

Grange-over-Sands Town Council
Priorities and Action Plan 2024 – 2025
APPROVED DECEMBER 2023

Objective 1: Civic Amenities, Health and Wellbeing			
To support and contribute to the social fabric of the town, and to enhance community facilities and the quality of life.			
What	How	When	Progress
Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss	<p>Council recognises the Climate Change and Nature Emergency, committing in October 2019 to working with local authorities, and the community, to address the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training – becoming informed, reading briefings and attending WFC and CALC events and courses. 2. Planning Application Consultations – considering biodiversity and habitat loss in all responses. 3. Victoria Hall – encouraging users to provide non-meat options at their events and investigating heating zoning and more insulation for the building. 4. Community Partnership Working – supporting Peninsula Environmental Action Together (PEAT). 	Ongoing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cllr. Thomas appointed GTC representative to PEAT. Meetings held November 2023 to support the Group in their funding bid to WFC. b. Town Clerk attended October 2023 WFC ‘Climate Conversation’.

	<p>5. Continuing with common-sense measures, reducing consumption in all areas of Council business.</p>		
Victoria Hall	<p>1. Council committed (March 2018) to providing and promoting the Victoria Hall as a Community Venue, recognising that it is a valuable resource within the Community.</p> <p>2. GTC subsidises the Hall, as it does to provide and maintain all the other services and facilities.</p> <p>3. GTC encourages, supports and works alongside the Victoria Hall Support Group (VHSG) to improve the facilities, fundraise, increase income and footfall and raise the profile of the Hall.</p> <p>4. Maintenance Plan in place and implemented.</p> <p>5. Work with Theatres Trust consultant to create business and management plan for the Hall.</p>	Ongoing	<p>a. Urgent roof repairs completed in August 2023 – Rooms 9 and 4 to be decorated and come back into full use.</p> <p>b. First meeting with Theatre Trust consultant took place October 2023. He has subsequently spoken to Vic Hall tech volunteer and the Hall Manager.</p>
Public Conveniences	<p>Provide three blocks of public conveniences (Ornamental Gardens, Church Hill and Promenade) working with the cleaning and maintenance contractors to ensure a high standard of facility.</p>	Ongoing	<p>a. As part of budget planning, consider increasing cost of loos to 40p and/or closing Church Hill facilities during the winter.</p> <p>b. Tender process prepared for when required – annual rolling contract with Healthmatic Ltd from March.</p>

<p>Recreation and Parks</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enable the provision of the Recreation Ground on the Promenade. 2. Phased replacement first generation skate ramps over three years. 3. Replace I-Play (resolved Feb 2021). 4. Fund and organise wall-top planting at the Ornamental Gardens and research the possibility of sustainable planting for the wall-tops. 5. Lido Gallery 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recreation Ground contracted to Horton Leisure until October 2024. b. Weekly and annual inspections are scheduled and undertaken. c. Final skate ramp installed. d. Street Workout Equipment installed Summer 2022 to replace I-Play. e. Working with PEAT and WFC to improve wall-top planting. f. Return and re-home the Lido Gallery.
<p>Allotments</p>	<p>Provide and maintain allotments at two sites – Grange Fell and Yewbarrow and investigate the creation of new allotments as required.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Band Concerts</p>	<p>Organise <i>Music in the Park</i> Summer Concert Season:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Charity and Co to book bands, generate publicity and seek sponsors. 2. GTC risk assesses the event, provides Portaloo and staff to put chairs out each Sunday, pays rent to WFC for bandstand lease and ensure speakers installed/removed each season to comply with Listed Building Consent. 	<p>Seasonal May-Sept</p>	<p>Chase request with WFC to provide better access around the bandstand by tamping down the surface.</p>

Community Resilience	Understand and work with local and regional authorities' resilience plans.	Ongoing	Ask Unitary Cllr. Peter Endor for details of any WFC resilience plans.
Civic Pride:	Continue to encourage civic pride through the provision of:		
	i) Community Lengthsman	Ongoing	Ongoing
	ii) Hanging baskets and Vic Hall Christmas lights	Seasonal	Ongoing
	iii) Christmas lights in town – icicles and street columns.	Seasonal	a. Lights purchased with contract to install, store and maintain until 2026. b. Need to find energy supplier.
	iv) Mayor/Deputy Mayor attendance at events	Ongoing	Ongoing
	v) Maintain and update Mayoral Chain	Ongoing	Currently up to date.
	vi) Maintenance of the War Memorial	Ongoing	Ongoing
	vii) Contribute to organising Act of Remembrance, providing insurance, PA and risk assessment.	Seasonal	Ongoing
	viii) Encouragement of litter-pickers	Ongoing	Ongoing

