



Cainscross Town Council  
Cashes Green & Ebley

## Strategic Plan 2023 – 2025

### A Plan for the future

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## Cainscross Town Council's Strategic Plan 2023-25

Cainscross is on the western outskirts of Stroud and forms part of the Stroud urban area. The parish includes the communities of Ebley, Cashes Green East and West, Cainscross and part of Dudbridge. The population of the civil parish in 2020 was 6,990.

Cainscross Town Council is one of over 10,000 local councils in England. Parish and Town Council's make up the first tier of local government in most parts of the country. Cainscross Town Council (formally Parish Council) was established in 1990

The Council is a democratically elected public body and has elections every four years for the 13 places on the council. Councillors are not paid and give up their time freely to serve the local community.

The powers and duties of Town and Parish Councils have been determined by central government legislation over many years.

- Democracy – to give all parishioners a voice
- Services – to provide a range of services to the local community
- Maintain and Improve the area we live and work in
- Supporting the community

Cainscross Town Council raises money for its local services through a charge on the council tax known as the precept. The precept for the year 2023/24 is £300,192. Other sources of income include room hire, sports pitch hire and car boot sales. The Council also has reserves which are earmarked for delivering certain planned and specific projects.

The Council also employ a range of staff to help deliver local services and to support the elected councillors, they are as follows: Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Assistant Clerk, Project Officer, Finance Assistant and two Ground staff.

# Cainscross Town Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2025

Cainscross Town Council strives to be a forward-thinking council at the heart of the community. We want to see the Council develop its community leadership being at the forefront of community engagement and to build excellent partnerships with local organisations.

Cainscross Town Council will strive to:

- Be open and transparent
- Be community minded
- Be sustainable
- Be empowering and engaging for the whole community
- Deliver high-quality, cost-effective projects

## **How will Cainscross Town Council deliver this strategy?**

Cainscross Town Council would like all residents to be consulted on projects. We will publish the strategy consultation on our website and social media, put links to the information up in our notice boards and in our newsletter and offer paper copies available from our office. All feedback will be presented to the Council and a decision on the final strategy will be made with the community's feedback leading the way.

Delivering the strategy will be at the forefront of Cainscross Town Councils actions over the next three years. The strategy will aim to be completed in a three-year period however due to increasing pressure on local councils, some aims may not be achievable in this timescale. Residents will be able to monitor progress of the plan through minutes of the meetings or on request to the Council.

## **Cainscross Town Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2025**

Cainscross Town Council is responsible for a variety of facilities in the Parish;

- Victory Park incorporating a play area and bike ramps
- QEII Field incorporating a play area and ramp
- Elm Road Playing Field incorporating a MUGA and play area
- Ashway Court play area and verge

- Hamwell Leaze
  
- Cainscross Allotments
- Cashes Green Allotments
- Ebley Allotments
  
- The Pavilion in the Park (offices, hall for hire, sports changing rooms)
- The rugby pavilion (sports changing rooms)
  
- Cainscross toilets
- St. Matthews Carpark
- 12 bus shelters
- Defibrillator
  
- Providing grants to local community organisations
  
- Active social media
- Modern, accessible website.
- 11 notice boards

|                       | Objectives                              | Actions                                                                                    | Timescale | Funding      | Power | Responsible Committee |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour | To help to reduce anti-social behaviour | Employ private security team during high activity periods in particular the summer months. | Ongoing   | Budget £4000 |       | Full Council          |
| <b>Victory Park</b>   |                                         |                                                                                            |           |              |       |                       |
|                       |                                         |                                                                                            |           |              |       |                       |

|                | Objectives                                                                                                                        | Actions                                                                                              | Timescale          | Funding                                                     | Power                        | Responsible committee             |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Play Area      | To maintain to a high standard                                                                                                    | To monitor the effectiveness of the new play area.                                                   | Ongoing            | Precept                                                     | Public Health Act 1875 s.164 | PHAR                              |
| Bike Ramps     | Upgrade and improve                                                                                                               | Work on plans and grant applications                                                                 | 2023/24            | EMR £6,500<br>Donation of unknown amount due<br>Budget £500 |                              | PHAR                              |
| Park Furniture | Phase out dog bins and replace with general bins                                                                                  | Replace after useful life                                                                            |                    |                                                             |                              |                                   |
| Tree Planting  | As a result of the climate emergency to consider planting additional trees                                                        | Consider areas of park for additional tree planting – North end between ramps and Upper Church Road? | Ongoing            | Tress sourced from third parties / precept                  |                              | PHAR<br>Open spaces working group |
| Tree Surveys   | To carry our tree condition surveys every 18 months (in and out of leaf) and carry out works required on Town Council owned areas |                                                                                                      | Next survey due in | Budget                                                      |                              | PHAR                              |
| Re-wilding     | To reduce maintenance and to create a welcoming environment, plant wildflower areas, create mixed native hedges.                  | Visit all open spaces and produce a draft proposal. Consult with residents                           |                    | Budget                                                      |                              | PHAR                              |

