

## Tormarton Parish Council

### Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024

[www.tormarton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.tormarton-pc.gov.uk)

[clerk@tormarton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@tormarton-pc.gov.uk)



### Your Priorities

### Your Parish

**A plan for the villages of Tormarton and West Littleton derived by your Parish Council. This plan sets out the aims and priorities of your Parish Council and how the Parish Council will represent their parishioners, to ensure your views are properly represented.**

## The Strategic Plan 2021-2024

### Tormarton Parish Council: About the Council and its Functions

Tormarton Parish Council serves both Tormarton and West Littleton. Tormarton is a small Cotswold village in South Gloucestershire. West Littleton is a small village located to the north west of Marshfield on rising ground.

The powers and responsibilities of Town and Parish Councils have been determined by central government legislation over many years. Within the legislative framework, Tormarton Parish Council's roles and responsibilities are as follows:

**Democracy – To give all local people a voice.**

**Services – To provide a range of services to our community.**

**Improving the area in which we live and work in.**

**Supporting the Community.**

Tormarton Parish Council raises money for its local services through an additional charge on the council tax, known as the precept. The council also has reserves which are earmarked for delivering certain projects and specific services. The Parish Council employs a part-time Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

In 2010, a Parish Plan was published which had been derived from a complete survey delivered to every household in the two villages. This survey and subsequently the plan, identified what the parishioners valued about their villages and identified a plan for the next ten years. Some of these aims in the 2010 plan have been successful but other issues still remain pertinent to his day. The first of these was a lack of community spirit within the village of Tormarton - a number of related actions were identified, one of these being the development of the Tormarton and West Littleton websites. But not all have been achieved such as the preparation of a welcome pack for all newcomers to the parish. Other major issues shared by Tormarton and West Littleton were parking, dangerous crossings, poor road maintenance and speeding traffic, all of which Tormarton Parish Council are continually working on.

## The Strategic Plan 2021-2024

### Tormarton Parish Council: How Will We Do This?

Tormarton Parish Council strives to be a forward-thinking council at the heart of the community. We want the Parish Council to be seen as a body that works for Tormarton, West Littleton and everyone in the community taking into account everyone's viewpoints to move forward collectively. We want to see the council develop its community leadership, being at the forefront of community engagement and to build extensive partnerships with local organisations. We want to deliver on giving people value for money with the services that we provide and ensure that good financial governance is apparent throughout all that we do.

#### **Tormarton Parish Council will strive to be:**

Open and transparent with the whole community

Ambitious but realistic

Community minded

Sustainable

Empowering and engaging for the whole community

Leading in community engagement in the village

#### **How will Tormarton Parish Council deliver this plan?**

Tormarton Parish Council would like all residents to be consulted on this with developmental meetings being held in October 2020 to engage what the community would like the council to do. All feedback will be presented to the council and a decision on the final strategy will be made with the community's feedback leading the way. Consultations will be held over social media, Parish Council website as well as virtual meetings. Outdoor consultations could also be arranged.

Delivering this strategy will be at the forefront of Tormarton Parish Council over the next three years. Once this plan has developed and is adopted by the Full Council the 3- year budget framework which shall allow the Council to work towards these aims. However, ever increasing pressures on Parish Council may mean that some actions cannot be completed within the three year plan and will be rolled onto subsequent plans. Residents will be able to monitor progress of the plan through minutes of the meetings and being invited to consultation workshops, where their voices will be heard.

This plan will be delivered through thorough budgeting by the Parish Council and will also be delivered through holding South Gloucestershire Council to task on matters such as road safety, parking, traffic issues and planning enforcement.

## The Strategic Plan 2021-2024

### Tormarton Parish Council: The Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Tormarton Parish Council's strategic plan is split into a few different key areas, that the Council think are vitally important to the Parishioners. They also represent the ambition of the Parish Council. Below, you can see an outline of what the plan will be based upon.

#### **1. Road Safety and Road Maintenance throughout our Villages:**

The Parish Council will continue to work with South Gloucestershire Council and the local police team to ensure that all of our roads in the villages are safe. The Parish Council will also drive initiatives such as a community speed watch, traffic calming measures and identifying blackspots in both villages. The Parish Council will identify new methods to reduce the risks that unsafe driving causes in our villages. Commuter car parking in Tormarton is an issue with the village being so close to the M4 and the Parish Council will continue to lobby South Gloucestershire Council on alternative parking sites and to reduce commuter parking within the village and its environs. The roads into and around West Littleton are rural, narrow and predominantly single-traffic. There is no public transport available and the residents rely on well maintained roads, particularly in the winter months. The Parish Council will liaise with South Gloucestershire Council to ensure the roads are regularly and adequately maintained.

#### **2. Planning in Our Villages:**

The Parish Council will continue to respond to all planning applications for both villages ensuring that a fair and transparent process is followed for all applications. We will consult with all parishioners on planning applications and ensure that all decisions are made with the absolute scrutiny that they deserve. We will continue to work with South Gloucestershire Council when it comes to planning enforcement and want to ensure that everyone is working within the laws set out in a planning permission. The Parish Council will aim to consult with Parishioners on planning matters through their monthly Council meetings. Also, individual Parish Councillors may also consult their Parishioners on upcoming planning applications prior to the meeting of the Full Council.

#### **3. Biodiversity in our Villages:**

The Parish Council plans to develop an environmental plan that supports biodiversity in our flora and fauna and maintains the historic setting of our villages and surrounding countryside. We will actively seek ways to encourage parishioners to consider the area in which we live and how they can sustainably support it for future generations. This may include planting events, encouraging residents to develop verges as habitats for wildflowers, and community awareness initiatives. The council has already initiated a program to identify the parish's assets of historical interest and seek to maintain them for the benefit of the community.

#### **4. Community Engagement:**

The Parish Council aims to be the main player in driving communications throughout both villages. This will be through building on the already fantastic links that have been created and introducing new links such as a community Facebook page. The Parish Council will engage with all residents on all pertinent matters and we have very active Councillors who

## The Strategic Plan 2021-2024

can always be approached as well as the Parish Clerk. The intention is to build and strengthen links, not replace the already established links.

### **5. Community Groups:**

The Parish Council will continue to support all of our community groups through the Council's grant award process where local groups can apply for some funding for a project that would enhance the villages. We will also support the groups that we are trustees of through our earmarked reserves providing them with the vital support that they may need throughout the year. The Council will also support the two community websites to ensure residents of both villages have their own dedicated websites.

### **6. Finance, Democracy, Governance and Development:**

The Parish Council is wholly committed to ensuring that we act in an open and transparent manner when it comes to the governing of the Council. The Parish Council will strive to improve to ensure that it meets the needs of the residents whilst acting lawfully and in accordance with our Standing Orders. The Parish Council will also seek to be part of the Local Council Award Scheme. The benefit to residents of this is that you will have a well-organised Parish Council who are there for you. The award scheme showcases the Council's ability to work with their Parishioners whilst at the same time providing a framework for improving the Council's operation within their remit. The Council will continue to review all governance documents as and when they need to. The Parish Council will also support the development of their Parish Clerk as well as the Councillors by allocating funds to a training budget each year