



STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 - 2024



WHITEHILL
TOWN COUNCIL
Serving Whitehill & Bordon

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Adopted 03 December 2020

FOREWARD

Dear Resident,

Thank you for taking your valuable time to review our Strategic Plan.

Whitehill Town Council is your first tier of local Government - operating at "grass roots" level. We cover the Parish of Whitehill, which includes Whitehill & Bordon and surrounding land.

As a Town Council we have control over our own assets and services, but strive to do more in terms of involving ourselves across many areas - including the development of Whitehill & Bordon and being the voice of our community.

A new council was elected in May 2019, made up of 15 members of the Whitehill & Bordon Community Party. With political change comes a review of priorities, plans and actions, based on the election pledges and mandate received.

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to explain to residents what has happened since the new council was elected and what our vision and 4-year plan for the Council is moving forward.



We hope you find it interesting and useful.



Cllr Andy Tree

Leader of Whitehill Town Council



On 17th February 2020, Lorraine Jeffs started work as Town Clerk & General Manager of Whitehill Town Council, covering Whitehill & Bordon.

Lorraine Jeffs said: *"I wish to thank Whitehill Town Council for appointing me, Whitehill & Bordon has huge potential and I hope to continue the good work of the town council. I look forward to implementing ideas and completing projects, for the benefit of residents."*

Councillor Andy Tree said: *"We warmly welcome Lorraine Jeffs to Whitehill Town Council and I very much look forward to working with her. The town council had been without a permanent Town Clerk since prior to the Whitehill & Bordon Community Party winning the election held on 2nd May 2019 and I would like to thank all our staff for their contribution as the backbone of the running of the council, especially during this very difficult period of homeworking due to coronavirus."*

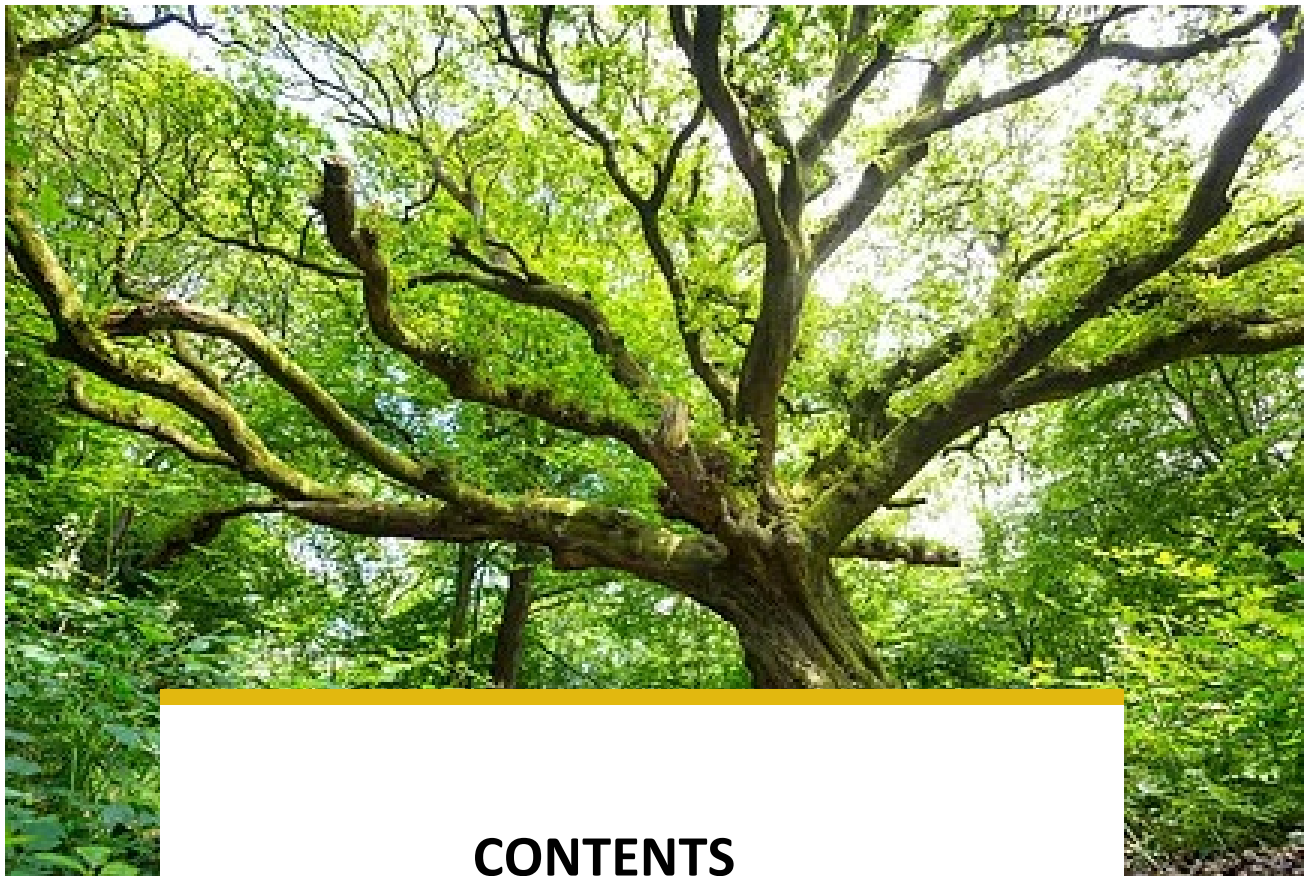
The Town Clerk & General Manager is required to manage the council's assets, procedures and staff. Ms Jeffs will have day-to-day operational control over the running of the council, and thus has significant responsibility and empowerment in overseeing the implementation of our strategic plan.

Ray Ramsay joined as the new Deputy Town Clerk & Operations Manager in March 2021, to further strengthen the management team.

WHICH COUNCIL DOES WHAT?

