



MODBURY PARISH COUNCIL

STRATEGY 2024 - 28

Modbury- more than a town

Although the majority of our community lives in or close to the town, this strategy and most of the objectives and priorities contained within – apart from those pertaining only to the town itself - should be interpreted as applying to the whole parish.

Modbury Parish Council

Modbury Parish Council has 12 councillor positions each of whom is elected or coopted to represent the whole community. We sit as independents with no political party affiliation and are unpaid. The Council's only paid member of staff is the Parish Clerk who is employed part-time for 17 hours per week. She is both the Proper Officer and the Financial Responsible Officer.

We receive funding from the precept which is set and agreed at the beginning of each financial year. This money is paid by each household within Modbury as part of the council tax. The Council also has power to raise funding from other sources for specific projects or developments.

Our Council meetings and all our committees are held in public and financial accounts are independently audited internally and externally at the end of each financial year.

Our Vision for Modbury

Our vision for the future of Modbury is to:

- Work with our partner organisations to support the improvement of the quality of life for present and future generations;
- Maintain and improve the public spaces and the aesthetic appearance of Modbury for residents and visitors;
- Protect our environment and ensure the sustainability of our natural resources now and in the future;
- Support the continuing viability of businesses based in and around Modbury.

Our Values

The values which underpin our vision are as follows:

- To conduct our business with integrity, impartiality and transparency;
- To be a listening council, treating all views with courtesy and respect;
- To represent, and be an advocate and campaigning voice for, the residents of Modbury;
- To encourage engagement and involvement in the work of the Council;
- To work in partnership with other organisations to improve our services and deliver value for money.

Our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges

We have used a SWOC analysis to guide and inform the development of this strategy and identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges that are relevant over the next four years as we deliver our strategic plans.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Good mix of skills and experience on the Council</p> <p>Secure finances with allocated reserves</p> <p>Established joint working relationships with surrounding parishes</p> <p>Committed volunteers within the Town</p> <p>We are prepared to approach key challenges robustly</p> <p>Approved and adopted Neighbourhood and Community Plan</p> <p>Good working relationships with businesses</p>	<p>Council vacancies</p> <p>Limited amount of personnel resource with only 17 hours of Parish Clerk time</p> <p>Lack of diversity on the council and no representation from younger residents</p> <p>Competing priorities identified from the community with limited capacity in terms of time, powers or finance to effect change</p>
Opportunities	Challenges
<p>Future developments that meet the community's priorities as set out in the Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>More joint collaboration with neighboring Parishes</p>	<p>Lack of engagement from the community</p> <p>Lack of understanding of the Councils role. A perception from the community that the Parish Council has more powers than it possesses</p>

New tiers and different arrangements for local government	Lack of finance at National, District and County Council level leading to a potential increase in maintenance work
Taking on the management of more devolved services Subject to finance	Loss of Parish Clerk
Strengthening good relationships with all stakeholders	Inquorate Council
	Unbudgeted but essential developments leading to reduced reserves
	Over promising on delivery plans
	Loss of volunteers on specific services
	Climate Emergency

Our priorities

We all, councillors and residents alike have a wish list of developments that we would like to see implemented throughout Modbury. However, there are some aspects of the Council's work that must be undertaken and with limited resources in terms of finance and manpower these can quite often compete against those others that we would like to undertake. Those we are committed and/or contracted to undertake include:

- Management and maintenance of our play parks;
- Repair of potholes on minor routes within the parish;
- Grass cutting;
- Maintenance of public rights of way (P3);
- Drain and buddle hole clearing;
- Tree husbandry;
- Maintenance of our green spaces;
- Maintenance of council assets which include car parking spaces at Palm Cross, benches and sports facilities.

In Modbury we are fortunate to have willing volunteers who undertake much of the practical work involved in these activities and we thank them for their continued involvement. Where volunteers are unavailable or the specific role requires more regulated skills the council contract with external companies to provide the services required.

Another key priority for both the council and the parish clerk is governance. This includes managing the annual budget, monitoring and balancing the Council's accounts, preparing records for audit and VAT purposes, ensuring that correct financial records are kept and that internal checking regimes are established.

As we move forward with our strategy other priorities must also take center stage in our list of objectives as they are key to ensuring that we meet our statutory responsibilities.

These priorities include:

- Ensuring the health and safety requirements are met for our current services and volunteer input as well as our play parks and sports provision;
- The transfer of the management of our sports and recreation facility at the QEII to a CIC Charity with devolved management responsibilities undertaken by the current MARS committee;
- Responses to planning and development proposals within the parish;
- Environmental and sustainability issues.

