# HORNDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

# STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF THE 2023/24 PARISH PLAN

## Key Priority in Parish Plan

**Key Priority 1:**

To continue the provision and enhancement of recreation facilities, other amenities, and our natural environment, to support the health, welfare and wellbeing of residents and visitors to Horndean.

## Statement of Scope

This Key Priority embraces all the facilities and amenities supported by Horndean Parish Council, from play areas to nature reserves, football pitches to halls. The continued provision of high-quality services contributes to the mental and physical health, welfare and wellbeing of visitors and residents.

## Actions to Support Delivery of Key Priority 1

# Horndean Green Trail and Heritage Network

We are leading on the development of the Horndean Green Trail and Heritage Network, which will consist of a core trail/network, accessible to all, with related trails spurring off to sites of natural and heritage interest. As well as offering benefits to existing residents and visitors from outside Horndean, the project will include trails and routes to the new Land East of Horndean developments. The aim will be to create a more integrated community and one that helps to ensure that new residents - domestic, business and educational - immediately feel part of our existing vibrant community.

This scheme is being developed so that our rich history and natural open spaces are more easily accessible to be enjoyed by everyone whether for fun, education, fitness & health, or for community and environmental reasons. Horndean parish Council, wishes to promote walking and cycling to encourage visitors to walk or cycle rather than drive.

* 1. **Playground enhancement and maintenance**

The recent Five Heads Road play area upgrade, supported by S106 money through EHDC and targeted at young children, is a significant contribution to this objective.

However, the closure of the large and very popular Jubilee Park play area, following a ROSPA inspection has hit the community hard. Potential suppliers will be invited

to submit proposals to repair and replace the existing equipment that has been found to put users at risk. Attempts will be made to seek external funding, notably further S106 money held by EHDC, to enable these important works to be undertaken.

* 1. **Maintenance and enhancement of Jubilee Hall and Napier Hall facilities**

Both of our halls are popular, and well used, but are increasingly falling below the standard that we, users and potential users would expect.

In recent years, we have maintained and upgraded these facilities within available resources, but building up the sums necessary, whilst maintaining a reasonable level of precept, is a slow process.

To maintain the current usage rates and to attract even higher utilisation levels in the future, we will continue to identify areas for improvement and seek funding opportunities to help us to make those improvements in both halls.

For example, we are in the process of installing solar panels on the roof of Jubilee Hall and to capitalise on some of those benefits, we need to install an updated heating system in the Hall to replace the one that has become outdated. The general infrastructure in Napier Hall is also in need of modernisation, but an upgrade to the kitchen in particular will produce immediate benefits to its users.

* 1. **Havant Thicket Reservoir**

Through membership of the “Havant Thicket Reservoir Stakeholders Advisory Group” and the “Recycled Water Subgroup”, we are closely involved in monitoring, advising, supporting and challenging the work in and around the new reservoir.

Our aim is to seek to ensure the Horndean residents have access to the wide variety of educational benefits (such as learning about ecology, conservation, ornithology or engineering) during its construction phase in the next 8 years as well as, ultimately, the health and societal benefits from visiting what will be an important new leisure facility.

* 1. **Countryside Teamwork**

As well as maintaining our own nature reserves and that of Hampshire County Council, our Countryside Team undertakes a wide range of work from:

* The cutting of small parcels of grass in residential areas
* Maintaining floral displays
* Care of our playgrounds, play areas and football pitches
* The removal of diseased trees on our land
* Planting of new trees.

This work is vital to the continued provision of so many of our facilities that contribute to the quality of life, to the fitness, health, welfare and wellbeing of visitors and residents and to the protection of animal and plant life within our nature reserves.

We will continue to provide this work, which may also include making appropriate recommendations to ensure the preservation and protection of wildlife at times when infrastructure companies may require access via wayleaves to repair or replace their own assets on the land.

* 1. **Thursday volunteers**

We are fortunate to have the support of a committed and hard-working group of volunteers, who assist the Countryside Team in maintaining our woodland, open spaces and commons. We continue to acknowledge the important benefits of their work and to provide suitable clothing and equipment for their use.