

Wicken Parish Council – Village Action Plan Including Climate Strategy

This action plan sets out the current schedule of priorities and activities and lists items identified in the Climate Strategy Policy and notes actions to be taken and an update on actions already taken.

This is a live document which the Council will review 6 monthly coinciding with the setting of the precept.

The table below is our action plan which is RAG rated

- Red – project is behind schedule
- Amber – project should have either started or been completed
- Green – project is in line to be completed within timescales

Action Number	Subject Area	Action	Date identified and length of project	Estimated cost	RAG rating	Response (Actions taken)
Transport						
1	Completion of Wicken to Soham cycle route	Ongoing project. Work required has already been identified.	2014 Long term	Further £2000 CIL charge		Work has already been identified. Two sections completed May/June 2021. Further work to be completed Autumn 2022. Now Soham-Wicken Cycle Path Project work due to commence 2024/25 but delayed due to water voles
2	Repair and maintain paths (to include overgrown hedges) to encourage and facilitate safe walking routes for pedestrians including people with pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters	Clerk to report unsafe pavements to Highways. Chair, Clerk and Tree Warden to contact homeowners regarding overgrown hedges	August 2019 Ongoing	Nil		August/September 2019 Around and About note asking for hedges to be cut back after 31/8/19. October/November 2019 Around and About follow up note. September 2019 Chair and Clerk identified hedges. October 2019 Chair, Clerk and Tree Warden contracted those identified. October 2019 Clerk has started reporting of footpaths to Highways online. August 2021 Clerk reported all footpaths on the online portal Drury Lane paths repaired September 2021 Meeting held with Highways October 2021 Chapel Lane and North Street paths slurried 2022

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						Hedges included in the December 2022 newsletter Hedges included in April 2024 Around and About Tree walkover April 2024
3	Encourage and lead by example walking instead of using a vehicle for short journeys	Walking/car share to village events	July 2019 Ongoing	Nil		
4	20 mph speed throughout the village	Local Highways Initiative (LHI) bids	June 2019 Ongoing	Depending on full cost of project		LHI bid for 2020/21 submitted to reduce the speed limit along Lower Road and Hawes Lane but unsuccessful LHI bid for Speed reduction gates at Upware will be submitted 2021/22. Unsuccessful 2024 – Application for 20mph successful in Wicken. Resubmitted for Upware. Awaiting start of project
5	Campaign for a better bus service A similar service to the Ely Zipper for the Soham area to include Wicken	Campaign where possible to get an improved bus service	Ongoing	Nil		May 2019 Letter written to Lucy Fraser MP as part of the Strategic Bus Review 2022 contacted CCC for public to go on school buses. CCC not allowed due to safeguarding and other issues. The campaign will continue. 2024 Demand responsive bus service being created
6	Promote car sharing			Nil		
7	Provision of additional parking for Wicken Fen	Consider strategy to mitigate effect of visitor parking. I.e Afterway car park with access to Wicken Fen via Breeds Drove	Long term			

Energy

8	A village solar farm (example of Reach)	Monitor the success of the scheme at Reach	Long term			See below
9	Investigate installation of an electric car charging point at the village hall	Encourage the NT to consider destination charges	Long term			Cllr Pepper investigated. 3 phase electricity needed for fast charging. Review again in 2024/25

