

**East Peckham Parish Council**  
**Aims and Objectives Strategy**

**Aim**

Protect and enhance the social and environmental well-being of the parish and its residents.

**Objectives**

- EPPC provides a number of services to the local population. It will seek to ensure that these services meet the needs of the local population and they represent value for money.
- EPPC welcomes the involvement of residents in its decision making process and will consult residents on issues of importance.

**Planning**

- EPPC will provide an informed local perspective on development proposals within the parish by making timely representations to the local planning authority on all planning and allied applications and possible unauthorised uses.
- EPPC will oppose the erection of communication masts where these are considered to be too close to residential areas.
- EPPC will oppose large scale development and new buildings on the green belt.

**Open spaces and Recreational objectives**

- EPPC will provide or assist with the provision of such facilities as are necessary to enable users to fully utilise and derive benefit from available open spaces.
- EPPC will manage and maintain Council land, the Playing Fields and the Jubilee Hall to an acceptable standard.
- EPPC is committed to increasing recreational activities for all age groups.
- EPPC will provide allotment facilities to meet the proven needs of parishioners.
- EPPC will maintain the Holy Trinity Churchyard, Garden of Remembrance and St Michaels churchyard to a standard commensurate with the proper expectations of visitors.
- EPPC will facilitate enjoyment of the public right of way network within the parish, including identifying and alerting the responsible authority to anything detracting.
- EPPC will support the development of IT centres within the village.

**Public Relations**

- EPPC will develop communications with local residents by disseminating information through its website, newsletters, twitter and app and through articles in the local press and on radio etc.
- EPPC will publish an annual report and monthly newsletters summarising its activities.
- EPPC will appoint representatives to serve on a wide range of outside organisations.
- EPPC will, where appropriate ask residents for their views on services provided.

**Environmental Issues**

- EPPC will seek to ensure that major new developments enhance the village and that the necessary infrastructure is in place to support the new development.
- EPPC will look for additional areas of open space for recreational purposes.
- EPPC will ensure that areas of amenity land for which it is responsible for are well designed and easy to maintain.
- EPPC will seek to ensure that new developments are in keeping with the architecture of the village and that highway and other issues are considered.
- EPPC will press ahead with its vision of environmental enhancements to the village, the next priority being the installation of hamlet signage.

- EPPC together with community groups and voluntary organisations will look to develop and preserve nature conservation areas and will seek to balance the competing demands of recreation and conservation.
- Working with others, EPPC will facilitate the provision of suitable public meeting halls and community centres to meet the needs of the various communities of the parish.
- EPPC will where possible provide grant aid or other appropriate assistance to voluntary or charitable organisations providing facilities or services of direct benefit to parishioners.
- EPPC will assist, where appropriate, with the provision of services and facilities to meet the needs of the young, elderly and disadvantaged groups within the parish.
- EPPC will work in partnership with other public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver benefits to the parish beyond what would be possible from the Council's resources alone.
- EPPC will act as a community advocate, articulating local views to other organisations on any matter likely to impact on the interests of the parish or its residents.
- EPPC is one of many organisations working with the community and will encourage investment of both time and resources by other agencies to help achieve our objectives. EPPC will join forces with the County and borough Councils and with the business community, voluntary bodies and local residents associations for the benefit of the community.

#### **Highways, footways & lighting**

- Although not a Highways Authority, EPPC recognises that highways issues are of considerable concern to local residents and will press for action on various traffic issues within East Peckham.
- EPPC will encourage the use of alternative forms of transport and improved public transport.
- EPPC will provide and maintain footway lighting within the parish in situations where no alternative provision to adoptable standards exists.
- EPPC will identify and alert the responsible authority to the need for urgent maintenance or repair of the highway, footway and street lighting networks within the parish.

#### **Increase the awareness of East Peckham**

EPPC wants to raise the profile of East Peckham but is aware that the task will be easier once it can offer a wider range of facilities. Individual events will be publicised and closer relations are being developed with the local press and media. In the longer term a broader publicity strategy will need to be developed.

#### **Employment**

EPPC wants to increase the number and range of employment opportunities found within the village.

#### **Law and Order**

EPPC will work with the Police and other agencies to reduce vandalism and criminal activity within the village. Particular emphasis will be given to addressing the problems being experienced on property and land owned by the Council.

#### **IT Issues**

- EPPC will maximise the use of its resources making increasing use of email, making increased use of the BACS system for payments and developing further the website and App.
- In the longer term the council will consider the possibility of desktop publishing.

### **Organisational effectiveness**

- EPPC will conduct council business in an efficient, transparent and accountable manner, providing demonstrable value for money to local council taxpayers and other recipients of its services.
- EPPC will enhance public awareness of the activities of the Parish Council and opportunities to influence or contribute to those activities.
- EPPC will develop the Council's own workforce, and engage contractors, with the necessary skills and knowledge to discharge the Council's responsibilities to the required standard.
- EPPC will maintain the highest standards of financial management and probity.
- EPPC will exercise all of the Council's functions with due regard to their likely effect on and the need to prevent crime and disorder.
- EPPC will conduct business with regard to the limitations of its statutory powers/responsibilities and with regard to available resources.
- EPPC will set stretched financial targets in relation to reducing expenditure and increasing revenue.
- EPPC will move towards the Jubilee Hall being self-financing.
- EPPC will continue to investigate and pursue national and local funding streams and opportunities in order to mitigate any future reductions in funding.
- EPPC will monitor and continue to work with the community and our partners in reducing the impact any reductions on services might have on the village.
- EPPC will review and re invigorate the Parish Councils sub groups in order to make progress in key areas of the Parish Councils business.
- EPPC owned land i.e. the Jubilee Hall and playing fields and a small parcel of land in Pound Road will be managed in such a way as to secure value for money for the local council tax payers whilst also protecting open spaces which would otherwise be at risk of development.

### **Review of Strategy**

EPPC will review this strategy once a year to ensure that our priorities reflect those of the local residents.

KB June 2017