 <p>Hampshire County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Births, deaths & ceremonies (closest Register Office in Alton) • Bordon Household Waste Recycling Centre • Community Transport • Countryside Services – including Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Shortheath Common, Broxhead Commons & Rights of Way • Education & Learning – including Homes to School Transport and school meals • Library • Maintenance of Roads, Cycleways, Footpaths & Highway Verges • Public Health • Road Safety • Social Care – including adults and children's services • Traffic Management • Trading Standards <p>The Castle Winchester SO23 8UJ Telephone: 0300 555 1375 www.hants.gov.uk</p>	 <p>East Hampshire DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal welfare • Benefits • Bin collection • Building control • Community & Living • Council Tax • Elections • Environmental health • Housing • Licensing • Parks & Playgrounds: Conniston Road Play Area, Hollybrook Park Playground • Planning Services • Planning Policy • Parking – including on-street parking control and enforcement • Recycling & Waste <p>Penns Place, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU31 4EX Telephone: 01730 266551 www.easthants.gov.uk Bordon Information Office Forest Community Centre Telephone: 01420 479998 Mon, Weds & Fri: 9am- 1pm, 1:30pm to 4:30pm</p>	 <p>WHITEHILL TOWN COUNCIL Serving Whitehill & Bordon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Benches, Grit Bins and Planters • Bordon Inclosure • Bus Shelters • Community Grants • Consultee on local planning applications • Deadwater Valley Nature Reserve • Hollybrook Pond • Lindford Road open space • Local Council Office • Parks & Playgrounds: Cypress Road, Fernlea, Firgrove, Grafton Close, Jubilee Park, Mill Chase Recreation Ground, Malmesbury Road, Sutton Field • Skatepark • St Lucia Lodge Open Space • War Memorial <p>Forest Community Centre, Pinehill Road Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 0BS. Telephone: 01420 473123 www.whitehilltowncouncil.gov.uk</p>
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“As a Town Council we have control over our own assets and services, but strive to do more in terms of involving ourselves across many areas - including the development of Whitehill & Bordon and being the voice of our community.” – Cllr Andy Tree, Leader of Council.



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VISION, VALUES & FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

VISION & VALUES

We urge more decision-making to be made at parish/town level. We believe that the Town Council be the center-piece on the town and should have representation in groups that contain decision-makers, to better represent residents and facilitate better communication. In September 2020 Cllr Andy Tree (as Leader of Council) negotiated to be invited to join the EHDC-led 'strategy group' and the Town Clerk was invited to join the HCC-led 'Delivery & Implementation Group.' This was the result of many discussions on the subject since May 2019. We also pushed for a representative on the Steering Group for the local COVID-19 fund and Cllr Tina Strickland will now sit on it. Moving forward, we will always push for representation on local groups where we believe it is vital to have local democratic accountability for residents.

Internally, we totally revamped the governance structure (page 7), following the election of a new council in May 2019. The Executive Committee chaired by the Leader now has delegated authority to make most Town Council decisions, with Full Council meeting primarily to hold it to account, approve



the budget and precept (council tax).

We will come up with innovative ways to hold decision-makers to account and improve communication with the public, including hosting face-to-face 'public interest meetings' and online interviews that can be shared on social media.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

- We will always strive to work with others, other third parties and with County and District councillors of all political parties to achieve results for the Whitehill & Bordon community in a positive way. However, we will never shy away from fighting on behalf of residents and challenging others if required.
- Aspirations to work with other organisations to lead on facilitating decorating the town centre for Christmas 2021 onwards.
- Platinum Jubilee. On the 6th February 2022, the Queen of England will be celebrating 70 years on the British throne at the age of 95 years. The 70-year anniversary of the Queen's reign would be called a Platinum Jubilee and celebrated in a similar star-studded fashion as the previous Diamond Jubilee held in 2012.
- Funding via grants for projects from District Councillors for Christmas decorations for the town and project work for Mill Chase recreational ground and pavilion.

HEALTHY NEW TOWN

WAYFINDING PROJECT

Wayfinding will make it easy to navigate around the town without complex signage and will highlight points of interest to residents.



GREEN GRID GREEN LOOP

A Green Grid, Green Loop (GGGL) throughout the Town is being developed to encourage walking and cycling to work, school, the shops and for leisure.

The aims of the GGGL are:

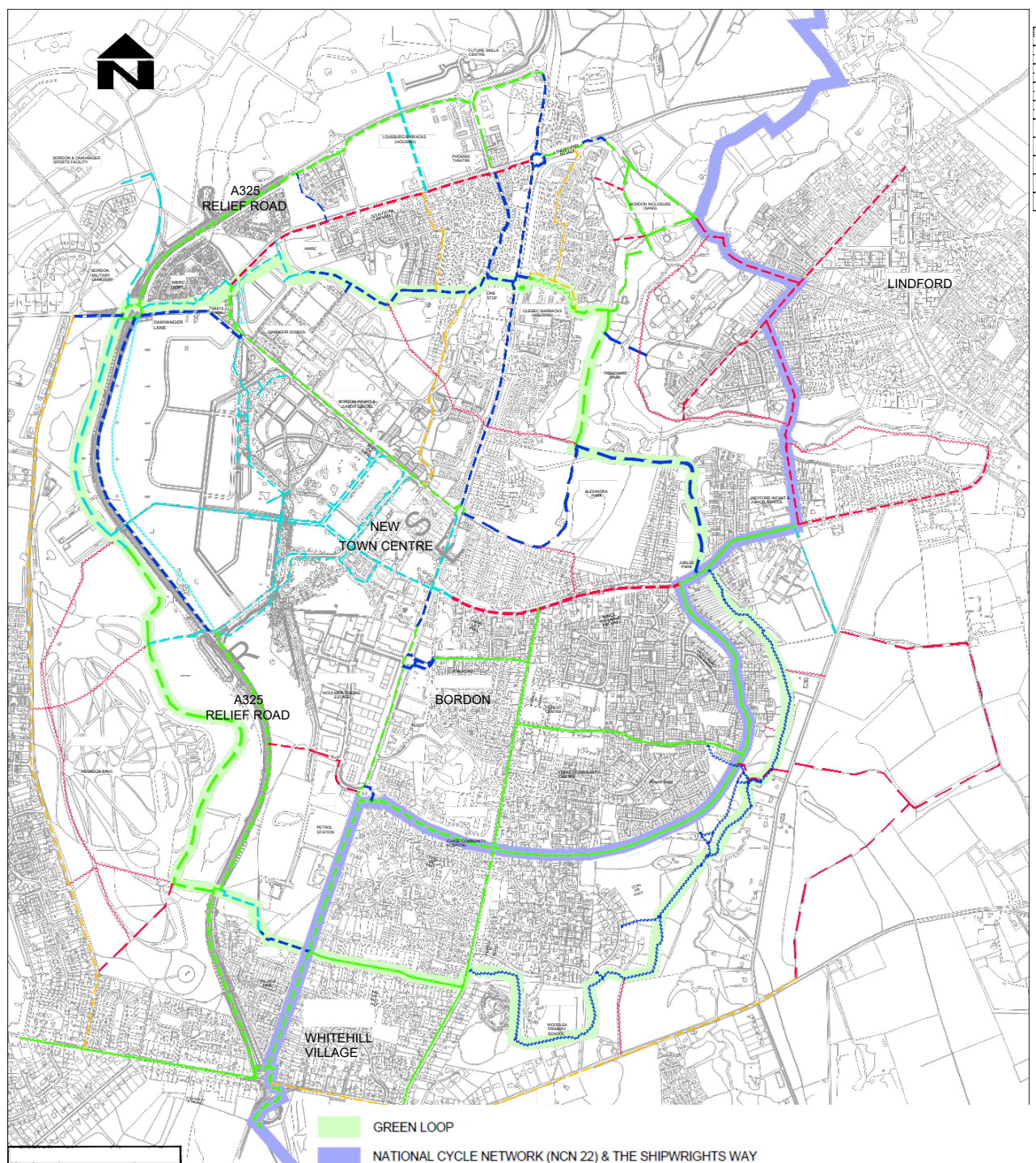
- 1) To create new and enhance existing walking and cycling routes necessary to increase active travel.
- 2) To reduce car journeys and encourage people to walk and cycle for commuting, leisure and exercise purposes.