	ix) Provide and fly Union and Remembrance flags	Ongoing	Ongoing and seasonal
	x) Encouragement of gardening groups and liaison with WFC	Ongoing	Ongoing
<p>Objective 2: Economic Growth</p> <p>To support and contribute to the economic growth and prosperity of the Town.</p>			
What	How	When	Progress
General Amenity	<p>Continue to work in partnership with other authorities and stakeholders to improve the general amenity of the Town, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Promenade • The Lido • The Ornamental Gardens • Park Road Gardens • Olive Way • Community Orchard 	Ongoing	<p>SLDC (now WFC) resolved to fund 'light touch restoration' in February 2019.</p> <p>GTC resolved to support this 'light touch' restoration of the Lido.</p> <p>January 2021 - resolution to support revised plans.</p>
Local Groups	Continue working with local groups, supporting initiatives that contribute to the visitor	Ongoing	Ongoing

	experience and enhance the quality of life for residents.		
Christmas Tree Committee	Support the Christmas Tree Committee by providing insurance cover for the lights, event, sleigh, and volunteers.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Events	Provide administrative support and advice for events in relation to licences, permissions and risk assessments.	Ongoing	Ongoing
<p>Objective 3: Planning and Development</p> <p>To support sustainable appropriate development, where this meets local planning criteria and the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>			
What	How	When	Progress
Planning Applications	<p>Respond to planning application consultations from Local Planning Authority (Westmorland and Furness Unitary Council).</p> <p>Promote community engagement in planning and represent residents.</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing – biodiversity and habitat loss to be included in consideration of all planning applications.

Neighbourhood Plan	Ensure GTC planning responses are congruent by creating NP guidelines for Councillors.	Ongoing	Cllr. Greenway to update guidelines.
Consultations	Comment on Local Plan and structure plans for development, transportation and future strategic planning.	Ongoing	Ongoing
<p>Objective 4: Community Engagement</p> <p>To encourage and facilitate community engagement ensuring those members of the community with the smallest voice are heard and to value the community's contributions and give them consideration.</p>			
What	How	When	Progress
Promote democracy and publicise Town Council's work	Publicise the duties and powers of the Town Council to residents (using website, social media, posters, <i>Grange Now</i> etc) and raise the profile of the Town Council.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Councillors: Surgeries	Hold regular joint Council surgeries with Unitary Council in local venues and advertise them.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Councillors: Representatives	Provide Councillor Representatives for local groups as requested.	Ongoing	Ongoing – representatives are reviewed annually in May.

Website	Publish updated and statutory Council documents, promote events and Victoria Hall.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Social Media	Use social media to engage wider audience.	Ongoing	Got Facebook page – help needed.
Grants	Support local non-profit organisations and individuals by providing grants through the Bay Villa Trust.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Ward Boundaries	Encourage WFC to change ward boundaries to ensure representation for all residents.	Ongoing	Cllr. Greenway to contact Electoral Services.
<p>Objective 5: Sustainability and Credibility – Core Council Business</p> <p>To ensure an adequate and realistic provision of resources and services that meets the Council’s objectives and to ensure that these are managed in such a way as to encourage economic efficiency through regular budget reviews and developing a precept that meets the needs and aspirations of the Community.</p>			
What	How	When	Progress
Statutory Duties	Continue to undertake statutory duties to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage finances in compliance with the Financial Regulations. 	Ongoing – audit date set by External Auditor	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage meetings and administer Council’s business in compliance with the Standing Orders. • Undertake external and internal audits. • Maintain internal controls. • Carry out, update and review Risk Assessments for all activities. • Adopt, update and review Policies and Procedures. • Employ and manage staff in compliance with Employment Legislation. 		
Asset Management	Ensure that the Councils’ assets are managed effectively on behalf of the community.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Public Queries	Help people solve problems or identify which Council or other body can best help them.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Budget and Precept	Ensure that approved actions are costed and included in the budget each year.	November	Ongoing
Bay Villa Trust	Council acts as Trustees to the Bay Villa Trust,	Ongoing	Ongoing

	managing investments, returns to Charity Commission and grants.		
<p>Objective Six: Professional Standards</p> <p>To adopt and maintain professional standards in all aspects of the Council’s business and be recognised locally and nationally as a well-managed council, representative of the needs of the people that it serves and for being transparent and honest in everything that it does.</p>			
What	How	When	Progress
Local Council Award Scheme	Apply to the relevant scheme if the Council is eligible and if it will provide clear benefit for residents.	When Council eligible and if Councillors resolve to do it.	Ongoing
Aspiration	Aspire to high standards and best practice even if Council is not eligible or chooses not to apply to Local Council Award Scheme.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Training	Identify and support the training needs and aspirations of all councillors, staff and volunteers.	Ongoing	Ongoing
General Power of Competence (GPC)	Resolve to use GPC when the Council is eligible.	November 2017 first resolved	Reviewed annually in May.