



WIVELISCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGIC ONE YEAR PLAN 2026-2027

Contents

Page 1	Contents
Page 2	Purpose of our plan
Page 2	Mission statement
Page 2	Values
Page 3	Vision
Page 3-5	Strategic objectives



1. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This plan will be in place until May 2027 when a four year plan can be approved, a map to guide our community towards a more thriving, inclusive and sustainable town where residents feel proud to live and work and visitors are made welcome. Over the next year the Council hopes to address the challenges and work with opportunities that will shape Wiveliscombe's future. This plan is a commitment to the wellbeing of everyone in the town and for everyone to work together to make Wiveliscombe a better place for all.

The Council have developed this plan to provide defined ways for decision making and this plan sets out a clear vision with values and objectives for the community's development.

The Town Council has 18 Councillors holding a seat in public office. Elections are held every 4 years, and the Chairman is elected on an annual basis at the Annual meeting of the Town Council which is held in May.

Council meetings are held on the third Monday of every month in the Wiveliscombe Community Centre at 7pm.

2. MISSION STATEMENT

Wiveliscombe Town Council acts on behalf of the Parish of Wiveliscombe to deliver an environment where current and future generations can thrive and develop.

3. VALUES

Wiveliscombe Town Council works for the benefit of Wiveliscombe. Engaging with all members of the community equally we endeavour to achieve this via the following values:

- The Nolan Principles – which are
 - Integrity
 - Selflessness
 - Objectivity
 - Accountability
 - Openness
 - Honesty
 - Leadership
- Code of Conduct
- Openness and Transparency
- Financially Responsible
- Protection of the environment
- Commit to the established policies
- Communicating with residents
- Working with the Somerset Council and Statutory authorities
- VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise)

4. VISION

4.1 Vision for Wiveliscombe

Make Wiveliscombe Parish a place people want to live, work & visit.

- Prosperous
- Healthy Environment
- High quality services
- Proactive as well as reactive

4.2 Vision for Wiveliscombe Town Council

The Town Council works in an efficient and effective way on behalf of the town, with

- A full complement of councillors to provide quantity and quality of skills.
- Employs one member of staff who is the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
- All Councillors Trained – initial and continuation
- A wide skill base of Councillors
- Re-vitalise the Annual Parish Meeting to engage with public and local organisations

5. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Priority	Aim	Objective
Environment	Maintain the Character of the Town	The Planning Group first considers matters that affect the character of the town such as planning applications and related matters and recommends to Full Council the comments that should be made on individual applications or other actions such as attendance at Somerset Council Planning Committee meetings. The Town Council will try to encourage developers to design sensitively to maximise the benefit to the town and reduce impact on neighbours in areas such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using sustainable materials so that buildings fit well with their surroundings • provision of sufficient parking, play areas, allotments etc • on-going arrangements for maintenance of public areas and site boundaries. The Town Council aspires to following through planning conditions and other developer commitments to ensure that they are delivered.
Environment	Commercial & Leisure	The Town Council will encourage the maintenance and development of the town as an economically

		<p>prosperous place that attracts and supports employment and business. We will encourage visitors, thus assisting retail, leisure and tourism activities to flourish. We will achieve these outcomes by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aiming to maintain free parking and effective signage • and by providing a hub for visitor information and on-line • encouraging the Wiveliscombe Business Group.
Environment	Parking and Traffic	<p>Addressing Parking & Traffic through the planning process as the town continues to grow and negotiate with developers beyond the planning process where possible to develop new public parking spaces. Ensure that new developments include sufficient parking to mitigate effects on neighbours as well as for new houses. The Town Council will continue to oppose car parking charges and investigate if areas become available for car parking.</p>
Environment	Green agenda	<p>We will work to recover and protect the natural environment in all our activities. In particular we will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the installation of car charging points in sufficient quantity. • Support recycling and the reduction of waste • Investigate providing a water distribution point to reduce the use of plastic bottles. • Support volunteer campaigns to rebalance biodiversity to include the car park gardening.
Environment	Travel	<p>Public Transport – restricted parking in town – bringing people into the town centre and try to ensure bus transport is maintained.</p>
Working together	Work in Partnership	<p>Wiveliscombe Town Council is the first tier in local government, and we work closely with Somerset Council, other local councils and our LCN groups. We continue to support local volunteering groups.</p>
Assets	Management and maintenance of Assets	<p>On-going providing and managing Assets that are valued by the town, such as The Library, Public Toilets, Jubilee Gardens, Allotments, Green Spaces, Monuments, small items such as benches – as per asset register.</p> <p>The Town Council will ensure that valued assets are made available to the community at the appropriate standard by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing and maintaining standard items on our asset register. • supporting (through grants and/or other means) the operation of green spaces, meeting places and associated facilities run by local partners

		<p>such as the Recreation Ground, Community Centre and Town Hall;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly manage unique town resources such as Jubilee Gardens and the war monuments in the Recreation Ground and churchyard; • taking on-going responsibility for provision of essential town services such as the public toilets and the library when these are no longer provided by the principal authority and available via “devolution”.
Finance	Manage our Finances Proactively and Sustainably	<p>a. The Finance Committee including the Town Clerk recommends a budget and associated precept to Full Council each year for management by the clerk and monitoring by Full Council. The committee also recommends detailed allocation of s.137 capacity, CIL money, reserves and grants to Full Council. These activities underpin and enable delivery of all the duties and other priorities of the council.</p> <p>b. Somerset Council Devolution – investigate proposals emerging that would benefit the town and consider the realities of our powers and finances. Plan to implement if practical and desirable.</p>
Community	Involve and Support The Public More	<p>a. Investigate a Neighbourhood Plan and complete the Community Plan Update.</p> <p>b. Assisting Children/Young People, Minority Groups, Disadvantaged People – engage these people in the work of the town and support the youth groups – rugby, in the mix, Wivey activity, scouts/guides, church youth groups, high park music, rec generally skate park, schools.</p> <p>c. Health & Wellbeing – continue with initiatives following the health and wellbeing grant received from SALC. Fund more health equipment on the rec etc.</p> <p>d. make sure we look at communication being 2 way - us sharing information with public and also being open to approach by the public. Look at this and increase the proactivity. More community engagement is required.</p> <p>e. Crime and Antisocial behaviour – eg crime prevention cameras in The Square.</p>
Governance	Structure of the Town Council	<p>A governance group has been set up to consider decision-making, committee structure and general reporting to ensure the public are kept more fully informed. This plan is for one year but a five year plan should be published in 2027.</p>