



strategic plan 2026 2030 v1.5.docx

Strategic Plan 2026-2030

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Introduction

This four-year Strategic Plan (SP) sets out Great Waldingfield Parish Council's (GWPC) priorities, objectives and actions for the period 2026–2030. It provides a clear framework to guide decision-making, resource allocation and engagement with residents and partners, while remaining flexible enough to respond to changing local needs.

Overview

GWPC will strive to strengthen and sustain a sense of community within Great Waldingfield, by addressing environmental, social, economic and planning matters and delivering quality services to the residents within the resources available. To always act in the best interests of Great Waldingfield Village and its residents, through active representation to the second tier (Babergh District Council (BDC)) and first tier (Suffolk County Council (SCC)) of local government.

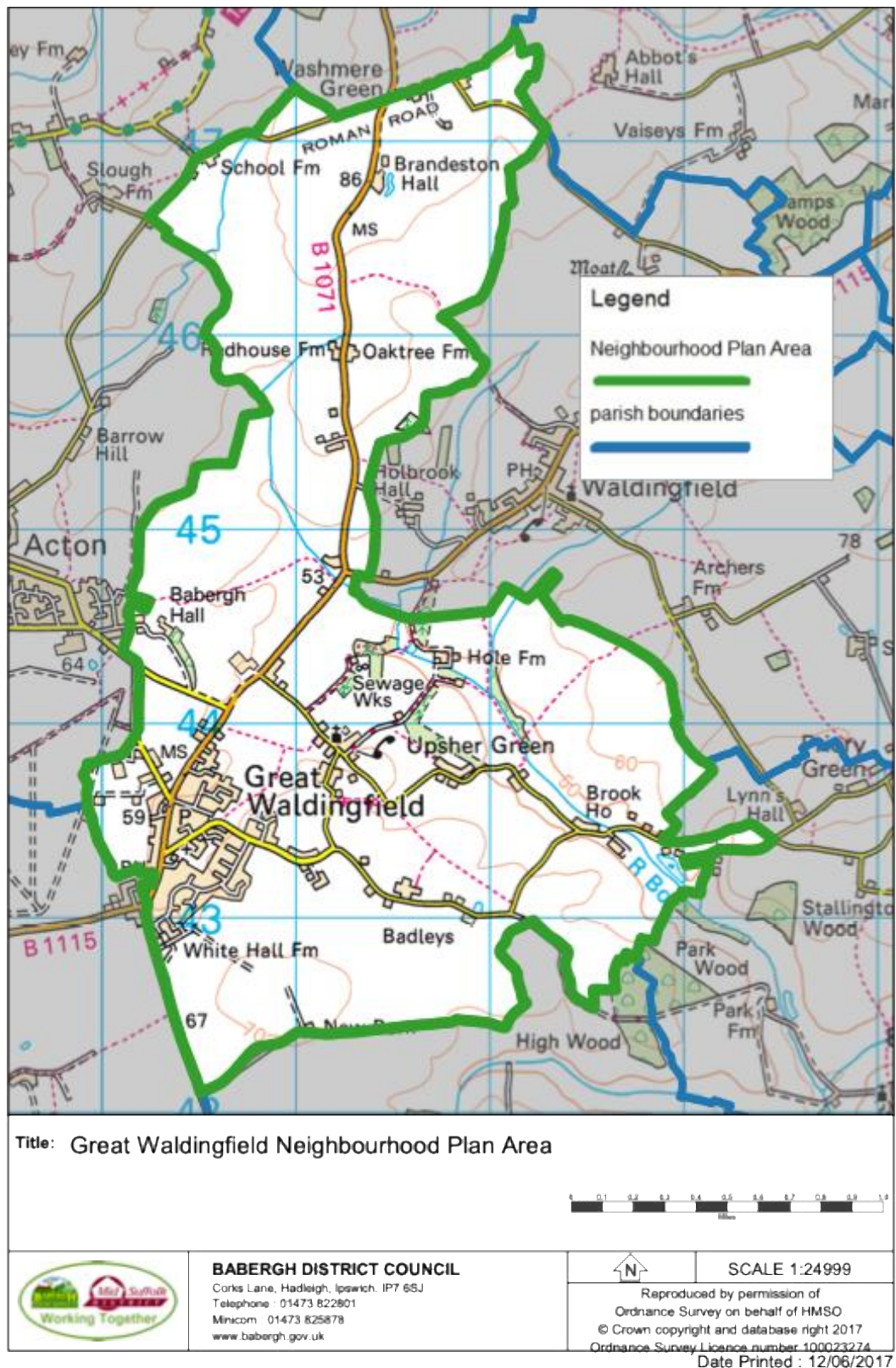
Purpose

The SP supports GWPC's statutory duties and its role as the first tier of local government, acting in the best interests of the community. It is important the SP provide residents with a clear understanding of the GWPC's priorities and objectives for the period 2026 to April 2030.

This SP is the framework for GWPC to deliver its objectives, in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), within a planned budget and timeframe.

This SP is a 'live' document that will be monitored and updated regularly (at least bi-annually). Progress and updates will be provided via GWPC's website and social media pages.

Where issues facing the village are areas which are not directly under the control of GWPC, the Council will endeavour to use its influence to ensure that service providers such as SCC, BDC, (or the new Unitary Authority (UA) created out of Local Government Reform (LGR) provide services that are relevant to benefit of Great Waldingfield Village residents.



GWPC Membership

GWPC has a potential membership of 8 Members, supported by the Parish Clerk and Responsible Officer

Key Areas of Responsibility

Village Amenities & Assets:

- Village Hall (VH): Located on Lavenham Road.
- Playing Field & Pavilion: Management of the site, including play equipment (swings, slides, roundabout), teenage shelter, and any sports facilities.
- Street Lighting: Responsibility for numerous street lights across the village.
- Public Seating & Furniture: Maintenance of benches, notice boards, and the village sign.
- Bins: Management of dog and litter bins throughout the parish.

Parish Support Services (PSS):

