

Strategic Plan Working Group Update

1. Background

In 2021, Calne Without Parish Council established a Strategic Planning Committee to develop and maintain a four-year rolling Strategic Plan.

This was driven by two key factors:

- The policy in Section 4 of our Financial Regulations which requires financial planning to a four-year horizon.
- The challenge of ensuring that CIL Receipts were spent or committed within five years of receipt, requiring an increase in financial planning discipline.

The last update of the CWPC Strategic Plan can be found here: <https://derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Calne-Without-Parish-Council-Strategy-2023-27-draft-v2.pdf>

Although, Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council's financial circumstances are very different, the need remains, and is arguably greater, for effective long-term financial planning to deliver improvements.

The Parish Council meeting of 8th December 2025 recognised this and resolved "to set up a working group to review the strategic plan". The Working Group comprises Cllrs Barnes, Todd, MacInnes and Williams, as well as the Parish Clerk.

The Working Group held its third meeting on 23rd March.

This Update outlines further progress and key decisions required from the Council.

2. Values and Strategic Objectives

The previous Strategic Plan included Core Values and Strategic Objectives. These have been further developed and were included in the update presented to the Council's meeting of 9th March.

They have since been further circulated to councillors for feedback and the Working Group is grateful for the responses received.

In response to feedback received, the following have been revised:

Core Values:

Original Draft	Feedback	Revised Draft
Sustainability: Committing to environmentally responsible practices and long term societal impact	Sustainability - Include financial in addition to environmental - IE - Committing to environmental practices, financial prudence and long-term societal wellbeing	Sustainability: Committing to environmentally responsible practices, financial prudence and long term societal wellbeing.

Strategic Objectives:

Original Draft	Simon Comments	Revised Draft
a) To provide cost efficient services to meet the needs of the Community	A - cost efficient can be confused with cheap - rephrase as: To provide value-for-money services...	a) To provide value-for-money services to meet the needs of the Community.
c) To improve road safety within the Parish	C - As we need to collaborate with Wiltshire Council and Highways could this be: To work with local authorities to improve road safety...	c) To work with the local authority to improve road safety within the Parish.
f) To enforce our Neighbourhood plan	F - Are we able to enforce a Neighbourhood Plan or do planning do that? : To maintain and promote our NP in all planning matters?	f) To promote and apply our Neighbourhood Plan in planning matters.

The revised Core Values and Strategic Objectives are presented in Appendices A and B. Council's formal endorsement of these is request.

3. Parish Council Overview

As outlined in previous updates, it is proposed that the former Strategic Plan should be split into two documents

- **Parish Council Overview** – *describing the role of the Parish Council and outlining our Core Values and Strategic Objectives. It will describe how we are organised and how we engage with outside bodies, with an appendix to useful background information. This will be a relatively static document.*
- **Strategic Plan** – *this will identify and prioritise key projects and include working group plans, with timescales and financial needs with a four-year planning horizon, to inform the budget setting process. It will be a rolling four-year plan, updated annually.*

The Parish Council Overview has been completed and is included on this meeting agenda for approval.

4. Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan will contain the following elements:

Section	Content
Key Projects and Initiatives	Identifies and prioritises key projects or initiatives, including expected outcomes, timescales and funding requirements.

Section	Content
Committee and Working Group Plans	Detailed plans for each Committee and Working Group to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aims & objectives• Planned Projects with objectives, deliverables, timeline and funding requirements.
Financial Plan	Rolling four-year financial plan to deliver.

Key Projects and Initiatives

It was previously proposed to use the Parish Meeting to engage the wider community in identifying key projects and initiatives. Following feedback from last month's Parish Council meeting, it is now proposed to do this by means of a survey, which is likely to reach a larger, and therefore more representative, audience.

This would be an online survey, with paper copies made available on request. The survey would be advertised through inSPIRE and the Council's website and Facebook page. A draft of the survey is included as Appendix C.

Council is asked to approve the survey approach and provide feedback on the content.

The Parish Meeting, planned for Saturday 16th May at 2pm, will also be used to promote the survey. A revised agenda for the Parish Meeting is included as Appendix D. Council is similarly asked to endorse and provide feedback on this agenda.