|                          |                                                                         |                                 |         |                                                         |                                                                                 |      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
|                          | Create a picnic area                                                    |                                 |         |                                                         |                                                                                 |      |
| Pitches                  | General maintenance and pitch improvements                              |                                 |         | Grant Funding – work with sports teams to obtain grants |                                                                                 | PHAR |
| Lighting                 | Improve lighting in Victory Park                                        | Seek grant funding              | 2023/24 | Grants                                                  |                                                                                 | PHAR |
| Park Gates               | Improve both main and personal gate at the top of the park              | Precept for in 2024/25          |         | Consider adding to the budget 2024/25                   |                                                                                 | PHAR |
| <b>Elm Road</b>          |                                                                         |                                 |         |                                                         |                                                                                 |      |
| Play Area                | Improvement to play area.                                               | Urgently replace climbing unit. |         | EMR £9762.50<br>Budget £10,000                          | Public Health Act 1875 s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 and 10. Commons Act 1899 | PHAR |
| Adult exercise equipment | Called for from survey results                                          | Seek prices and grants          | 2023/25 | Grants, precept and EMR                                 |                                                                                 |      |
| Planting                 | Add more hedges along border and create a wildflower area / picnic area | Look at funding opportunities   | 2023/4  | Grants and precept and third party donations            |                                                                                 | PHAR |
| Field Furniture          | Increase bins and benches                                               |                                 | 2023/25 | Precept and reserve                                     |                                                                                 | PHAR |
| Pitches                  | General maintenance and pitch improvements                              |                                 |         | Grant Funding – work with sports teams to obtain grants |                                                                                 | PHAR |
| <b>QEII Field</b>        |                                                                         |                                 |         |                                                         |                                                                                 |      |

|                       |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           |                                                         |                                                                                |      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| QEII Field            | Continue to maintain                                                                 | Work with SVP to maintain the pond and ramp area and Sunflower Suicide for ramp planting                                                                                                         | 2023-2025 | SVP 1,200                                               | Open Spaces Act 1906,ss9-10                                                    |      |
| Play Area             | Continue to monitor and maintain                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           |                                                         |                                                                                |      |
| Field furniture       | Monitor and maintain                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           | Precept                                                 |                                                                                |      |
| Planting              | Add additional trees / hedgerows – create a picnic area                              | Consider areas for extra planting                                                                                                                                                                | Ongoing   | Precept / donations                                     |                                                                                | PHAR |
| <b>Hamwell Leaze</b>  |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           |                                                         |                                                                                |      |
| Hamwell Leaze general | Maintain and enhance bio-diversity                                                   | Work with Stroud Valleys Project.<br>Grass contractor to mow pathway through site.                                                                                                               | 2023-25   | Budget £3,000                                           | Public Health Act 1875 s.164;<br>Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10. Commons Act 1899 |      |
| <b>General</b>        |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |           |                                                         |                                                                                |      |
| Bus Shelters          | To organise an Art project reflecting the Parish to improve the look of the shelters | Repairs and maintenance to bus shelters within budget.<br>Cleaning carried out on a monthly basis by contractor<br>Investigate the potential to carry out street art with local schools colleges | 2023/4    | Volunteers such as college art students<br>EMR £2123.22 | Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 s.4                       | PHAR |
| Telephone Kiosks      | Took ownership of telephone kiosks at                                                | Work with Down to Earth who would like to create a                                                                                                                                               | 2023/24   | General reserves                                        | Local Government Act S.137                                                     |      |