The GGGL is currently being developed and, upon completion in 2021, will comprise the following:

- **Green Loop**: A 7-mile loop encircling, and connecting, the new and existing town. It will form the basis of the Green Infrastructure (GI) network and provide a high quality, safe and well-signed route which joins the Bordon Inclosure and Hogmoor Inclosure, greenspaces and new secondary school with the residential, employment and town centre areas; and
- **Green Grid**: A secondary network of footpaths and cycle routes connecting the town with the Green Loop. The grid will:
 - 1) connect at least two destinations; and
 - 2) support active travel.

The Town Council will fund the maintenance of the pathways on its land from March 2022.

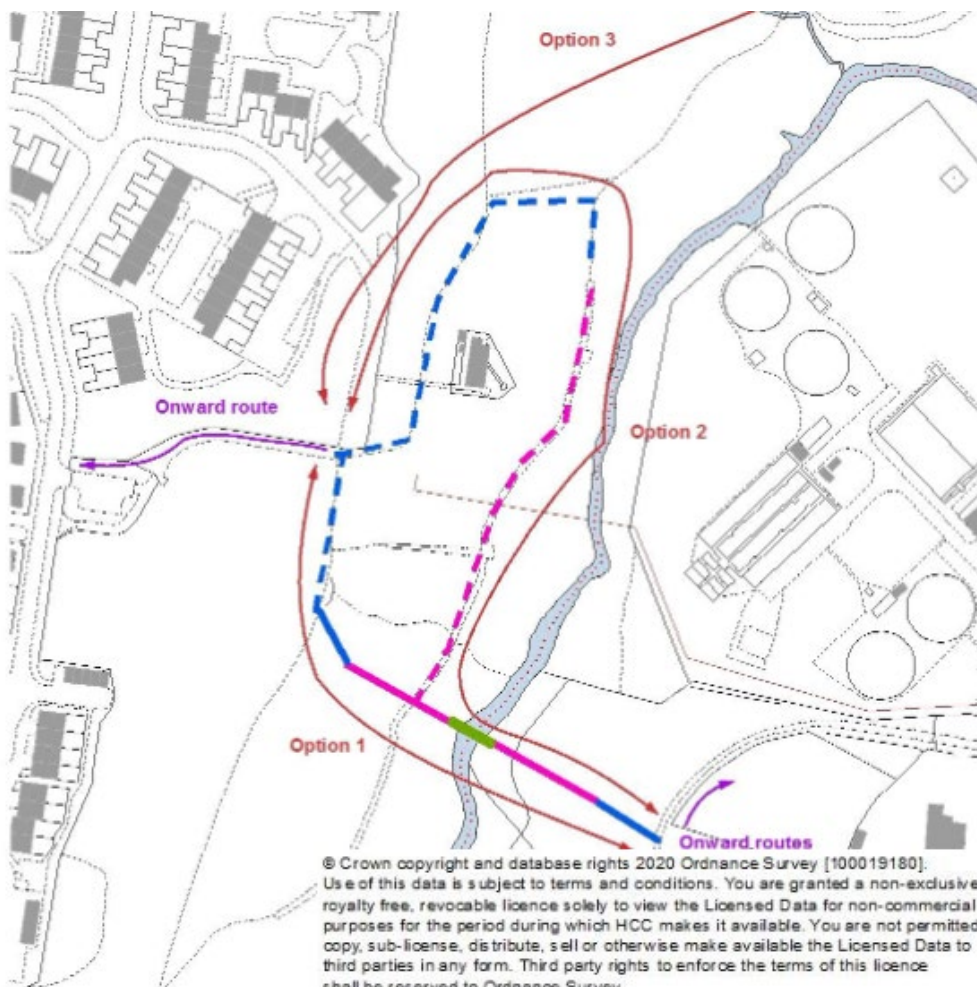
The next page (page 7) is a current map of the GGGL. It is not the definitive map but instead sets out sections which are completed (in green), committed and/or under-construction (in blue) and potential future sections to be explored (in red and orange).



NETWORK	COMPLETE	PLANNED (BY DEVELOPER)	FUTURE - TO BE INVESTIGATED (STRATEGY - 2013)	MISSING LINKS / ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL
PEDESTRIAN ONLY				
CYCLISTS: LEISURE				
CYCLISTS: COMMUTING OFF ROAD				
CYCLISTS: COMMUTING ON ROAD				

Lindford to Bordon (Quebec)

Oakmoor School has recently been opened, re-located from the previous secondary school. A consequence of this is that pupils from Lindford area now have a much longer walk/cycle to school and Hampshire County Council are considering options to assist families. As Bordon Inclosure decision-maker, The Town Council supports 'OPTION 1' (New bridge and boardwalks crossing existing boardwalk.) This benefits residents on both sides of Lindford and Bordon, in terms of travel time. This can be viewed on the map (right.)



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

On 11th November 2019 Whitehill Town Council declared a Climate Emergency

It resolved to:

- Work towards making Whitehill Town Council carbon neutral by 2030.
- Lobby the government where appropriate to provide the additional powers and resources needed to meet the 2030 targets.
- Aspire to create an ethical procurement framework to ensure suppliers reduce their own carbon footprint.
- To make climate strategy a consideration on all aspects of policy making where it is relevant and applicable. Weight should be given to environmental and sustainability impact as well as cost to all council functions and activities.
- To encourage and celebrate individual and/or corporate contributions within Bordon and Whitehill.

