

Martock Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Planning Framework

The next stage of neighbourhood planning is to use the ‘evidence’ gathered to create a framework within which to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan. This framework is, in part, imposed on you by the strategic context. As importantly however are the views and aspirations of the local community. This paper is intended to kick-start the process of developing a framework based on the local evidence, by presenting a first set of aims and objectives for the Plan, for consideration by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The framework will comprise: a **vision** of what you want Martock to be or become; **aims**, representing how you hope to realise the vision for Martock; and **objectives**, for the Martock Neighbourhood Plan to achieve through its policies to meet the aims.

All neighbourhood plans need vision. A neighbourhood plan sets out a vision for the future of the neighbourhood in question. Many neighbourhood plan groups have chosen to encapsulate their vision in a vision statement – but many have not. A single vision statement is not necessary. Moreover, a vision statement is a very local thing. If it is thought to be useful, it should reflect the culture and character as well as the aspirations of the whole community. I shall be asking you to consider the value and purpose of a vision statement for Martock.

The ‘visioning’ process however can usefully begin with the aims (or goals) of the Plan. The aims represent the community’s agenda. Aims may be designed to address the area’s weaknesses, build on its strengths and deal with any other issues identified. The aims, along with the vision and should be as clear and concise as possible as they will inform the more detailed parts of the Plan. An initial draft set of aims can be constructed from the local evidence gathered, using the many messages that you have distilled from the information, survey responses and feedback received. The aims should be strategic in nature and not too specific.

The objectives are derived from the aims. The objectives set out what the Neighbourhood Plan and its policies intend to achieve within the Plan’s timeframe. The objectives should tend towards the specific and if possible be measurable. Being more specific, the objectives are often the aspect of the neighbourhood planning framework that attracts most attention and comment from the community.

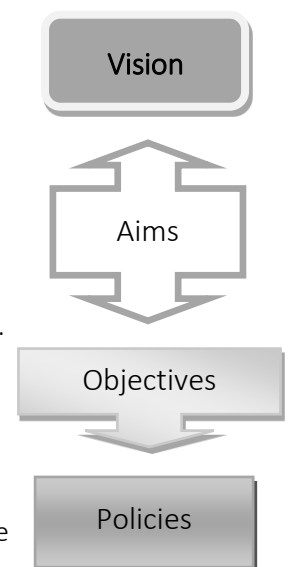
The table overleaf represent my attempt to encapsulate the themes, issues and messages emerging from the evidence base to provide you with a first draft set of aims and objectives to consider. The messages used to derive this first set of aims and objectives is summarised in Appendix A to this report.

To conform to the basic conditions laid down in the legislation, a neighbourhood plan “*must have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State*”. In drafting this first set, I have been guided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). I have included the main requirements of the NPPF in Appendix B for information.

The first draft set of aims presented in the table overleaf, are intentionally broad to encapsulate the community’s goals as reflected in the ‘findings’ of the local evidence. The draft objectives endeavour to capture what has been said in the Martock Community Plan Household Survey 2017.

Members of the Steering Group are asked to consider whether:

- the draft set of aims and objectives overleaf is a fair interpretation of the situation presented by the ‘evidence’
- additional draft aims and objectives can fairly be discerned from the ‘evidence’



Martock Neighbourhood Plan – 1st Draft Aims and Objectives

Natural Environment

<i>Aims</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Protect and enhance our natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance sensitive areas and habitats • Create a network of wildlife corridors • Prevent harm from development
Improve flood resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support flood prevention measures • Avoid development on land liable to flooding
Support responsible change in the countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend and enhance public access to the countryside • Enable necessary farm diversification

Built Environment and Heritage

<i>Aims</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Respect the heritage and character of the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect historic buildings and their settings • Support improvements to the built environment • Safeguard valuable green spaces within the settlements
Ensure new development has a positive impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the limits of development • Set design standards • Support sustainable development practices
Support wider use of renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage small scale renewable energy generation

Housing

<i>Aims</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Ensure housing meets local needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an appropriate level of housing development • Ensure new housing development is suitably mixed • Ensure affordability is a major consideration
Encourage innovative housing solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local housing initiatives

Local Economy

<i>Aims</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Facilitate the growth of local employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect existing business and commercial sites/buildings • Identify business development opportunities • Facilitate high speed electronic communication

Transport and Travel

<i>Aims</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Reduce the impact of the motor vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase safe cycling and walking routes • Support public transport initiatives • Increase off-road parking opportunities
Improve safety and accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pedestrian routes • Support traffic management initiatives

Community Wellbeing

<i>Aims</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Ensure community infrastructure meets local needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local delivery of services • Protect existing community facilities

Leisure and Recreation

<i>Aims</i>	<i>Objectives</i>
Encourage healthy leisure and recreation activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect exiting sport and recreational facilities • Support provision of new facilities that meet local needs

Next Steps

It is the intention that **the next Steering Group meeting should review and adjust this first draft set of aims and objectives**, before agreeing a revised set that can be shared via an autumn consultation event with the community at large.

