

ITEM 08. PARISH COUNCILS AND TRAFFIC

Powers and duties

Parish Councils' (PC) activities fall into three main categories:

- representing the local community,
- delivering services to meet local needs, and
- improving quality of life and community well-being.

PCs have the power to tax their residents to support their operations and to carry out local projects, and this is done through the council tax system. Although there is no limit to the amount that can be raised, the money can only be raised for a limited number of purposes, listed below, as defined in LGA 1994 and subsequent legislation.

Compared to higher tiers of English local government, PCs have very few statutory duties (i.e. things they are required to do by law) but have a much more extensive range of discretionary powers which they may exercise voluntarily. For this reason, there are large variations in the activities of PCs, depending on their size, resources and abilities.

The "General Power of Competence" is a power awarded in 2012 to eligible councils, which further broadens the scope of activities that councils can be involved in.

Duty to provide facilities:

- [Allotments](#) - Duty to consider providing allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied.

Powers to provide facilities. PCs may exercise powers to provide, maintain and manage certain facilities. There are large variations in the facilities provided by PCs, but they can include any of the following:

- Buildings for community use, such as [village halls](#), town halls or [community centres](#)
- Recreational facilities such as parks, playgrounds, playing fields & swimming baths
- Cemeteries and crematoria
- [Litter bins](#)
- Public seats
- [Public toilets](#)
- [Public clocks](#)
- Cycle and motorcycle parking
- Maintenance of [rights of way](#)
- Guardianship of [common land](#) (such as [village greens](#))
- Maintenance of [war memorials](#)
- They may also provide the following, subject to the consent of the [county council](#), [unitary authority](#) or [London borough](#) council of the area in which they lie:
- Bus shelters
- [Lighting of roads](#) and public places
- **Off-street car parks**
- **Certain traffic signs** and other public notices
- Provision, maintenance and protection of [roadside verges](#)
- Establishment or acquisition of [markets](#), & provision of market places & market buildings
- Consultative powers

PCs have the statutory right to be consulted by the local district, borough, county council or unitary authority on:

- All [planning applications](#) in their areas
- Intention to provide a burial ground in the parish
- Proposals to carry out sewerage works
- Footpath and bridleway (more generally, 'rights of way') surveys
- Intention to make byelaws in relation to [hackney carriages](#), music and dancing, promenades, seashore and street naming
- The appointment of governors of primary schools
- Miscellaneous powers

PCs may also exercise the following powers:

- Sponsoring public events
- Support of the arts and provision of entertainment
- Encouragement of tourism
- Providing [grants](#) to local voluntary organisations
- Funding crime prevention measures
- Providing grants for [bus](#) services, and funding [community transport](#) schemes
- Contribution of money towards traffic calming schemes¹
- Cleaning and drainage of ponds, watercourses and ditches
- Power to obtain water from any well, spring or stream
- Creation of a [neighbourhood plan](#)
- Power to acquire or dispose of land
- Withholding of consent to stop up unclassified highways and footpaths
- Appointing trustees of local charities
- Power to make [byelaws](#) about pleasure grounds, cycle parks, baths and washhouses, open spaces and burial grounds, and mortuaries and post-mortem rooms.
- Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and PC) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance [biodiversity](#).

Great Waldingfield Neighbourhood Plan and Traffic

Please also see the Neighbourhood Plan [Gt Waldingfield_WEB22.2.23.pdf](#) Press 'ctrl + F' and search for traffic. Notice how parking at the shop was the lowest ranked parking issue in the village.

There is no requirement for PCs to fund highways or traffic issues. PCs can support and represent.

¹ Since 2023 GWPC has spent some £16,000 (not including construction costs) on village gateways and speed indicator devices (SIDs)