To meet our obligations Town Council's actions, will include:

- Linking the Town Council's open spaces with green routes or corridors.
- To encourage walking and cycling by promoting the Green Grid, Green Loop.
- To lobby stakeholders to install electric car charging points in the Town's car parks
- To establish a grant to encourage and facilitate carbon neutral projects in the Town.
- To plant wildflowers, fruit trees and native trees on Council owned land.
- To improve the energy efficiency of the Town Council's buildings.
- To ensure that Council vehicles are electric powered by 2030.
- Not printing where not required and striving for electronic methods of document review and communication.
- To factor in 'green credentials' when reviewing Grant Aid and projects, including when working with other organisations.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

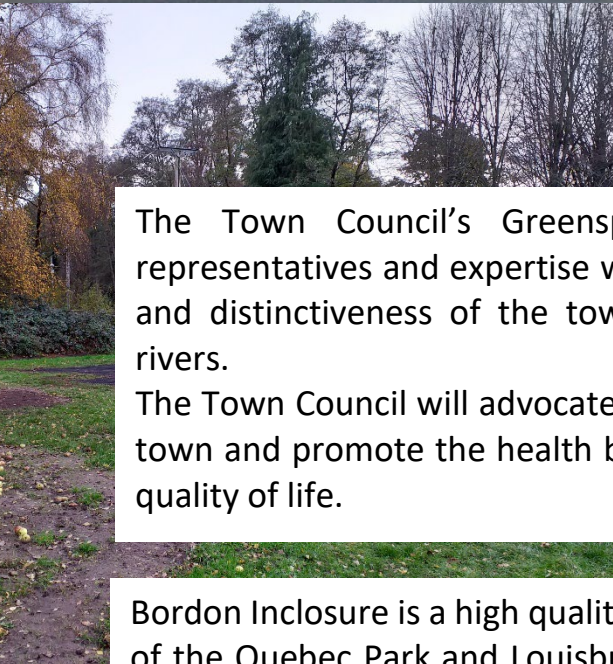
The Town Council plans to build a relationship with the business community by building relations with the local business hub – SiGNAL.

With the increase in COVID-19 homeworking, Town Council is keen to see how changed working practices (COVID-19 and post-COVID-19) may positively affect the ability for homeworkers to move to our town and there are opportunities for Whitehill & Bordon post-COVID-19.



AMENITIES

Whitehill Town Council manages approximately 136 acres of open space, including parks, recreation grounds, open spaces, children's playgrounds, a sports pavilion, BMX track and skatepark.

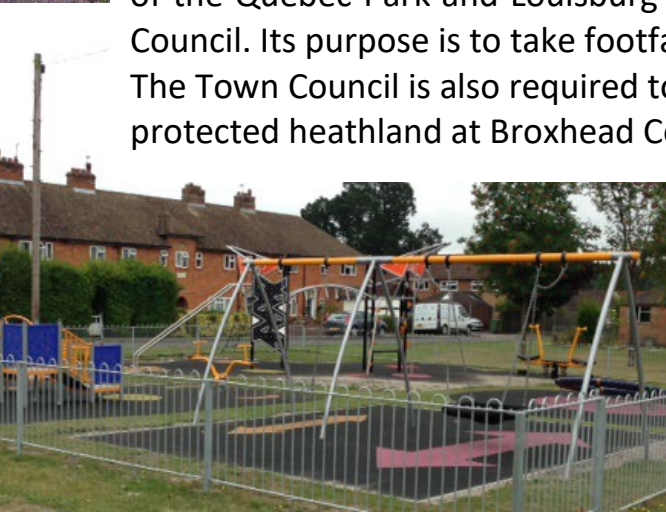


The Town Council's Greenspaces Sub-Committee brings together a range of representatives and expertise with a collective ambition to protect the unique diversity and distinctiveness of the town's greenspaces, woodland, meadows, commons and rivers.

The Town Council will advocate the retention of native veteran and mature trees in the town and promote the health benefits of accessing the town's greenspaces to improve quality of life.

Bordon Inclosure is a high quality Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) as part of the Quebec Park and Louisburg housing developments and is managed by the Town Council. Its purpose is to take footfall away from the protected heathland.

The Town Council is also required to monitor the impact of development on the protected heathland at Broxhead Common and Kingsley Common.



OPEN SPACES

Cypress Open Space

Cypress Road Open space has a basketball net/kick wall and a hard surface for ball games. The kick wall is robust and is used by local children. To make the area safe we had installed bow top fencing along the roadside and knee rail adjacent to residents parking.

Improvements to this area:

- A picnic bench, this would encourage supervised play with younger children and expand the amenity value of the site as a location to picnic.
- With a picnic bench a bin would be provided on site
- A small child size plastic goal turned up on site and was extremely popular before it fell apart, so a more robust and firmly fitted goal posts permanently positioned.
- The tarmac surface to be marked out with a variety of playground games to widen its use.
- Long term the older equipment will be updated with consultation with the local community.

Malmesbury Open Space

This is the same as the Kick wall/basketball net above. The edge of this area, that is adjacent to the road had a knee rail installed recently and has a dual purpose, to reduce the potential for children running out into the road and to stop illegal encroachment on the land. A couple of years ago local people were canvassed to see if they would like an outdoor gym on Malmesbury, at the time was received favorably by residents.

Improvements to this area:

- A picnic bench, this would encourage supervised play with younger children and expand the amenity value of the site as a location to picnic.
- With a picnic bench a bin would be provided.
- The tarmac surface could be marked out with a variety of playground games again to widen its use.
- Installation of an outdoor gym.
- Long term the older equipment will be updated with consultation with the local community.

Grafton Open Space

Currently this open space is undeveloped and receives regular grass cutting. It recently had knee rail installed to deter illegal incursion onto the land. The open space is used by local children to play on, as is the boundary that borders the Local Nature Reserve. At least one local resident has suggested that it could be rewilded.

Improvements to this area:

- Strip of ground prepared and sown with wild meadow flowers.
- Large proportion cut to provide a surface for children to play on
- A picnic table and bin

St Lucia Lodge Open Space

St Lucia Lodge open space is the land in front of St Lucia Lodge, which is an older building formerly MOD but is now several private flats. It appears that the land is attached to the building and has the feel of an area of parkland with plantings of trees across the lawn. It is surrounded on the roadside by a knee rail that has seen better days and several of the rails and posts need replacing. It is a public

open space and is part of the grass cutting schedule. It is felt that the nearby residents will have a feeling of ownership for this land and it would be good to consult with them before any improvements are made and suggest to them that it would lend itself to spring bulb plantings including crocus, snowdrops ,and daffodils.

Laundry Pitch Open Space

Whitehill Town Council intend to keep this as a natural field with the addition of wildflowers so that it is in keeping with the natural beauty of the adjoining common.

It will not be turned into another pocket park like Jubilee Park which is a more formal space, it is to be sympathetic to nature in the main.

MILL CHASE

Trim Trail

The trim trail at Mill Chase is a wooden construction with exercise points all around the field.

Improvements to this area:

- Program of works to treat timbers and replace timbers with signs of rot.
- Remove equipment that is past its best.
- Replace trim trail workstations with more up to date outside gym equipment.

