



## **Stony Stratford Town Council Priorities 2017 to 2020**

**Adopted:** Full Council 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Reviewed annually in October** (in line with budget setting)

**Next Review due:** October 2018

**Background:** As the first tier of Local Government, Stony Stratford Town Council (SSTC) offers an opportunity to provide a focus for the community of Stony Stratford, Galley Hill and Fullers Slade. The Town Council is not party political: what is more important is that the Town Council speaks for and acts in the interests of all the residents, businesses and organisations within the council's area.

**Current Situation:** With the reduction in funding from central government to local government, the Principal Authority, Milton Keynes Council's ability to undertake anything other than statutory tasks is being restricted. This provides SSTC with additional opportunities and responsibilities as Milton Keynes Council continues to look at ways in which activities can be undertaken by Parish and Town Councils. SSTC will monitor and review the main areas of work it currently undertakes and ensure that the provision remains fit for purpose, review internal organisation and ensure that it is capable of fulfilling both current and future responsibilities.

**Overarching Principles:** SSTC is committed to seeing the community of Stony Stratford enjoying a better quality of life and will endeavour, subject to the context of financial constraint in which it is operating, to adhere to the following principles in order to achieve this:-

- **Democratic Representation:** : Representing residents in a fair and equal manner and ensuring SSTC comments where possible, on consultations from Milton Keynes Council, and other organisations, covering changes which will affect the parish and its residents
- Acting as an enabler for the local community. This means that it will not automatically provide an activity directly but will seek to support local groups in taking forward ideas and projects that will benefit the community. In its own activities, it will seek to maximise the use of voluntary help and to support and develop this;
- Provision of opportunities for residents to interact with neighbours, during SSTC organised activities and support local organisations to enhance the provision of services in the area through meeting space and the opportunity to apply for grants
- **Youth Provision:** To work with stakeholders to support provision of good quality youth activities and play areas within the parish.
- **Community engagement:** In its activities to the key principles of inclusivity, engagement and communication. It will seek to take account of the interests of all the community and be accountable to them;
- Challenge where appropriate, the services delivered by others to ensure best results for residents
- **Facilities and Activities:** To encourage and support the provision of facilities and activities for younger and older people and, via the Projects Committee, to keep under review the provision of community facilities. To support and encourage cultural activities;
- Strengthen its influence through local networks and raise the profile of the Town Council
- To developing a sustainable future for the town and all who enjoy it;
- To ensuring that it is run competently in the interests of the community and to try and ensure best value in the use of our precept payers' money.
- **Environmental Maintenance:** To work with community organisations and stakeholders to improve and protect the local environment, within budgetary constraints whilst allowing residents to enjoy, and, if appropriate, to be involved in improving their area.

**Services:** In accordance with its overarching principles, The Town Council currently provides the following services and functions which it continually reviews to ensure obtaining good value for money:-

- **Allotments:** Provision and maintenance of allotments to residents of the parish.
- **Annual Community Events:** Organisation and provision of 3 Annual Community Events assisted by the Events Working Group (Apple Day, Big Lunch and the Annual Town Fayre).
- **Community website and Facebook:** Provision and maintenance of the website and Facebook including co-ordinating the calendar of many and varied community events.
- **Defibrillators:** co-ordination, provision and maintenance of 2 defibrillators.
- **Dog bins and litter bins:** Organisation and management of contracts for emptying
- **Farmers Market:** Provision and management of a monthly Farmers Market
- **Landscape maintenance including Floral Features:** employing contractors and managing contracts to keep the Parish looking at its best.
- **Newsletter and noticeboards:** Provision, updating and maintenance of a Quarterly Newsletter and 4 Community Noticeboards.
- **Parish Council Administration:** provision of a core function, which satisfies the legal requirements for a statutory body. This includes financial management, committee administration and personnel management.
- **Planning Consultation:** Provision of a Neighbourhood Plan and responding to planning consultations.
- **Play Sessions:** Organisation and provision of funding to enable outdoor play sessions to be held during the Easter and Summer School holidays for attendance by parents with their children.
- **Public Conveniences:** Provision of Public conveniences and managing the contract for maintenance thereof.
- **Removal of Litter:** Organising and paying for a programme of additional litter picking on the riverside during the summer
- **Youth Clubs:** Provision of funding to provide a senior and junior Youth Club managed by York House Trust.

#### **Primary Objectives for 2017/18**

Stony Stratford Town Council will focus on the following objectives for the forthcoming year:-

- **5-7 Church Street:** to continue to work with stakeholders and support the provision of a Library service in Stony Stratford. Continued provision of an administrative base and staffing as a focus for community activity plus continuation of the to work on re-development in a bid to create a vibrant and community facility, accessible to all within the parish
- **Review of the parking:** to continue to work with Milton Keynes Council, stakeholders and community organisations to improve the parking in Stony Stratford, Fullers Slade and Galley Hill
- **Facilitating a resolution of the traffic issues and possible environmental impact** e.g. air pollution on the Town in partnership with Milton Keynes Council.



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