



Strategic Plan 2018 - 2023

www.worpleston-pc.gov.uk

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Document Update Register

Date updated	Item amended and Reason	Amended by
July 2019	Corporate logo updated and Strategic Plan separated from Business Plan	VF
July 2020	General update re precept for current year and tennis courts	VF

Strategic Plan

Worplesdon Parish Council carried out a Residents' Survey in December 2017 seeking residents' views on the work of the Parish Council. We have developed this Plan based on responses to that Survey along with our understanding of the community's needs gathered from our day-to-day involvement with residents.

The Plan sets out six key priorities on which the Parish Council intends to focus. This Plan is a working document and aims to guide the Council in its long-term work. We will need to seek the support and co-operation of Guildford Borough Council, Surrey Wildlife Trust and Surrey County Council in working to achieve our objectives. The Plan will be reviewed annually and will be used in the budgeting process, to plan activities for the following year and will enable the Parish Council to monitor its progress against key priorities. This Plan should give our local community a better idea as to what the Parish Council does and to clarify what it doesn't do - to explain what issues fall under the responsibility of other bodies (such as Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council).

Please do tell us what you think about the Plan. Your views are always appreciated.

Introduction to Worplesdon

According to the place names of Surrey the word Worplesdon is derived from "werpels" a bridle-way and "dun" a hill.

Worplesdon has been inhabited for 3 - 4,000 years. Two Bronze-age barrows were excavated on Whitmoor Common by General Pitt-Rivers in 1877. The Bronze-age burial urns that were found are now in the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford.

With a population of around 9,000 (2019), Worplesdon neighbours the Surrey Hills and is adjacent to the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) at Blackwell Farm.

Covering 5,325 acres, or 35 sq miles, the Parish of Worplesdon comprises five communities: Worplesdon (Perry Hill, Rickford, Pitch Place, Worplesdon St Mary's etc.), Broadacres, Jacobs Well, Fairlands and Wood Street Village.

There are nine commons in Worplesdon (Broad Street and Backside, Clasford, Chitty's, Littlefield, Rickford (LNR) Rydes Hill, Stringer's and Whitmoor (part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR)). Additionally, Broad Street, Backside, Littlefield, Rickford and Stringer's Commons are SNCI (Sites of Nature Conservation Importance).

The map on the final page of this document shows the civil parish boundary.

Worplesdon boasts three thriving schools (primary and infant) and four pre-school groups, the internationally-renowned Merrist Wood Agricultural College, The Worplesdon Memorial Hall and recreation ground, Fairlands Community Centre, Jacobs Well Village Hall, three village churches (St Mary's - Worplesdon, St Alban's - Wood Street Village, United Reformed - Rickford), numerous Sports Clubs, two Social Clubs (Jacobs Well and Fairlands), a weekly country market (Jacobs Well) and five pubs. Our website, www.worplesdon-pc.gov.uk, includes further information about the villages and the rich history of the Parish.

For those who are interested in local history, we also have copies of our Millennium book, 'Worplesdon 2000 The Tale of Four Villages' available for sale at £10 per copy, from the Parish Office.

Introduction to Worplesdon Parish Council

The Parish Council owns certain areas of land within the parish boundaries. These are:

- Jacobs Well Recreation Ground
- Harry's Meadow - Jacobs Well
- Nevins Copse - Pinks Hill, Wood Street Village.

The Parish Council are no longer custodian trustees of the land at Worplesdon Memorial Ground.

We also lease from Surrey County Council (lease expires May 2073):

- Wood Street Village Green
- Perry Hill Green
- the cricket ground at Backside Common (Toby's Oak) and
- Pitch Place Green.

We hold these assets on behalf of the community.

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and is a non-party political, non-ecclesiastical body.

It has an important role to play in promoting the interests of the five communities, representing their interests and working with other groups in the community. Guildford Borough Council is responsible for services including housing and environmental services. Surrey County Council's responsibilities include highways (both roads and pavements), education, health and social services and public rights of way. The divisions of responsibility between Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council are not always clear. Both Councils do have websites which give detailed information as to the services they are responsible for and contact details for the relevant departments.

The Parish Council comprises 16 Councillors, who each serve a four-year term of office and receive no allowances or remuneration of any kind.

There are four electoral wards in the Parish:

- Fairlands (5 Councillors)
- Jacobs Well (3 Councillors)
- Perry Hill (3 Councillors)
- Wood Street Village (5 Councillors)

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Council. The Council usually meet every 6 weeks on a Thursday in the Small Hall at The Worplesdon Memorial Hall. Residents are able to address the Council during the public participation session at the start of these meetings provided that the item they wish to discuss is specifically noted on the appropriate agenda. The dates are publicised on both our website and the Parish Noticeboards.