Basketball Court/Kick Wall

This piece of equipment is well used

Improvement to this area:

- Fill and seed the worn area of the field.
- Put down grass protection mesh.
- In the long term install a larger area of astro-turf

Car Park

The Mill Chase car park is primarily for those people using the sports field and play area, it is also used by allotment holders as it is directly opposite the Mill Chase allotment site. The car park is also used extensively by parents dropping their children off to school. It is constructed of tarmac road way and stone parking bays.

Improvement to this area:

- Replenish the stone to repair the car park surface.
- Consider laying tarmac over the whole surface.

Gate

The car park has an automatic gate that closes at 10pm in the summer and 8pm in the autumn and winter. The gate is serviced twice a year and is disabled and locked on occasions.

ALLOTMENTS

Mill Chase and Saville Crescent Allotments have had nearly all their unused plots let to new tenants. The idea of having an allotment is extremely popular particularly because of the recent COVID-19 lockdown. Many of the allotment plots are well managed and they are extremely productive. The plots are managed both traditionally and some more avant- garde, with vegetables and fruit that are traditional and exotic.

Improvement to this area:

- Set up some compost bins, to compost seasonal vegetation from amenity work. E.g. Autumn leaf clearing, grass cuttings etc.
- Find other sources of free compost e.g. rotted horse manure for allotment holders.
- See if an informal system of mentoring could be established for new allotment holders.
- Start work on Accessible allotment plot, communicate with Disability Action Group and Men's Shed.
- Incorporate the allotments into the Bordon in Bloom with awards for fruit and vegetable categories and prizes including well managed plots.
- Continue to monitor plots, so poorly managed plots can be re-let quickly.

BUS SHELTERS

Whitehill Town Council are responsible for 23 bus stops, the newest style of bus shelter that are positioned along the old A325 and were originally fitted by Queensbury Shelters. They had toughened glass panels that look very smart.

Our other shelters along Conde Way and Chalet Hill are older but were made with thin polycarbonate panels. With age these have become opaque and the surface scratched. The older bus shelters though effective are looking tired and there are a couple of panels that need replacing.

Improvement in this area:

- Replace further panels with graffiti resistant polycarbonate as needed.
- Continue to maintain bus shelters.
- Consider a program of replacement for the older style bus shelters.

PLAYGROUNDS

All three playgrounds have been designed for the use of children up to 12 years old, important consideration for the future is to make our playgrounds more inclusive with play equipment for children with physical disabilities. There is nothing available at present.

Firgrove

Firgrove is the newest of the playgrounds and the equipment is in good condition without any excessive wear.

Potential improvements:

- Deal with surfacing issues.
- Re-set gate post.

Mill Chase

Mill Chase has had some equipment updated with hard wearing metal equipment. It has therefore a mix of old and new.

Improvements to area:

- replace the older wooden play equipment with new and more durable equipment, within the next two years.
- Research to see if a more durable surface is available to go under the tyre swing.

Sutton Field

Sutton Field playground has some of the older play equipment, but it has no wooden components so is lasting well.

Improvements to area:

- Improve grass surface, fill hollows, add topsoil and re-seed.
- Consider replacement of equipment in two to three years.

JUBILEE PARK

Jubilee Park is a large open green space that has been used for the circus or funfair when it has visited town. It links through to Alexander Park and is bordered by the Dead Water River on the east side, a residential road (Branson) on the west and Chalet Hill to the south.

BMX Track

The BMX track gets used by children of all ages and is a worthwhile amenity facility. It is a circuit with the cambered ends being made of tarmac, in between there are a succession of switchbacks. The switchback section is made of course compacted stone covered in a fine finish which is also compacted to make a smooth surface.

Improvements to area:

- Repair surface to bring it back to its original smoothness.
- Replace signage.
- Install a bin with WHTC logo (Presently we have a chained up wheely bin).
- Move bench to near BMX track and restore.

Pocket Park

Currently a pocket park is being put into place which is being named 'Nut Tree Meadow'. It will consist of a wildflower meadow with a mixture of nut and fruit trees. There will be a small selection of timber play equipment and a bench and bin. The pocket Park is the result of a successful collaborative bid for funding from central government. This has involved Whitehill Town Council, Whitehill and Bordon Community Trust and East Hants District Council.

SKATEPARK

The Skatepark at the end of Budds Lane was a project between Whitehill Town Council and the Whitehill and Bordon Regeneration Company (WBRC). It is one of the most popular amenities managed by Whitehill Town Council. Surface and crumbling of the concrete next to the metal rails, these were picked up and repairs were made and funded by the WBRC.

Improvements to area:

- Plans are in place for a drinking fountain (Opportunity to refill drinking bottles instead of using single use plastic).
- Repairs to concrete structure by specialist contractor.
- Raise soil level on bank top, use protective ground mesh and sow new grass seed.
- Improve/add soil and mulch to hedge and fill gaps with additional hedge plants.
- See if there is any interest in hot drink and snack business on site with responsibility to monitor site and keep clean and tidy.

DISUSED BUILDINGS FOR COMMUNITY USE

The Council continues to actively seek to ensure that disused buildings and resources in the area are fully promoted and utilised and not left unused when there are community groups of all shapes and sizes seeking to make use of them and bring them back to their former glory.

We will be actively seeking to make them available at sensible, affordable and less 'commercially oriented' rates that are in the spirit of many of the voluntary or low income groups and small businesses in the area.

This is a key element both of our Youth provision, but also wider Community Group representation. It may include options to lease or purchase and may be dependent on funding such as S106 applications. Town Council will look to work with EHDC and other third parties to identify such opportunities.

MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS AND LAND

The Council will express an interest in principle for the management of assets and land from the DIO and/or developers (which may include transfer to WTC of freehold and/or lease), as DIO and developers gradually withdraw from the parish and maybe looking for an ongoing (e.g., in perpetuity) solution for assets and/ or land they currently manage and/or own.

GREENSPACES

"We believe that our trees, hedgerows and wider greenspace form an integral part of our town's character. Our ethos is focused on upholding the Healthy Green Town status we were awarded in 2016 and promoting the natural environment for all to access and enjoy. The importance of the natural environment on health and wellbeing can never be underplayed and along with sensitive conservation practice, under our council, it never will be".



Cllr Tina Strickland



Whitehill Town Council believes that mature established Trees should be considered as important valuable assets.

The Town Council manages Bordon Inclosure and Deadwater Valley Nature Reserve and has appointed the Deadwater Valley Trust to manage both on our behalf under a service level agreement. The Greenspace Sub-Committee oversees the management of these areas, Chaired by Cllr Tina Strickland. The Town Council works closely with other organisations in the Parish, to promote and protect our Greenspaces.

