



Castle Cary Town Council Strategic Objectives 2022-27

Preamble: These objectives summarise the Council's vision for what it hopes to achieve over the 5 years. They are supported by the Council's General Policy paper which defines the way the Council works and follows as an Appendix.

Aims: Castle Cary Town Council:

Will strive to facilitate an inclusive, cohesive caring community which celebrates the diversity of modern society.

We undertake the following objectives to be reviewed regularly and revisited when we know the intentions of the Unitary Authority. The following objectives are not in any hierarchical order.

1. Work in partnership with Ansford Parish Council

Vision: We will continue to develop our relationship with Ansford Parish Council and discuss and implement ways of working effectively together. We will do this by:

- Convening an annual Town and Parish meeting in May where the residents can give us feedback.
- Meeting twice a year to explore common interests, more formalised agreements and working collaboratively to resolve issues.
- Aspire to regularly attend each other's meetings to feedback on issues.
- Making joint funding applications sharing costs, where appropriate.
- Sharing resources to ensure that there is no duplication of services.
- Work with the Ansford Clerk to regularly be available to our joint communities in the Market House.
- Work jointly to upgrade the pavilion for the use of the whole community's sports facility.

2. Neighbourhood Plan

Vision: We will continue to work with future Councils and our community to review and adapt our agreed Neighbourhood Plan developed by CCTC and APC together with volunteer experts from the community

3. Children, young people, minority groups, and disadvantaged people.

Vision: CCTC will ensure that Council procedures and policies involve and consult all people in appropriate ways, including marginalised groups which may require special consideration. We will support the community by:

- Creating a new strategy for all our young people which will pull together and support Youth activities; listening and reacting to their views about leisure and sport facilities, and all other proposed developments in the town. Facilitating a research project with an external agency to establish their needs.
- Continuing to work with the Millbrook Surgery to provide support for groups and the community larder.
- Continuing to support organisations which work with disadvantaged groups.
- Review our grant making policy in October 2022's precept.

4. Maintain the character of the Town

Vision:

As indicated in our Neighbourhood Plan CCTC will continue to try to encourage developers to design their buildings sensitively, so they respect the local vernacular and fit well with their surroundings.

For new builds we still aspire to see brownfield sites used rather than productive farmland.

It is our wish that derelict listed buildings will be put back into appropriate use.

We will also:

- Preserve and maintain the Horsepond with the help of volunteers.
- Maintain and promote our unique Market House as a community asset, while preserving its original features, to provide a legacy for future residents.
- Preserve the Roundhouse as a valuable tourist attraction.
- Respect the designated Conservation areas.
- Encourage respect for the historic field patterns and other rural features within the outer reaches of our parish.

5. Employment, Business, Leisure and Tourism

Vision: CCTC will support the maintenance and development of Castle Cary as an economically prosperous place that attracts and supports business.

We will continue to encourage visitors, enabling local enterprise and leisure activities to flourish. We will do this by:

- Lobbying for increased efficiency of broadband speed to enable businesses in outlying areas to work effectively from their premises and homes.
- Securing land for employment development particularly the designated land off Station Road.
- Working with new employers and initiatives in our town to promote opportunities for appropriate expansion particularly supporting rural units such as workshops for sole traders and small businesses.
- Continuing to work with SSDC Tourism to promote Castle Cary as a centre for walkers, cyclists and leisure activities and as a destination town.
- Working with the museum to preserve its artefacts and explore ways of supporting the museum's development as a visitor attraction.
- Maintain the tourist attractions in the Market House and Roundhouse ensuring that the cells and well are preserved.
- Actively support partnership working, particularly with Stonewater and Abri, for recruitment strategies and work with schools to encourage apprenticeships, entrepreneurial skills and local training opportunities.

6. Maintaining Retail Activity

Vision: Castle Cary will have a flourishing retail zone. We will achieve this by:

- Supporting a mix of independent shops and businesses for locals and visitors, supported by free parking and effective signage.

- Supporting an active retail group, including a Tuesday general market and other in-Town activities which will attract visitors and add to the atmosphere and spirit of the Town.
- continue to strive to support a re-established Business Group which will promote the High Street and our local businesses.

7. Use of CCTC Assets and other assets in the town.

Vision: CCTC will optimise the use and promotion of its assets for the community by:

- Developing the Pavilion in three stages to make our sports facilities the best they can be.
- Maintaining Fairfield and the equipment on the site
- Maintaining the properties belonging to the Town Council: the Cemetery Chapel, the Roundhouse, the Play areas, the Market House and the Cemetery.
- Investigate the use of the Ropewalk
- Maintaining our public toilets.

8. The Market House

Vision: Now that ownership of the The Market House has been achieved and the 2nd (top) floor has been vacated we will work towards making the entire building of use by all sections of the community while ensuring that it remains financially sustainable.

We will achieve this by:

- Continuing to promote the current use of the facilities in the many ways already established.
- When planning permission is granted develop a strategy for fundraising.
- Installing a lift to give access to all upper floors of the building.
- Restoring the top floor Assembly Room – by reinstating the original ceiling and re-opening the Band Platform.
- Providing a WC on the first floor and a kitchenette in the Billiard Room area.

It is recognised that the building works, which will involve Listed Building Consent, fundraising and disruption will not happen immediately and that in the interim the building will be used and promoted in its current state to maintain income for the Council.

9. Parking and Traffic

Vision: Castle Cary will be a safe and pleasant place to walk, shop, work and go about our daily tasks. We will aim to do this by:

- Continuing to try to maintain the current spaces for parking, providing free parking for residents and visitors.
- Monitoring 'on street' parking and enforcement, continuing to ensure a good churn of spaces, allowing free flow of traffic through the Town, aided by controlled deliveries to business premises in the town centre.
- Request that all new developments have adequate off-street parking.
- Putting strategies in place to ensure that all traffic travels within the speed limit.

10. Environment

Vision: Castle Cary will become a carbon neutral town by 2030 in alignment with other Councils across the UK. We will aim to achieve this by:

- Working in partnership with the new Somerset Council, SCAN and neighbouring Town Councils to promote sustainability values and continue to support Fair Trade principles.
- Support the installation of car charging points and consider providing bike charging points at the Millbrook Hub
- Supporting recycling and the reduction of waste.
- Providing a water distribution point which will reduce the use of plastic bottles.
- Supporting wildflower preservation working with volunteers to support campaigns to rebalance biodiversity.
- Keeping the Cemetery an environmentally beautiful space for all, with wildflowers and using eco ways of dealing with vermin.
- Working with the transport group to reduce the impact of travel by suggesting new ways to travel.
- Employing safe working practices with health & safety and environmental protection in mind.
- Investing money ethically where possible.
- Encouraging developers to work with sustainable materials and dispose of materials in an environmentally friendly way.

August 2022