



**IRONVILLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**VILLAGE ACTION PLAN 2020-21**

<b>MINUTE REFERENCE NUMBER</b>	<b>ADOPTED DATE</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE</b>
<b>FC/0920/10</b>	<b>September 2020</b>	<b>September 2021</b>



## **1. 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 Ironville 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.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

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

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. Amber Valley Borough 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. Ironville 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, allotments, the Christmas tree. We also provide a more bespoke warden service in the parish responsible for cleaning bus shelters, all waste bins, litter picking, minor maintenance works, grit bins. The parish council also provides an advocacy role on behalf of local residents in making representations to the district and county councils.

A list of 'who does what' can be found on the council's website – [List of Useful Council Contacts | Ironville Parish Council Website](#)



Ironville in Derbyshire, England, was built about 1830 by the Butterley Company as a “model village” to house its workers. This workforce were employed to run and operate the enormous Codnor Park Ironworks / Forge. The forge made colossal high quality wrought iron items like St Pancras Station or Vauxhall bridge over the Thames. The population of the civil parish was 1,851 at the 2011 Census.[2] It is situated between Riddings and Codnor Park. The village was notable for its large gardens for each house and its rural setting. The impressive Mechanics Institute was built in 1846; schools were provided in 1850 and an attractive stone built parish church in 1852.

Ironville Parish Council has 8 elected councillors who act together as a corporate body and make decisions on behalf of the local community. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are elected annually at the Annual Council Meeting in May. Councillors are unpaid and commit their time to improving the Parish and maintaining it as an attractive place in which to live and to do business. Elections were last held in May 2019 and are scheduled to take place again in May 2023.

The Council meets every second month during the year on the third Monday of the month in the Community Centre on Victoria Street. All meetings are open to the public with a defined period set aside at the beginning of each meeting for members of the public to ask questions of the Council. Agendas for the meetings are published in the notice boards around the village and on the council’s website.

The council will also accept representations from groups or organisations for items to be discussed at Council meetings provided an approach is made to the clerk at least seven working days prior to the meeting date. Minutes of all meetings and details of all spending undertaken by the council are published bi-monthly on the council website.

Occasionally, working groups of councillors are formed to deal with specific issues which may need more detailed consideration outside of formal council meetings. These working groups are usually time limited and may include non-councillors. The outcome of any of the meetings of such working groups are reported to the full council meetings and published in relevant minutes.

### **3. 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.

As of November 2020, the council employs two members of staff, both of whom work 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.

#### **4. 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.

#### **5. 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.



## 6. 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.

## 7. KEY ACTIVITIES (APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021)

Objective	Actions Recommended	Responsibility	Timescale
<b>Key Issue – Safer Highways</b>			
Road Safety	Traffic working group to review issues and agree steps to improve safety	Councillors Smith and Clark	March 2021
	Take action to stop HGV using restricted routes by promoting reporting throughout the village	IPC; Residents	Ongoing
Parking	Address hazardous parking near the school and enhance walking and cycling routes.	Resident/IPC Working Group?	
Road Improvements	Request DCC visit to discuss flood management issues	Parish Clerk; Councillor Smith?	Dec 2020
Reduce speeding	Set up community speed watch	Parish Clerk	Dec 2020
<b>Key Issue – Open Spaces</b>			
Waste Management	Contact AVBC for a list of waste bin locations and request dog waste stickers	Councillor Clark	July 2020
	Carry out a thorough review of village waste bins, advising AVBC of any missing bins, placing dog waste stickers on bins and bringing recommendation to Parish Council on changing location of some bins	Councillor Clark	Nov 2020
Improve look of the village	Working group to review opportunities for enhancing the village with more plants and flowers.	Councillors Cope and Holgate	Dec 2020
	Establish Maintenance Responsibilities - DCC; AVBC; FH; IPC	Parish Clerk	Sept 2020
	Develop Parish Warden Role	Councillors Cope and Holgate; Parish Clerk	Ongoing



Allotments	Ensure allotment site clean & tidy & responsibilities set out  To ensure allotments are financially viable	Parish Clerk  Councillor Cope; Parish Clerk	Nov 2020  Dec 2020
<b>Key Issue –Community Life</b>			
Defibrillator	To install defibrillator  To arrange training	Parish Warden  Parish Clerk	Sept 2020  Dec 2020
Community Engagement	Support groups set up to improve facilities & information within village	IPC	ongoing
<b>Key Issue –Governance</b>			
Website	To ensure compliance with <a href="#">Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1</a> AA standard.	IPC; Parish Clerk	23/9/20 to 23/9/21
Council Integrity	To encourage training and development for Councillors  Effective & efficient decision making with all Councillors responding & contributing  Review & update IPC policies to ensure adhere with latest guidance & legislation	IPC; Parish Clerk  IPC  Parish Clerk	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing with annual review March/April

## **BUDGET POSITION**

### **PRECEPT**

<b>Last Year 2019/2020</b>	<b>Current Year 2020/2021</b>
<b>17,220.00</b>	<b>29,720.00</b>

## **COST CENTRE BUDGET TRENDS & COMPARISONS**

The Parish Council will start to use SCRIBE 2000 accounting software to manage and report on its financial transactions. At every council meeting a review of the previous month's transactions is reported and how these reconcile to the bank account balances. In future years, this action plan will include an analysis of yearly budget trends so parishioners can see how money is spent.