We have representation on land in the Parish not directly under our control of the Council and will lobby them to follow our principles. Currently Cllr Tina Strickland is the Town Council representative for Hogmoor Inclosure.

The Town Council regularly consults where appropriate with 'experts' from across the 'green spectrum' to ensure we are doing everything reasonably possible to uphold our commitment to the Trees, Woods, Meadows, Commons and Rivers.

The Town Council has signed up to East Hants District Council's volunteer Tree Warden scheme, including Cllr Tina Strickland and a Council Officer who represent Council as Tree Wardens.

Moving forward the Town Council aspires to own and manage additional open spaces within the Parish when they become available and has communicated this to the relevant parties.

Any decision taken by the Town Council would be subject to a detailed discussion and final decision.

It is this Council's view that it was a mistake for the previous Council to not consider tendering to manage Hogmoor Inclosure and that it is our policy to want to be given the opportunity to own and/or manage any greenspace within the Parish in the future.

We have tried to represent Hogmoor Inclosure by appointing a Council representative to liaise with the Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company and The Land Trust who oversee it.



TOWN IN BLOOM

WHITEHILL AND BORDON IN BLOOM

To help interject colour and life into the town - Town in Bloom is a new initiative by the Town Council and this will be launched during spring 2021.

We welcome all residents, children of all ages, local schools, shops and allotment holders to take part to grow and present their entries around the town.

This would not be a National competition but specific to the town that would be added to the annual event calendar.

The interpretation details will be formed in due course, but it is expected that this will be a themed event that will be judged by member(s) of the Town Council and prizes will be awarded by the Town Mayor during a prize giving ceremony.

We hope to see lots of colour around the town in planters, hanging baskets, window boxes, allotment plots or even out of an old welly boot.

PROJECTS

Whitehill Town Council is currently working on the following s106 development funding projects which we hope to have completed by 2022:

INSTALLTION OF A WATER BOTTLE REFILL STATION AT THE BORDON SKATEPARK

The original plan for this was to install a water fountain but with the new COVID pandemic this design has now changed to ensure the safety of all users to comply with the new government guidelines. We anticipate that this will be installed during the first half of 2021.



IMPROVEMENT TO THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND THUS IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE PITCH SURFACING AT MILL CHASE PLAYING FIELD



To progress the existing s106 application for drainage improvements to Mill Chase Recreation Ground and to make a related s106 application to improve the Mill Chase Pavilion layout and changing rooms facilities. Improvements to drainage will permit sports and games to continue through the winter months, especially when we have had heavy rainfalls over the year and to enhance the pitches with secured community access. A feasibility study for drainage, the current underground pumps and of the ground levels was conducted during November 2020 and this report together with a separate report will be reviewed.

An additional survey of the inside of the field drainage pipe which takes the majority of the water away from the site underground to the River Wey will be reviewed to check for blockage or damage to the pipe. WTC will then follow the recommended actions and hopefully the work undertaken will be sufficient to deal with the seasonal rainfall.

MILL CHASE PAVILION

WTC will Conduct a community consultation and from this data the new design should accommodate the following:

- Clubs
- Families
- Wider community



YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

We believe it is our responsibility to support the families in our growing communities and therefore we will continue to support our local secondary and primary schools, having welcomed the opening of Oakmoor School in 2019. We will continue to lobby Hampshire County Council to improve parking conditions for parents.

Council is concerned about youth provision in Whitehill & Bordon and will strive to question East Hampshire District Council on its policy in this area and any provider tasked with providing youth services, to keep an eye on what is fulfilled and challenge what is not. We support the principle of local groups/volunteers leading in this area and supported the Forest Youth Project in 2020. Council will continue to have a dedicated youth representative, that is currently Cllr Bisi Kennard.



We will continue to manage our successful skatepark, other outdoor spaces and playparks.

We will continue to build relationships with Oakmoor Secondary School and the local Primary Schools, to support families and (with restrictions premising) will look to hold our young person awards, presented by the Town Mayor at our Annual Town Meeting.

We now have a representative on the 'Steering Group' for community resilience-related funds (currently Cllr Tina Strickland) and our Town Clerk represents us as a member of the Neighbourhood Resilience Group, made up of groups across the Parish that implement actions. We can push to ensure that local families and vulnerable people are supported.

Applicants from youth organisations are encouraged to apply for grant aid, with us recently having awarded to Grayshott Cricket Club, Headley All Saint's Parish Church, Woolmer Men's Shed, 1st Blackmoor and Whitehill Scout and Victim Support.

PLANNING

Whitehill Town Council is consulted on planning decisions by the Planning Authority which is East Hampshire District Council.

The vast majority of planning applications are routine e.g. a simple residential house extension where no public objections are received. We have reformed our process to ensure it is efficient and that we give our view based on qualified planning law, whilst retaining democratic accountability to elected town councillors. Our Planning Policy was put into force 3 September 2020 and is reviewed annually. We remain concerned about reforms on planning law and believe that town and parish level councils should always be key consultees, whose opinion is considered as very important.

As a general rule we support a 35% affordable housing percentage on new developments and would only consider supporting a lower percentage in exceptional circumstances such as a greater offering of local investment as part of a planning application that would benefit current residents.

Our Executive Committee will resolve the Town Council view on the Health Hub Planning Applications when it comes to Town Council for a view. It is our intention to hold a public meeting on Health Provision, to hear public feedback on this issue.

HOUSING

We are concerned that the local plan may mean more housing for Whitehill & Bordon when full infrastructure has yet to be delivered. We do not support more housing with no infrastructure and so voted against the proposal for 1300 new houses, back in Autumn 2019. We believe the public now expect delivery on what has been promised from the regeneration and will push for this.



TOWN CENTRE & DEVELOPMENT



We support having a proper supermarket as the centre-piece of the proposed new town centre, where residents will be proud to shop and that would attract people from outside the town to come here to spend their money and invest in our local economy. We do not support car parking charges as feel these would be detrimental to residents who cannot be expected to walk home with shopping and also this would not encourage people from outside the town to shop here. We support encouraging a bank to come to the new town centre and would support

a hub that offered services on behalf of a variety of banks. We support new cinema plans and a Phoenix Theatre in the new town centre. We support Hogmoor Inclosure, skate park, makers market. We will continue to hold 'public interest' meetings when allowed and during the COVID-19 restrictions period we will continue to interview the Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company, so we can communicate progress back to residents and also ask questions on behalf of the community.



LEISURE FACILITIES

We support the new Leisure Centre with 6-lane swimming pool. We will push to ensure our facilities remain as good as those in Alton, ensuring what is offered to Whitehill & Bordon is reviewed. We hope to see a success of the community use agreement for the Oakmoor School sports hall, where it can be hired by residents and local groups and will monitor how it works in practice.



