

Hawthorn Parish Council

Leadership in Planning for the Future of the Community Statement

Hawthorn Parish Council will continue to work proactively to strengthen and improve working relationships with community groups, local organisations, local business, statutory bodies, voluntary groups, and the county council.

Hawthorn Parish Council is committed to provide an opportunity for the community to state its views and provide information regarding how people feel about where they live.

To achieve this the Council will: -

- Represent local views on Local Planning Policies and Planning Applications
- Undertake and facilitate Community Led Planning activities to guide the Council's Business Plan
Representing Local Community Views

Hawthorn Parish Council has a Planning Policy which identifies those criteria by which each planning application is considered. The full council discusses all relevant planning applications and the Clerk forwards all comments and representations to Durham County Council on behalf of the Council. The council meets each month and considers and responds to planning application consultation in a timely manner. The agenda is published on the Council website and promoted through the monthly electronic newsletter which is forwarded to all councillors and all residents who have signed up to receive it. The applications are hyper-linked back to the Planning Authority system which holds copies of plans, consultations and other relevant documents to facilitate easy access by the public.

Where National or Local Planning Policy is published for consultation, the Council will consider the policy and where time permits, take representation the wider community. When considering either planning applications or new policies, the Council balances the sometimes competing concerns of local residents and local businesses and needs of visitors.

In addition Hawthorn Parish Council will:

- Publicise the work of the Parish Council through its website, newsletters and communication at all levels
- Have a clear method in which the public can give feedback to the Council both positive, negative and with ideas for development.
- Promote communication via the website, Electronic newsletter – the Hawthorn Round UP, Public Participation at Meetings, Questionnaires, Annual Report, Newsletters and Bulletins.
- Manage the Council's resources to ensure that they are spent on the needs of the community.
- Focus resources on what matters to our community and those that visit the area.

Hawthorn Parish Council will work to:

- Encourage balancing the current needs of people, the economy and the environment without compromising the future.
- Be sensitive to our environment and contribute to a high quality of life.
- Ensure a fair and equitable Parish precept is set annually