

safe  
green  
well-served  
vibrant

2017 Update

APPROVED



EVENLEY  
PARISH COUNCIL

[www.evenleypc.org.uk](http://www.evenleypc.org.uk)



strategic plan  
our future Evenley

2016 to 2019



# Our Parish: present and future

People love living in Evenley. The Parish is known for the pretty village green, local cricket matches, St. George's Church, a welcoming pub and its strong sense of community. We also enjoy a vibrant cultural life. Children thrive here. The community supports families and households facing difficult times, whether through illness, disability or other challenging circumstances. Volunteers make an important contribution to every dimension of Parish life.

To build on what has gone before to make  
EVENLEY, an even better place to live, work  
and play



# Creating the Plan

This is our first three-year Strategic Plan, compiled as part of the work on 2016/17 budget planning. We welcome comments from residents, businesses, stakeholders and partner organisations. With the recent new appointments of chair, vice-chair and four new councillors there is a lot to do. We had good feedback from our SWOT analysis, and incorporated this along with information from the Parish Plan.

Many parishioners have made important contributions to village life - as a member of the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee, the ERA, the Church, a club or society. It is important we build on their knowledge and experience. So we will encourage more cooperative working between various groups, and seek to involve more parishioners in Parish Council work, for the benefit of the community.

Many of our ambitions for the Parish can only be achieved in partnership with other organisations, including Northamptonshire Police, South Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Highways England and Heritage England. We will develop good personal relationships which are key to successful partnership working.

It is particularly important to ensure that the Parish Council is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible, and so this first Strategic Plan places emphasis on training for new councillors and on building our operational competence. It is our aim to obtain Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) Foundation Level accreditation before the next planned elections in 2019.

We will monitor the success of our plan by defining clear goals and objectives and presenting annually the progress and success that has been achieved. We have not been able fully to develop some policies because of pressure of time. In these cases we have set a deadline for the review process to be completed and the policy agreed.

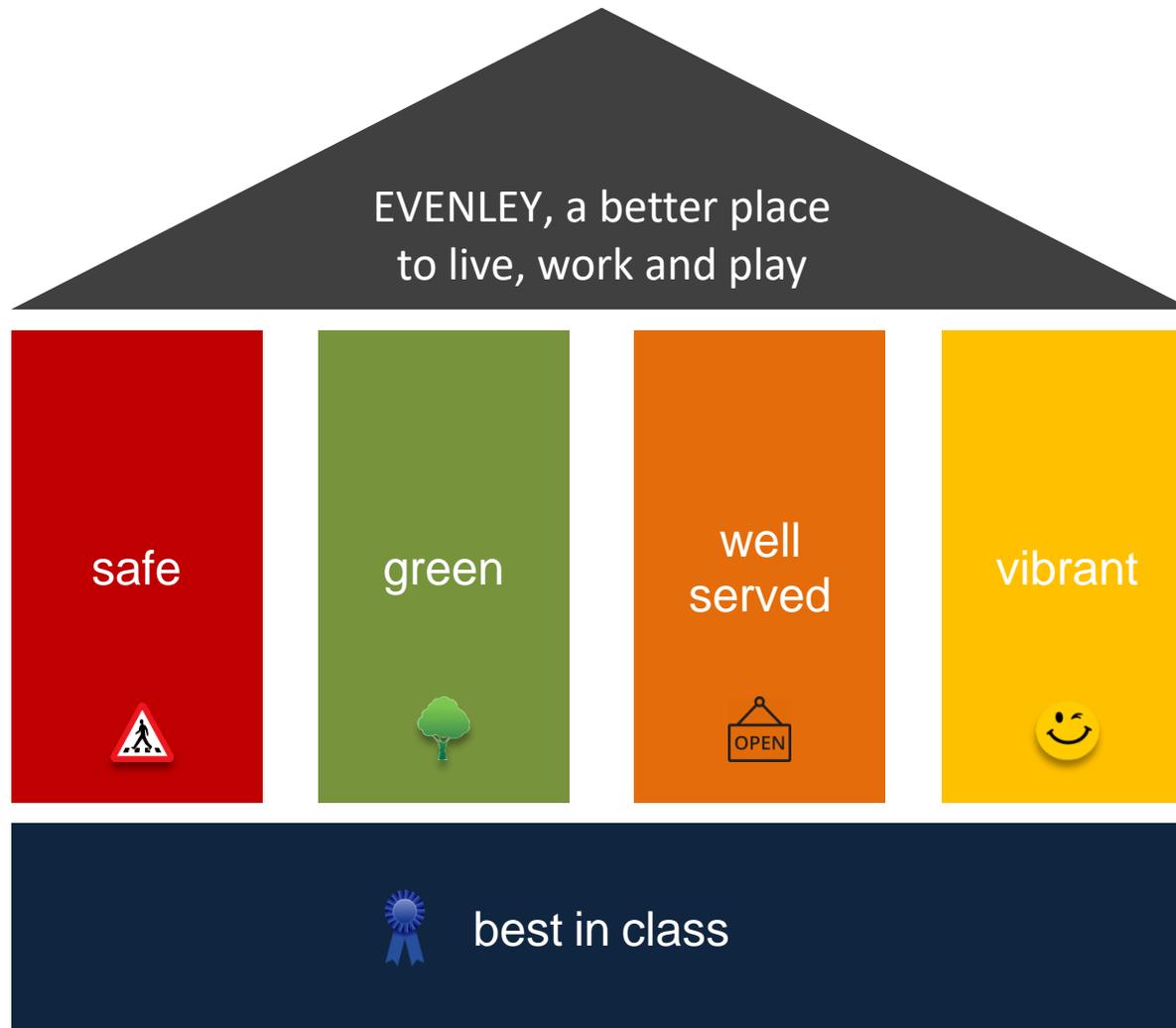
We look forward to working with you over the next three years to serve our local community.

Jean Morgan, Chair Evenley Parish Council



# Four Key Themes

Our strategy is to focus on four key themes, underpinned by “best in class” governance.





# What we will do



## safe

make the Parish a safer environment for those that live, work and grow up in Evenley



## green

conserve and enhance the environment of the village and the surrounding countryside



## well-served

help to ensure residents have access to facilities and services for day-to-day living now and in the future



## vibrant

organise and support activities to help residents to lead healthy and satisfying lives in a socially balanced community



## best in class

develop an effective, proactive and communicative Parish Council that is responsive to parishioners, of all ages



# safe

TOPIC	OUTCOME	2016/17	Updates as at Feb 17	2017/18
Local Road Safety	Make roads safer for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and other users	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support Speedwatch</li> <li>2. Review case for investing in Traffic Calming measures</li> <li>3. Seek financial support for implementation</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All updates on website. Smiley/sad face erected.</li> <li>2. Consultation via Feb newsletter.</li> <li>3. Applying for HS2 Community &amp; Environmental Fund.</li> </ol>	<p>→</p> <p>Implement if financed</p>
A43 Roundabout and A421 junctions	Village access roads have safer junctions with trunk roads	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proactively lobby Highways England, NCC and HS2 to improve safety at these junctions.</li> <li>2. Maintain accident log to support case</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receiving monthly updates from Highways England (regularly updating village website)</li> <li>2. started noting every accident on FB page</li> </ol>	<p>→ until satisfactory action proposed by Highways England</p>
HS2 Traffic Impact	Impact minimised of HS2-related traffic diverting through the village and surrounding roads	Develop relationships with HS2 Ltd and other key stakeholders	Brian Sinclair (our liaison officer) has developed good relationships with other Councils & HS2 Ltd & attends meetings & reports back at PC Meetings. HS2 page on website updated regularly.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain relationships</li> <li>2. Monitor traffic during construction phase</li> <li>3. Take counter measures where possible</li> </ol>
Street lighting	Improved efficiency and appropriate lighting in key areas	Implement lamp upgrade near pub	Lamp ordered for opposite pub. Changed maintenance providers and applying for funding to update fittings & replace some lamps.	Review eco/efficiency
Defibrillator	Lives are saved	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider commissioning defibrillator</li> <li>2. Train volunteers</li> </ol>	Defibrillator in place at VH. Chris Hart has overseen the training of 48 people. More training sessions in Feb/March 17	Maintain equipment and group of trained volunteers
Neighbourhood Watch	Crime prevention	Promote and work with local coordinator and Police	The Clerk has made contact with David Connolly, our co-ordinator and is on the email circulation list. Page on website	→
Safety Wardens	Increased safety	Review and clarify with job descriptions role of wardens in respect of roads, trees and footpaths	Confirmed Wardens are happy with their roles. Clerk & 3 Councillors attended Risk Assessment training on 15.11.2016	Maintain



## green

TOPIC	OUTCOME	2016/17	Updates as at Feb 2017	2017/18
Planning	Conserve our Parish heritage, allied with changes in the interests of our community	Continue to respond to consultations on planning matters as requested by SNC	Responded to all SNC consultations. Information posted on notice board. All info on website.	
Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan	Enhance the community, economy and environment of the Parish			Establish group to review Parish Plan and ensure its continuing relevance
The Green	Maintain and enhance the environment of The Green	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cost effective management of grass cutting in conjunction with the ECC for the benefit of the entire community</li> <li>2. Develop a plan for the management of The Green</li> </ol>	ECC agreed to same price of cuts in 2017 as in 2016. Bulbs have been planted around The Green. The Silver Birch has had limbs removed. More benches are being purchased.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain</li> <li>2. Investigate, and apply to sources of funding, for the planned management of The Green</li> </ol>
Grass Verges	Well maintained verges	Review and implement cost effective service	In discussions with SNH re: possible transfer of land to PC	Maintain cost effective service
Allotments	Full and active use of this Parish asset	Continue to manage allotments to ensure they are fully utilised	As no response to empty plots in Evenley, we have gone through Brackley Allotment Association to rent them out. The well has been capped.	Develop an ongoing fully-costed maintenance and improvement plan
Pride in the Parish and the Village	A clean and tidy village and rural environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organise litter picks</li> <li>2. Annual planting</li> <li>3. Pressure SNC to increase litter picks on A43</li> </ol>	Stickers strategically placed around to encourage dog waste disposal in litter bins. Bulbs have been planted	→ Review and address litter / dog bin requirements
Pocket Park	Maximise the potential benefit of this facility for residents.	Continue to manage Pocket Park	Wildlife Trust will carry out a survey in June17. Clean up organised for March 17. Work is progressing on the relationship between PC and PP.	Review in conjunction with users and the local community the best use for this facility



# well-served

TOPIC	OUTCOME	2016/17	Updates as at Feb 2017	2017/18
Village Hall Building	A structurally sound and well-maintained Village Hall	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create Hall maintenance and development plan in light of a building survey with a clear financial approach to any significant costs</li> <li>2. If eligible, apply to HS2 Community and Environment Fund to improve Village Hall</li> </ol>	Village hall responsibilities now fall to EVHC. EPC have offered support via their donation policy. Both parties meeting with ACRE to discuss relationship issues. Will liaise with NCALC re: updated Trust Deed & relationship.	Maintenance to be planned
Mobile communications	Network Providers improve mobile phone network coverage	Review and define options to lobby Network Providers, including proposing sites for a new mast		To be determined
Local Services	Financially healthy and successful shop / post office and pub providing key local services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Act and support as necessary</li> <li>2. Place pub on Community Asset Register</li> </ol>	Good communication system with shop regarding PC notices.	→
Village Hall Utilisation	Evenley Village Hall becomes the venue of choice.	Work with VHC to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. enhance the appearance of, and facilities in, the Hall</li> <li>2. Incorporate booking diary /T&amp;Cs into Parish website</li> <li>3. Support/Promote</li> </ol>	Booking diary & info on website updated regularly. Support & promote via FB, website & noticeboard.	→  →
Public Transport	Bus companies maintain current frequency of bus services	Make representations to NCC and bus companies as appropriate	updates on notice board and website	→
Support in the Community	Parishioners are supported through difficult times	Consider how to support and deliver community care to parishioners through difficult times	Publicity for Soup Lunches improved to attract wider group	Maintain as instigated
Broadband Communications	Improved broadband speed	Review and define options to lobby Broadband Provider (BT)		→



