

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL SERVICE PLAN 2012-15

This is a **summary** of the Council's full Service Plan, which is available separately at http://www.honiton.gov.uk/Core/Honiton-Town-Council/Pages/Policies_2.aspx and from the Council offices. The full plan is a detailed working document reflecting a range of considerations, including the various processes and partners involved and funding, etc.

1. Allotments: High Priority. Urgent.

- To identify suitable sites for allotments, and acquire and provide allotment space to satisfy the aspirations of people on the waiting list

2. Assets: Ongoing

- To maintain an accurate list of Town Council assets
- To maintain the assets to a high standard,
- To liaise with EDDC & DCC on asset transfer when opportunities arise.

3. CCTV: Routine

To facilitate, manage and further develop a CCTV service for the Police and community.

4. Civic affairs: Ongoing

To foster existing traditions and new initiatives to celebrate Honiton and involve people.

5. Community Complex: High Priority. Urgent.

- To appoint building contractors.
- To determine governance and rental and hiring arrangements, and appoint staff as necessary.
- To open the Complex by Christmas 2013.

6. Community Engagement: Ongoing

- To communicate effectively with residents through, eg, an annual report, quarterly newsletters, an accessible and up-to-date website, an Annual Town Meeting, and other events and opportunities.
- To hold public question sessions at Town Council and Planning Committee meetings, and undertake other public consultations.

7. Council Development: Ongoing

To ensure, through training, updating and other measures, that the Town Council is fit for purpose to fulfil its responsibilities to residents and the wider public, including having adequate emergency planning and risk management, and developing better facilities for residents to access Council information.

8. Environment: Ongoing to High

- To finalise a Green Spaces strategy and identify opportunities for green space development. **High Priority**
- To identify opportunities for cycling and walking within the town and to connect to surrounding villages
- To identify opportunities for alternative energy creation
- To facilitate maintenance and improvements to Roundball Wood, footpaths (in partnership with DCC and frontagers), Town lanes and trees, and Town flowerbeds and hanging baskets.
- To investigate options for developing a Gissage Walk.

9. Heritage: Ongoing

To promote the conservation of the heritage of Honiton, particularly

- The conservation area
- The town's heritage features e.g. tollgates, historic seats, water channel

To market heritage aspects of Honiton via the marketing group through

- Leaflets
- Posters
- Websites
- Marketing products

10. Inter-organisational liaison: Ongoing

- To use the Localism Act to benefit the local community
- To build on ways to work as productively as possible with County and District Councils, Highways

Agency, local parishes, Police

- To support a range of local organisations, and be represented on many of them
- To support the Honiton Twin Town Association
- To support the Senior Council, and Parliament for Disabled People (via Link Up)

11. Planning Applications: Ongoing

- To act as a consultee to the Local Planning Authority, ensuring timely and appropriate responses to them
- To undertake responsibility for decisions on advertisement consents
- To distribute design statement on advertisements to local businesses as appropriate
- To maintain the system of having a tree warden for each Ward to carry out local inspections and produce reports to inform the committee
- To carry out site visits as necessary to better inform recommendations and decisions
- To develop electronic facility for residents wishing to research planning matters, and move to electronic facilities at planning committee meetings
- To seek higher design and code standards for any new development in the town

12. Sports Facilities: Ongoing

- To support as appropriate the projects being undertaken by the Development Trust to improve sports provision in Honiton
- To support individual sports groups as appropriate
- To seek to develop further sports facilities for the town
- To be ready to respond to any consultations on a District Sports Strategy

13. Street Market: Ongoing

- To manage and develop a range of markets on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the High Street and increase take-up by market traders
- To arrange suitable street entertainment
- To improve the look of the street market, and increase publicity, particularly to coach companies
- To keep safety under review

14. Town Development: Ongoing

- To respond to Local Plan consultations cogently and promptly. **High Priority, often Urgent**
- To develop an effective spatial plan and consider the development of a Neighbourhood Plan
- To encourage the availability of local produce
- To work with partners on initiatives to improve the town centre
- To identify and take opportunities for promoting Honiton's development as
 1. an employment hub for residents and surrounding parishes, with improved training facilities and the availability of apprenticeships, and a greater variety and quality of jobs for younger people
 2. a key town for office, industrial and knowledge industry growth, securing a greater proportion of full-time and higher-paid jobs, and reducing outward commuting

15. Youth: Ongoing

- To work with young people so that they are able to express their views about their town, are positively focused, and gain a better understanding of the democratic process
- To further develop and support the Student Ambassadors Scheme
- To work with individual schools and youth organisations on a range of projects
- To promote Democracy Week and other related activities
- To celebrate achievement in a variety of forms through attendance at Council meetings to receive certificates and prizes