Our objectives for the next four years

A. Partnership Working

We will strive to:

A1. Be the representative voice of the whole of the parish community;

A2. Strengthen working relationships we have with South Hams District Council, Devon County Council and social housing providers;

A3. Improve relationships with community groups as well as our churches, school, local charities and trust funds, businesses and traders.

A4. Lobby to ensure that any proposed devolved services are funded appropriately and are within the capacity and the capability of the Parish Council to undertake

B. Transport and Road Networks

We will promote opportunities that will improve road infrastructure and increased safety for pedestrians and road users. Specifically, we will:

B1. Pursue the recommendations from our commissioned report on safer pedestrian access which identified various solutions to pinch points within Modbury Town;

B2. Identify ways and means to increase electric car charging points;

B3. Encourage and promote walking routes;

B4. Campaign for the introduction of acceptable speed limits for the town and surrounding area;

B5. Lobby to improve public transport options;

B6. Continue to provide a key role in the repair of potholes on minor roads within the parish;

B7. Lobby the highways authority to improve the main road surface conditions across the parish.

C. Our Town

We will:

- C1.** Continue to promote Modbury as a place to live, work, shop and visit;
- C2.** Develop a plan to improve the appearance of public areas in respect of planting, seating, lighting and street furniture;
- C3.** Continue to support groups to develop community events such as the May Fair and Modbury Christmas Lights.

D. Environment

We will protect, improve and enhance our Parish in response to the Climate Emergency. In particular we will:

- D1.** Develop a Climate and Environmental Plan for the parish;
- D2.** Identify ways in which we can work with residents and businesses to reduce our carbon footprint;
- D3.** Work collaboratively with surrounding parish councils and community groups on the River Erme to identify environmental and biodiversity issues affecting our rivers and waterways;
- D4.** Continue to respond to and highlight environmental issues in planning applications and developments.

E. Health and Well-being

We will continue to support and develop health and well-being opportunities for all residents within the parish. In particular we will:

- E1.** Seek opportunities for the acquisition of land by lease or purchase sufficient allotments for the current population of the Parish;
- E2.** Continue to provide and maintain play parks and sports and recreational facilities within the Parish taking advantage of any opportunities to expand our facilities as they arise;
- E3.** Continue to support community groups to maintain and enhance our community orchard and green spaces within the parish;
- E4.** Work with the Dementia Alliance and other community groups to strive to make Modbury dementia friendly;
- E5.** Continue to recruit to and support our volunteer network through good management practices, sound health and safety policies and excellent communication systems.

E6. Support charitable organisations operating within the parish such as Modbury Caring with grants and any necessary space to use as an office or meeting venue as appropriate.

F. Planning and regeneration

We will continue to actively monitor and campaign to ensure that development proposals meet the needs of the community in terms of accessibility, social housing, conservation, environment and sustainability, and complement the existing built environment. This will include:

F1. Monitoring the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Plan, refreshing the plan periodically to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the parish;

F2. Ensuring Parish Council input into the Plymouth and West Devon Joint Local Plan;

F3. Monitoring development in the parish, raising relevant issues related to over-development of country areas, traffic flow, parking, lack of affordable housing and conservation;

F4. Actively ensuring that the Parish Council is involved in future planning decisions affecting the town;

F5. Proactively using Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funds to benefit the parish;

F6. Exploring the potential of specific housing developments for older residents;

F7. Ensuring that our heritage is maintained and preserved through the planning process.

G. Community Engagement

We will engage with the community on our strategy and each objective to ensure that they meet need and will adapt in response to feedback. Our key objectives include:

G1. Continuing to provide grant funding and support to community groups;

G2. Encouraging and supporting youth activities within the parish, identifying and developing specific projects where possible;

G3. Using social media sites to engage and promote the work of the Parish Council;

G4. Monitoring and reporting on actions taken to deliver the strategic plan objectives;

G5. Encouraging feedback and attendance at Council meetings;

G6. Striving to recruit to unfilled councillor vacancies and improving the diversity of councillor membership;

G7. Continuing to provide Saturday surgeries to support community engagement with councillors;

G8. Reviewing and enhancing our parish website to ensure it is fit for purpose and the Council is utilizing the facility to its maximum potential.

Delivery Plans

Our strategy will be underpinned by a series of delivery plans which will set out in more detail the steps we will take to deliver on our key priorities. Our first delivery plan will cover the financial period 2024 – 2025. It will be a live document which we will be adding to and updating over the coming months.

Modbury Parish Council Strategy 2024 – 28: Approved 4 June 2024