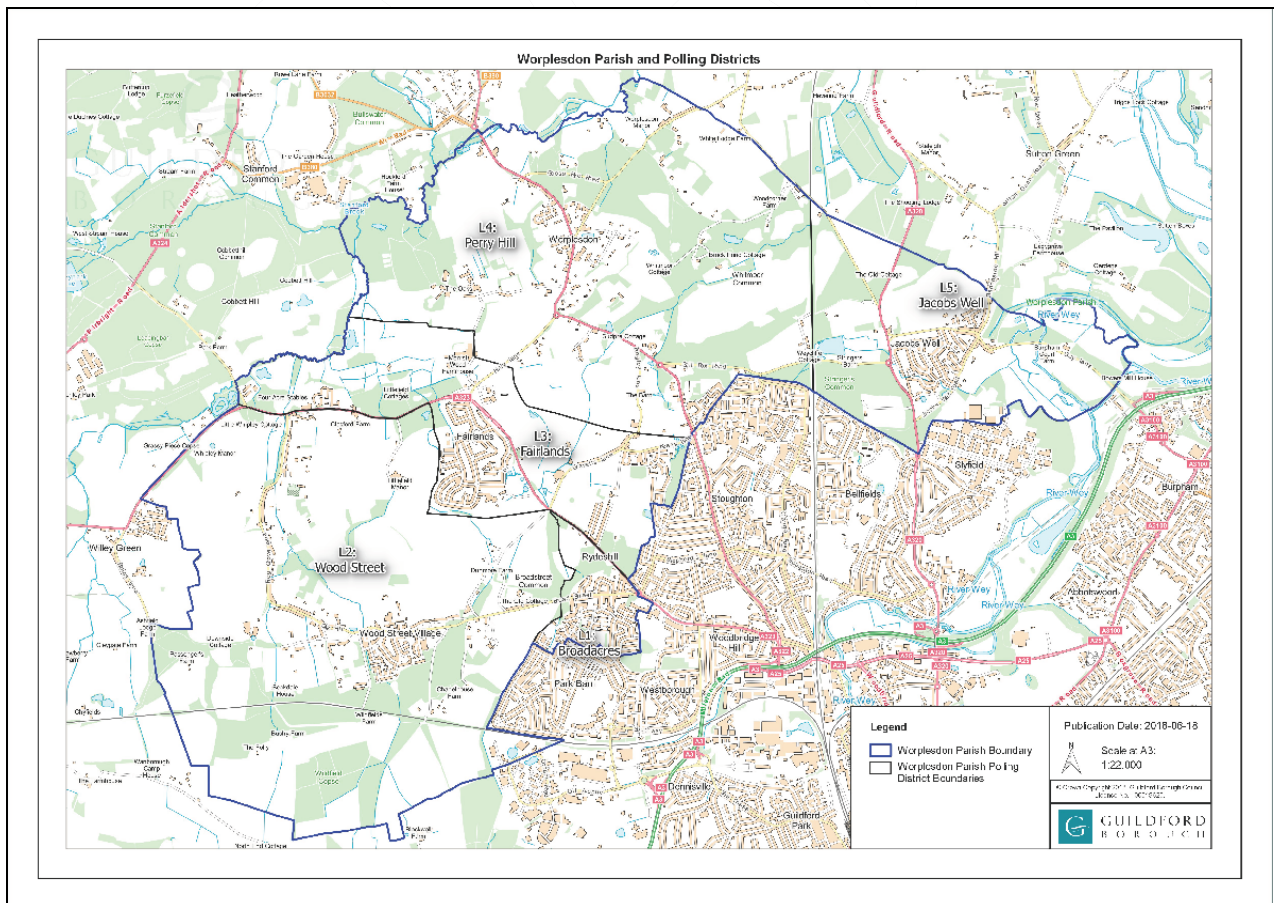
The Parish Council is funded by the precept (an element of the Council Tax) which is collected by Guildford Borough Council on our behalf. The precept set for the year 2018 - 2019 was £196,719 (which represented £56.61 per Band D property per year), £226,915 for 2019 – 2020 (£67.18 per Band D property per year) and is £69.95 61 per Band D property per year for 2020 - 2021. This amount is shown clearly on the council tax bill each resident receives. The

Parish Council no longer receives a small income from the tennis courts located at The Worplesdon Memorial Grounds, as these have now been handed back to Worplesdon Memorial Hall Trustees. The Parish Council currently receives two grants: grass cutting and Local Council Tax Support Scheme Grant (LCTSS), and a nominal amount of bank interest.

Strategic Objectives 2018 – 2023

We have identified the following six strategic priorities that Worplesdon Parish Council will focus on over the next five years:

- Community Engagement and Representation - To be an effective body, the Council will liaise with the whole of our community at every available opportunity.
- Governance and Fiscal Responsibility - Worplesdon Parish Council complies with good governance and its fiscal responsibilities to ensure compliance with the law and providing value for money.
- Business Engagement - The Parish Council will encourage and support business growth and increased employment opportunities via a Business Forum.
- Management of Recreational Facilities - Recreational facilities will continue to be maintained, modified or improved where applicable.
- Conserve and Improve the Environment - The local environment is what makes our Parish so special and gives our five communities their distinct identities.
- Land Management - The Parish Council needs to balance management of its land, taking into account its biodiversity responsibilities and the needs of the local communities.



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There are currently three vacancies.

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Map showing Worplesdon civil parish boundary

