



Action Plan 2021/22

Fernwood Parish Council strives to work on behalf of parishioners on the issues that matter to the village. We are always keen to receive ideas and suggestions from parishioners on particular areas of interest or concern and where it is felt the Council may assist. Listed below is our current schedule of activity; this is regularly reviewed and updated as projects finish and priorities change. The Council's strategy can be found [here](#)

	Action	Strategy Item
1.	Continue to work with NCC and Via to ensure the roads are maintained and safe. In particular, for school children crossing the B6326 and the resurfacing of the B6326.	2
2.	Continue to maintain Dale Green, grit bins and dog poo bins.	
3.	Representation at NCC, NSDC, British Gypsum, Police, Health meetings.	2, 4, 5, 8
4.	Regular liaison meetings with developers in the village so residents can be kept up to date on their activity.	
5.	Continue to lobby for freeholders to have the same rights under the Law as leaseholders on a managed estate.	6
6.	Continue to work with NSDC to ensure the maintenance of the open spaces in new developments is arranged without the implementation/use of management companies.	5
7.	Look into the provision of live streaming of Parish Council meetings. Promote Parish Council meetings through the Fernwood Gazette, social media and noticeboards. Action summaries to be introduced on Facebook.	1, 7
8.	Continue to develop and publish the Fernwood Gazette and distribute it to all households and businesses in the Parish	1, 7 11
9.	Actively use Facebook and the Parish Council website to keep people updated on Parish Council activity and what is happening in the Parish.	11
10.	Look to improve facilities for all age groups in Fernwood (subject to securing freehold of open land)	10
11.	Support groups and organisations whose activities enhance community life.	1
12.	Complete Village Hall transfer from NSDC to Parish Council ownership.	10
13.	Liaise with local land owners/businesses on issues affecting the village.	1, 8
14.	Investigate extending the village hall	10
15.	Ensure the Village Hall is Covid 19 secure and follow government rules.	10
16.	Ensure staff and Parish Councillor training up to date for the running of the Council and services it provides.	
17.	Review all Council policies and procedures to ensure they are up to date and in line with current legislation/guidance.	
18.	Consideration and respond to consultations on issues specifically affecting the parish now and in the future.	
19.	Control and management of Parish public finances and administration of the Parish Council.	
20.	Continue to provide support to those residents isolated due to Covid 19.	
21.	Investigate the provision of Interactive signs on Dale Way and Goldstraw Lane to encourage drivers to reduce their speed.	
22.	Investigate the provision of signage for Fernwood on the Balderton roundabout.	
23.	Welcome to Fernwood signage - Consult on ideas for this and investigate provision	

2020/21 Action Review

	Action	Action Update
1.	Work with NCC and Via to ensure the roads are maintained and safe. In particular, for school children crossing the B6326 and the resurfacing of the B6326 between the Dale and Goldstraw roundabouts.	New crossing and speed limit in place. Interactive sign and more signage on order. NCC has agreed to review the layout of the current crossing facilities at the Tawny Owl roundabout to determine what additional or modified measures might be appropriate. B6326 resurfacing planned w/c 8/3/21 Requested the speed limit on the B6326 be reduced to 30 miles per hour – this has been reduced to 40 miles per hour.
2.	Continue to maintain Dale Green (DG), grit bins and dog poo bins.	Maintained to a high standard. Gym equipment on DG required repairs which have been done. Costings/investigation carried out for the addition of some play items on DG but residents' consultation found the majority of residents who responded were not in favour of the idea.
3.	Representation at NCC, NSDC, British Gypsum, Police, Health meetings.	We have attended many meetings with these agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular stakeholder meetings regarding the road network around the Parish • work has been done with NSDC/Police to tackle antisocial behaviour in the village • British Gypsum – Regularly attend liaison meetings to receive updates on the work at Bantycok
4.	Regular liaison meetings with developers in the village so residents can be kept up to date on their activity.	Regular meetings have been held with Barratt David Wilson Homes to keep the Parish up to date with their activity and address residents' concerns. Working with BDWH to get improved signage along Hollowdyke Lance Report construction traffic that has come through the village to the developer. Liaised with planning enforcement on this. Complaint have significantly reduced.
5.	Continue to lobby for Freeholders to have the same rights under the Law as Leaseholders on a managed estate.	The Parish Council is no further with this but has actively been seeking a meeting with Robert Jenrick (local MP and Housing Minister) to tackle this issue. The Parish Council has also been provided with examples of problems with house sales and excessive charges to show examples of the issues the some residents have had.
6.	Continue to work with NSDC to ensure the maintenance of the open spaces in new developments is arranged without the implementation/use of management companies.	The Parish Council has managed to work with NSDC to ensure a management company will not be used for the new Barratt David Wilson Homes development. We are working with NSDC to ensure a management company will not be required for the Larkfleet and Persimmon developments either.

