

Riston Community Engagement Plan

2024 – 2027

Introduction

This Community Engagement Plan sets out the plans, hopes and aspirations of Riston Parish Council over the next three years.

We hope that by reading this document the reader will have a better understanding of the Role of the Parish Council.

- What we can do.
- What we actually do.
- What we do not have the authority to do.
- How we work with others such as the East Riding of Yorkshire Council who have that authority.
- How we raise the funds needed to maintain and improve the Parish and the activities/projects we plan to undertake.

Who are we?

Parish Councils are the foundation stone of local control and governance. Made up of volunteers that have, and still do, reside in the Parish for over a year. These volunteers are either elected to represent the community or co-opted by the existing members of the Parish Council. Each councillor serves for four years or more if re-elected/ co-opted. **For the avoidance of doubt, the Playing Fields, Tennis Courts, Play parks and all associated land are under the separate control of the Playing Field Committee (PFC). The Parish Council does not govern this separate entity.**

What do we do?

The Parish Council maintains the parish, leads on improving the parish and undertakes specific projects expected by the parishioners. We lobby for improvements in highways, footpaths, road safety and are also the focal point on matters such as planning applications. We act as the conduit for complaints regarding overgrown trees, silted up drains, street lighting, sewage problems, pot holes, grass verges and street cleansing and of course the finances of the Parish raised via the 'precept'.

The precept is the amount of money the Parish Council needs in order to provide more local 'focussed' services that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Central Government lack details on. The precept has been set at £11,465 for quite a number of years. This equates to a little over £32 per house per year.

Neither East Riding of Yorkshire Council or Central Government have the funding they once did and nor do they undertake activities they traditionally did. The only way that

we are to be able to maintain and/or improve the parish is to fund it ourselves. At least this way we can see our money being spent on something that we want – or know others in the parish want and/or benefits from.

By discussion with residents about the type of parish we want to live in, the services they would like to see and the events that they expect to see supported. Going forward The Parish Council will calculate its annual budget and looks ahead to major expenditure likely to occur within the next three or four years.

We try and be realistic when setting the precept and have not raised it in many years. And although we always need more, we need to manage the finances with great care and debate. We spend what we need to ‘maintain’ the parish i.e., grit bins and grit, supporting the smaller local community groups, repair and maintenance of the village hall, the Christmas tree etc. and save for major projects that will ‘improve’ the parish ie, bulb planting, benches, larger village hall projects etc.

Some larger projects require the Parish Council to set aside some of the annual precept in order to create a ‘fighting fund’ that can be used to tackle large one-off projects or enables to work with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and join forces on projects too expensive even for them.

There are things we want to do but do not have the statutory powers to undertake. After years of requesting traffic calming measures that reduces speeding in and around the parish, we are aware that more still needs to be done.

Unfortunately, we cannot tackle this issue on our own. The roads and infrastructure are owned by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council and we cannot make any changes without them.

In cases like this we may have to lobby the East Riding of Yorkshire Council for a number of years and, when called on, offer to part share the costs to make it happen.

What is our Goal?

The Parish Council aspires to represent our local parish and community in a fair, balanced and informed manner, in order to improve the quality of life for those living in our parish. It is important to us that *everyone* has a voice as we tackle various topics.

What are our Priorities?

Community

- Encourage and support our local parish to enable the delivery of services, events and facilities.

Safety

- Foster a positive approach to ensure our parish is a safe place to live.

Infrastructure

- Plan, propose and deliver larger infrastructure projects to improve the local parish.

Environment

- Safeguard the parish's character, promote pride in the community and enhance the local environment.

Engagement

- Engage with our parishioners to ensure they are listened to, with views and aspirations heard.

What are our plans and ideas?

We have a number of ongoing activities that we see as part of 'maintaining' the parish and we have longer term plans and ideas that we see as 'enhancing' the parish. We would however like your views and feedback as to what *you* the residents would like to see happen. We have prepared the questionnaire and tried to make it as easy as possible for residents to demonstrate their views and opinions on some specific topics. We understand that some topics have been the subject of strong views in the past however this questionnaire will hopefully allow everyone to have a voice in a democratic and balanced way.

The Questionnaire refers to some additional data and information we are committed to sharing with you so you can see facts and figures to allow you to make an informed decision.

2023/2024 Financial.

This Financial document shows the financial activities of the Council from **1st April 2023 up to 31st March 2024**. The data has been normalised into a number of categories which hopefully make it easier to understand.

The headlines of this are:

The council started the year with £30,888 in the bank. It raised £17,939 during the year and spent £26,723 which included £8,784 from the bank. The Council ended the year with £22,104 in the bank.

The Village hall RICS survey.

On 14th Dec 2023 the Parish Council reacted to concerns raised and undertook a 'Schedule of Condition' Survey by a RICS qualified Surveyor from the ERYC. The full report is available upon request but the Executive Summary of the report is shown here:

Externally the precast concrete panels are suspected to be suffering from concrete carbonation exposing the steel reinforcement bars and weakening the structure of the panel. The panels will require specialist concrete remedial repairs. If this work is carried out this will extend the lifespan of the building.

The external entrance doors and fire exits require easing and adjustment to enable safe escape from the building in the event of a fire. Doors to the storage rooms, kitchen, and toilets were identified as not compliant in terms of fire resistance. The north elevation fire escape requires an external landing area and steps with handrails to enable safe exit from the building.

The north elevation storage area houses the mains distribution boards and incoming supply. This should be separated from the room by means of forming a cupboard with lockable doors to stop any contact with the electrical equipment.

All the pvc windows are externally beaded which presents a security risk and consideration should be made to renew them.

The east elevation down pipes are discharging rainwater directly onto the concrete plinth and saturating the area below. The water should discharge into gullies and run away from the building. It was noted one section of guttering is defective allowing water to overspill onto the building, this section should be repaired urgently.

One section of verge filler to the main hall roof west elevation is missing allowing birds access to the roof void. It is recommended that this section is filled in to prevent further access. Note any works to the hall roof will require the attendance of a registered asbestos contractor experienced in asbestos roof sheet repairs.

The condition ratings summarised are given as follows: -

1 item rated as Good

Performing as intended and operating efficiently.

70 items rated as Satisfactory:

Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration.

25 items rated as Poor:

Exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended.

0 items rated as Bad:

Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure.