



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

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Langport Town Council Action Plan 2015-2016

(Adopted 6 October Min# 6343)

General principles

1. Quality services

The Council provides a number of services to the local community. We will seek to ensure that these services meet the needs of residents and that they represent value for money.

2. Consultation and openness

We will give you detailed information about what we are discussing and what we decide. Residents are welcome to give us their views at any time, and on issues of importance we will hold more formal consultations.

3. A partnership approach

The Town Council is only one of many organisations working within the community. We will encourage the investment of both time and resources by other agencies to help achieve our objectives. We will work together with Huish Episcopi Parish Council, County and District Councils and with the business community, voluntary bodies and local residents' associations for the benefit of the whole community.

Community issues

4. Town centre traffic

Although it is not a Highways Authority the Council is aware that highways issues are of considerable concern to local residents. We will actively encourage the use of alternative forms of transport and improved public transport. We also recognise that improvements to the flow of traffic through the town centre (Bow Street/Cheapside) will only be achieved by working in partnership with other bodies. While traffic to and from the Abattoir is not the only source of difficulty, we welcome the Abattoir Liaison Group addressing this issue.

This year: we will play a full role in the work reviewing/monitoring HGV lorries using Bow Street and the Hill to access the Abattoir, and report back on the results. We will also review the signage relating to weight limits in Langport and discuss improvements with the highways authority.

5. Law and order

The Council will work with the Police and other agencies to reduce vandalism and criminal activity within the town. Particular emphasis will be given to addressing the problems being experienced on property and land owned by the Town Council and Town Trust such as at the Town Garden, Cocklemoor and Public Toilets.

6. Public services

The Council will continue to provide funding support to the Links Community Transport Service and the Information Centre, which provides a District Council help desk for benefit applications.

7. Recreational facilities

The Council is committed to increasing recreational activities for all age groups and in, particular, activities for teenagers. We will continue to provide funding support to the Youth Club and to the Memorial Field.

This year: we will develop a plan to provide improved changing rooms at the Memorial Field.

8. Tourism and marketing

The Council will seek to implement its Tourism & Marketing strategy (*link*). Individual events, such as the monthly Market and the switching on of the Christmas Lights, will be well publicised and closer relations are being developed with the local press and media. We have identified a coach parking space at Westover and are working to ensure that coach drivers and operators are aware of it and the attractions of stopping in Langport.

This year: our priority is to launch and promote the new community website, Langport Life.

Environmental issues

9. Green Charter

The Council, including its employees and contractors, operates so far as possible in line with its Green Charter (*link*).

10. Planning developments

The Council will seek to ensure that new planning developments are in keeping with the architecture and character of the town and that highway and other issues are considered.

11. Nature conservation

The Council, together with community groups and voluntary organisations, will look to enhance areas such as Cocklemoor and the Town Garden. We will seek to balance the competing demands of recreation and conservation.

Corporate

12. Landholdings

The Council and Town Trust owns or leases various parcels of land in the area. We will manage these in such a way as to secure value for money for local ratepayers whilst also protecting open spaces which would otherwise be at risk of development.

This year: our main priority is to secure the future use of Cocklemoor for the community. We will also plan for the refurbishment of the Town Hall to provide disabled access to the first floor and to enhance its role as a community asset.

13. Communications

The Council will continue to appoint representatives to serve on a wide range of outside organisations, and we will improve the level of information about what these organisations do. We will develop communications with local residents by disseminating information through our web site, through articles in the local press and by publicising Councillors' Surgeries.

This year: we will create a 'Democracy Corner' in the Library giving information about the Council.

14. Review

The Council will review this Action Plan once a year to ensure that our priorities reflect those of the local residents.

October 2015