

# West Auckland Parish Council

## STATEMENT OF INTENT

Adopted May 2023 (to be reviewed annually at AGM)

West Auckland Parish Council works on behalf of parishioners on the issues that matter to the village. The Parish Council's powers are limited but it does have a statutory right to be consulted on all local planning issues in West Auckland and bordering parishes by Durham County Council. The Parish Council takes a robust stance in representing local views and strives to influence planning decisions in the best interests of the village based on objective and applicable national/district planning policies and regulations.

The Parish Council will, in the coming year;

- Meet once a month (except August) as a Full Council and actively encourage members of the public to attend and bring their issues of concern to the attention of the Council.
- Ensure controls are held over expenditure items so parishioners get value for the small part of Council Tax payments (the Precept), that the Council controls, and all governance legislation is strictly adhered to.
- Consider all planning applications that fall within, and impact upon, the parish and will inform Durham County Council's Planning Department (as appropriate) of their views.
- Enhance where possible all areas of open spaces and encourage sporting use of suitable areas.
- Support local groups for example Village In Bloom and the Memorial Hall Committee.
- Regularly liaise with Durham County Council on road safety and highways issues raised by residents and councillors.
- Regularly liaise with the local policing team to minimise crime and nuisance and encourage higher levels of visible policing in the village.
- Publicise all meetings and provide regular news reports via the West Life newsletter and regularly update parish notice boards.
- Endeavour to retain and improve the rural character, biodiversity and natural characteristics of the village, and specifically trees and hedges, which provide amenity value, wildlife habitat and a unique sense of place.

### Objectives

- To provide a subsidised community facility in Monteith Parish Room to support parishioners or local group/organisations with an accessible venue for socialising, meetings and networking.
- To continue ongoing improvement of the outdoor sports and recreational facilities; to provide access to improved recreational facilities and promote multiple sports' activity for all ages.
- Climate Change; to introduce and evolve a climate change action plan to contribute to the preservation and protection of the village from the effects of climate change.
- Community events; consider additional community events, in partnership with the Memorial Hall, for the benefit of the village.
- Tree planting; plant and replace diseased/damaged trees wherever possible in acknowledgment of the importance of the tree's role within the protection of the environment.

### Regular Events

- ❖ Annual General/Public Meeting
- ❖ Remembrance Service, at The Pant War Memorial
- ❖ Christmas decorations throughout December