



HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029



Hullbridge (population approx. 8000) is tucked away in the northwest corner of Rochford District and is surrounded by green belt on three sides and the River Crouch on the northern boundary. With over two miles of river frontage the parish is well used by the local boating fraternity, with a number of moorings and yacht clubs.

At the end of Ferry Road, the River Crouch can be found along with Kendal Park Nature Reserve, the Rose Garden, Pooles Lane car park (free) and a public toilet, which are all managed by Hullbridge Parish Council.

The Centenary Walk starts at the Rose Garden and goes past the Anchor Public House along the river into the Recreation Ground (includes a play area, green gym, basketball court, meadow area, skate park also a large open space for activities), the footpath then goes on towards Brandy Hole; this is one of several footpaths in the network around the village.



HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Along the river there are the remains of evaporation pans where salt was made in the medieval times.

The village boasts a sailing centre, riverside pubs, primary school, medical health centre, public library, and a number of churches also a variety of eating places and the usual shops needed to support the community. Hullbridge is lucky to have a number of Community venues - Hullbridge Community Association, Hullbridge Sports and Social Club and the Windermere Centre.

Introduction:

The Strategic Plan aims to provide Hullbridge residents with a clear understanding of the Parish Council's priorities and objectives within a planned budget and timeframe. It is designed to be used in conjunction with the Parish Council's Action Plan.

These plans are 'live' documents that will be monitored and updated regularly, progress will be provided via the Parish Council's newsletter, website, and social media.

The Strategic Plan and associated Action Plan's mission will be to support the needs of Hullbridge and its residents.

Our principles:

Supporting and working on behalf of residents.

Be a Good Employer

Provide Best Value for money.

Be aware of, and implement, changes required by new Government legislation particularly those changes required by the Localism Bill.

Undertake Council business legally and ethically.

Maintain a communications strategy such that Council business is conducted openly and transparently, and Parishioners have easy access to information and advice.

Development of the village to be undertaken in accordance with guidance provided by the Planning and Infrastructure Committee and the Hullbridge Housing Policy and Vision Statement.

Provide effective leadership to the village community on matters of interest.

Overall Aim of Hullbridge Parish Council:

To develop and sustain a sense of community within the Parish of Hullbridge by addressing environmental, social, economic, and planning matters and delivering quality services to the residents within the resources available, while being mindful of Government Legislation which affects the remit of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council will actively seek to understand the changing needs of the village. It will monitor, and react to, any changes that might occur in the responsibilities of the Parish Council because of Statute. Maintain regular



contact/liaison and where appropriate, partnership working with local authorities and community service providers and businesses.

The Parish Council will use its best endeavours to provide good service by ensuring:

- Is Representative of, and actively engages, all parts of its community, providing vision, identity, and a sense of belonging.
- Is effectively and properly managed.
- Articulates the needs and wishes of the community.
- Upholds high standards of the Code of Conduct, Civility and Respect Pledge and is committed to work in partnership with local authorities and other public service agencies.
- In proportion to its size and skills, delivers local services on behalf of local authorities when this represents the best value for the local community.
- Works closely with voluntary/charity groups in its community.
- Works with its partners and acts as an information point for local services.

Our Strategic objectives are:

1. To work with the Police and other authorities to nurture a safe and lawful environment:

- By supporting the police in the prevention and detection of crime.
- By running regular "Community Meet" surgeries with the police for residents to attend.
- By engaging with "Community Special Constables initiative" to support and enhance policing within Hullbridge.
- By engaging with a Private Security Company to provide an enhanced security presence for Hullbridge residents.
- By ensuring the streets and public areas are well lit, maintenance carried out in a timely manner and a planned programme of LED lighting upgrades to all Parish owned lights.
- By maintaining a functional CCTV system which covers the Parish Office and Pooles' Lane Car Park.
- By supporting Community Speed watch.
- By working with residents to address highway safety concerns and to put forward relevant schemes to the Local Highways Panel to enhance road safety.

2. To work for the improvement of the built environment:

- By identifying unacceptable building proposals and registering our concerns with the planning authority prior to their formal consideration.



- By adhering to the guidelines within the Parish Council's Housing Policy and Vision Statement.
- By maintaining and ensuring our bus shelters and other street furniture are in good order and part of an ongoing maintenance schedule.
- By working to minimise the litter in our nature reserve and open spaces by having a maintenance regime for emptying and maintaining our bins and litter picking where necessary.
- By working with Police and Local Authorities to detect and prosecute perpetrators of vandalism and graffiti.

3. To work with Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies to improve the quality of life for Parishioners.

- By co-operating with neighbouring parishes.
- By working alongside local youth groups including but not limited to Riverside Primary School PTA, Scouts and sports clubs.
- By having association with and/or appointing a Councillor to sit on their Committees as directed by the Council.
- By engaging with and listening to residents through regular Councillor surgeries and other avenues of communication.

4. To maintain Kendal Park and Open Spaces in Hullbridge to provide green spaces, protect wildlife and encourage biodiversity and parishioner's wellbeing.

- By adherence to the Management Plan in place for Kendal Park and working with various authorities to protect the wildlife and natural environment and encourage and sustain biodiversity
- By maintaining the pond in Kendal Park and ensuring all Health and Safety requirements are met.
- By regular maintenance of open space areas under the remit of the Parish Council.
- By maintaining the adult gym at Pooles Lane Recreation Ground.
- By ensuring all Health and Safety requirements under our remit are met both for our maintenance staff and open space users.

5. To aim to make the Parish Council carbon neutral by 2030.

- By declaring a Climate Emergency.
- By creating a Climate Emergency Action Plan and update residents with progress.
- By considering the impacts of climate change and carbon emissions when making future purchases or decision for the Council.
- By identifying ways of educating and promoting ideas for the community to take interest in climate matters.
- By working with local authorities to identify funding opportunities relevant to climate issues.



6. To manage the affairs of the Council on an efficient and effective basis.

- By ensuring all decisions are taken on a value for money basis.
- By being a good employer and treating employees with respect and encouraging a team ethic.
- By ensuring all legal obligations are observed and good practise followed in the financial management of the Council.
- By developing and implementing policies and procedures that ensure good governance of the Councils affairs.
- By ensuring that Committees take an active role in keeping under review and driving forward the strategic objectives that relate to their Committee, to assist the council meet its overall mission.
- By adopting and updating appropriate financial policies including the management of reserves.
- By ensuring the Council is fully compliant with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).