



Frodsham

TOWN COUNCIL

Action Plan 2022-2024



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Introduction

Welcome to the Frodsham Town Council. This is our plan – it sets out what we are going to do. The plan takes into account the issues facing us and our ability to respond with the resources available. It makes clear there will be choices, and how the Council will decide which to prioritise.

The plan is essentially a planning tool to assist Frodsham Town Council with the practical decisions they have to take when they meet monthly, supported by a review process that helps Frodsham Town Council, and you, the residents, look back on our performance. By publishing our Action Plan we can help those that live, work or visit the town see what we are doing on behalf of Frodsham residents.

Context

This is our first action Plan, prepared at a time of austerity across society when all organisations that provide services to the community, be they public, private or voluntary are facing cost pressures and resource restrictions. The emphasis is on value for money, efficiencies, collaboration and accepting that some things just will not get done. Through a planning process though, we can have a shared vision and direction, protect what is important and consider new ways of getting things done.

Although not new, encouraging others to help themselves and not to rely on things being done for them is as important as ever. The aspiration for Cheshire has been set out elsewhere as ‘building stronger and more resilient communities’. That means communities that can help themselves, that have the networks and resources to find local solutions to local problems, and have the means to ensure that wherever possible those that do need services can access them at a time and in a way that is most suitable.

Frodsham Town Council, as the first tier of local government, is uniquely situated to provide the forum for understanding and supporting the needs of this community. It provides advocacy on behalf of its residents, uses linkages to other organisations to bring in services, or directly procures them itself. Liaison with Cheshire West and Chester Council happens at all levels, and there are linkages to health and social care as well. Day-to-day, Frodsham Town Council will seek solutions for the community, looking for skills and volunteers to make improvements to our surroundings or bringing particular neighbourhood issues to local attention to promote a better quality of life for all.

Above all your Town Council is here to help, support and encourage. This Plan tells you how.

The Planning Cycle

Planning (and performance) is a continuous process of gathering and assessing information, formulating actions, *doing them*, and then reviewing performance and gathering again.

Of course at key stages one has to pause and reflect, and consider how the plan is evolving, and not just once per year, as the plan is relevant to every significant decision made.

Once specific actions are agreed to deliver this plan, they are entered on the Actions Register, which will be regularly monitored.

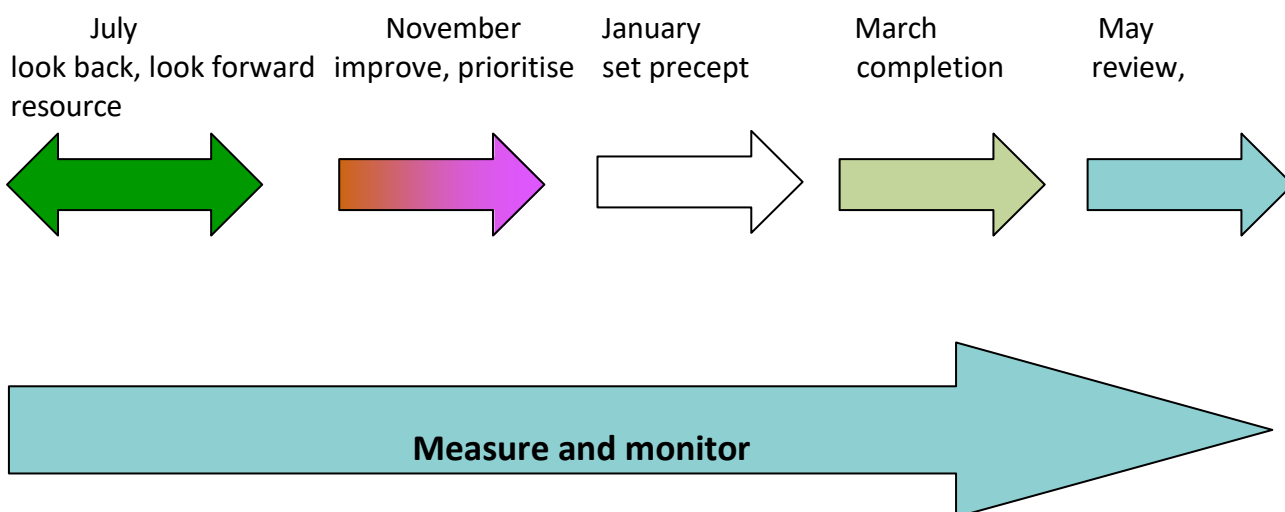


Links

This plan is linked very closely to the allocation of resources, mostly financial, but people’s time and energy too. Our finance is almost entirely derived from the council tax system, which follows the financial year April to March. Our precept placed upon the council tax system has to be declared every January, in order that Cheshire West and Chester Council can calculate the overall tax collection sums for each eligible household and produce the billing required.

Key dates

The plan will be drafted from November in each year, allowing it to evolve as the budget is also prepared, for final precept calculations in January. The plan cycle will run from April to March, to match the funding available, and will be formally reviewed in May and November to assess achievements in the previous cycle, and progress in the current one.



What is a parish council?

There are two sorts of parishes whose boundaries do not always coincide:

- the Ecclesiastical Parishes centred on an Anglican church with a parochial church council and,
- the Civil Parishes, which are part of local administration, having a parish (or town) council.

A civil parish is an independent local democratic unit for villages, smaller towns, and suburbs of urban areas. Each parish has a Parish (or Town) Meeting consisting of all its local government electors and most (where the electorate exceeds 200) have a Parish or Town Council. Over 13 million people live in such parishes.

The town council is a small local authority. Its councillors are elected for four years at a time in the same way as for other councils. Bye-elections may be held to fill vacancies occurring between elections, or members may be co-opted onto the council if no election is called. In May each year the councillors choose a chairperson from amongst their number. In the Frodsham Town Council there are 16 councillors who make up the Town Council.

