



## Wendover Parish Council Annual Report 2017/18

During the financial year of 2017/18 Wendover Parish Council achieved the following objectives from its business plan:

- **Progressed the Neighbourhood Plan within statutory limits** – the NPSG have surveyed residents and gathered evidence.
- **Improved consultation and presence in the community** – a Community Engagement working group now meets monthly and reports to the full Council at its monthly meeting. Officers have created a new Facebook page after the original one became redundant in 2012 and revamped the Parish Council website to make it more user friendly and are assisting the group in producing leaflets on Parish Council topics. Officers also produce posters each month to promote the democratic process such as advertising for co-option to the vacant seat and post these on the Parish Council noticeboards and website. Staff and Councillors work together to organise and run the Annual Village Quiz and Christmas Event and produce the back page for Wendover News monthly. For many years, the Parish Council has awarded grant funding. In 2017/18 funds were given to the Churchyard Care Committee, Carers Bucks, Wendover Youth Centre and Friends of Wendover Library.
- **Professionalised Parish Council processes** – Bespoke training plans were created for each Councillor and staff member to support the training log. Policies and protocols have been reviewed in line with the schedule and a calendar of works has been followed by the Grounds Maintenance team.
- **Strengthened relations with local organisations** – Attendance at meetings of outside bodies has been measured and reports from these have been made to full Council at its monthly meetings. The Clerk has met with more local organisations to increase understanding and ability to work together with the Parish Council.
- **Successfully provided devolved services** – After the first 6 months of the financial year, the contractor undertaking the works ceased to trade so the Parish Council assessed the option of a contract versus undertaking the service in house. The Council decided to take the service in house by recruiting a second Groundsman and purchasing a ride on mower which has proven to improve productivity and reaction times enormously.

- **Investigated parking improvements** – The Parish Council applied to the LAF for match funding of a parking review for on-street parking by Bucks County Council. Despite finding the cost of this unachievable, the Parish Council has continued to investigate further ways to improve on and off-street parking and has applied for grant funding to extend its free car park on Witchell Meadow.
- **Continued to maintain and improve the WPC estate and assets** – A small proportion of the assets were found to be redundant or past efficient use and were sold, allowing some funds and space to be made for new assets such as a telescopic pole saw. This has allowed the team to prune trees and hedges in preparation for the new grass cutting season as it will allow the new ride on mower easier access to verges and recreation grounds, thus improving efficiency. Further to this, projects to repair the lower tier roof on the Clock Tower and clean the War Memorial and repaint the names have been undertaken.
- **Improved service delivery** – Having a second Groundsman has improved the ability to undertake all activities more quickly and to undertake two-man jobs more often. This has allowed Rights of Way to be cleared immediately when trees fall, trees to be planted on Ashbrook Recreation Ground, Hampden Shelter to be refurbished and the maintenance of the High Street flower beds to be added to the floral displays. Further to this, the Parish Council has adopted Heron Path and resurfaced the poorest section.
- **Upgraded the Clock Tower office IT for efficiency and productivity** – Staff have organised changes in the way the office IT was provided which has saved money for the Parish Council and allowed office staff to work from home when required, such as on snow days.
- **Continued monitoring of HS2** – The Parish Council working group has continued to lobby the Government for a mined tunnel past Wendover which is expected to decrease the length of the construction and disruption to the community long term.
- **Hosted the RAF Freedom Parade 2017** – The Parish Council supported the RAF's Freedom of the Vale by organising and funding a Freedom Parade in Wendover in May 2017.

In support of the 2017/18 Business Plan, the Parish Council measured itself against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and measured its compliance with its plan regularly throughout the year. The Parish Council is pleased to report it has consistently hit its targets and is continuing to review KPIs and target levels to achieve even more.

The Parish Council has also adopted a new 3-year strategic plan and financial management strategy in 2018/19.