



Acton Parish Council  
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### Acton Action Plan 2023

The parish council has many duties that it is required to carry out including responding to planning applications, running the allotments, much of the street lighting in the village and play area, maintaining the land that it owns and the safety of over 130 trees on that land. In addition to these ongoing responsibilities, each year parish councillors think about what the village needs, listen to residents' concerns and ideas, then prioritise projects that will improve the parish. In the past the parish's priorities have been set out in the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan. In 2021, following consultation with residents and councillors and Acton Plan was drawn up. Many of the tasks identified have been successfully actioned and longer-term tasks will be carried forward to a new Action Plan. In October 2022 the Council again consulted with residents and councillors. The 2023 action plan sets out further improvements for 2023 and beyond. The parish council adopted the 2023 Action Plan on 19 October 2023.

*The overarching aim is to make the parish a pleasant area to live where people are proud to be part of our community.*

*The parish council's objectives are:*

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>1: Place</b>                  | a well-maintained parish that residents take pride in living in.           |
| <b>2: Environment</b>            | a parish that makes room for wildlife                                      |
| <b>3: Health &amp; Wellbeing</b> | with pleasant open spaces for leisure and play with no dog mess or litter, |
| <b>4: Safety</b>                 | safe footways, public rights of way and roads,                             |
| <b>5: Community</b>              | supportive neighbourhoods, effective communication and engagement.         |

Implementation will be funded through a combination of reserves, grants and the annual precept and voluntary efforts.

Some initiatives do not require funds and or can be achieved with a combination of funds and volunteer goodwill support. If you would like to get involved with any of the projects, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Each task is briefly described in the table below. Detailed plans and costing will be needed for each task and then has to be authorised by the parish council. Progress will be monitored through parish council meetings. The parish council will review the action plan each year and continue to seek the views of residents.

### Schedule of parish improvement tasks for 2023

items 1 – 15 are tasks carried forward from the 2021/2 Action Plan

Ref	Location	Task Description	Linked Objectives	Progress	Update as of April 2024
1	High St/Lambert Drive link path.	Continue to monitor that Babergh maintain the verges along the edges of this important walk to school route. Long-term the area is identified for wildlife planting.	1, 2, 3, & 4	95%	The pathway is now on Babergh DC's regular maintenance and sweeping schedule. Trees were reduced in 2023. Ideally, we would like to have adjacent conifer trees cut back or removed which would enable wildflower planting.
2	Parish	Continue to work to support the volunteer litter pickers (Acton Wombles).	3 & 5	100%	Thanks to Acton Wombles (volunteer group), our Parish Litter Picker and the council's engagement of Sudbury Community Wardens services, litter picking around the village is a regular occurrence.
3	Parish	Continue to support Acton Volunteer Book Exchange. Seek out opportunity for a second location.	5	100%	The village book and puzzle exchange maintained by Cllr McSweeny's family are very well supported, this provides a fantastic service in the village. A second location has not been identified.
4	<i>Left blank to keep the numbering consistent with parish council minutes</i>				
5	Parish	Following the successful Jubilee event in 2022, provide support for a volunteer team to organise a 2023 fete/village event.	3 & 5	100%	Parish Council supported financially a very successful King's Coronation event at the village hall green. Thanks were sent to the Acton Play Group.
6	Parish	Acton Walks and other walks; Design printable walk leaflets with QR code links to OS maps. Leaflets can be viewed and printed from the Parish Council website.	1, 3 & 5	100%	A total of 8 printable local walking route leaflets are now available at the PC website <a href="https://actonparishcouncil.gov.uk/local-walks">https://actonparishcouncil.gov.uk/local-walks</a> .
7	Village Gateways	Work with Suffolk County Council to improve the driver impact of the village entrances at Melford Rd and Waldingfield Rd.	3 & 4	80%	This task has been approved by the Parish Council, a contract order has been placed and work should start within the next 90 days. New full gateways are planned for Melford Rd, Waldingfield Rd, Sudbury Rd & Barrow Hill. These are designed to clearly remind drivers they are entering the Village 30 zone. Funded by Acton PC.