The council contracts Blackthorn Landscapes to undertake routine maintenance of hedges and ditches, littering, fly-tipping, graffiti, and vandalism and general support for the village

Environmental & Sustainability:

- Biodiversity: Working with a tree warden, residents, and organisations to plant and maintain trees and protect natural habitats.
- Verges & Green Space: Liaising with landowners and Highways to manage hedgerows and roadside verges.
- Footpaths: Maintenance of certain local footpaths.

Planning & Development:

- Neighbourhood Plan (NP): The council has developed a NP to shape the development of the village, focusing on housing, design, and environmental protection.
- Planning Consultation: Providing input on local planning applications to the district council.

Administration & Finance:

- Precept: Raising funds via council tax to finance local services.
- Meetings: Holding monthly meetings (usually the second Monday) at the VH, which are open to the public.
- Governance: Ensuring compliance with financial regulations, health and safety, and risk management.
- The council operates with and supported by a Parish Clerk and Responsible Officer, who manages the day-to-day operations and is based in the Village Hall.

Objectives

- Effective governance and financial sustainability
- Maintenance and improvement of parish assets (VH, pavilion, open spaces)
- Community engagement and support of local groups and organisations
- Environmental management and sustainability
- Helping wellbeing and inclusivity

Priorities

- Appropriate funding for the effective management of assets and facilities
- Delivering VFM and the prudent management of finance and reserves
- Providing appropriate and timely resources to support local activities, groups and initiatives
- Grants and Donations availability
- Effective management of the infrastructure falling within GWPC's jurisdiction
- Biodiversity initiatives
- Clear, open and transparent communication
- Oversight of the VH management

Governance and Decision-Making

- Delivery of SP
- Adherence to and review of the N P
- Creation of appropriate sub committees and working groups to implement and oversee the objectives and ensuing action tasks and actions
- Compliance with Statutory Duties, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and all of GWPC adopted Policies and Procedures*
- Monitoring, reviewing and updating of the above* at least annually
- Timely submission of AGAR
- Business Continuity in the absence of PC& RO
- Ensure Reserves include sufficient contingency resources to facilitate GWPC's core business operation
- Produce an Annual Internal Report