This next stage of consultation is an important milestone on the neighbourhood plan roadmap. It provides an opportunity for the Steering Group to share the local evidence and how it has been interpreted with the community. It is an opportunity too to gather additional information if required.

Importantly, it also enables the community:

- to be involved and influence the aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan;
- contribute to the themes and priorities for neighbourhood planning policies; and
- make suggestions for specific planning policies.

Members are reminded that community engagement in plan-making is a legislative requirement. It helps generate the content of the Plan and provides the means to demonstrate that people and businesses are genuinely behind it.

Members may also wish to share a draft vision statement with the community. A vision statement is not mandatory but some plan shavers have found it useful. If you choose to have one, I believe that it should be succinct and apposite. It should encapsulate the aims of the Plan. To help you consider, I have appended (in Appendix C) varied examples of vision statements from neighbourhood plans for your information. Beware, some of the examples read more like mission statements for the neighbourhood plan, rather than a long-term vision for their parish. **You are invited to consider the value and purpose of a vision statement for Martock.**

Appendix A

Key Messages from the Community

Nb. Blue text is from the Martock Community Plan Household Survey 2017

Natural Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We need to identify those paths that need upgrading and candidate paths for multi-use• Can we increase responsible access to the countryside?• We must ensure our environment is adequately protected• We must reduce the risk of flooding• How can we ensure farming remains viable without impacting on the character of the countryside?• Drainage ponds in new development require a management policy• Green corridors – should be included in new estate planning• Should we protect the green gap between Martock and these villages?• Wildlife nodes and corridors - advice needed• Bat-friendly building techniques important• How can we ensure that local reptiles and amphibia are adequately protected from development?• The design of new buildings should incorporate elements to encourage bats and birds to nest
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martock is surrounded by beautiful countryside• The rural setting is much appreciated• Dog fouling, litter and fly-tipping do not engender civic pride in many, and are a recurring source of complaint• 1 in 3 Survey respondents regularly walk the footpaths in and around the village. Other popular locations include walks centred around the Playing Field, Ham Hill and Montacute• 33% of Survey respondents want to see some footpaths made into cycleways

Built and Heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent can we influence and control new development and its impact on the current built environment• The community needs to agree a design statement that recognises the special quality of the built environment• Martock Conservation Area needs re-appraising, with a new management plan• How successful has the Sustainable Development Plan been? Does it need revising?• We should improve the visual appearance of the industrial areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A large number of parishioners appreciate the beauty, architecture and history of the area, particularly the Church• The town is considered well maintained, clean, tidy and well managed with development of the town to date thought successful by some• The Industrial Estate is untidy and detracts from the historic built environment

Housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should we limit the number of new dwellings to the LP target?• Need to determine on what basis should new housing development be approved• We should be meeting local housing needs in all its forms

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The demand for retirement-type dwellings is very likely to increase • There is support for more eco-friendly dwellings • Where should new development be allowed to take place?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 3 in 4 survey respondents feel the Parish is in most need of more low cost/starter homes for purchase • More affordable housing for local people who can't afford open market housing is needed • A majority believe low carbon/eco-friendly housing, accessible housing for disabled people, sheltered housing for older or disabled people and to a lesser extent retirement housing should all be considered • Large houses (4+ beds) and flats are considered in plentiful supply by a large majority • Most people's homes are suitable for their needs. The small minority who would like to change their homes, and for most their home is too small

Local Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to more local jobs is very important • What type of new business should we be attracting? • How can we help young people secure worthwhile training and employment? • What role can Parrett Works play in the economic life of the Parish? • How can we protect and grow our local retail sector in an appropriate manner?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The good range of shops, post office, local independent businesses, the farmers market and library are all popular with local parishioners • Many parishioners would like to see more shops and better shops • Bower Hinton has few facilities

