



**CARSINGTON & HOPTON PARISH COUNCIL  
VILLAGE BUSINESS PLAN and ACTION LOG**

**KEY ACTIVITIES APRIL 2022 – MARCH 2023**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Actions Recommended/Budget Allocated</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Road Safety	To recruit new volunteers	Councillor Edmiston	Sept 2022
	To join Snow Warden scheme for 2022/2023	Parish Clerk	Nov 2022
Improve look of the village	Agree contract for village planting & maintenance of Council owned beds and troughs and village green	Parish Council	May 2022
	Review Village Green play equipment with bespoke checklist from Rospa	Councillor Edmiston	3 x per year Spring Autumn Winter
	To replacing the badgers	Councillor Edmiston	Sept 2022
	Consider options for encouraging dog owners to dispose of dog waste responsibly.	Parish Council	Ongoing
Defibrillator	To arrange training	Parish Clerk	June 2022
Community Engagement	Work with CARE, the school and church groups set up to improve facilities & information within village	Parish Council	ongoing
Climate Change	To commission joiner to build a bug hotel on the village green To commission joiner to build seed exchange in the refurbished telephone box	Parish Council	September 2022
Creative Events	Develop plans to progress projects and allocate lead Councillor, residents expressed interest in:	Parish Council	Jan 2023

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Signs</li> <li>• Mosaic Trail</li> <li>• Local History Panel</li> <li>• Willow weaving</li> </ul>		
Future Projects	<p>Discuss ideas suggested by residents in 2021 consultation and develop plans and allocate lead Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tool Library</li> <li>• Party Equipment Library</li> <li>• Visitors pay for parking – this would need to be referred to DCC</li> <li>• Monthly or bi-monthly supper club in Church</li> <li>• Sponsor another community</li> <li>• Research needs of elderly/disadvantaged in village</li> </ul>	Parish Council	March 2023
Council Asset	<p>Develop updated Asset Register</p> <p>Agree lead responsibilities for checking Council assets</p> <p>Review condition of Council assets at meetings &amp; any actions required</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>July 2022</p> <p>July 2022</p> <p>July 2022</p>
Wind Farm	<p>Identify opportunities to promote the funds available to encourage take-up</p> <p>Develop scheme to use funds to alleviate fuel poverty</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>July 2022</p> <p>July 2022</p>
Council Integrity	<p>To encourage training and development for Councillors</p> <p>Effective &amp; efficient decision making with all Councillors responding &amp; contributing</p> <p>Review &amp; update policies to ensure adhere with latest guidance &amp; legislation</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Parish Councillors</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing with annual review March/April</p>
Financial Integrity	<p>Provide an analysis of yearly budget trends so parishioners can see how money is spent.</p>	Parish Council	Annually

## **WHAT IS THE PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN?**

It is a statement of the Parish Council's vision for the village - its purpose, its objectives its values and key priorities. It is a document that sets out what CARSINGTON & HOPTON Parish Council aims to achieve, either directly or by influencing the activities of other bodies such as the District or County Council.

The purpose of having an agreed business plan for the Parish Council is to provide a consistent and co-ordinated framework from which any resident of the parish can see what the parish council is trying to achieve and what its spending priorities are. It also helps the Parish Council to forecast its budgets and calculate its precept requirement for future years.

The plan helps the local community to have a better understanding of what the Parish Council does and also clarifies what it does not do. It is an evolving document which is updated annually. The Council, through its regular meetings, will track and monitor its progress against the key priorities identified in the plan.

In developing the plan, the parish councillors rely on their knowledge of local issues, their ongoing dialogue with residents and feedback received at monthly meetings to formulate the priorities. However, every member of the community is invited to comment on the strategy so that, where possible, the parish council can make sure it remains relevant and alive to local community issues.

## **BACKGROUND**

There are three tiers of local government that provide services and affect the lives of residents in CARSINGTON & HOPTON: -

1. Derbyshire County Council is main responsible body for transportation and highways maintenance, educational services, adult social care & public health, waste disposal, public rights of way and libraries.
2. Derbyshire Dales District Council is the second tier and is responsible for services including new development planning, housing provision, waste collection, street cleaning and some leisure services.
3. CARSINGTON & HOPTON Parish Council is the tier of local government closest to the community. It has an important role to play in developing and promoting parish facilities such as: village planters and floral displays. The parish council also provides an advocacy role on behalf of local residents in making representations to the district and county councils.

## **HISTORY**

CARSINGTON & HOPTON in Derbyshire, England are inseparably linked. They lie in a wooded valley with Carsington Pasture rising steeply to one thousand feet to the west, behind a row of attractive little cottages that line the roadside. Both villages share the same church and school. The houses in each village almost overlap on the shared narrow road, and they are both in the same parish.

A considerable change to the landscape took place when Severn Trent constructed Carsington Water. The reservoir built at a cost of 107 million pounds and increased Severn Trent's raw-water capacity by 10% to meet the growing demand for water in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Leicestershire. Water is first pumped from the River Derwent at Ambergate Pumping Station. It is piped to Carsington Water when the river level is high and stored in the reservoir.

