



Shere Parish Council Strategic 3-Year Plan 2025-2028



Introduction

What is the Parish Council Strategic Plan?

Shere Parish Council's Strategic Plan is being created to identify, consult, and implement the vision, key objectives and direction of the council on behalf of the villages, over the next three years.

Run the Parish, Change the Parish!

The actions of the parish council can be split into two; run the parish and change the parish. **Run the Parish** is the daily activities carried out to support and maintain the parish. **Change the Parish** is the process (via the strategic 5-year plan) to implement changes to improve and sustainably support the parish in the coming years and would include large projects and activities.

Run the Parish

Day to day running of the parish including maintenance, liaising with other agencies, governance, planning and finance will continue under the instruction of full council and through the committees – see below.

Shere Parish Council Overview and Governance

The civil Parish of Shere is the largest in the area in the Borough of Guildford, Surrey and is the first tier of local government. The Parish lies in the Green Belt, the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and an Area of Great Landscape Value. It also includes three Conservation Areas (parts of the villages of Holmbury St. Mary, Peaslake and Shere). The total population is approximately 3,500. Shere Parish Council serves the four villages of Gomshall, Holmbury St. Mary, Peaslake and Shere and a large part of Abinger Hammer (excluding the village centre).

Shere Parish Council has 13 councillors, elected every four years (next election May 2027), split into three wards:
Shere and Gomshall (North Ward) – six councillors
Peaslake (South West Ward) – four councillors
Holmbury St. Mary (South East Ward) – three councillors

Contact details for councillors can be found by [clicking here](#).

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected annually by the councillors at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May. Councillors are unpaid and commit their time to improving and maintaining the four villages, on behalf of its residents.

Full council meets every month except August and December ([click here](#) to see meeting dates). All meetings are open to the public and there is a period set aside for the public to address the council.

Areas of Responsibility

Shere Parish Council has many responsibilities which include:

- Tanyard Hall, Gomshall (venue for hire, the Drop-In Centre, Village Larder and Parish Office)
- Old Fire Station Public Conveniences, Shere
- Car Parks, Shere and Peaslake
- Bus shelters
- Benches
- Some bins and grit bins
- Peaslake Farm
- War memorials

- Shere Pool (leased to Shere Swimming Pool Committee)
- Shere Well
- Five play areas, skate ramp and adult fitness equipment
- Various plots of land and sports pavilions across the parish

For a full list of **ALL** assets please [click here](#)

In addition to responsibility for physical items and land, the council also represents and lobbies on behalf of residents.

Parish Council Staff and Management

The council employs four members of staff:

- The Clerk is appointed by the council and carries out all the functions required by law as the council's Proper Officer. The Clerk is responsible for ensuring that the instructions of the council in connection with its function as a parish council are carried out. The Clerk is also the council's Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).
- The Assistant Clerk supports the Clerk in all duties and stands in as Clerk during annual leave or sickness.
- The Drop-in Centre Coordinator and Drop-in Assistant runs and manages the Drop-In Centre and village larder at Tanyard Hall.

General Power of Competence

When the current Clerk is qualified, the council can agree to adopt the General Power of Competence. The Localism Act 2011 s1 (1) gives local authorities including town councils 'the power to do anything that individuals generally may do as long as they do not break any other laws.' It is a power of first resort. This enables the council to better serve the community and is less bound by the powers of parish councils. Shere Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence in September 2020 and it is readopted by full council every subsequent May.

Financial Information

The Parish Council agreed a precept (the local tax levied by the Parish Council which is collected on its behalf by Guildford Borough Council as part of the Council Tax Bill) of £215,251 for 2025/2026. Equating to £108.27 per Band D property for the financial year.

In addition to the precept, the Parish Council receives additional funding from other sources (Car Park Charging, Tanyard Hall hire, land rentals, leases and occasionally private individuals/organisations).

See our website for [financial information](#) and [transparency](#).

The Parish Council aims to maintain a general reserve to cover unexpected events or emergencies and earmarked reserves for specific projects within the parish.

Change the Parish!

The Management and Strategy Working Group (M&SWG) oversees the production and implementation of the strategic plan and recommends to full council, achievable actions with timescale and budget planning. The plan is a live document and will be amended as appropriate, as the needs of the community change during this period.

Community Involvement

The parish council will undertake to communicate, consult and engage as outlined in the [Communication Engagement Policy](#). This is done through an active website and social media, notice boards and contributions to the parish magazine, to reach all residents.

Overarching Aims of the Strategic Three -Year Plan

1. To mitigate the adverse effects of increased traffic and visitor numbers throughout the parish on the community and environment by:
 - addressing health and safety concerns, such as maintaining access for emergency vehicles, pavement obstruction and traffic speed dangers
 - prioritising the physical and mental wellbeing of residents
 - actively looking for additional sources of revenue to reduce the financial burden of visitors (to reduce the percentage of the parish council precept spent on visitor amenities)
2. To recognise and address the risks to the parish environment (including, conserving and enhancing biodiversity) and residents arising from climate change and visitor activities by:
 - Lessening, where possible, the impact of adverse trends, such as flooding from heavy rainfall, trail erosion from overuse etc.
 - considering the environmental effect of every council decision
 - furthering and promoting national guidelines, to achieve change at a local level

Monitoring Progress

The Working Group and actions will be monitored by full council and the Three-Year Plan will be monitored annually and readopted by full council. A copy of the plan will be available on the parish council website.

Action Topics and Plans

Shere and Gomshall (North ward)

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1. Old Fire Station Toilets – The toilets are used predominantly by visitors and need a total refurbishment with a view to charge for use in the future. The grant has been stopped by Guildford Borough Council and an alternative income source is required.