Transport and Travel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should reduce the impact of the motor vehicle • How can we encourage cycling and walking? • Creating alternative safe traffic-free roads from the north and south to the village centre (school) is desirable • We need to improve accessibility throughout the Parish • We need to improve parking • Public transport remains important
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large proportion of parishioners are unhappy with the traffic and parking in and around the village/Parish • Congestion in the centre is frequently complained about, particularly North Street including parking issues. • Traffic volume, particularly HGVs in the village centre and travelling to the industrial estate is not appreciated • Speed is also an issue: Bower Hinton, Church Street, North Street, Stapleton areas being noted • Road maintenance is also seen as poor by some, and being damaged further by HGVs • The outstanding majority need to travel regularly to Yeovil - shopping and leisure activities being the most frequently mentioned needs • For those needing to visit South Petherton, more than 2 in 3 do so because of their medical needs • For many, public transport does not affect their ability to travel. However, 1 in 4 respondents to the Survey are affected by a lack of public transport

- Survey respondents raised issues about the reliability of service providers, and the impact of the closure of the Bower Hinton bus service
- More Saturday buses and a Sunday bus service would be welcomed, as well as more bus stops and cheaper fares
- Several would like buses at later times in the evenings, Yeovil and Taunton being mentioned
- Too many pavements and footpaths are in poor condition and not disability-friendly

Community Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we provide more facilities for young people? • How best can local health services be delivered in future? • We should value and protect existing community and social facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large majority of parishioners are happy living in Martock Parish • The friendliness, sense of community, willingness of volunteers and village atmosphere are key factors • The convenience of the doctors, dentist and pharmacy is appreciated, as are the school, community rooms and fire station • Some parishioners feel the facilities could be improved, the doctor's surgery and pharmacy both being highlighted • In terms of facilities and services of importance, a large majority of parishioners attach the highest importance to the health facilities • Public toilets and support for older people is highly important to many parishioners • A small number of parishioners identify themselves as lonely or isolated. Actions that would help their situation include improvements to public and community transport, more or better social groups for the elderly, disabled, 25-40 years olds and single parents of older children • Around 10% of many of them needing help with accessing healthcare – more than half of them being retirement age or living alone. Around 1 in 4 feel accessing social groups would benefit them. • Most parents with young children are all able to access a place in pre-school or gain childcare that they need • Public conveniences could be open more often

Leisure & Recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should value and protect existing sport and recreation facilities • How can we increase the range of local recreation opportunities?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most parishioners either feel they participate in enough physical activities or are not interested in them • 1 in 5 would welcome more information about activities and events • a small proportion of parishioners would like to see facilities improved and more activities for disabled and elderly people • The Parish Hall and children's play areas are of great importance for around 40% of parishioners • The Recreation Ground has problems with litter and anti-social behaviour issues • Several people have called for a local swimming pool, an outdoor gym on the Recreation Ground, yoga and pilates classes • The availability and management of the tennis courts is a source of some complaint

National Planning Policy (from the NPPF)

Sustainable Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>seek opportunities to meet the development needs of the area</i> • <i>plan positively to support local development</i> • <i>identify opportunities to use Neighbourhood Development Orders to enable development</i> • <i>manage development to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling</i> • <i>focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable</i> • <i>supporting thriving rural communities</i> • <i>support the transition to a low carbon future</i> • <i>mitigate and adapt to climate change, flood risk, coastal change and water supply demand</i> • <i>plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions</i> • <i>minimise energy consumption</i> • <i>promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources</i> • <i>direct development away from areas at highest flood risk</i> • <i>encourage the re-use of land that has been previously developed</i> • <i>avoid significant adverse impacts on any of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic role, social role, environmental role)</i>
Natural Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside</i> • <i>contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment</i> • <i>reduce pollution</i> • <i>protect and enhance valued landscapes, geology and soils</i> • <i>prevent new and existing development from contributing to soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability</i> • <i>acknowledge benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land</i>
Built Environment and Heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional</i> • <i>consider designating local heritage asset</i> • <i>respond to local character and history</i> • <i>reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials</i> • <i>integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment</i> • <i>take account of the different roles and character of different areas</i> • <i>visually attractive through good architecture and appropriate landscaping</i> • <i>secure high-quality design and a good standard of amenity</i> • <i>promote or reinforce local distinctiveness</i> • <i>establish a strong sense of place</i> • <i>create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments)</i> • <i>support local facilities and transport networks</i> • <i>reuse brownfield land</i> • <i>create safe and accessible environments</i> • <i>create safe and secure layouts</i> • <i>minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians</i> • <i>avoid street clutter</i> • <i>promote a mix of uses to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site</i> • <i>key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance</i>

Housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>boost significantly the supply of housing</i> • <i>identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth</i> • <i>housing density should reflect local circumstances</i> • <i>deliver a wide choice of high quality homes</i> • <i>widen opportunities for home ownership</i> • <i>create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities</i> • <i>mix of housing based on trends and the needs of different groups</i> • <i>identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations (reflect local demand)</i> • <i>set policies for meeting affordable housing on site</i> • <i>bring empty housing and buildings back into residential use</i> • <i>where appropriate establishing home zones</i> • <i>resist inappropriate development of residential gardens</i> • <i>in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities</i> • <i>avoid new isolated homes in the countryside</i>
Economy and Jobs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>encourage sustainable economic growth</i> • <i>support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs</i> • <i>facilitate flexible working practices</i> • <i>accommodate the efficient delivery of goods and supplies</i>
Transport and Traffic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport</i> • <i>give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements</i> • <i>enable access to high quality public transport facilities</i> • <i>incorporate facilities for electric and ultra-low emission vehicles</i> • <i>minimise journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities</i> • <i>reduce the use of high-emission vehicles</i> • <i>parking should take into account: accessibility; the type, mix and use of development; public transport availability; and potential local car ownership levels</i> • <i>clear and legible pedestrian routes</i> • <i>rights of way should be protected</i> • <i>opportunities for new rights of way should be sought</i>
Community Services and Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>take account of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing</i> • <i>deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs</i> • <i>promote opportunities for meetings between members of the community</i> • <i>create safe and accessible environments</i> • <i>plan positively for the provision and use of shared community space</i> • <i>ensure established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise</i>
Open Space and Recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>high quality public space</i> • <i>encourage the active and continual use of public areas</i> • <i>existing recreation facilities should not be built upon unless assessment shows them to be surplus to requirements</i> • <i>designate land as 'Local Green Space' to rule out development on them</i>

Appendix C

Neighbourhood Plan Vision Statements - Examples

Rolleston NP

The vision of Rolleston in the future is a vibrant community, physically separate from Burton on Trent. It will continue to be an attractive village with its heart based around Burnside. The vision is of a distinct, vibrant community and not a mere dormitory settlement for surrounding towns and cities.

Sandwell

A growing family neighbourhood

Confident and secure in its workplaces, play spaces, and homes

... Rooted in the heritage of its founding industries and diverse people;

... Realising the opportunities of its strategic location;

... Developing its unique assets – the hospital, park and people; and

... Looking forward to a shared sustainable future

Thame

To maintain its market town character.

..... maintaining Thame's character as a market town provides a set of principles for delivering the vision.

These are that Thame must:

- continue to feel 'compact'*
- continue to have a close relationship with the open countryside around it*
- retain its markets*
- continue to act as a centre for the surrounding area, not just residents*
- remain attractive to residents and visitors.*

Freshwater

To ensure Freshwater Parish's spatial planning policies create an environment where:

- existing and new businesses have the opportunity to grow and prosper in the future*
- Freshwater remains the commercial hub within the West Wight*
- the local economy is able to grow, offering residents better paid full-time employment opportunities*
- the future growth of Freshwater's economy is centred on a diverse range of business activities, but with an emphasis on the following key sectors: retail - tourism - professional services - construction and manufacturing.*

Felpham

Value, protect and promote the unique parish of Felpham, by respecting its heritage, appreciating its current community and being aspirational when planning its future and therefore ensuring "Felpham in particular is the sweetest spot on earth" (William Blake 1801)

Bembridge

To maintain and enhance the unique self-contained character of Bembridge Village whilst permitting small scale sustainable growth that is in line with the needs and wishes of the community.

Earls Barton

Earls Barton continues to be a thriving community delivering better facilities and services for growing population whilst retaining the key features of Earl Barton Life.

Swale

The vision for Faversham Creek is for the area to play an important part in the regeneration of the town particularly by sustaining and building on maritime activities and enhancing its attractiveness as a destination.

Slaugham

In 2031, the Parish of Slaugham will remain a beautiful part of the High Weald AONB. Its population will have grown to around 3,000, almost all of who will live in one of its four distinct villages.

This growth will have reinforced the role of Handcross as the main service centre of the parish, in terms of local shops and community facilities. Pease Pottage will have become a more self-sustaining community with

a new village centre. Warninglid and Slaugham will have retained their distinctive identities as small rural villages.

The range of housing types and tenures built since 2011 will have significantly reduced the local housing need for affordable homes and met the local demand for the types of homes suited to older people and young families. The demand of local people to build their own homes and stay in the parish will also have been met. A greater supply of housing, access to superfast broadband services and the use of local enterprise support facilities will together have meant that the local working population is less dependent on commuting than in 2011.

