

Drafted by Cllr. Akker with amendments from Cllr. Jenkins and a working group of Councillors.



West Mersea Town Council

Overview of the Strategic Aims of WMTC

1 Introduction

The following sets out the background of this overview and provides the aims and priorities for the coming Council electoral period starting May 2023 .

2. Preamble

West Mersea is a very special place with many features that are hugely valued by its residents.

On the 14th April 2022 the Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted. This was approved by Colchester Borough Council by resolution under the Full Council urgency measures. The full Plan with the supporting documents are set out at <https://www.merseamatters.uk/>

The cornerstone of this overview is the adopted West Mersea Development Plan. The Plan was approved by a referendum of residents with 88% in favour. The Council regards this as conferring substantial support and provides a very strong basis for forward planning. The authority and details of the policies that come with it recorded on:- <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/info/cbc-article/?id=KA-04090>.

The above also follows the approval by the National Planning Inspectorate on 19th May 2022 of the Colchester Local Plan Section 2 - 2017 – 2033 and with it the parts that refer to West Mersea - <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/local-plan/inspectors-report/> . The policies that are contained within will provide the basis for planning for the period until 2033 and will guide the activities of WMTC over the coming years.

3. WMTC's overarching objectives will be -

- Implementation of the West Mersea Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- Maintaining the unique and distinguishing features of West Mersea which create a strong sense of place.
- Retaining and developing key services and facilities which fall within our remit.

4. Principal aims for this Council over the next 4 years.

- Examining and planning of the policies associated with the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan for each of the areas covered i.e. housing, open spaces, sports and recreation, traffic and transport, business, infrastructure and services, natural environment, landscape and coastal protection, tourism and heritage and development design.
- Promoting traditional livelihoods/sustainable tourism.
- Ensuring maintenance and replacement of key assets.

- Overseeing development of the Glebe especially in relation to the adjacent new housing at Dawes Lane.
- Review of proposals, along with ECC Highways, to improve car parking and traffic control/calming
- Resistance to any further nuclear plant at Bradwell
- Establishing strategic relationships with neighbouring local authorities and other partners.
- Continuing to promote inclusivity.
- Continuing to provide residents of West Mersea with value for money.

5. Implementation

- Strategy Plan to be referred to each committee and working group as a regular agenda item for consideration, and report to Council on what it has done to support the aims as listed above.
- Finance and Strategy Committee to issue a 6 month report.
- Tackling the climate challenge and addressing biodiversity in all practice and policy.
- Views of Council staff to be regularly sought on ways that this policy implementation can be delivered.
- Striving to be a good employer with employment practice and policies that make staff feel valued and involved in delivering best value for Mersea residents.
- Greater emphasis on the value of becoming a Councillor and the need for a range of experience and involvement across all age groups.
- Within financial resources available, emphasis on income generation and improvements to the local environment and facilities whilst maintaining the precept at a sustainable level.
- At the conclusion of the Council year a report about implementation will be published.

6. Specific projects for 2022/23/24

- Planning matters that arise from Brierley/Dawes Lane developments
- Implement organisation structure review
- Community liaison to support local organisations
- Replacement of Boardwalk
- Securing title to Broomhills green sward and southern section of Seaview Carpark.
- Improving state of the WMTC estate including a) Establishment of hedge cutting and maintenance contract b) Establishment of contract to plant and maintain flower beds on Council land c) Improvements to entrance road to Firs Road cemeteries.
- Finalise long term agreements with sports clubs on the Glebe
- Agree strategy on parking
- Maintain opposition to development of Bradwell as site for a nuclear plant.
- Promote wider participation in Council activity and diversity of Councillors.

7. Longer term projects for which funds being earmarked within reserves.

- New sports pavilion and community facilities at the Glebe.
- Extension to skate park.
- Continued improvement of cemeteries
- Connection of CP unit to mains sewer.
- Liaison with public agencies for traffic calming
- Succession planning for those involved with the Council
- Promotion of village economy.