Environment

10	Encourage the omission of single use plastics and other unnecessary products					
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11	Leave small areas of uncut grass along the verges, on the village greens and in the churchyard/cemetery	New Life in the Old West project. Grant being submitted in November 2019. If successful project will start August 2020 with deliver 2021 and 2022	Ongoing	Nil (if NLOW grant success)		NLOW grant applications has been approved and planning permission given for a pond on the Rec in 2021. 2020 Area in front of 44 High Street to be left to grow. Agreed for another year No Mow May trialed in 2024 but issues due to the length of grass New cutting schedule in 2025 to include areas for longer grass
12	Investigate seeding greens with wildflowers, clover etc	New Life in the Old West project Grant being submitted in November 2019. If successful project will start August 2020 with deliver 2021 and 2022	Ongoing	Nil (if NLOW grant success)		NLOW grant applications has been approved and planning permission given for a pond on the Rec in 2021. 2020 Area in front of 44 High Street to be left to grow. Agreed for another year October 2022 NLOW held family day to plant Included in new cutting schedule starting March 2025
13	Encourage householders to plant a tree or encourage natural garden habitats for wildlife	Suggest a tree for each vehicle.	Short term and ongoing	Nil		To be considered as part of the Queens Canopy project
14	Continue to hold an annual village clean up in the spring and encourage people to continue to pick up litter throughout the year		Ongoing			Held late in 2021 (June) due to COVID. Will continue Held April 2022. 2022 Litter picking equipment purchased and loaned out to residents. Clerk litter picks different zones No held in 2024 as 2 students from SVC litter picked as part of Duke of Edinburgh award
15	Upware Open Space and EA picnic area	Create areas for wildlife and nature	Long term			Trees have bene planted on Upware Open Space and work ongoing Wildflower section planted on the EA picnic area Area has been fenced and now cut monthly 2024 Now cut 2 times per month. URA planting trees and bulbs
Planning/Buildings						
16	Conditions of planning applications to include installation of energy efficient building methods and renewable energy technology (where possible); landscaping and adequate parking	Landscaping – gravel driveways, hedges and trees	Ongoing	Nil		

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17	Install a water fountain	Already at the Rec, maybe similar outside the village hall				
Other/Village Participation						
18	Encourage villagers to use the hall's second-hand bookstall and to use the mobile library					
19	Biannual village clothes exchange/sale to be held for the spring/summer and autumn/winter season					
20	A village pledge to use alternative to plastic shopping bags	Possible project for coffee morning in combination with a village hall event				
21	Hold a meeting to engage village participation					
22	Communication with parishioners about the work of the Parish Council	Communicate effectively with residents	Long term	0		Current communication via Facebook, websites and notice boards and village newsletter
Governance						
23	Ensure PC administration is effective, efficient, open and transparent	Agendas, minutes, dates of meetings published within legislative or agreed timescales on website, notice boards and Facebook (agendas and minutes) Maintain legislative compliance through website	On going			All details on the website Meetings open to public
24	Ensure that public money is used wisely and is accounted for	Determine the annual expenditure, reserves and contingency budgets and set an annual acceptable precept. Monitor expenditure and income on a monthly basis Investigate and take advice on insurance policies and payments Review annually and update the fixed assets register Publish on website and notice boards information on payments, annual return, audit documents, budget and precept	On going			Undertake by the clerk/RFO
25	Village Maintenance	Monitor grass cutting Monitor trees and complete any work required	On going			RH Landscapes working well. Tree survey completed April 2024 Tender of 3 year contract will take place November 2024

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26	Ensure a range of views representing the community and that cllrs understand their role in order to make informed decisions	Endeavour to fill vacancies when they arise Facilitate induction process for training new councillors.	On going			Appropriate training
27	Enable councillors and the clerk to be more effective in their roles and to allow the PC to be better informed in the decision making process	Subscribe to organisations providing information and advice (SLCC, CAPALC, Cambs ACRE) Encourage attendance at relevant courses and conferences Councillors new to the role: encouraged to attend induction training, provided with a copy for Good Councillor Guide	On going			Code of Conduct course completed January 2022
28	Provide consistency and clarity to stakeholders	Review current policies when required and, where a need is identified, create new policies Review and update Risk Assessments	On going			All policies have a review date and are regularly reviewed

History of Document

Written and agreed November 2019
Updates agreed October 2020
Updates agreed November 2021 take back to December 2021 meeting
Agreed December 2021
Agreed January 2024
Agreed November 2024