

Corporate Strategy 2020 to 2023

By its nature a Town Council has direct links to its community and by its remit can undertake projects that improve the lives of its residents. This document sets out the priorities of Stapleford Town Council over the next three years. Over this period there are issues such as HS2 and the Towns fund which Stapleford Town Council can influence and will continue to be involved with, but this document predominantly focuses on projects and actions that the Town Council has more direct control over. Some of these projects will involve working with external stakeholders such as Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, and volunteer and community groups.

Vision statement: To improve the life experiences and wellbeing of our local community

Mission statement: Using its statutory powers, Stapleford Town Council will do all it can to ensure the sustainability of Stapleford in terms of its economy, community and environment for the benefit of its residents and visitors.

The priorities for the next three years have been identified by drawing on work already carried out by the various Town Council Committees, issues raised by residents at Community action team (CAT) meetings, and by identifying needs from documentation such as the Broxtowe Part 2 local plan and The Good Councillors guide. Additionally, the ability of the Council to complete these projects by drawing upon the diverse interests, knowledge and skill sets of our 18 Town Councillors, who are able to offer expertise in many areas, has been considered. Running throughout the projects and actions is the concept of Sustainability in terms of the local economy, society and the environment. Therefore, the Actions have been grouped into four priority areas which represent these sustainability concepts and a fourth which is concerned with development of the council itself. There is obviously overlap between the four priority areas and some actions would fit in any of the groups.

The four priority areas: -

- 1. Helping the local Economy to thrive.**
- 2. Council in the Community**
- 3. Environmental sustainability**
- 4. Governance, People and Assets**



Helping the local Economy to thrive

Action	Council Committee	Timescale	Comments
Set up an awards scheme for local businesses	Arts, Events and Heritage	Autumn 2021	To be launched on 31 July 2021 as part of Sustainable Stapleford Event
Continue to organise Events in the town centre and look to increase the frequency and type of event	Arts, Events and Heritage	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	Covid-19 may impact on the ability to do this
Request to take over the management of the Walter Parker VC Memorial Garden	Finance and General purpose	Autumn 2020	Main curved bed, raised bed completed, memorial garden next
Marketing and promoting Stapleford	Finance and general purpose	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	
Arrange for cleaning/painting of lampposts in the town centre	Finance and General purpose	Pre Spring 2021	Currently an issue with powder coating which needs to be resolved.
Put up hanging baskets throughout the town centre	Finance and General purpose	Spring 2021	Quotes received and permissions being sought from NCC
Begin a program of Blue Plaques for notable figures from Stapleford.	Arts, Events and Heritage	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	Working party established. Meetings not yet commenced.
Begin a program of installing interpretation boards at historic sites throughout Stapleford	Arts, Events and Heritage	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	First meeting held, style of boards selected, permissions from landowners and NCC to be sought.
Continue to have input into projects in the wider area such as the Towns deal and HS2	Towns Fund Executive Board members and Stakeholder Group Full Council	To external timescales.	Town Deal Bid successful. Leader remains on the Board for implementation.



COUNCIL IN THE COMMUNITY

The Core Aligned Strategy (C.A.S.) part 3.13.5 states “The role of community level culture and sporting facilities is vitally important in creating sustainable and healthy neighbourhoods.” Being physically active, engaging with the natural world, having supportive social networks, appreciating or participation in the arts and feeling secure are all factors which contribute to health and wellbeing and can be directly influenced by the environment and facilities available within the neighbourhood. Community Safety also plays an important role in the wellbeing of the community. Stapleford Town Council believes that social equality is an essential part of the thriving community and seeks to remove social and physical barriers to ensure no groups are unfairly treated.

ALLOTMENTS

Stapleford has five allotment sites located on Bessel lane, Ewe Lamb lane, Nottingham Road, Albany on Peatfield Road and Pasture road. These facilities provide an excellent community resource, encouraging physical activity, social interaction and healthy eating. The Albany Allotments are home to The Dig In project which is a community run initiative financed primarily through Notts PCT NHS and supported by Stapleford Town council. The Aims of the project are to share knowledge and expertise in Growing fresh fruit and vegetables and encouraging healthy eating. There has been a history of under occupancy of allotment sites leading to costs in maintaining vacant plots. However, during the recent Covid-19 pandemic there has been an upturn in demand for allotments and some sites are now at full occupancy. Disabled access to some of the sites has been raised as an issue, as has the large size of the plots and a lack of raised beds making it difficult for those with mobility issues to use these facilities.

