



WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL

Working to safeguard Bedlington's past, present and future.

Our Mission

The Town Council is committed to maintaining Bedlington as a unique separate town with an active life of its own and working to improve the quality of life of its residents, visitors and those who work in it, whilst preserving its heritage

Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026

The Town Council has developed a strategic plan (to be adopted in October 2022) which includes the principles of the council's aims and objectives. This is the Town Council's first Strategic Plan. This Strategic Plan is monitored through an Annual Action Plan. It is therefore a 'live' document which is continually being monitored and updated. This enables the council to track and monitor progress of its objectives against timescales. The Action Plan is published on the Council's website where members of the community are encouraged to assist with monitoring its progress and its further development.

West Bedlington Town Council Aims and Objectives.

West Bedlington Town Council aims to:

- Deliver our services cost effectively and efficiently so that they contribute to a better quality of life.
- Ensure that community development is driven by the local community and that it represents their needs and ambitions.
- Represent the views of the local community by working with them to improve the local environment and preserve its heritage.
- Be open, transparent, and accountable and work within its statutory obligations, and use only those powers and duties appropriate to its status as a Town Council.

The Town Council's objectives are:

- Work with the local community by listening to their views, needs and aspirations and assist to bring these into fruition. **We deliver this via a Residents panel – annual residents survey – councillor surgeries – Council Meeting question time, - Regular meetings with County Councillors, - Residents newsletter / e-newsletter – our website (This is part of our Communication Theme)**
- Demonstrate openness, transparency, and accountability in all Town Council activities. **We deliver this via Agendas and Minutes published on website and distributed to mailing list, accounts open to public inspection, Audio recordings of meetings on social media – Only make decisions included on meetings agendas. (This is part of our Governance Theme)**
- Support the local economy. **We deliver this via buying local where possible and it is cost effective and practical to do so (not all costs are visible). (This is part of our Local Economy Theme)**
- Work with partners and stakeholders to improve and enhance the local environment. **We deliver this via – Northumberland County Council Service Level Agreements – Working with neighbouring parish councils – Bedlington in Bloom and other residents' groups – Schools – Bedlington Community Centre (This is part of our Community Support Theme)**
- Support the work of voluntary groups and organisations within the town. **We deliver this via - Community Chest Fund – Room Hire costs etc – Councillor Membership on outside bodies, support to local food banks. (This is part of our Community Support Theme)**
- Represent the views of residents in response to local planning applications. **We deliver this via our Planning Champion – Planning WG (This part of our Community Support Theme)**
- Promote ethical and fair practices to promote harmony and social inclusion. **We deliver this via inclusion within ALL our policies – specifically equalities policy to ensure they promote equality (This is part of our Governance Theme)**
- Support efforts to sustain the social, environmental, and economic wellbeing within a safe town. **We deliver this via - Community Events – Youth Support programme – CCTV – Speed Signs – Community Defibrillators. (This is part of our Community Support Theme)**
- Fulfil its statutory obligations, use those powers and duties appropriate to its status as a Town Council and understand and communicate the limits of those powers and duties to its residents. **We deliver this via - Website – residents' newsletter – Training – Protocols with NCC and County Councillors. Sign posting to other organisations. Effective Governance and up to date effective Policies and Procedures. (This is part of our Governance Theme)**
- Ensure that Councillors and staff are sufficiently trained to deliver public services to the people served by the Town Council. **We deliver this via - Training programme – kept up to date (This is part of our Governance Theme)**
- Encourage the community to take “ownership” of community initiatives. **We deliver this via - Friends of groups – Defibrillator Guardians – Flag Flying Master – Bedlington in Bloom. (This is part of our Community Support Theme)**

Action Plan

Here is our latest [Action Plan Monitoring](#)

These documents are kept under review.