



FOUR YEAR PLAN
2021 to 2025

STANWICK
PARISH COUNCIL

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Stanwick Parish Council Four Year Plan 2021-2025

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Four Year Plan 2021-2025

Introduction

This is a statement of the Parish Council's vision for the parish, its purpose, values, objectives and key priorities. It is not intended to be a traditional 'Parish Plan' which sets out aims and ambitions that are delivered by the community and partners as a whole.

It is a document that sets out what Stanwick Parish Council itself can achieve, either directly or by trying to increase its influence on the relevant delivery body, such as the Unitary Council and partner organisations.

The intention of the Plan is to direct the actions of the Council until the next round of parish elections on May 2025.

This Plan is a living document and the action plans will be added to over the course of Plan period. The Parish Council will update it regularly, enabling it to track and monitor its progress against the Mission Statement and priorities.

Why we are producing a four year plan

Having an agreed strategy provides a framework for the Parish Council to work within, enabling it to operate in a more consistent and co-ordinated way and to be proactive rather than reactive in its decision making.

The Four Year Plan will give Stanwick's residents a clear understanding of what the Parish Council is trying to achieve and how it intends to deliver this. It details what the Parish Council intends to focus on over the next four years. The Plan will be used each year to plan activities and set the budget for the coming year.

It is a statement of intent. However, it will be flexible, subject to future budget constraints and future legislative changes which affect all local authorities. Any changes will be published in an updated plan. This plan will be available for all residents and will be published on the Parish Council website.

Mission Statement and Aspirations

- Maintain Stanwick's 'village' identity
- Develop the centre of the village (High Street/ Church Street) or create an attractive hub
- Make Stanwick an inclusive place where all members of the community are able to participate and be involved
- To grow community spirit
- Raise Stanwick's profile within Northamptonshire
- Be a part of tackling climate change by acting sustainably and promoting sustainability

How the aspirations will be achieved

The Council will actively seek community consultation to understand what local people and businesses want.

The Council will work with community groups and organisations to achieve our aspirations.

The Parish Council will seek grant funding to assist with project delivery as well as provide financial support through its budgetary process.

Structure of the Plan

The Plan will be made up of five pillars

- Environment and Place
- Services and Amenities
- Parish Life and Community Engagement
- Community Safety
- Governance

Each of the pillars will have an action plan. These action plans will be detailed in a separate document.

Some aspects of the pillars may overlap with other pillars.

Pillar 1: Environment and Place

For 'Environment' this pillar will include

- Investigate the possibility of creating a Green Infrastructure Plan and map Natural Capital
- Review Council policies and practices to ensure they are as 'green' as possible
- Parish Council to promote and support sustainable practices wherever possible
- Host Community Climate events
- Put together a list of sustainable 'must haves' for any development
- Actively support local environmental initiatives

For 'Place' this pillar will include

- Enhance the village centre to create an attractive hub
- Create a sense of place by defining the entrances to the village on Chelveston Road and Higham Road
- Improve the appearance of the village by working with partner agencies and organisations to enhance the appearance of West Street from the A45 roundabout

Pillar 2: Services and Amenities

This pillar will include

- The Council will examine the services and amenities it provides look to extend or improve these as appropriate
- The Council will proactively maintain existing assets
- It will seek to facilitate and support inclusive groups within the parish
- It will consider supporting amenities in other areas that benefit Stanwick residents e.g. the Raunds Food Bank
- It will aspire to improving the pedestrian access on Arris Lane

Pillar 3: Parish Life and Community Engagement

This pillar will include

- The Council will proactively listen to community groups and organisations and proactively seek to engage with them
- The Council will encourage local groups to work together for common benefit
- The Council will undertake community consultations to inform the actions plans created as part of this four year strategy
- The Parish Council will seek to raise its profile and be 'relevant'
- The Parish Council will actively seek involvement on national events or local significant events

Pillar 4: Community Safety

This pillar will include

- Aspirations to improve pedestrian access to Stanwick Lakes from the village
- The Council will actively report highways issues to Northamptonshire Highways
- Working with the Police and partner agencies to make Stanwick a safer place

Pillar 5: Governance

This pillar will include

- The Council will seek accreditation under the nationally recognised Local Council Award Scheme
- Review of the Made Neighbourhood Plan with the expectation that the Council elected in 2025 will be in a strong position to start the development of a replacement Neighbourhood Plan
- The possibility of creating a new Parish Plan from the community consultations that will be undertaken.

