

THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

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STRATEGIC PLAN 2020

Thrapston Town Council has 13 members. Elections usually take place every four years, the last being in May 2015. Due to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) the next elections are being held in May 2020. The Full Council ratifies the decisions made by the committees and makes decisions on the larger issues which affect the Council and the town.

The Annual Town Meeting is held in April each year, with the Annual Town Council Meeting being held in May each year.

Mission Statement

The primary role of Thrapston Town Council is to provide a democratic and representative voice for the community. It will support, and contribute towards, the sustainable economic and social well-being of the town, having regard to the needs and wishes of the local community. Thrapston Town Council recognises its obligations to deliver cost-effective quality services. Thrapston Town Council will work with other councils to ensure that Thrapston remains at the heart of the wider community.

Aims

At Thrapston Town Council we are committed to providing high quality value for money services for all members of the community. We strive to ensure that the services, facilities and events we manage are equally accessible to all and regularly review the barriers faced by people using them.

We will listen to all sections of the community and aim to provide services that meet the needs of the whole community. We aim to ensure that everyone is treated fairly, regardless of sex, gender reassignment, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, age, pregnancy and maternity, parental or property status, responsibilities for dependants, offending background or sexual orientation.

We fully recognise the diverse needs of the community we serve, and will always seek to promote tolerance, harmony, respect and unity in our town through clear and inclusive communications.

- To show clear and positive community leadership
- To be open and accountable, and to conduct the Council's business with integrity and impartiality
- To consult effectively and to represent the views of the residents at all levels of local and national government
- To promote continuous improvement of Council services, and of services provided by others
- To use resources effectively and efficiently
- To support the local economy by using local service providers whenever possible and cost efficient to the Council
- To respond quickly and efficiently to all enquiries
- To arrange civic and ceremonial duties in a dignified manner to uphold, enhance and promote the status of the town

Strategic Objectives

- To promote equality of access to services opportunities
- To enhance the quality of life of residents by providing services and facilities which reflect the identified needs of the community to the best of our ability
- To encourage public services to be responsive to the needs of the community
- To build and maintain effective working relationships with statutory agencies and other partners
- To improve and conserve the town environment
- To improve communications between Thrapston Town Council and the community it serves, including local parishes
- To support local organisations through councillor representation and by making grants available in line with our grants policy
- To seek to develop a community hub
- To provide local tourist and community information services to the town
- To use the General Power of Competence to develop the Council's work
- To build and maintain an adequate financial reserve in line with government regulations
- To ensure that risk assessments are undertaken for all relevant areas of the Council's work and for all assets, including safeguarding
- To respond to consultation documents on behalf of the town
- To put in place and operate systems and procedures which process transactions effectively and cost-efficiently
- To ensure that staff and Councillors are qualified, trained and motivated to provide high quality services to the town
- To regularly review staffing requirements to ensure that all areas of work are properly supported
- To ensure that all Town Council owned properties are properly maintained, and that a rolling programme of works is introduced
- To maintain a proactive role in the future development of the town and its surroundings
- To encourage a sustainable future for the town, its inhabitants and the local community
- To seek to achieve that all planning development is appropriate and beneficial and enhances the character and geography of the town
- To monitor changes in relevant legislation
- To maintain Town Council owned open spaces
- To minimise the Town Council's carbon footprint through using less (energy, materials) and recycling more
- To encourage an attractive, litter free town environment
- To review and assess our asset portfolio

Achieving the Council's Strategic Objectives

Short Term Objectives (1 year)

- To work with East Northamptonshire Council (ENC), Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and the Shadow Unitary Council to ensure the best result for Thrapston in all decisions taken in relation to service provision
- To consider the views of the local community as per Communication Strategy
- To continue the councillor surgeries on a monthly basis which will also be used to promote other events
- To continue to improve the website
- To continue to use the Council's Facebook page, and to develop links on Twitter
- To contribute Council news via the newsletter (or Jigsaw) and local publications
- To continue to finance and improve the town's CCTV system
- To identify potential grant funding streams
- To maintain a basic training programme for councillors and staff
- To review the maintenance programme to include cyclical scheduling for all Council owned properties
- To market the Plaza as a venue for hire and explore further opportunities for use
- To seek to purchase the local library to retain it as an asset for the town
- To continue to improve play facilities in the town
- To monitor that the local footpaths and footways networks are accessible
- To develop internet marketing strategies including social media
- To draw up an Emergency Contact List for the town

Medium Term Objectives (2/3 years)

- To obtain the General Power of Competence to develop the Council's work
- To explore other methods of improving communication
- To continue to ensure the views of the local community are incorporated within the future plans of the Town Council
- To ensure the Town Council's views are expressed in decision making by relevant authorities
- To assist with the forming of a Youth Forum in association with local schools
- To continue to identify potential grant funding streams
- To maximise income from all sources in order to minimise increases in precept
- To develop a focused training programme for all councillors
- To maximise the Plaza as a thriving centre for community activities
- To explore booking packages for the Plaza in conjunction with external suppliers
- To seek to develop a community hub in the town
- To produce the next Town Council Guide

Long Term Objectives (3+ years)

- To be accredited the Quality Award and/or Quality Gold Award under the Local Council Award Scheme
- To retain staff and their expertise, to ensure continuity, stability, quality and their professional development
- To digitise the cemetery records and make them available online
- To promote the conservation of the character of the Town
- To computerise the town archive

Revised at Full Council 8th October and 12th November 2019
Reviewed and Approved at Full Council 10th December 2019