Ref	Location	Task Description	Linked Objectives	Progress	Update as of April 2024
8	Village	Work with Suffolk County Council to reduce rat -running and excessive vehicle speeds through the village.	3 & 4	100%	The Parish Council has encouraged regular visits by the Suffolk Police Safety Camera Team. For example, during Sept 23, Police issued 25 notices for speeding in Acton Village. The PC have now purchased two additional Speed Indication Devices with SLOW DOWN warning messaging, we now own 3 units. The units will be sited at Melford Rd, Waldingfield Rd and Vicarage Lane. Tasks 7 & 9 are linked to village traffic calming. The next step is to consider asking SCC for a village 20 limit through Melford Rd, High Street and Waldingfield Rd or the whole village.
9	Village	Support Acton Speed Watch Team.	3 & 4	100%	Cllr Roberta Caradine co-ordinates a very active Speed Watch Team on behalf of the residents. The Team welcomes new volunteers and operates to bring speed awareness to drivers passing through our village.
10	Byway 29	Upgrade of surface through this important route connecting Clay Hall Place and Clayhall Lane residents to the village's pavement network.	1, 3 & 4	100%	Task completed by Suffolk CC and community support by ABC Ltd Acton.
11	Acton's Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	Work with Suffolk County Council and volunteer residents to improve the surface of PRoWs in the parish, special efforts on routes: PRoW 15 airfield route onto airfield path network from Vicarage Lane PRoW 16 airfield route onto airfield path network from Waldingfield Rd. PRoW route 3 from Clayhall Lane.	1, 3 & 4	90%	Public right-of-way 15, from Vicarage Lane onto the airfield is now scheduled for major upgrade by Suffolk Highways. Confirmation that work will be done before summer 24. PRoW 3 & 16 had surface improvements by volunteers during 2023. Funded by developer's contributions and the PC.
12	Acton's Public Rights of Way	Carry out 3 <sup>rd</sup> cut of PRoW routes each year, at Parish Council's expense. SCC cover the cost of 2 cuts per year and over recent years this has proved to be inadequate.	1, 3 & 4	100%	Some confusion at the start of 2023 by Suffolk CC. Opportunity for a third cut needs to be monitored and slotted in when required. First cut is currently scheduled to be

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					undertaken within the 6 weeks from w/c 6 <sup>th</sup> May, second cut to be based on growing conditions.
13	Village Pavements	Encourage residents to check and see if their front hedges are obstruction the pavement and if so encourage them to cut the hedge back clear of the pavement. In the first instance, letter from PC to resident. If no action, ask SCC Highways to intervene.	1, 3 & 4	100%	Following information from residents and councillors the Clerk will continue to send out letters to request residents to take action to cut back hedges and vegetation growth which is obstructing pavements.
14	Village	Continue to look for opportunity to install a Mult-Use-Games facility.	3, 4, & 5		This is a long-term item and may only come about if a large-scale development was to take place.
15	Village	Implement results of young person's survey for the following items at Lime Tree Green: 1. Table Tennis 2. Basketball practice hoop – 3. Zip wire	3, 4, & 5	100%	Installation of the 3 new pieces of equipment and appropriate bases was completed in Jan 24. Project managed by Acton councillors; majority funded by a Babergh DC grant and top-up funding by Acton PC,
16	Village	Adult and young person's outdoor exercise area or village gym trail.	3, 4, & 5	80%	Subject to some administrative work by Babergh DC and Bloor Homes, a 4-piece gym trail should be installed in the village during the first half of 2024.
17	Village	Children's' pump track – maybe challenging to identify suitable site.	3, 4, & 5		This item is a long-term aspiration, a suitable site and funding would need to be identified.
18	Village Lighting	Carry out review to see if any or all parish owned streetlights could be turned off midnight to 05:00.	2 & 4	100%	This task has been achieved; all PC owned street lighting has been upgraded to part-night lighting, benefiting, wildlife, environment, and the PC's power consumption bills - 80% reduction on normal consumption.
19	Village	Installation of village defibrillator close to village hall	3, 4 & 5	100%	A new village defibrillator has been installed at the village hall, available 24/7. A further unit has been installed at the new Tamage Rd estate.  5 units are now available for Acton 24/7: Locations are Village Shop – Village Hall – Lambert Drive (by school gates) – Tamage Rd estate (open space at Reliant Close) - Webbs Yard, Acton Place Industrial Estate