Objective	Lead	Parties Involved	Activity	Timescale	Budget	Notes
Mitigate the effect of visitors to Shere – OFS Toilets	North Ward Councillors	Residents, SPC & GBC	Grant removed by GBC – Full refurbishment needed	2025		Planning Application for refurbishment with GBC. Reserves earmarked to begin works.
Mitigate the effect of visitors to Shere – OFS Toilets	North Ward Councillors	Residents, SPC & SCC	Installation of double yellow lines (dyls) to prevent inconsiderate parking	2022-2025		– to monitor effectiveness and consider requesting more if needed

Physical and Mental wellbeing	North Ward Councillors	SPC and Residents	Tanyard Hall – lift access to upstairs to extend Drop-in and to improve accessibility and utility for the community. To also consider alternatives to support the Drop-in	2025-2028	To be considered	
Mitigating the effect of visitors	North Ward Councillors	SPC and Shere Recreation Ground Association	Widening and improving the resident's parking on Shere Recreation Ground	2025-2028	To be considered	

Peaslake (South West Ward)

1. Peaslake Farm Fields – To protect the fields for future generations and to prevent construction. To mitigate the flood risk to the village centre from climate change.
2. Peaslake Farm Yard Development

Objective	Lead	Parties Involved	Activity	Timescale	Budget	Notes
Climate Change and the effect on the whole village	South West Ward	Residents, SPC, SCC and T Metson	Future proofing Peaslake against climate change impacts including flood prevention and forest fires	Ongoing		Consider and evaluate among other possibilities the list below: Implementing recommendations from SCC Flood Risk Team to reduce flooding. Not supporting development that puts existing drainage systems under pressure or that exacerbates flood risk. Close liaison with partners (SCC Flood Risk, Friends of the Hurtwood) to reduce risks of flooding and fire. Reinstating ponds on Mackies Hill and elsewhere to collect and slow surface water.

						Supporting the Climate café work on environmental/bio-diversity projects
Physical and Mental Wellbeing	Peaslake Steering Committee	Residents, SPC	Peaslake Farm Yard Development -			Option for Affordable Housing currently top priority stands but other options to be considered
Physical Wellbeing	South West Ward	Residents and SPC	Road Safety: improving safety in the Village Centre, Pursers Lane/East View and Hoe Lane			Maximising advocacy on reducing the speed limit on Pursers Lane, Improving road safety on Hoe Lane and Introducing traffic calming measures in the village centre such as shared space signage and road surface changes. Support Peaslake School on safely managing school drop offs and collections.

Holmbury St. Mary (South East Ward)

1. Road Safety – to ensure road safety issues are addressed by:
 - Supporting the speed watch volunteers
 - Identifying areas of concerns and liaising with Surrey County Council (SCC) Highways over improvements

Objective	Lead	Parties involved	Activity	Timescale	Budget	Notes
Mitigating the effect of traffic	South East Ward	Residents, SPC, SCC	Further traffic calming needed	Review six months after initial installation above		SCC Councillor B Hughes committed funding for review 2025-2026 and agreed discussions for further works

All Wards

1. Replacement of Play Equipment – to ensure funds are available for a rolling programme of replacements and upgrades.
 - Weekly inspections carried out by contractor
 - Yearly inspections undertaken by a qualified play inspection company
2. Drop-In Centre – run by the Parish Council for the benefit of all residents in the parish to provide companionship, support, activities, outings, and monthly hot meals for anyone elderly, lonely or just wants to come along.
 - Twice weekly sessions in Tanyard Hall
 - Activities and outings run at Tanyard Hall

Objective	Lead	Parties Involved	Activity	Timescale	Budget	Notes
Prioritising Physical and Mental Wellbeing	All Councillors	Residents, SPC	Identified the next piece of play equipment most in need of New play trail planned and agreed for Gomshall Play Area and wet pour repairs to multiple play areas	due to take place 2025-2026	Budget approved from Play Areas Repair and Replace and Play Area Sinking Fund	
Prioritising Physical and Mental Wellbeing	All Councillors	Residents, SPC	Requested assistance from The Henry Smith Fund to finance hot meals once a month for the Drop-In Centre			2024-2025 income from £1,000 from SCC Councillor B Hughes. £400 from Open Gardens and £1,130 from Closed veterans Club
			Engage with activity providers in the parish to incorporate the drop-in	Ongoing	Limited budget – get support from charities where possible	Activities take place every month with visits, talks, meals and movie Mondays. Regular talks from individuals and Age Concern. Local Physiotherapist doing monthly session for free
Physical and Mental Wellbeing	All Councillors	Residents, SPC	Village Larder at Tanyard Hall for those in need to help themselves	Ongoing	£1,000 from SCC and £500 budget from SPC	Very successful and used regularly, with donations of cash and goods from residents COMPLETED AND ONGOING – self

						financed with donations
Physical and Mental Wellbeing	Councillors	SPC	WASP bus – to consider working with other charities and other parish councils to run a service	2025-28		
Physical and Mental Wellbeing	All Councillor	SPC	Village Upkeep: improving maintenance and the overall appearance and condition of the village			Taking opportunities provided by restructuring of local government to get more funding for regular upkeep and maintenance of the village including taking on tasks from SCC that could be done better locally. Ensuring footpaths are well maintained and drains cleared.
Building/Maintaining a Strong Vibrant Community	All Councillors	SPC	Schools: encouraging families with young children to move to the villages to support the Schools and strengthen our community			Discuss with Schools and parents how to make the villages more attractive to young families and agree action plan. Look for suitable sites for building good quality, affordable and desirable family homes to attract young families to the village. Encourage young families through engagement with community projects like the Peaslake Community Garden, and by supporting Forest School and the Nurseries