

WHISTON TOWN COUNCIL

Vision and Mission Statement

1. Introduction

Members will recall that Whiston Town Council adopted the undermentioned Vision and Mission Statement and agreed to review this statement on a regular basis. The adopted Vision and Mission Statement and key aims are set out below.

Vision

To improve the quality of life for the inhabitants of Whiston.

Mission

To continue to develop quality services, engender greater community pride and improve liaison between all sectors of the community,

Key Aims

- Act as the grass roots of local democracy
- Work in partnership for the benefit of the community
- Provide open Government which is accessible and responsive to the needs of all
- Ensure initiatives undertaken by the Council reflect the wishes of the area
- Work closely with all community groups in the area for the benefit of all
- Continue to improve services and ensure best value is attained
- To be proactive rather than reactive in all approaches
- To preserve and develop the environment of the area

2. Key Issues

(a) General

In acting as the grass roots of local democracy both local councillors and staff regularly take on board representations from residents about issues which affect community life. This response is undertaken as part of the day to day work of the Council and to ensure a record of this help and assistance is available a simple record is kept of enquiries and action taken by the authority as a whole. This will help to show the Council is acting in a grass roots manner.

In addition by working with the Neighbourhood Delivery Team and other local groups the Town Council will be able to press for issues affecting the local community to be effectively addressed.

(b) Personnel

All the relevant requirements detailed in the key issues are in place and work is being undertaken to ensure staff are trained in the areas of work which affect them directly.

(c) Administration

In addition to the general aims recorded in the key issues the Council now holds regular public meetings in addition to the one required between March and June each year. This means that public meetings are held in February, May, July and October each year. At these meetings arrangements are made to invite representatives of relevant organisations to talk about their work in the area and to give residents the opportunity to question them. The meetings are also an avenue for local residents to raise issues of specific concern in the area.

(d) Finance

The Town Council is now supplied with a bank reconciliation and budgetary control report each month and the accounts are subject to internal audit during the year and an external audit at the end of the financial year. In relation to the Internal Audit the Council has appointed Mr D Blanchflower the Clerk of Rainhill Parish Council to undertake this work.

The work on transferring all records onto a computer-based system is continuing subject to the staffing resources available and the need to ensure the work is undertaken correctly.

(e) Communication / Promotions

The Town Council now undertakes the following initiatives to communicate and promote its work

- (a) Annual Report – distributed to every household in Whiston. The new format appears to have been welcomed and is much more readable and effective than previous reports.
- (b) Regular Quarterly News Letters – the Council has now produced a number of newsletters and is committed to produce these on a quarterly basis. Any member wishing to include an item in the report or knows of a group who would like to be involved are encouraged to contact the office staff.
- (c) Liaison with Schools – the Town Clerk has been undertaking talks to local schools on the work of the Council and these are scheduled to continue.
- (d) At the present time the Town Council uses the notice boards in each of its centres and when other initiatives require advertising local shops and the local Library are encouraged to display Council literature.
- (e) The establishment of a Web-site is now underway
- (f) The Agenda and papers are circulated to all churches, secondary schools and press within the Whiston area and are displayed in the Community Centres and library. The public also have the opportunity to attend meetings of the Council and speak on matters concerning the Township of Whiston. This facility is available at the beginning of meetings for a period of 30 minutes.

Whilst the Town Council has taken steps to communicate and promote its activities the Council may wish to consider as a second phase looking at the undermentioned initiatives. In this respect it must be stressed that the resources available to the Council could possibly limit the number of initiatives at any one time.

- (i) Town Guide
- (ii) Publicity Stands and displays (Note: The Council has a budget for memorabilia and the opportunity could be taken to use part of this budget)
- (iii) Strategically sited notice boards
- (iv) Town Council Pack
- (v) Talks to local groups about the work of the Council – talks have been given to groups such as the Townswomen's Guild and Whiston Heritage Group this offer could also be extended to other similar groups.