A bypass takes much of the traffic away from the narrow winding pavement - less village road. Carsington Water has exceeded all expectations as a tourist centre. Thankfully, all this has been achieved without life in Carsington and Hopton seeming to have changed all that much.

Excavations made as part of the reservoir construction revealed that Romans were once present in the area. Many archaeologists think that Carsington was Lutadarum, the centre of the Roman lead industry. The village was an important lead mining centre and Carsington pasture is still littered with disused lead mines. Mining was still in existence in the 20th century with barytes extracted at the Golconda Mine until 1953. Miners' Lane, situated on the corner of the road as it bends away from Carsington, was the route the miners used to get to work.

Carsington Water officially opened by HM the Queen in 1992, instantly became one of Derbyshire's most important tourist attractions. The original estimate of three hundred thousand visitors per year was soon revised to over one million. Further evidence of the popularity of the reservoir came when the East Midlands Tourist Board awarded it the 'Visitors Attraction of the Year' in 1993.

Only a short easy walk from the Visitor Centre Car Park is the wildlife centre where you can watch Cardington's birdlife in warmth and comfort. The weight of the turf-covered roof holds the building together without need of screws or nails. Along the bank side towards Carsington Village are further bird-hides where a fascinating hour or more may be spent seeing how many different species of birds you can spot.

Severn Trent planted half a million trees and shrubs in woodlands, copses, and hedgerows; the result has been not only to enhance a beautiful landscape, but also to create many new habitats for wildlife. This was recognised in 1995, by the receipt of the Forestry Centre of Excellence award for using 'The Highest Standards of Woodland Management' at Carsington.

The small Church of St Margaret's fits into the scenery perfectly – pretty but not dominating. There is evidence that a church existed as far back as the 12th century and it is interesting to note that in 1971, a gravedigger dug up the skeletons of a man, woman, and child, probably of Anglo-Saxon origin, giving rise to further speculation of the date of the first church. An unusual item in the church register records the life of Sarah Tissington who was born in the village in 1664 without arms, but despite this severe handicap learned to knit with her feet. A flower festival takes place in second half of May every year, which is very popular with visitors.

The Gell family who lived at Hopton Hall for nearly 500 years were the dominating influence in the area, before it was sold in 1989. The Hall hides behind a red brick crinkle-crankle wall on the eastern side of Hopton. The wall traps the rays of the sun to assist fruit growing. The Gells built the school and had a considerable influence on the development of the church. Sir Philip Gell organised the building of the Alms-houses in Hopton, above which a stone tablet declares that the buildings were for '2 poor men and 2 poor women of Hopton and Carson', the latter being the old name for Carsington.

Across the road close to the corner of the crinkle-crankle wall is an icehouse that has been listed for protection. This is where food was kept in pre-refrigerator days. Further along the road in Carsington is the popular Miners Arms and behind it a small village green on which stands part of a medieval cross.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT**

The Parish Council operates under a set of written Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which are reviewed and updated annually. These two documents outline the way in which the parish council conducts its business and manages its finances. Copies of these documents are, again, available for public viewing on the council's website so that all residents can find out how the council manages its affairs and allocates their council tax precept.

At every council meeting a review of the previous month's transactions is reported and how these reconcile to the bank account balances.

The council employs one member of staff, the Parish Clerk who works part-time. The Parish Clerk prepares all agenda papers for the council meetings and also drafts all minutes and correspondence and implements all the administrative affairs of the council. S/he also acts as the Responsible Finance Officer in managing the council's day to day financial affairs. The other member of staff is the village warden who carries out litter picking, minor grounds maintenance and carries out a range of other essential tasks around the village.

## **CORE VALUES**

These values describe the behaviours which councillors believe to be an important part of local democratic representation and which everyone working on behalf of the council will promote and uphold: -

**Leadership** - councillors are elected to represent their communities and are expected to take a lead on local issues that affect the lives of residents.

**Integrity** – anyone representing the council will be ethical, trustworthy, and reliable and will treat others with respect.

**Persistence** – the council will work proactively to implement decisions made by the Council, even if this takes a long time and requires a great deal of effort.

**Communication** – the council will work openly with residents and give the public the opportunity to ask questions and engage with the Council.

**Robust financial management** – the council will ensure that the Council's assets and resources are managed effectively and efficiently.

**Emulate best practice** – the council will seek out and replicate best practice by other local councils and will support training opportunities for Councillors and staff.

**Collective responsibility** – the council will work as a corporate body and respect decisions made democratically.

## **THE COUNCIL'S VISION**

The Parish Council aims to improve the local environment and the quality of life for the residents of the Parish by ensuring that it is a desirable, clean, and sustainable place in which to live. It does this in a number of ways:

- It provides a democratic and representational voice for the community.
- Where the parish provides services directly, it aims to do so to a good standard, in an effective and responsive way and at an affordable cost.
- Where services are provided by others, the Parish Council endeavours to influence how effectively these are delivered in accordance with the wishes of the community.
- It works with the aim of strengthening local partnerships, promoting communication, and maintaining a safe, healthy, prosperous, and sustainable community.

## **OUR LONG-TERM KEY OBJECTIVES**

- To ensure we have an attractive village which is desirable to live in.
- To ensure we have a voice with other tiers of local government.
- To respond to changing community demands & choices.