

WHESOE PARISH COUNCIL

Action Plan 2021-22

Introduction:

Over the last 3 years, Whessoe Parish Council has modernised and developed significantly. There has been a 75% churn in the composition of the Council including the appointment of a new Chair and Clerk, and highlights of the last 3 years include:

- ❖ Investment of around £50k in improvements to the Parish Hall, funded through successful grant applications to National Lottery, Sport England and the Banks Group to provide improved and updated facilities
- ❖ Increasing hall hire by over 200%
- ❖ Creation of a Hall Management Committee and Social Committee
- ❖ Development of a new website
- ❖ Creation of a Facebook page to engage with a wider community audience
- ❖ Introduction of an online Hall Booking system
- ❖ Increased engagement with the community through making Parish Council meetings accessible remotely, installing a second noticeboard in the Parish and consulting with residents on Harrowgate Farm estate (where around 80% of our parishioners live) about taking an interest in the green space on the estate
- ❖ The Clerk now sits as a Committee member on the Tees Valley Village Halls Network

2020 was a difficult year with the Hall closed for several months during lockdowns. We remained in touch with all our regular hirers and as the initial lockdown restrictions eased in the autumn, we gave three months of free hall hire to all of our returning regular hirers to help their recovery.

2021-22:

As we move into a new year and the third set of lockdown restrictions begin to ease, we have set out our plans for the coming year. These include

- ❖ Gradual reopening of the Hall to hirers in a safe and controlled manner, with regular reviews of our risk register and processes
- ❖ Installation of 2 x 65 inch TV screens to further improve facilities for hirers and for community social events, complementing the sound system already installed
- ❖ Taking on control of the green space on Harrowgate Farm estate and inviting residents to form a Steering Group as a subgroup of our Social Committee
- ❖ Aiming to hold two outdoor community events on the Green
- ❖ Engaging with developers as they finalise their Reserved Matters plans for building more homes in the Parish - the potential here is for the size of the Parish to be doubled. We will engage with them to ensure that community facilities are improved and will enhance the local community
- ❖ Further develop our Parish Councillors by offering training to them through CDALC and other organisations where appropriate. We will monitor and track the training and development of each Councillor.

Councillor Suzanne Goldfinch
Chair of Whessoe Parish Council