Ref	Location	Task Description	Linked Objectives	Progress	Update as of April 2024
20	Village Accessibility	Review pavements and footpaths – accessibility issues. 1. Install dropped kerb Kings Close 2. Install dropped kerb High Street/Barrow Hill (access to Barrow Hill) 3. Review barriers at High Street end of Jennens Way and barrier at pavement route between High St and Lambert Drive. 4. Provide hard surface instead of current shingle Jennens Way/High Street Jnc. 5. Extend pavement past new houses on Melford Rd 6. Review pavement safety issue caused by large tree on High Street – Lea Oaks	3 & 4	80%	1,2 & 4: are due to be implemented by Suffolk CC (funded by APC Neighbourhood CIL fund and County Councillor Highway Funds). Start date 90 days.  3: Barriers do allow access for pedestrians and mobility scooters, in place to restrict vehicle access.  5: It is considered that this will not have a wide enough benefit to a reasonable percentage of residents.  6: Suffolk Highways Officers considered no action was warranted.
21	Village Traffic	Invite Suffolk CC Highways to: 1. Review safety and parking issues at High Street/Barrow Hill Jnc.	3 & 4	80%	Consultation with SCC Highways advise that parking restrictions are considered not a practical solution for this location. Highways will continue to monitor the hedge growth which obstructs visibility.
22	Village Hall	Carryout upgrade to boules pitch.	3 & 5	100%	Pitch was fully rebuilt December 23.
23	Village	Install dog waste bins at: 1. PRoW 9 (on order from BDC) 2. Lime Walk (on green at Babergh Close) 3. Cuckoo Tye (location to be identified) 4. Newmans Green (location to be Identified) 4 Clayhall Lane (on verge opposite PRoW 3)	1	100%	4 bins from the list have been installed. A suitable location could not be identified at Cuckoo Tye. In addition, dog waste bins have been installed at Coblers Way and Tamage Rd.
24	Village	Install large floor mounted litter bins at: 1. Village Hall edge of car park (replace existing small post mounted bin) 2. Queensway Green (replace existing small post mounted bin)	1	100%	New larger bins have been installed at the three locations identified.

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		3. Lime Green (in front of hedge between picnic benches)			
26	Village	Village Christmas lighting up ceremony – ask school if they would like to organise Christmas carols around the tree.	3 & 5	<b>100%</b>	December 22 festive tree installation and lighting up session was a success and was repeated for Dec 23. A councillor working group have started to consider arrangements for 2024.

CC County Council – DC District Council - PC Parish Council

**Additional Task Competed 2023/24**

- New bench seat installed at Cuckoo Tye
- New bench seat to be installed close to the Queensway Green bus stop.
- Skip hired and major clearance of rubbish and unwanted items from Wildlife Reserve by Councillors.
- Over summer maintenance sessions of the walking routes through the Wildlife Reserve were maintained by Councillors.
- New Bench seat installed at Wildlife Reserve
- Allotment plot number posts installed.
- Making out of 4 disability parking bays at the Village Hall.
- Survey work and request to Suffolk Highways for two further Quiet Lanes scheme in the parish actioned.
- Volunteer installed Ronald Blythe Blue Plague at Queensway Green.
- Formation of a new charity (Acton Field Trust) to secure the future of the field between the High Street and Barrow Hill as Public Open Space.
- Extensive cutting back of brambles and vegetation at Wildlife Reserve Jan 24
- Order placed for new Brush Cutter to assist with Wildlife Reserve maintenance.
- Owl boxes at Reserve repaired/replaced.
- Four 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs installed at Mills Lane