7.	Introduce a Parish Magazine	First Issue was published and distributed in March/April 2020 and the second issue went out in October.
8.	Actively use Facebook and the Parish Council website to keep people updated on Parish Council activity and what is happening in the Parish.	Parish Council meetings are now set up as an invite through Facebook and shared to both local Facebook groups. Agendas and minutes are published on the Council website, noticeboards and shared to local Facebook pages.
9.	Look to improve facilities for all age groups in Fernwood	Investigated buying land behind Lancaster Grange for play provision but the costs were prohibitive. Investigate added play equipment on Dale Green (see 2). Looked into buying Woodland behind the nursery (see 12)
10.	Support groups and organisations whose activities enhance community life.	The Parish Council and many other organisations in the village had planned a VE Day celebration in May which was sadly canceled due to Covid 19.
11.	Village Hall transfer from NSDC to Parish Council ownership	This is ongoing. Draft overage agreement has been received and the PC has sent feedback. Awaiting NSDC.
12.	Liaise with local land owners/businesses on issues affecting the village.	The Parish Council investigated, consulted and made an agreement to buy woodland belonging to Balderton Hall. This did not proceed when part of the land was sold to local homeowners. Signage in woodland (Private Property – keep out) has been installed by the hall owner – the PC is currently looking into what can be done about this. The Parish Council has finally got the owners of the car park between the village hall and nursery to fix the lights. The Council has asked the retail units to lower rents. It has been established that business rates are not payable for the smaller units. Owner of the 2 lights within the woodland behind the nursery and Dale Way has yet to fix the lights but the Parish Council continues to request for this to be done.
13.	Ensure the Village Hall is Covid 19 secure and follow government rules.	Hall was reopened in a Covid-19 secure manner very quickly and has appropriate risk assessments and processes in place. Continuing to adhere to government guidance on what is/isn't allowed. Successful grant applications have been made to minimise financial loss.
14.	Ensure staff and Parish Councillor training up to date for the running of the Council and services it provides.	The following training has been done: (will be done Feb/March) COSHH , Display Screen Equipment, Fire Warden, Health & Safety for Managers & Supervisors Manual Handling, New Councillor Training
15.	Review all Council policies and procedures to ensure they are up to date	All policies are reviewed through each financial year. In 2020/21, the following policies/procedures have been adopted:

	and in line with current legislation/guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid 19 Risk Assessments/Terms and Conditions for Hirers • Flexible Working Policy • Management of stress in the workplace Policy • Capability Procedure • Internet Policy and procedure • Memorials Policy • Communications Policy • Training and Development Policy (Feb meeting) • Grants Policy (Feb/Mar meeting)
16.	Consideration and response to consultations on issues specifically affecting the parish now and in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of Dale Crescent consulted regarding the use of the gym equipment on the green and the possible introduction of play equipment. • Social media consultation regarding the possible purchase of the woodland behind Fernwood Dale Nursery • PC distributed survey on behalf of NSDC regarding antisocial behaviour • Feedback sections in the Fernwood Gazette and contact details for feedback.
17.	Control and management of Parish public finances and administration of the Parish Council.	<p>Ongoing work which is subjected to internal and external audit. This year the telephone/broadband, printing and trade waste contracts have been reviewed giving cost savings.</p> <p>Successfully moved to remote meetings with no disruption to Full Council meetings. Planning Committee business has been brought back onto the Full Council agenda during the pandemic.</p>
18	Excessive developer signage in the village	Successfully worked with NSDC planning enforcement to reduce the amount of signage in the village.
19	Signage for Fernwood from the A1 and Directional signage for the shops in Fernwood (within the village)	<p>Investigated with NCC costs for adding signage for Fernwood from the A1. This cost was prohibitive but NCC have said next time the signage is updated, this will be considered. The developer of the new service station has also agreed to look into this.</p> <p>Requested directional signage for the shops in the village from Via but they declined as this will clutter the village.</p>
20.	Covid 19 Support	Offered and provided support to residents who were isolated due to Covid 19.
21.	Allotments Review	Full report can be accessed here .