



Castle Cary Town Council Strategic Objectives 2022-27

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

Castle Cary Town Council

Aims: 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 outcome of the Unitary Authority negotiations:

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.
- Making joint funding applications sharing costs, where appropriate.
- Sharing resources to ensure that there is no duplication of services.
- Continue to offer space at the Market House for the Ansford Clerk to be regularly available to our joint community in the Market House
- Work jointly to upgrade the Pavilion for the use of the whole community's sports facility
- To strive to respond jointly to the Community Governance Review

2. Neighbourhood Plan

Vision: We will continue to work with Somerset Council and our community to review as required our agreed Neighbourhood Plan developed by CCTC and APC together with volunteer experts from the community

3. All members of the community

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:

- Continuing to support all our young people which will support the Youth activities; listening and reacting to their views about leisure and sport facilities, and all other proposed developments in the town.
- Continuing to work with Millbrook Surgery and the Rural Practice Network to support the needs of the whole community.
- Continuing to support organisations which work with disadvantaged groups.
- Regularly review our grant making policy
- Look to become an Age Friendly community
- Look to become a Neuro-diverse friendly community

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, fit well with their surroundings and preserve the historic character of buildings.

For new builds we will 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.
- 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.
- Continue 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.
- Working with the Castle Cary Commerce Association to promote and encourage the business activity

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 Castle Cary Commerce Association 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:

- Continuing to progress the Pavilion project to enhance the sport facilities and create a multi-purpose space for the whole community.
- Working with APC to maintain Fairfield and the equipment on the site
- Maintaining the properties belonging to the Town Council.
- Investigate the use of the Ropewalk
- Maintaining our public toilets.
- Requesting that the Community Library building is added to the register of community assets
- Adopting the phone box near the Market House to house a defibrillator and bleed kit

8. The Market House

Vision: Now that ownership of the Market House has been achieved 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 use of the facilities.
- Installing a lift to give access to all floors of the building.
- Develop a strategy for fundraising
- Restoring the top floor Assembly Room – by reinstating the original ceiling and re-opening the Band Platform.
- Providing a WC on the first floor.
- Introducing a Service Level Agreement between CCTC and the Museum
- Supporting the Museum with refurbishment to enhance the offer for education and enrichment.

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

10. 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 the impact of the 20mph speed limit through SpeedWatch
- Continuing to encourage new volunteers to join SpeedWatch
- Attempting to identify additional parking spaces

10. Environment

Vision: Castle Cary will strive to become a carbon neutral town by 2030 in alignment with government guidance. We will aim to achieve this by:

- Working in partnership with Somerset Council, the Local Community Network (LCN) and neighbouring Councils to promote sustainability values and continue to support Fair Trade principles.
- Supporting further installation of electric vehicle charging points
- 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 community and Somerset Council regarding active 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.
- Completing the Urban Tree Challenge project by planting additional trees at Fairfield and the Donald Pither field.

Reviewed October 2025