Financial Framework

- SP to be delivered within available budgeted resources
- **Provide Pie Chart of Projected Spend 2026-2030. Appendix 2.**
- Reviews and monitoring to be linked to the four-year financial forecast
- Reserves to be managed and used in accordance with the GWPC reserves policy
- GWPC
- Reserves to include specific "ring-fenced" amounts to ensure continuation of GWPC business **Provide break down of Reserves. Appendix 3.**
- Identification of external funding and grant opportunities, where appropriate

Delivery and Action Planning

- Each strategic objective to be supported by a detailed action plan
- Assigning a lead responsibility
- Indicative timescales, measurable outcomes and VFM
- Effective management and monitoring of approved project/task budget
- Progress review, monthly and at least every six months

Community Engagement

- On-going consultation and communication with residents
- Use of public meetings, surveys, website and social media
- Transparency and accessibility

Neighbourhood Plan

Ensure delivery always cross references to the SP

Risk Management

- Identification of key strategic risks
- Mitigation through GWPC's policies, controls and regular review
- Alignment with GWPC's risk register

Monitoring and Review

- Annual progress report to GWPC
- Annual Parish Meeting reporting to the village community
- SP to be reviewed at least annually and updated as and when deemed necessary

Adoption and Amendment

- SP to be formally adopted by GWPC. Approved and adopted at GWPC mtg 11.05.2026 Item 26.
- Amendments and updates to be approved by GWPC
- All adoptions to be Minuted

Appendix 1. - Tasks and Actions from 2026

Ref	Task/Action	Responsible Person/Group	Target Date	Status/Notes	Timeframe Strategic Plan (SP)	Budget £
4 ¹	Business Continuity (BC) for PC/ VHMC	MF/JE/GB/NL	Dec/Jan	Asst Clerk. Report back to Dec PC	Jan-Mar26	tbc
5	Strategic Plan 2026-30	PC	Feb	Signed off by GWPC Some actions/tasks tbc on SP as indicated	Jan-Mar26	NA
6	Recruitment of Cllrs	MF/JE	On-going	Extend catchment area to 3miles / consider advertising recruitment process and absence [policy Stewart Rol and bio photo		NA
8a	Pavilion: building project: Planning. Plans/ Spec/ Quotations. Building Control. access & licence from SCC. ground lease	PWG	Mid Jan Mar	Deadline for Grant Bids 16/1/26: PC budget implications* Discussions with SCC/ School to move the fence: * Ref P Mumford (SCC) email	26/27: SP	+£13,000 grants ² -£40,000 costs -£35,000 legal ³ -£100,000 total
8b		PWG				£20,000 25/6 Reserves
10	Village Sign (Greenacre) Solar Xmas Lights 2026	VSWG (PB)	Mar	Set up VSWG	26/27: SP	£12,000
11a	ToR ⁴ : Bowls Club (BC)	MF/JE	Nov	Minutes (22/10/26), lease summary to BC Cttee & arrange follow up mtg, HoT ⁵ in place		£0
11b	Head Lease. expires 2029. renew	MF/JE	Mar	meet wit BC committee. Any additional costs	26/27	£legal costs tbc
12	ToR: OSW ⁶ . Original title. obtain	MF/JE	done	ongoing and capital costs. Outline of ToR.	Mar	£60
13	ToR; QDJG ⁷	MF/JE	Mar	Outline ToR		
16	GWPC webpage	MF	Mar 2027	Revise/ update webpage	26/27: SP	£1,000
17	GWPC email address	MF	2027	New email to have. gov.uk extension ⁸	26/27:SP	£2,000
18	Village Hall (VH): heating system	MF	ASAP	RDK Ltd and Expert (from Kersey) report & give op instrns		

¹ Where tasks have been removed the rows are deleted but the numbering of tasks remains the same.

