars in public areas in the parish
- Support initiatives to reduce waste, use less energy, improve recycling and develop green efficiency.
- Consider (using evidence of its success elsewhere) investment in solar streetlights
- Inform residents in how they can protect the environment; and share ideas/tips, through sharing social media from other agencies and initiatives.
- Support WNC in their continued work to influence environmental change
- Replicate best practice in the town and parish councils' sector on climate initiatives and energy generation where appropriate to our parish.

Planning

- Continue to work closely with WNC on matters related to housing and planning.
- Ensure that the housing needs of the parish are heard locally and regionally by continuing to respond to WNC and national planning consultations.
- Signpost annual training for councillors on planning matters

Version History

| Version | Status, changes | Date |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------|
| V1.0 | Initial approved version | 15 April 2024 |
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