Community engagement

The Parish Council considers community engagement an important part of focusing on local needs to the benefit of all parishioners. We ensure residents are kept fully informed of all decisions and proposals that may affect them. This information is shared through the following ways:

- The council website at www.stanwickparishcouncil.org.uk
- Agendas, Minutes and important information is placed inside the Parish Council Noticeboard
- The Parish Council Newsletter- currently distributed annually

Any plan, can only succeed if the people it affects support and actively participate in achieving and delivering it. So, this Plan can only succeed if the community believe in it, back it and play their part in bringing it to fruition. To ensure it is consistent with residents' wishes, it will need ongoing input and feedback from the community. We will request and respond to that feedback and regularly consult through our website, social media, public meetings and Parish newsletter. The Plan, and subsequent updates, will be made available for community scrutiny on Parish Council website.

Overview of Stanwick Parish Council

There are two tiers of local government within Northamptonshire, each with different roles:

Stanwick Parish Council is the first and most local tier, with an important role to play in promoting Stanwick Parish, representing both the interests and work of its residents and local organisations.

North Northamptonshire Council is the second tier and is responsible for services such as education, highways, health, social services and environment as well as the strategic planning policies for all development including housing and employment sites via its Local Plan. Following the abolition of Northamptonshire County Council and the creation of North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Unitary Councils, some of these services managed within one of the unitary authorities on behalf of the whole county.

Stanwick Parish Council's main areas of responsibility

The Parish Council is responsible for:

- The management and maintenance of Stanwick Cemetery
- The management, maintenance and development of Stanwick Recreation Ground
- The management and maintenance of Stanwick Open Spaces at Mallows Grange
- The management, maintenance and development of the gardens on Spencer Parade
- The management, maintenance and development of East Street Triangle
- The maintenance of the church yard
- The maintenance of Stanwick War memorial
- The management, maintenance and development of telephone box

- The management of Stanwick Allotments
- Cutting the grass of the county verges within the speed limit signs
- Five street lamps [Green Lane and the path between Spencer Parade and Mansfield Street]
- The provision of Community Organisation Grants
- Stanwick Emergency Plan
- Submitting comments on all planning applications and change of use applications in Stanwick as a statutory consultee of the Planning Authority

The Council is also represented on a number of external organisations, including:

There is currently a Parish Council representative on

- Stanwick Village Hall Trust
- Ringstead Quarry Liaison Committee
- Joint Action Group
- Police Liaison Group

Who else has responsibility for delivering services in Stanwick

North Northamptonshire Council is responsible for environmental services (litter, refuse and recycling, including dog fouling), business support and the provision of housing services (along with Housing Associations). They are the Planning Authority for Stanwick.

North Northamptonshire Council also is responsible for on-street parking, highways issues, signage, and coordinating public transport (along with service providers). They are responsible for health and social care, library services and education.

Balfour Beatty is responsible for the majority of street lights in the parish.

Northants Police is responsible for addressing crime and antisocial behaviour in Stanwick

Where services are provided by others, the Parish Council endeavours to ensure that they are dealt with effectively and in accordance with the wishes of the community.

The Council also looks to reflect the views of our community by liaising with other public bodies and commenting on key strategic issues such as housing, highways, planning etc.

How the Plan will be reviewed and updated

Evaluating progress against the list of activities which make up the 'Action Plans' will take place at Parish Council meetings and will seek to understand the progress made, where further work is needed and if there are any blockages to progress. The whole Plan will be reviewed annually and updated to keep the document relevant and up-to-date.