|                         |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                          |            |                                       |                                                 |      |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------|
|                         | Devereaux Crescent and Orchard Road                                                                                                   | fern box at Orchard Road site.<br>Consider moving Devereaux box to the park (consultation needed)                                                                        |            |                                       |                                                 |      |
| Solar Energy            | To seek quotations for solar panels and install at Victory Park                                                                       | Seek grant funding when available.                                                                                                                                       | 2023       | EMR 19,274<br>Budget 10,000<br>Grants |                                                 | PHAR |
| Church Road Car park    | Continue with handover from SDC                                                                                                       | Repaint lines to include more functional disabled spaces and consider improved layout                                                                                    | 2023       | EMR £6000.00                          |                                                 | PHAR |
| Cainscross WC           | Leased from SDC until August 2025                                                                                                     | Continue to maintain Storage useful                                                                                                                                      | 2023/24/25 | Budget ££400                          |                                                 |      |
| Youth                   | To continue to provide youth facilities and engage with other tiers of local government to bring more youth facilities to the Parish. | Support Cashes Green Youth Centre with their youth club. Continue with the youth shelter project. Work with other levels of local government to achieve youth facilities | 2023       | EMR 17277.50<br>Budget £4000          |                                                 | FC   |
| <b>Allotments</b>       |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                          |            |                                       |                                                 |      |
| Cashes Green Allotments | Continue to work with the new committee.<br>Keep swale clear                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                          | Ongoing    | EMR £500                              | Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 ss.23,25 |      |
| Cainscross Allotments   | Continue to support committee                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                          | Ongoing    | EMR £500                              | Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 ss.23,25 |      |



|                  |                               |  |         |          |                                                 |  |
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| Ebley Allotments | Continue to support committee |  | Ongoing | EMR £500 | Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 ss.23,25 |  |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------|----------|-------------------------------------------------|--|

### Community Engagement in Cainscross

|                      | Objective                                                                            | Action                                     | Timescale | Funding         |  | Responsible Committee |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| Community Event      | To hold two Annual Events for the Parishioners and use as a chance for consultations | Summer music event<br><br>Father Christmas | Annually  | Budget £1500.00 |  | PHAR                  |
| Digital Newsletter   | An informative newsletter promoting the hub                                          | Prepare monthly news letter                | Monthly   |                 |  | F&S                   |
| Quarterly Newsletter | To produce an informative physical newsletter                                        | Produce the Fourwards                      | Quarterly | Budget £4000.00 |  | F&S                   |
| Social Media         | To continue with the existing social media and increase to include Instagram         | Continue to use all forms of Social Media  | Ongoing   |                 |  |                       |
| Notice Boards        | Maintain all boards and keep up to date.                                             | Make sure all boards are current           | Ongoing   | Precept         |  |                       |

|                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                    |                 |                                |               |     |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----|
|                                         | Make sure all areas are covered with boards                                |                                                                                    |                 |                                |               |     |
| Face-to-Face                            | To engage people attending the Pavilion                                    | Project Officer to engage with public. Invite other agencies to attend events      | Ongoing         | Precept                        |               | All |
| Community Hub and Hall<br>LGA1972 s.133 | To run a busy and successful hub engaging a broad spectrum of Parishioners | Encourage workshops/ classes.<br>Recruit volunteers.<br>Liaise and Co-ordinate hub | 2023<br>Ongoing | Precept<br>Grants<br>Donations | LGA1972 s.133 | FC  |

### Working with other strategic partners

| Organisation               | Objective                                                                                                                | Timescale                                                | Funding |  |  | Responsibility                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|--|--|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Gloucester County Highways | Hold Highways to account to ensure our roads and footpaths are repaired and maintained as necessary. Continue working to | Ongoing work with County Councillor and Highways Manager |         |  |  | Road safety working party reporting to Full Council |

|                         |                                          |                                                             |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|                         | reduce speed in the Parish               |                                                             |  |  |  |  |
| Stroud District Council | To continue to foster good relationships | Ongoing work with District Council officers and Councillors |  |  |  |  |

## Finance, Democracy and Governance

| Activity                          | Objective                                                                       | Timescale                                            | Funding |  | Responsible Committee |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------|--|-----------------------|
| Review all Governance Documents   | Annual review of all governance documents and internal controls                 | Ongoing                                              | n/a     |  | FSP / Full Council    |
| Annual Budget and precept setting | To make sure the Council can carry out its powers and duties in a timely manner | Ongoing with monthly monitoring by the FSP Committee | n/a     |  | FSP / Full Council    |

|                       |                                                       |         |     |  |              |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----|--|--------------|
| End of Year           | To carry out End of Year procedure in a timely manner | Annual  |     |  | Full Council |
| Development of Policy | Identify and produce policies as required             | