

**Brewood and Coven Parish Council
with Bishop's Wood and Coven Heath
Strategic Business Plan 2016-2021**

General

1. Quality Service Provision

The Parish Council provides a number of services to the local community. It will seek to ensure that these services meet the needs of this community and that they represent value for money. We welcome the involvement of residents in its decision making process and will always consult residents on issues of importance. The Parish Council has become eligible to adopt the General Power of Competence and will continue to improve the quality of the service it provides. We will shortly attain the Quality Standard and at that point consider progressing to Quality Gold Standard.

The Council will continue to invest in regular training for both parish councillors and staff.

2. Communication and Public Relations

The Parish Council will give consideration providing a 'welcome pack' for new residents to the area which will enhance the information already provided in the Parish Guide, quarterly newsletters, noticeboards, website and facebook page. We will continue to develop communications with residents using the above media.

The Council will continue to appoint representatives to local community groups and organisations where required and will consult on issues affecting them.

3. Encourage Partnership/Sponsorship Approach and Funding

The Parish Council is one of many organisations working within the community. We encourage investment of both time and resources by other agencies to help achieve our objectives. We intend to join forces with county and district councils and with the business community, voluntary bodies and local resident associations for the benefit of the Parish, seeking out funding opportunities where available.

Community Issues

4. Crime and Disorder

The Parish Council will work with the Police and other agencies to attempt to reduce vandalism, anti-social behaviour and criminal activity within the Parish.

5. Planning/Development of Housing

The Parish Council will work in partnership with South Staffordshire Council, other adjoining councils and local Housing Associations to develop affordable housing in the Parish and will endeavour to support local residents in putting forward their views on the Site Allocation Document and other planning legislation as outlined in the South Staffordshire Local Plan. The Parish Council will continue to comment on local planning applications affecting the Parish and where appropriate, the surrounding areas.

6. Recreation Facilities

The Parish Council is committed to improving the recreational facilities in order to improve health and promote well-being for the whole community. The Parish Council will investigate the feasibility of providing adult exercise equipment on at least one of its open spaces and will contribute to the cost of providing such equipment.

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In view of the unauthorised removal of the skate board ramp at Bishop's Wood village hall, the Parish Council is committed to encouraging the provision of alternative facilities in Bishop's Wood. This will be in consultation with young people and will provide an appropriate alternative which is acceptable to all groups within the community.

The Parish Council will support Brewood Parish Sports Association in its endeavour to provide an acceptable level of maintenance and improvement of facilities which currently carried out on a voluntary basis, this may include providing caretaking duties by Parish Council employees.

The Parish Council is committed to completing the significant improvements to Coven playing field including the upgrade of the play equipment, tennis courts and installation of adult exercise equipment, in consultation with local residents. The Parish Council will investigate the cost of providing footpaths/cycle paths in Coven playing field.

The Parish Council is aware that the changing rooms at Coven are underutilised and will encourage local sports clubs and organisations to use the facility.

The Parish Council will continue to support Brewood Bowling Club in provision of a bowling green on its land at Engleton Lane playing field.

7. Traffic Management

The Parish Council will continue to consult on traffic management matters and hold regular traffic management meetings in order to improve a variety of traffic related issues in the Parish.

Bishop's Wood

The Parish Council will continue to encourage the monitoring of speeding vehicles along Ivetsey Bank Road.

Brewood

The Parish Council will work in partnership with Staffordshire County Council to relieve traffic congestion in the centre of Brewood. Consultation regarding the introduction of parking restrictions for School Rd/Newport Street is ongoing, together with the introduction of additional double yellow lines in Dean Street and an 'All Traffic' sign at the bottom of Dean Street at its junction with The Pavement.

The introduction of Speedwatch areas and adequate training for volunteers will also be encouraged.

The Parish Council has provided cycle racks within the village centre to encourage an active lifestyle and further reduce congestion from motor vehicles.

We will request that Staffordshire County Council considers the possibility of moving the bus terminus from Market Place to Deansfield Road.

Coven

Parents at St Paul's School to be encouraged to park more considerately and civil parking enforcement outside the school will be increased. Parking in Church Lane/Brewood Road will be monitored.

Coven Heath

The Parish Council will support all efforts to alleviate overnight parking on the northbound carriageway layby on the A449 near the M54 junction 2.

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Parking

The Parish Council will encourage partnership working with schools to improve the education of parents, through their children, in respect of the dangers of excess traffic around schools such as pollution, inconsiderate parking, speeding and other issues.

8. Highways

Although the Parish Council is not a highways authority it does recognise that highways issues are of considerable concern, with speeding vehicles and the state of road surface being the most widely reported matters. In conjunction with Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire County Council, in particular our County Councillor, we will attempt to achieve a variety of traffic calming measures and Police initiatives in all four villages especially: Ivestey Bank Road, Bishops Wood, Coven Road, Kiddemore Green Road, Horsebrook Lane, Claygates Road, Vicarage Road and Four Ashes Road, Brewood, Lawn Lane, Poplars Farm Way and Brewood Road Coven.

9. Transport.

Public transport is another major concern for residents and again is not the jurisdiction of the Parish Council. However, we will support the community to put pressure on Staffordshire County Council to retain the subsidy on our bus routes to meet local rural transport needs.

10. Street Scene

The Parish Council acknowledges the sterling work carried out by volunteers in all four of its villages, not only during the Best Kept Village competition but throughout the year. It acknowledges that there is an unacceptable level of dog fouling and is committed to joining with South Staffordshire Council to make use of any initiatives available in order to attempt to reduce dog fouling on pavements, footpaths and open spaces. We will also liaise with South Staffordshire Council in order to provide more litter bins and dog fouling signs. The Council will support local litter picking initiatives by providing a litter picking service by the Council's handyman/gardener. We will investigate the possibility of devolving some local services from the County and District Councils (with appropriate compensation) to the Parish Council. The Parish Council will encourage local residents to take increased ownership of and pride in their local environment.

Corporate Issues

11. Parish Council Offices

The condition of the Parish Council offices has been a concern for many years. The Parish Council will investigate the most cost effective way to address this matter and consider whether to redevelop the existing site or move to new premises; this will be in consultation with all our stakeholders. As part of this major project we will ensure that there is proper access for people with disabilities and improved IT facilities including a projector in order to read online planning documents and provide a facility to make presentations to Councillors and the general public.

12. Review of Strategy

The Parish Council will review this business plan on an annual basis.

29 September 2016