HEALTH PROVISION



We do not support the closure of Chase Hospital and would expect the NHS to honour the 2013 Chase Charter. Any plans for a new health hub would have to be viable, genuinely on offer (not just an idea) and offer residents an enhanced level of services. We would not support the closure of Chase Hospital if better facilities were not already on offer within Whitehill & Bordon and we do not support moving services to Alton Community Hospital. We will continue to ask questions to the relevant third parties about Health Hub proposals (EHDC for potential funding, NHS CCG for service provision and WBRC for planning application.)

We hosted a 'public interest' meeting with the MD of the CCG in 2019 and plan to do so again, once COVID-19 restrictions allow.

TRANSPORT

We support the long-term aspirations of having a railway station in Whitehill & Bordon. We recognise that strong public transport links encourage investment into the town for our benefit, whilst serving our own community. Our short-term objective is the fight for a rail link bus and other local bus services. We fight for a greater share of bus subsidies to be given to Whitehill & Bordon, to compensate for lack of a train station. We support in principle the proposed 'VOCA' service, where a taxi service to specified locations can be provided at the cost of a bus, but want local taxi firms to be included in a way that does not threaten their own business.

WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

COMMUNICATION

We believe a Town Council should be constantly engaging with the community and that individual councillors should be accessible to residents living in their ward. We strive to do this using face-to-face meetings, social media, press releases and letters. We will continue to post frequently on social media and will issue a Town Council magazine at least annually, to ensure everybody across the town receives communication from us, at a reasonable cost.



POLICE

We support working with the police to increase local community policing and visibility and acting as a link between the police and the community. We want to be a leading part in the fight against vandalism. We will continue to attend Crime Partnership meetings organised by EHDC, but will also build on direct relations with local officers and senior police, following our 'public interest' meeting with local police and Police & Crime Commissioner, in early 2020 (before COVID-19.) We recognise ASB is a problem across the town and will continue to encourage residents to report crimes, so we can push for resources.



COMMUNITY EVENTS GROUP

Cllr Bisi Kennard (pictured right) is the current Chairman of the Community Events Group (CEG) which brings together organisations in Whitehill & Bordon to develop community events for the benefit of residents. The Town Council also works with the Whitehill & Bordon Town Partnership, a local group of volunteers who are known for taking a lead with local events. 2020 has not been a great year for community events but the Town Council is looking forward to working with local organisations again in 2021.



THE TOWN MAYOR

The Chairman of the Town Council is styled as 'Town Mayor.' And is our primary civic representative. The Mayor can add special kudos to local events, supporting residents, businesses and the community spirit. This is especially important when there is no higher council tier Mayor covering Whitehill & Bordon, as East Hampshire District Council does not have borough status and therefore their Chairman is not styled as 'Mayor'. The Town Council plans to renew its Mayoral invite and protocols policy to promote the option to invite the Mayor. The Incumbent is Cllr Katie Anscomb (pictured right), who succeeded Cllr Catherine Clark at the first 'zoom' annual council meeting, held on 7th July 2020.



THIRD PARTY ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES

The Town Council remains committed to representing residents as representatives to third parties:

ORGANISATION	COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE	ORGANISATION	COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE
Barbados House Association (The Phoenix)	Cllr Kennard Cllr Fryer	Transport representative	Cllr Russell
Bordon Buddies	Cllr Tree Cllr Kennard	Underpass at Quebec Park	Cllr Kennard
Citizens Advice East Hampshire	Cllr Tree	Whitehill & Bordon Community Trust	Cllr Kennard Reserve Cllr Anscomb
Conde Link Twinning Association	The Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor	Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration for Hogmoor Inclosure	Cllr T. Strickland
Community Partnership meeting (Formerly CTCG)	Cllr Toovey Cllr Tree	Whitehill & Bordon Steering Group, EHDC Healthy New Towns Project	Cllr T. Strickland
Deadwater Valley Trust	Cllr T Strickland	Whitehill & Bordon Town Partnership	Cllr Kennard Reserve Cllr Anscomb
East Hampshire District Council Strategy Board	Leader Deputy Leader	Whitehill Village Hall	Cllr Sanders Cllr T. Strickland Reserve Cllr Anscomb
East Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils	Leader Deputy Leader	Xchange	Cllr Tree Cllr Fryer
Health representative to the NHS CCG stakeholder board	Cllr Brand	Youth representative	Cllr Kennard

The Leader of Council may act as an additional council representative with third parties for town development & associated issues in coordination with the relevant outside body representatives, where applicable.

FINANCE

FINANCE 2021 – 2024

The Town Council raises income through council tax called - precept and this will be used each year to pay for all activities and costs incurred by the Town Council.

The Strategic Plan/ Action Plan will form part of the budgeting method which would enable preparation of predicted spend through forecasting and help to identify if grants would be required in addition through external funding methods or by using the s106 or CiL developer's funding.

The principles of how the annual precept will be used to support the next financial year would be outlined within the annual budget and preparation paperwork and this would be formed from the data available on the Town Council finance system.

The items included within the budget stream will be every changing as the years go by and new items and circumstances have been identified throughout the year and this will be incorporated within new budget precept request.

The draft budget together with any supporting documents are prepared by the Town Clerk (as Responsible Finance Officer) and presented to the Executive Committee to be reviewed and recommended to a Full Council meeting to be approved.

Budget

Your council tax statement from East Hampshire District Council shows how council tax is split between them, Hampshire County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner, Fire & Rescue Authority and finally us. We receive a very small part that we set (our precept), that we use on Whitehill & Bordon. Moving into 2021-22 we plan to budget for items not considered previously:

- Town in Bloom competition/event 2021
- Christmas lights and decorations 2021
- Civic events - Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022
- Unlawful encampments on Town Council Land
- Management of Greenspace, following our 'Tree Policy'.

Our funds will also go towards the integral project work at Mill Chase Recreation Ground and Pavilion to improve the drainage system at Recreation Ground thus improve the quality of the pitch. Following the outcome of several consultations possible work to the design of the sports pavilion may take place to accommodate the wider community, families and clubs.

Grants

Whitehill Town Council awards grants to assist local organisations each year, who we believe support and benefit the local Whitehill & Bordon community. To provide reassurance and stability, the overall Grant Aid budget heading shall not be decreased from the current £54,000 per annum during the four-year period of this strategic plan. The Grant Aid budget heading currently includes Major Grant Aid, Minor Grant Aid, and our Direct Community Fund. The Direct Community Fund was created to give Council the flexibility to spend on its own direct projects and £1000 of this was set aside to support local volunteers including 'Bordon Buddies' and the Bordon Food Bank, during the lockdowns/restrictions of 2020."

