



## Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028

The parish of Clifton served by Clifton Community Council covers 3,359/km<sup>2</sup> and is a rural parish in the Westmorland and Furness Council district in the ceremonial county of Cumbria. The population is circa 739 (2021 Census).

Clifton Community Council serves an area that includes the village of Clifton and part of Clifton Dykes and Clifton Moor and the area from the river Lowther Bridge to the North and Hackthorpe Bridge to the south.

Within the community there is a mix of listed buildings recorded in the National Heritage List for England and historical monuments and areas that are rich in history including the site of the last battle on English soil in 1745.

Clifton has the west coast main line the A6 road and the M6 motorway passing through the parish along with the A66 assessed to the north via the A6 from the parish.

Clifton has a village school in the middle of the village of Clifton and the George and Dragon pub to the south end of the village and St Cuthbert's Church to the North end of Clifton. The community has over the last 25 years lost its village shop and post office and more recently the village hall had to be closed due to its deteriorating condition, but there are plans in the community to open a community shop and the parish is served by a mobile post office once a week currently.

The community has a number of small and medium business operating in the parish along with a major local employer A W Jenkinson and a number of Farms in and around the parish.

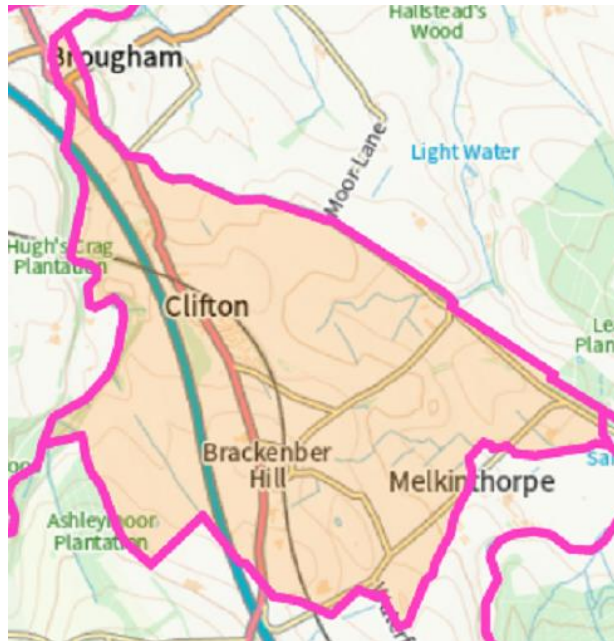
Clifton has seen a number of major developments increase the housing stock in the parish over the last 20 years increasing the population of the village of Clifton with 2 major housing developments in the village alongside a number of smaller and single home developments in the parish.

This Strategic Plan is to build on the plans and work by the Community Council to date and enable a strategic vision to enable delivery for and with the community.

The Strategic Plan is a compilation of:

- Actions identified from responses to engagement with the community and needs of the parish.
- Outstanding actions from current council Plans.
- The on-going requirements to support the maintenance of the infrastructure and assets within the parish.

This Strategic Plan assists the Council to make key decisions which will help it to achieve its aims and objectives which are intended to improve the quality of life for the people it serves.



## Introduction

### Purpose of this Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan sets out the Community Council's aims and objectives, the actions required to achieve them, the timescale, and the budget required over a three-year period. These planned activities form the basis for setting future budgets.

### Reason for this Strategic Plan

This Plan is a strategic guideline for the Council to work within in order to deliver the aspirations of the local community within a planned budget and timeframe.

This Plan is a 'live' document that will evolve through community engagement and will assist Councillors to make decisions in the best interests of those they serve.

As a 'live' document this Strategic Plan will be monitored and updated regularly to demonstrate progress.

### Community Involvement in the Strategic Plan Process

To ensure that this Strategic Plan adequately represents the best interests of the community, members of the local community are invited to participate in its development. This Plan is the Council's main source of communicating its actions and welcomes comments from community members to help shape how the Plan evolves.

### Monitoring the Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan will be reviewed by the Community Council on a regular basis, at least annually, so that progress can be monitored. It will be updated as actions are completed and where progress is impeded the council will consider what actions are necessary and whether further work is required.

As a 'living' document this Plan will be regularly reviewed to show progress and ensure it is up to date.