Stapleford Town council has set up an allotments committee in the previous year to ensure improved service and engagement with stakeholders include tenants (via site reps), SDGHA, Dig-in community allotment.

PARKS

Stapleford has 7 amenity parks which offer a variety of sporting opportunities such as football pitches, bowling greens and tennis courts. Most have a children’s play area but Hicking’s lane is the best equipped with a skatepark, outdoor fitness equipment, pavilion and kickabout/basketball court. However, none of the parks in Stapleford has achieved a Green flag Award. The criterion for a Green flag award includes evidence of community involvement and therefore working towards Green flag status for parks in Stapleford provides an opportunity for the council to increase its community engagement. Volunteering provides opportunities for isolated residents to meet new people, and for all involved to gain new skills and knowledge if properly supported.

It has also been noted that disabled access can be improved at many of the parks buy providing radar key assess to gates and including disability friendly play equipment with level access.



Currently the Parks in Stapleford are owned and managed by Broxtowe Borough Council but under current laws the council has the power to acquire and maintain land for public recreation (Public Health Act 1875, s164).

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Broxtowe Borough Council runs a series of community safety drop-in sessions at the Stapleford Health Centre however the Town Council can play a bigger role in promoting community safety awareness and crime prevention. The council has regular engagement with our PCSO and previous discussions have centred around enabling the police to use the facilities at the Carnegie Civic Centre.

REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL GROUPS

The Town Council appoints a representative onto external community groups such as the Broxtowe Women's Project, The Helpful Bureau (who rent space in the Carnegie Civic Centre) and the Dig in Project. These positions further afford the council the opportunity for helping community projects.

SECTION 137 FUNDING

The council has the power to give small grants to organisations and groups that provide services for to the local community through section 137 funding. To help volunteer groups and community initiatives that improve the lives of residents the Town Council can increase this offering and market this opportunity to eligible applicants.



The Council in the Community

Action	Council committee	Timescale	comments
Carry out a review of the standard tenancy agreement for the allotments in consultation with Stakeholders.	Allotments Steering Group	Summer 2021	Draft tenancy agreement on agenda for approval
Put in raised beds on all allotment sites	Allotments Steering Group	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	Sites considered.
Look into the feasibility of dividing some unoccupied allotment plots into smaller plots	Allotments Steering Group	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	Starter plots now on Albany and Bessell, some already let.
Investigate opportunities to increase the provision of allotments in Stapleford	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	Spring 2022	
Working with police partners to establish a police base in the Carnegie	Finance and general purpose	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	Police are using rest facilities, unable to provide dedicated room at present
Organise a community safety event with the police	Arts, Events and Heritage	Autumn 2021	
Continue active representation on Broxtowe Women's project, Helpful Bureau and Dig in projects.	Selected representatives from Council	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	
Improve disabled access to allotments	Allotments committee	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	
Market and increase section 137 funding to support community groups	Finance and general purpose	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	Facebook post done - more will be posted.

Environmental Sustainability

Stapleford Town Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019 in response to reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Council has produced a strategy as to how it can contribute to reducing direct and indirect CO2 emissions of residents to less than 2 tonnes per person per year by 2027 and cut its own emissions to net zero by the same date. These are both bold and ambitious aims and reflect the council's commitment to tackling the causes of anthropogenic climate change.

Carbon emission reduction has been ingrained into the corporate plan. Therefore, this section deals with the aims in the corporate plan which seek to protect the Environment through CO2 reduction that have not been mentioned elsewhere, initiatives to create and enhance habitats for wildlife, encourage sustainable transport and cut waste.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan which is currently being developed by Stapleford Town Council contains many elements for carbon reduction, habitat creation and sustainable transport.

Allotments

The allotments contribute to Stapleford's green infrastructure and opportunities exist to create more habitat for wildlife such as pollinating insects as well as encouraging more sustainable water usage and waste disposal.

Events

A garden competition is run annually, and this provides scope to encourage residents to maintain their gardens with wildlife and the environment in mind. Also, a "Sustainable Stapleford" event would promote recycling, waste reduction and CO2 reduction ideas to residents.