If you are a voluntary organisation. Whitehill Town Council offer two categories of grants; MINOR GRANT AID: £3,000 or less in any one financial year. The closing date for applications is 31 March and 30 September each year. MAJOR GRANT AID: For any amount of £3,001 or over in any one financial year. The closing date for applications is 31 December each year.



OVERVIEW OF WHITEHILL & BORDON

The Parish of Whitehill covers Whitehill and Bordon and lies in the north east corner of East Hampshire. It is situated on the A325 midway between Farnham in the north and Petersfield in the south and is within half an hour's drive of Guildford, Portsmouth and Basingstoke.

The Council attained Parish status in 1928 by Act of Parliament and prior to that came within the Parishes of Headley and Selborne. In 1991 Whitehill Parish Council changed its name to Whitehill Town Council.

The Town is divided into 3 wards (Chase, Hogmoor and Pinewood) served by different Councillors in each ward. Elections take place every 4 years. The 2011 census gave the population figure as 13,259 and 5,162 households.

The Town grew in a piecemeal fashion around the military facility of the Bordon Garrison which remained in the town for over 100 years. The first REME soldiers arrived in 1945 and the School of Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (SEME) was created in 1961. In September 2015, the Bordon Garrison closed when SEME relocated to RAF Lyneham. The Town Council hosted a farewell event to celebrate this important part of history www.farewelltobordongarrison.org.uk

The army's departure released considerable training land and barracks. Consequently, years of planning now sees construction starting for approximately 3,500 new homes, employment space for 5,500 new jobs, a new town centre, community facilities, and up to 200 hectares of green spaces. Whitehill & Bordon benefits from a unique and attractive landscape setting of heathlands, river corridors and woodlands. It is the only location in the British Isles to support all twelve native species of reptiles and amphibians. It is a long narrow Parish covering some eight square miles.

COUNCILLORS

PINEWOOD WARD



Cllr Adam Dawson



Cllr Leeroy Scott



Cllr Joe Strickland

CHASE WARD



Cllr Katie Anscomb



Cllr Josh Chandler



Cllr Catherine Clark



Cllr Bisi Kennard



Cllr Duncan Sanders



Cllr Jason Toovey



Cllr Andy Tree

HOGMOOR WARD



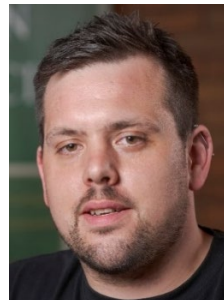
Cllr James Brand



Cllr Mike Steevens



Cllr Tina Strickland

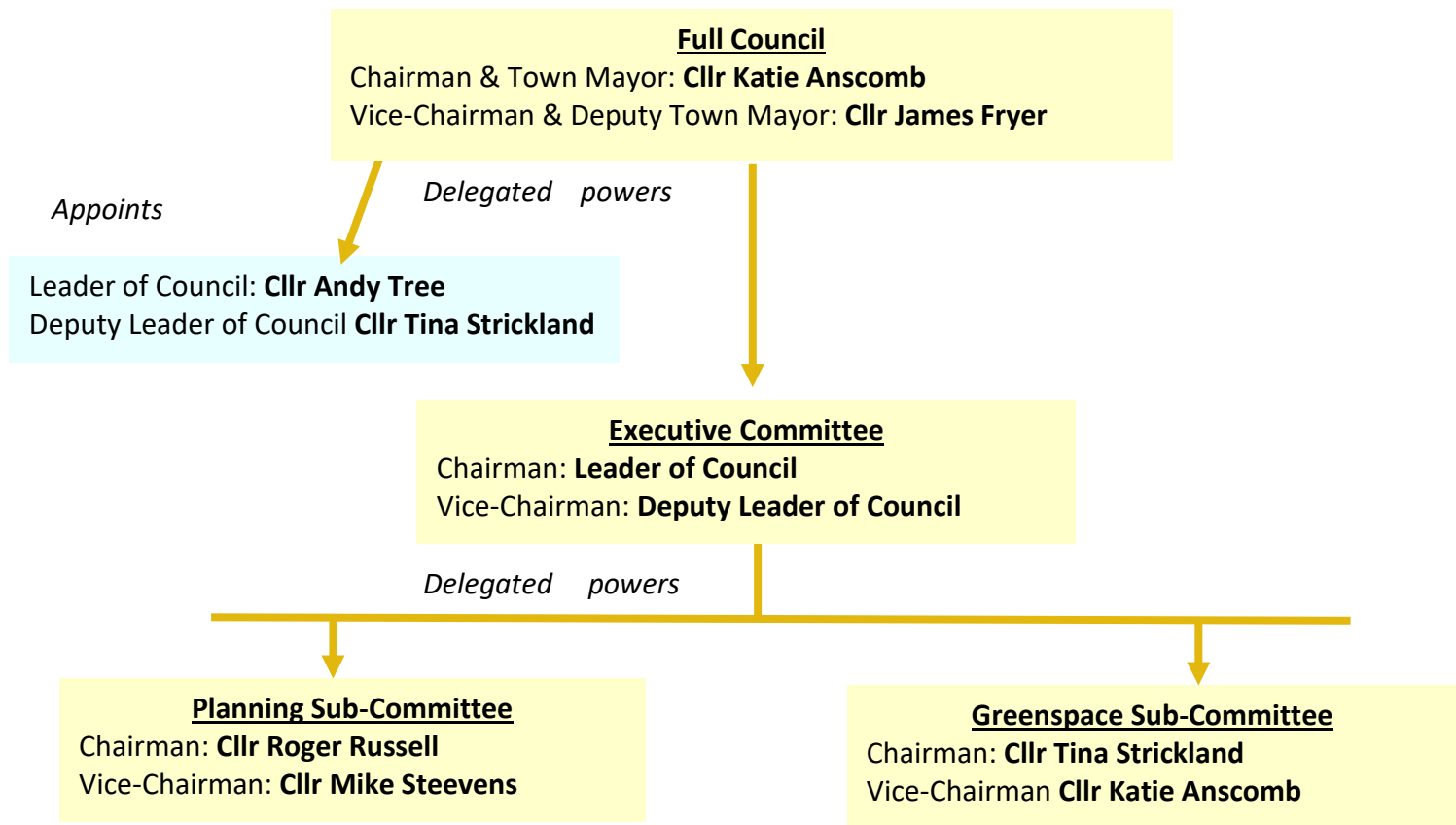


Cllr James Fryer



Cllr Roger Russell

COUNCILLOR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



Executive Committee Members – February 2020



For more information about the work we do and a calendar of meetings please visit www.whitehilltowncouncil.gov.uk



**WHITEHILL
TOWN COUNCIL**
Serving Whitehill & Bordon

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