Accountability

Electors vote for its members every four years - the next time will be May 2023 and you are entitled to attend the annual parish meeting (in May) and to say what you think. You can also go to every meeting of the Town Council and meet the councillors, listen to their business and participate in the time especially set aside for that purpose at the start. The accounts are strictly audited every year and published.

You can find out more about what we do, how we do it, and our meetings on the town council website: <https://frodsham.gov.uk/>

What do we do?

The Town Council provides a number of direct services to the community, and acts as custodian to a number of assets which can be viewed here: <https://frodsham.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Asset-Register-2023.pdf>

Allotments

Frodsham Town Council provides 27 allotment plots on three sites in the town for growing fruit and vegetables: Ashton Drive – 7 plots, Kingsway – 10 plots

London Road – 10 plots. The annual rent of a plot is £45, of which £5 goes to the Frodsham Town Allotment Association. Allotment holders at Ashton Drive pay an additional amount in water charges. The other two sites have no mains water supply. The Town Council maintains a waiting list for allotments.

Planning

Although Cheshire West and Chester Council is the Planning Authority, Frodsham Town Council is consulted on each planning application made in the town. Councillors consider planning applications at their meetings and inform Cheshire West and Chester Council of their views. Frodsham Town Council can act as advocate for residents, a conduit for

communicating information, and will liaise with appropriate departments of other public authorities to ensure that views, comments and necessary actions are dealt with.

Play areas

Frodsham Town Council provides four equipped play areas in the town: Churchfields (below St Laurence Church), Park Lane (near the Leisure Centre), Top Road and Townfield Lane.

Cemetery

Frodsham Cemetery occupies a peaceful sloping site on the western edge of the town with views to Frodsham Marshes and the Sandstone Ridge. Plots are available for burials and internment of ashes which allow space for memorial headstones. Ashes may also be scattered (with permission) in the Memorial Garden and memorial plaques may be purchased for attachment to the Memorial Wall.

War Memorial

The much-loved local landmark was erected in 1921 and commemorates the sacrifices made by the people of Frodsham in two world wars. Restoration work was completed in 2020 to repair and renovate the Grade II Listed War Memorial, Gates and Railings. There are plans to improve the pathworks and area surrounding the memorial in 2022.

Open spaces

Frodsham Town Council manages several areas of open space: Marshlands, Memorial Field, Crowmere & Manley Road Copse; Community Orchards; Hob Hey Wood. Manley Road Copse is managed by Frodsham WI and the Friends of Hob Hey Wood do a spectacular job managing the woods.

Grants

Frodsham Town Council sets aside a percentage of its precept every year to provide grant funding to local organisations.

What do we want to do?

The table below sets out the Action Plan for 2022-2024 and uses the following definitions:

RAG DEFINITIONS	
	Complete
	At risk – plan in place
	On schedule
	Behind schedule, no plan in place, support required

Task name	Assigned to	Start	Finish	Status	RAG status	Comments
Memorial Path To develop and implement a disabled friendly pathway to the War Memorial	Amenities Committee	11/11/2020	30/10/2022	Completed		Completed on time and on budget
Benches for Reflection To provide benches and encourage the community to meet, listen and reflect	Amenities Committee	19/04/2021	30/09/2022	Completed		Additional 10 benches installed in the cemetery. Benches provided throughout the town.
Brio Future To influence the future of health and wellbeing in Frodsham (leisure facilities / provision)	Amenities Committee	14/10/2020	TBC	In progress		Meeting with Anna Ranger (Economic Growth Project Manager, CWAC) to discuss future plans (18-04-23)
Railway Goods Shed To consider the options for the goods shed as a community asset	Full Council	27/09/21		Not started		Property owned by Cheshire West & Chester Council
Green Gates Recreational Area To develop the Green Gates play area into a multi-generational recreation green space	Full Council	27/07/2021	1/08/2022	Delayed Due for completion 15/05/23		Working in partnership with Green Gates Community Project. Opening delayed due to weather conditions/seeding/turfing. Further meetings requested with project manager 14/04/23.
Castle Park Drinking Fountain To consider the restoration of the drinking fountain in Castle Park	Amenities Committee	20/09/2021		Not started		To consult with Castle Park Trust

Halloween Children's Party To provide a themed entertainment event for local children	Events Committee	7/06/22	29/10/2022	Completed		Event led by Cllr Wade, supported by local residents. 130 children attended. Animal show and entertainers.
Christmas Event To provide a Christmas event for residents of all ages, including a parade to encourage community cohesion	Events Committee	7/06/2022	29/11/2022	Completed		Event led by Frodsham Christmas Festival Group involving the schools. Music and entertainment provided
Queens Jubilee A picnic in the park to celebrate 70 years' reign	Events Committee	1/03/2022	6/06/2022	Completed		Event attended by 500+. Music, food stalls & bar provided.
Artisan Market To bring a different offer into the town to encourage visitors and promote the town				Not started Aim for 2023		
Festival of Walks A set of walking routes and activities to inspire, motivate and encourage residents to get out into the fresh air and get walking.	Events Committee	October 2022	21/04/23 to 30/04/23	In progress		Annual Event in conjunction with Festival of Walk Working Group. 26 walks planned led by 17 walk leaders. 361 attendees in 2022.
Winter Gritting Scheme To keep the pavements safe by running a volunteer scheme and providing grit.	Policy, Process & Revenue Committee	1/11/22	1/12/2022	28/02/2023		86 bags delivered in December, 31 in January. Scheme involved 31 volunteers.
Junior Councillors To encourage involvement and understanding in local democracy	Full Council	23/01/23	TBC	Not started 2023		To replace Junior Mayors Aim for June/July