Environmental Sustainability

Actions	Council committee	Timescale	Comments
Organise a sustainable Stapleford event for stakeholders and residents	Arts, Events and Heritage	First event in Spring 2021	Event to be held on 31 July 2021
Include green initiatives in the Neighbourhood plan as described in the climate strategy	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	Spring 2022	Sustainability is an underpinning theme throughout the plan.
Engage with stakeholders to improve energy efficiency of housing	Planning and Environment	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	
Explore options to increase renewable energy generation in Stapleford	Planning and climate emergency/Neighbourhood plan steering group	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	
Include a green gardening category in the annual gardening competition	Arts, Events and Heritage	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	Category included and wooden trophy provided by Cllr Browne
Provide water butts, composters and space for organic fertiliser deliveries on allotments	Allotments Steering Group	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	
Create habitats for pollinating insects such as managed lavender hedges and bee friendly flowers	Allotments Steering Group	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	



GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE AND ASSETS

Local councils can provide many services using their current legal powers. However, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is highly likely to be issuing its devolution white paper in the Autumn of 2020. The white paper is likely to cover the themes such as strengthening rights for existing town / parish councils to request and agree transfer of assets, functions and funding, such as community spaces and neighbourhood services. These areas will strengthen and extend community rights and provide a framework for further onward devolution. Additionally, supporting greater use of neighbourhood planning in urban areas and towns is also likely to feature in the white paper.

Currently the Town Council only employs 3 staff, all of which work part time, and as such has only been able to take on limited activities beyond its statutory legal obligations. Even so, over the previous year, a great deal of work has been carried out updating and developing policies to bring them in line with best practice, providing a firm foundation on which to build. Additionally, the Town Council is currently preparing a Neighbourhood plan utilising its existing powers.

It is therefore of critical importance for the benefit of Stapleford, to transition the Town Council so that it is more able to respond to the opportunities the proposed reforms will provide. Additionally, it has been identified that better communication is required with the local community to encourage wider engagement. The council has recently obtained more of a social media presence by starting up a Facebook page but more work needs to be done in this area.

CARNEGIE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councils can offer funding, equipment and premises, to help others provide services. The Carnegie Civic and community centre is currently the only building asset the council owns and manages. Investment could turn this into a building suitable to be a local registry office. Currently, South Broxtowe does not have a registry office so this would fill a gap in service provision. Stapleford is a place where people feel their home is part of their identity. To be born, married and to have one's death registered in their hometown would increase that feeling of community. Updated Audio-Visual facilities would also enable conferences to use the space and increase bookings of the centre. An Upgrade of security is also required.

GOVERNANCE, PEOPLE AND ASSETS

Action	Council committee	Timescale	comments
Continue to develop policy in line with best practice and advice from organisations such as ACAS & NALC, with a view to working towards obtaining the General Power of Competence and the Local Councils Award Scheme, Quality Gold Award	HR and policy Review	Anticipate reaching Quality award standard within 2 years	The council has much of the documentation now in place for the Foundation Award
Conduct a review into current roles and staffing levels. Look to increase the overall number of staffing hours available both in and out of the office.	HR and Policy Review / Finance and general purpose	Staffing review to be completed by autumn 2021	New staffing structure agreed in 2020 but budget not provided for all.
Identify training needs of existing and new staff and put together a programme of delivery with a view to obtaining an investors in people award.	HR and Policy Review	Training needs identified by autumn 2021	Development plan for new Deputy TC drafted to be used as template for all new staff.
Identify training needs and put together a program of training for Councillors to attend which ensures Councillors have the knowledge to carry out their duties legally and responsibly. To include social media and GDPR as a priority.	HR and Policy Review	Training needs identified by autumn 2021	Draft programme considered by HR&PR Committee, April 2021. Key courses already booked.
Finish the neighbourhood plan	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	Spring 2022	Design guide and draft policies now in progress.
Investigate ways to better utilise the council's assets to provide services to the community, including conferencing and registry office services	Finance and general purpose	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	Research almost completed and draft business case in progress for wedding venue.
Put together a program of improvements for the council's buildings, including redecorating, upgrading AV equipment, energy efficiency and security	Finance and general purpose	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	Connected to above, initial inspections made and will feed into business case.
Improve communication with the community on the work of the council by developing a marketing strategy and more effective use of social media	HR and Policy Review	Progress to be evidenced over the lifespan of this document	More posts have been made online but no formal strategy has been put in place as yet.