CATEGORY	TOPIC	ACTION	OBJECTIVE	TIMESCALE	BUDGET
<b>THEME 1</b> <b>PARISH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE</b> <b>Communication</b>	Website	Ensure it is kept up to date and compliant.	To improve communication between the community council and residents and businesses by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Promoting the activities of the council.</li> <li>* Informing about local and county wide issues.</li> <li>* Improving the effectiveness of the community Council.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	£0
	Newsletter and Annual Report	Ensure a minimum of 2 newsletters are published annually.  Newsletters to be printed distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* To provide a regular newsletter about the council's activities and other information of local interest.</li> <li>* To provide an Annual Report that includes a Chairs Report for the past year and how the Council has spent its money.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	£150 per newsletter
	Social Media	To communicate and spread information quickly.	To enhance other means of communication. Explore opportunities for live streaming or providing recordings of meetings for community to view.	Ongoing	£0
	Community Council meetings	To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Publish agendas and minutes on website.</li> <li>* Post agendas on notice boards.</li> </ul>	To provide information about the council's decisions and encourage members of the public to attend council meetings and participate in the public session.	Ongoing	Included in statutory duties.
	Neighbourhood Plan	To progress from the designation of the Neighbourhood Planning Area through procurement to consultation, development adoption and delivery	To empower community decision making on positive development within the community, and to facilitate the progress of the Community Hub and to strengthen engagement with the planning system.	Ongoing	£10-15k estimate.  Grant funding available.
	Local Council Award Scheme	To complete and submit application and supporting documentation for the Middle award level	To formalise the good practice and high standards of local government used by Clifton Community Council.	Ongoing	£350

	CGR	To continue to review and work with WaF for a Community Governance Review to regularise governance and boundaries of Clifton Parish	To allow for Clifton Dykes to be included within Clifton in its entirety as the settlement naturally aligns to Clifton  And to look at a seat number review for the Council and the numbers are currently to high.	Ongoing	£0
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CATEGORY	TOPIC	ACTION	OBJECTIVE	TIMESCALE	BUDGET
<b>Theme 2</b>  <b>COMMUNITY</b>  <b>Leisure and recreation</b>	Development of a new Community Hub	Work with the community, partners, and stakeholders.	To develop a new building and its amenities to serve the needs of the community.	Ongoing	£ in earmarked reserves, grant funding will be considered or Public Works Loan will be considered if required.
	To improve and enhance local facilities and services.	To provide grant funding to local voluntary groups and charities.	To increase social capacity for local voluntary groups and the wider community.	Annually	Maximum Budget of £750
	Signage of settlements	Lobby/Encourage WaF to make improvements to landscape features at the entrance of settlements.	To preserve the rural identity of settlements within the parish, and to make it clear to drivers they are entering residential areas.	Ongoing	N/A Lobbying of WaF. Clifton Community Council has no remit to undertake works on/in the Highway.
	Clifton Pocket Park	Maintenance and improvement plan for implementation.	To ensure the Pocket Park area is well maintained and provides functional space for the community.	Ongoing	£800

Local policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Continue to request police reports from the Neighbourhood Policing Team for each Community Council meeting.</li> <li>* Publish details of any police reports in minutes.</li> </ul>	To help reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Monthly	No budgetary implications
Footway Lighting	Review and maintain of the footway lights devolved to the Community Council and Eden/WaF council.	<p>To support energy efficiency and lower running costs.</p> <p>Where possible to move to sustainable energy footway lighting solutions</p> <p>To reduce crime and the fear of crime with the provision of reliable footway lighting.</p>	Ongoing	£2000 in 24/25
Play area	To continue to progress attempts to secure the future of this site	To secure this valuable site for the health & wellbeing of the young people and to deliver improvements and enhancements to this much loved community green space and play area in the centre of the village adjacent to the school	Ongoing	Unknown
Info Pod	To deliver beneficial improvements to the facility to make it a sustainable resilience pod in the community (for information sharing, and emergency communications in the event of power failure).	Continue to seek grant funding to continue to deliver on plans for this site and where new technology is developed to enable adoption of this.	Ongoing	Unknown

	Lengthsman/Parish Maintenance	To continue to work with WaF to obtain an agreement for local maintenance of green spaces, highway verges and pavements	To enhance the visual appearance of the area, and to improve community ownership of these spaces for the common good whilst also supporting biodiversity and pollinators.	Ongoing	£1500
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CATEGORY	TOPIC	ACTION	OBJECTIVE	TIMESCALE	BUDGET
<b>Theme 3</b> <b>TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT</b>  <b>Highways</b>	Highways issues	Publish information on how problems can be reported to WaF on the Community Council's website and social media.	To assist people to report highways issues directly to Westmorland & Furness Council (the highway authority).	Ongoing	No budgetary implications
	Traffic calming schemes	Ensure that road safety issues are included in the Community Plan.	To seek solutions to speeding and improve road safety.	Annually	No budgetary implications
	Road safety	Continue to lobby WaF to extend the speed zones to the north and south of Clifton along the A6	The A6 road is a busy one, a proposal has been put forward to Cumbria County Council Highways (historically) and now Westmorland & Furness Council to create 40mph zones to the north and south of Clifton and extend the 30mph zones at each end along with an application for the imposition of a 20mph limit in the centre of the village and residential streets.	Ongoing	Explore funding that might be available and work with partners to address and implement