# vibrant

TOPIC	OUTCOME	2016/17	Updates as at Feb 2017	2017/18
National Commemorations	Successful events to bring our community together	Appoint organiser for Queen’s 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on the Green”	A party was held to celebrate the Queen’s birthday	Tbc
Flag Flying	More frequent flying of our village and national flags	Update flag flying plan	Flag lines in the pipeline to be renewed. Looking into updating the flag flying plan	Renew flag pole and lines
Use of the Green	More use of The Green as a community resource	Develop and promote a policy for use of The Green in line with relevant covenants and by-laws	Discussions underway to put electric on the Green and to have similar Christmas lighting as in Brackley.	Promote use
Affordable Housing	Continued availability of affordable homes within Parish	Lobby South Northants Homes to provide new affordable housing	Our response to SNC local plan consultation: Shared ownership, social rented dwellings and affordable housing should play a big part any new developments in Evenley.	→
Community Development	A more vibrant and cohesive community	Designate councillors to conduct a welcome visit to new arrivals in Parish, where known		1.Develop a policy to encourage more community activities 2.Consider whether to appoint a community development officer to lead new initiatives
Physical Well-being	A healthier community	Encourage the organisation and promotion of healthy activities to suit all ages such as walks and cycle rides	Promoted & hosted Splash in August 2016 (on the Green). Various promotions advertised on website	→



# best in class

TOPIC	OUTCOME	2016/17	Updates as at Feb 2017	2017/18
Communications: Newsletter Website Social media Text service Parish diary Newspaper	A better informed and more involved Parish community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Publish an engaging paper newsletter quarterly incorporating a cross-section of topics</li> <li>2.Develop communication policy</li> <li>3.Review and redesign website, to include a local diary</li> <li>4.Introduce an opt-in system for parishioners to receive communications electronically</li> <li>5.Appoint a moderator for local diary and encourage parishioners to make full use of it</li> </ol>	<p>Regular newsletters published.</p> <p>New website now up and running with calendar. Updated regularly.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review progress and make any necessary changes</li> <li>2. Consider whether to reinvest any savings from electronic distribution in more frequent newsletter</li> </ol>
Relationships with key external organisations	Influence, insofar as possible, their decisions and actions to the benefit of the Parish	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Appoint a councillor or warden as lead contact with each organisation</li> <li>2.Ensure that key information and consultations are received, reviewed and responded where relevant</li> </ol>	Appointed Brian Sinclair as HS2/Highways Warden who attends regular meetings and feeds back to the local community	Review progress and make any necessary changes
The role of the Parish Council and its key working relationships	Residents understand role of EPC. Good working relationship with Village Hall Committee (VHC), Cricket Club (ECC) and ERA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Clarify respective roles of EPC, VHC.</li> <li>2.Establish the bases of the working relationship with ECC, VHC and Evenley Residents Association (ERA)</li> </ol>	New VHC in place as of Sept 16. Good communications established with ECC and ERA.	
Best Practice	Best in class governance by Evenley Parish Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure compliance with statutory requirements</li> <li>2. Register for LCAS Foundation Award</li> <li>3. Ensure EPC is operating according to standard practice, including councillor and clerk training programmes</li> </ol>	Registered for LCAS Quality Award. Clerk is working on achieving 12 points (earned over the last year). Clerk & 4 Councillors attended Risk Ass. Training in November 16.	Develop two-year action plan to achieve LCAS quality award.
Church, Local Clubs, Associations and Groups	Strengthen local community by effective working relationships with key local groups including St George's Church	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop group network</li> <li>2. Encourage group representatives to attend Annual Parish Meeting (April 2016)</li> </ol>	Clerk is developing good communications with local groups – ongoing.	Maintain group network
Wardens and Volunteer Officers	An effective group of volunteers to support and develop key facilities, needs and activities in the parish.	Confirm current roles and develop job descriptions and risk assessment for each role;	All wardens confirmed they are happy with their roles. Job descriptions & risk assessments in progress	Consider appointing new wardens / officers



The topics in this report are not listed in any priority order

We would like to thank again all the residents who responded to our SWOT analysis or who gave their ideas and feedback verbally and in writing

We have incorporated your feedback and the key findings from the recent Parish Plan

 Your Parish Council team

Jean Morgan [Chair]  
Cathy Ellis [Vice Chair]  
Lisa Proffitt

Nic Hamblin      Jeff Peyton-Bruhl  
Spencer Burnham      Michael Baul  
Cathy Knott [Clerk]

Acronyms Used in this report

NCC	Northamptonshire County Council
SNC	South Northamptonshire Council
EPC	Evenley Parish Council
ECC	Evenley Cricket Club
VHC	Evenley Village Hall Committee
ERA	Evenley Residents Association
HS2	HS2 Limited
LCAS	Local Council Award Scheme

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