Development and change in the parish will have avoided its most sensitive landscapes, habitats and cherished open spaces, which will have stronger protection for the enjoyment of the local community. The design of new buildings will have met the challenge of low carbon regulations but in keeping with the High Weald vernacular.

Bardsley

Our vision is to maintain the essential character of the Parish as an attractive rural community, within easy reach of the city environs, yet quite separate and distinct. Whilst maintaining this character we wish to ensure that our community remains sustainable and that our residents are given every opportunity to contribute to the vitality of the community, have the opportunity to work, learn and live in the community and continue to live healthy, safe and satisfying lives.

Barwick and Scholes

To welcome new development that meets local needs, reflecting and conserving the existing rural character of the local communities as well as preserving its historic heritage, views and access to the countryside.

Kirdford

To ensure that the special characteristics of the village and Parish area, including their rural feel, historic buildings and relationship with the surrounding countryside, are enhanced and protected. Whilst at the same time recognising that change is inevitable and can be desirable when there is positive planning to support sustainable development.

Clyst St George

To retain the 'rural Devon' feel of our Parish, whilst bringing the advantages of the 21st century to our homes and businesses.

Allendale

A group of sustainable, vibrant, linked rural communities focussed around a strong service centre at Allendale Town, adapting to the changing needs of our population.

Anslow

Anslow will continue to be a socially and economically thriving Parish, with an attractive and well-managed landscape, with Anslow village and other small settlements remaining physically separate from Burton upon Trent. A limited amount of sustainable development to meet local needs will help to maintain and improve community facilities and local employment opportunities. The Parish Council will work with other Parishes, the Borough and the County Council to ensure that the impact of development elsewhere on Anslow is taken into account and mitigated, especially through appropriate and effective highway improvement and traffic management.

Chaddesley Corbett

Our vision for Chaddesley Corbett is one of a strong and thriving community where our history and heritage are celebrated and sustained, and where our rural setting and character are preserved and enhanced for both residents and visitors.

Cuckfield

Our vision is for Cuckfield to continue to thrive, meeting the changing needs of the community whilst preserving the distinctive character, landscape, and setting of the village that has evolved over nine centuries of history.

Harworth

In 13 years' time Harworth & Bircotes will be a thriving community, a place where people are proud to live. It will be a safe and happy place, an area that values its people and its environment. It will have a variety of homes, jobs, shops, schools, sustainable transport and recreational facilities; something for everyone. Harworth & Bircotes will be a place people want to move to.

Stretton

By 2031 Stretton will be a place where the health and wellbeing of the community is of paramount importance, and a high quality of life is enjoyed by everyone. Stretton will be a place with a unique and strong identity. It will continue to be a desirable place of choice, which meets the needs of its diverse community and is welcoming to all. There will be a strong sense of community with local people involved in a wide range of local activities and events and people will use their expertise and knowledge to the benefit of others. Businesses will be attracted to Stretton, providing a range of employment opportunities for local residents. The open countryside will be protected and open spaces will be enhanced for the enjoyment of all.

Medstead and Four Marks

The settlements will have retained their own distinctive characters with the quality of the landscape spaces between and surrounding them, continuing to define their shared identity.

Housing growth in Four Marks/South Medstead and Medstead Village will have been contained by clearly defined Settlement Policy Boundaries that will have preserved the quality of the setting.

Community facilities will have expanded and become more varied to meet the needs of all groups and age ranges of the increased population, with South Medstead and Four Marks sharing facilities and open spaces and taking a greater role in their management.

A new mixed use hub will have been established around the Railway Station, as a shared focus for South Medstead and Four Marks and to support local businesses. The re-planning of the station area will have also led to an increase in visitors and tourism.

The green interior of South Medstead will have been partially retained, to complement the setting of the station hub and to provide a much needed open green 'breathing' space.

Four Marks village centre will offer a wider range of shops and services and a stronger sense of place with an enhanced link to the station hub.

There will have been a growth in employment opportunities with greater scope for local businesses which will have helped reverse the dormitory trend in Four Marks/South Medstead.

Medstead Village will have retained its rural character and setting whilst accommodating a modest growth in housing numbers to meet the needs of its residents, and to provide a balance of dwelling types to serve the community over the long term.

Accessibility to and connectivity between the existing network of footpaths, bridleways, cycleways, public open spaces and other outdoor recreational and leisure assets will have been improved across both parishes.