The output of the survey will then be reviewed by the Working Group and presented to Council with recommendations for prioritised projects.

Committee and Working Group Plans

Committee and Working Groups will be asked to develop and provide plans of their initiatives. The purpose of this is to encourage planning and prioritisation of efforts.

Council is asked to request that committees and working groups plan and detail key initiatives using the template provided as Appendix E.

Four-year Rolling Financial Plan

The four-year rolling financial plan will then be developed based on the output of the first two sections.

5. Recommendations

That the Report be noted and that Council:

- Endorses the Core Values included as Appendix A.
- Endorses the Strategic Objectives included as Appendix B.
- Approves the use of a survey to engage the wider community and provides feedback on the draft content included as Appendix C.
- Endorses the draft Parish Meeting Agenda included as Appendix D.
- Instructs council committees and working groups to develop initiative plans using the template included as Appendix E

Appendix A – Core Values of the Council – *for endorsement*

Innovation:	Encouraging creativity, embracing change, and striving for continuous improvement.
Respect:	Valuing diversity, treating others with dignity and fostering an inclusive environment.
Collaboration:	Working together across groups and committees to achieve shared objectives and initiatives
Integrity:	Acting honestly and ethically in all our business dealings
Accountability:	Taking responsibility for actions, decisions and outcomes
Sustainability:	Committing to environmentally responsible practices, financial prudence and long term societal wellbeing.
Community focus:	Prioritising the needs of the Community
Openness:	We will be open and transparent in the way we conduct our business.

Appendix B – Strategic Objectives of the Council – *for endorsement*

- a) To provide value-for-money services to meet the needs of the Community.
- b) To foster community cohesion through supporting local groups and organisations
- c) To work with the local authority to improve road safety within the Parish.
- d) To reduce the Community's impact on the environment and support the local natural environment
- e) To maintain our footpaths and bridleways
- f) To promote and apply our Neighbourhood Plan in planning matters.
- g) To engage with the Community keeping them informed of issues that affect them.
- h) To build community resilience.

Appendix C – draft Survey – for feedback

Preamble.

In May 2025, Calne Without Parish Council became Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council, covering a small geographic area including Derry Hill, Studley, Sandy Lane, Bowood, Old Derry Hill, Pewsham and Naish Hill.

As a small Parish Council, we have limited resources but are nevertheless able to make improvements to our area. Examples of projects delivered by Calne Without PC between 2021 and 2025 include: the play equipment on Petty Acre, grant funding community groups, defibrillators, dog bins and general rubbish bins, a community orchard, a free tree scheme, the Speed Indicator Devices, a thermal imaging camera loan scheme, and, working with Wiltshire Highways, a number of road safety improvement projects.

The purpose of this survey is to ask residents for their ideas and views on what improvements they would like to see in our Parish. We will use the responses to develop the Parish Council's Strategic Plan. Suggestions may be outside the powers and remit of a Parish Council to deliver, but we may nevertheless seek to achieve over time by lobbying.

Questions

1. Please give your post-code.
2. What do you value in the Parish?
3. What improvements would you like to see in the Parish?
4. What local issues give you cause for concern?
5. What do you think is missing in the Parish?
6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for the Parish Council?
7. Please give your email address if you would like any feedback on the subsequent development of the Strategic Plan.

Appendix E – draft Agenda for Parish Meeting on Saturday 16th May – *for feedback*

1. Welcome

2. Introduction of Councillors

Councillors introduce themselves.

3. Apologies for Absence

4. Approval of Minutes of Parish Meeting of 5th March 2025

5. Chairman's Report

A summary of the work of Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council over the past year and a review of forthcoming plans.

6. Expenditure and Grants

A presentation on Income, Expenditure and Grants made over the past year.

7. Updates from Community Groups

An opportunity for local community groups to update the Parish on their activities.

*** REFRESHMENT BREAK ***

8. Public Contributions

This will be an opportunity for residents to express their thoughts on the parish and their suggestions for the Parish Council.