(f) Liaison with Community Groups

The Town Council has developed close working links with all the community groups who are active in the area and indeed representatives of these groups regular contact the office for additional assistance. Members are also active in the work of the groups and it is recommended that the present work be continued and without interfering in the

work of specific groups, investigations to be undertaken with the groups to ascertain how the Town Council can provide other effective assistance.

(g) Development Of Facilities

(1) Council Owned Buildings

Members will recall that the usage of the building is monitored on an annual basis and the last count of the numbers of people using the premises in 2008/2009 was 66,500.

To ensure that the facilities remain in a high standard of repair a survey is undertaken each year and the relevant work is prioritised. As part of this exercise account is taken of improvements which can be made to enhance the appearance of the premises.

The computerised booking system has become an essential tool in keeping pace with bookings. The Whiston Town Hall and George Howard Centre are extremely well used with a smaller amount of bookings being taken for the Robert Foulkes Centre.

The Council will be kept informed of further progress in centre usage

(2) Youth and Play Service

The statement indicates that liaison will take place on a regular basis with the Youth and Play Service of the Borough Council and meetings have been held to ensure issues of mutual interest are dealt with to everyones benefit. The Youth and Play Service has expanded the provisions provided at the George Howard Centre and continuous liaison will take place to ensure ongoing co-operation.

(3) Ranger Service Stadt Moes Park

Town Council staff currently liaise with the appropriate officer surrounding various events in the area.

(4) Public Open Spaces

Members will be aware that the Town Council leases a number of public open spaces from Knowsley Borough Council. In addition the Council also leases the sites on which the three community centres are located and a detailed risk assessment has currently been undertaken on all land leased to Whiston Town Council.

(5) Burial Grounds, St Nicholas Church

The Town Council at present makes a grant towards the cost of maintaining the burial grounds at St Nicholas Church and it is assume the Council will continue to agree to make this grant. Discussions will continue with the church with regards to the overall maintenance of the churchyard.

h. Environmental Issues

(1) Unsightly Areas

The Town Council liaises closely with the Neighbourhood Delivery Team in an endeavour to address problems associated with unsightly areas. In the event of the land being privately owned the relevant representations are made to the Borough Council.

In addition a representative of the Neighbourhood Delivery Team has been taken on a guided tour of many of the areas in Whiston considered to be in need of attention in an attempt to highlight the need to take action to improve these areas.

(2) Rights Of Way

The Town Council monitors closely the public rights of way in the area.

In addition the Town Council is taking the opportunity to monitor the work taking place in relation to walking/cycling routes as part of the replacement Unitary Development Plan. The Council is also making representations to the Highways Agency in relation to the footpath access in the vicinity of Windy Arbor Road and M62 Junction 6 extension.

(3) Traffic Calming Measures

The Council presses at every opportunity for the introduction of traffic calming measures and has supported the Community of the area who have made the relevant representations.

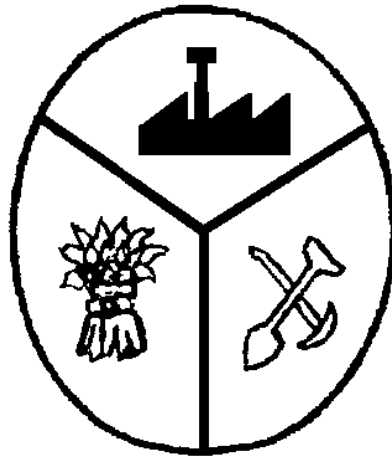
i. Personnel Targets

This report will assess achievements and will look at the work being undertaken and ways improvements can be made. This exercise will be carried out in full co-operation with staff who will be encouraged to put forward their ideas.

Quarterly staff meetings are held to address areas of concern that any member of staff may have.

j. Quality Status

This Quality Town Council operates a number of facilities within the Whiston area and strives to provide an excellent quality of services. This process will continue with new initiatives and the current standard provisions.



Whiston Town Council

Vision & Mission Statement