² Need deadlines for spending grants

³ Attwells lease and licence

⁴ ToR. Terms of Reference

⁵ HoT. Heads of Terms

⁶ OSW. Old School Wood

⁷ QDJG. Queens Diamond Jubilee Garden

⁸ Potential collaboration with LWPC

23	VH: review booking system	MF/Trustees	Mar	Trial/ appraise Hall Master ⁹	Mar or 27:SP	£500
26	VH: Transfer of bank acc from B to UTB	MK/Trustees	Feb	To give treasurer access rights. payment process. See 38 below	Mar	NA
27	VH: arrange schedule of emergency call out contractors	MF/Trustees	ASAP	4 hr response time expected: hearting, glazing, security R&M etc : RDK Ltd to advise	Mar	tbc
28	VH: New op guidelines, P&P ¹⁰	MF/Trustees	By Mar	Eg: H&S, contracts, finance mngmt, bookings. See 38 below.	Mar	tbc
31	VH: outsourcing of VH management	MF/Trustees	By Mar	Review and appraise. See 38 below	26/27 : SP	tbc
32	VH: review use of deposit funds	MF/Trustees	By Mar	See 38 below	Mar	tbc
33	VH: AGM	MF/Trustees	Check deadline	Ensure AGM. Publicised. Open. transparent.	May 2026	
35	VH: ToR	MF/Trustees/PC	By Mar	Rationalise PC/ VHMC relationship etc	See 38 below	tbc
36	VH: Solar Panels Invertor	MF	By Mar	To report back with costs etc and action	26/27: SP	
37	VH: Schedule of R&M ¹¹	MFTrustees	Mar	Compile and cost schedule	Mar: implement 26/27: SP	
38	VH. Close charity and amalgamate with GWPC	Trustees & GWPC	Tbc			tbc
44	EV Chargers. Proof of title	MF	Mar	Finalise agreement and connect EVCPs	27 28	
45	VH. Provision of hearing induction loops to VH	MK	Mar	Equality, Diversity, E O policy	26/27: SP	
46	VH. Changes. Clerk room	GB	Mar	H&S requirement	Mar	
47	VH: review security. mtg room. Clerk room	MK/Trustees	Mar		Mar	£1,000
48	LGR/Devolution	MK/JE/NL		Ongoing/watching brief		tbc
49	Collaboration with LWPC	JE				tbc
50	Clerk. Additional support. BC	JE				tbc
51	VH. Fire inspn	MF		Fire brigade. P Berry?		tbc

This table will be updated frequently hence the version control here:

Version	Edit	Date	Editor	Approved
1.5	Completion of various items	June 2026	MF	JE & GB

⁹ Include pavilion bookings

¹⁰ P&P. Policies and Procedures

¹¹ R&M. Repairs and Maintenance

1.6	Update to Appendix 1	June 2026	MF	FC
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Appendix 2. Pie Chart of Projected Spend 2026-2030.

To follow

Appendix 3. Reserves.

	26 27 bud	26 27 ytd	26 27 for	27 28 bud
Reserves				
GR. Current Year Fund,				
contingencies	5,320.78	5,320.78	22,604.25	22,604
GR. Precept	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000
EMR. CIL (MUGA play eqpt)	25,660.57	25,660.57	25,660.57	25,661
EMR. Playground eqpt.new and				
replacement	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000
EMR. Street Lighting	17,125.00	17,125.00	17,125.00	17,125
EMR. Playing Fields & Pavilion	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0
EMR. Village Hall (bldg, solar panels,				
heat pump, etc)	53,000.00	53,000.00	53,000.00	5,000
Land. Old School Woods	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000
EMR. Street Furniture inc bus				
shelters	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	1,000
EMR. Speedwatch	50.00	50.00	50.00	50
GR. Elections	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000
EMR Environment. Biodiversity	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000
EMR. footpath 11 and new PROW to				
OSW	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000
EMR. Traffic. SIDs. quiet lanes.				
Bantocks Rd. Lay-by. Dropped kerbs	14,000.00	14,000.00	14,000.00	14,000
EMR. village map & info boards	500.00	500.00	500.00	500
EMR. Folly Field. Improve use of	500.00	500.00	500.00	500
EMR. Devolution. Impact	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000
EMR. Website and emails	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000
Donations	250.00	250.00	250.00	250
EMR. Legal	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,500
	220,406.35	220,406.35	237,689.82	162,190