	Community Connectivity	Work with stakeholders and community to enhance and create new connectivity opportunities between Clifton and Neighbouring communities.	Including Public transport, active travel on demand transport. Explore options of collaboration with stakeholders including neighbouring communities to create a joint transport and mobility report to look at needs and solutions that can be jointly delivered.	12 Months	Unknown
<b>Theme 4</b> <b>ECONOMY AND TOURISM</b> <b>Visitor attractions</b>	Business and places of interest	Work with Westmorland & Furness Council and, Penrith Town Council “as the main local Hub town”, businesses, and other partners to support the local economy and highlight the local business in Clifton Parish and the areas of interest for visitors.	To promote and sustain economic development.	Ongoing	None

CATEGORY	TOPIC	ACTION	OBJECTIVE	TIMESCALE	BUDGET
<b>Theme 5</b> <b>HOUSING AND HEALTH</b> <b>Social wellbeing</b>	Supporting health and wellbeing	To support adequate affordable housing and health provision.	To ensure that people have access to social care, health care and good living standards.	Ongoing	No budgetary implications. Earmark and signpost partner agency information via Council communication channels.
	Defibrillator	Maintain the equipment and work to look at options to add additional defibrillators in the community.	To make the equipment more prominent and easier to access by all.	Ongoing	£150
	Cumbria in Bloom	Work with the community to develop a community led greening and entry for Cumbria in Bloom.	Create a vibrant community enhancing project to enable the community to enter the yearly Cumbria in Bloom competition.	Ongoing	£2000

<b>Theme 6</b> <b>PLANNING</b> Local policy	Future development within the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Respond to planning applications and policy review representing the views of the local community.</li> <li>* Encourage residents to respond to consultation to ensure their views are taken into consideration.</li> </ul>	To continue to comment on all key strategic planning and consultations that affect the parish to ensure that, through the Community Council, the views of the local community form part of the decision-making process.	Ongoing	No budgetary implications.
	Understanding planning policy	Councillor and clerk training.	To ensure the Community Council's responses are based on material consideration.	Ongoing	Cost of training.



## Budget Implications

OBJECTIVE	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027		2027/2028	
	CAPITAL	REVENUE	CAPITAL	REVENUE	CAPITAL	REVENUE	CAPITAL	REVENUE
<b>Theme 1</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>							
Publish council newsletter and Annual Report		300		300		350		350
Review training needs of councillors and clerk		200		200		250		250
Local Council Awards		350		0		0		0
Attend relevant conferences and meetings		*included within training budget		*included within training budget		*included within training budget		*included within training budget
<b>Theme TOTAL</b>		<b>850</b>		<b>500</b>		<b>600</b>		<b>600</b>

OBJECTIVE	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027		2027/2028	
	CAPITAL	REVENUE	CAPITAL	REVENUE	CAPITAL	REVENUE		
<b>Theme 2</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>							
To enhance and improve local facilities and services		£750		£750		£850		£850
Clifton Pocket Park		£800		£800		£900		£900
Footway Lighting Recharge from WaF		£2000		TBC		TBC		TBC

Lengthsman/Parish Maintenance		£1500		£1750		£2000		£2000
<b>Theme TOTAL</b>		<b>£5050</b>		<b>£3300 +TBC</b>		<b>£3750 +TBC</b>		<b>£3750 +TBC</b>
<b>Theme 3</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>							
<b>Theme TOTAL</b>	No budget implications at the point of adoption							
<b>Theme 4</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>							
<b>Theme TOTAL</b>	No budget implications at the point of adoption							
	<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>
<b>Theme 5</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>							
Defib		£150		£150		£160		£160
Cumbria in Bloom		£2000		£2000		£2000		£2000
<b>Theme TOTAL</b>		<b>£2150</b>		<b>£2150</b>		<b>£2160</b>		<b>£2160</b>
<b>Theme 6</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>							
<b>Theme TOTAL</b>	No budget implications at the point of adoption							

<i>Last reviewed:</i>	
<i>Approved:</i>	
<i>Minute no:</i>	
<i>Next review date:</i>	

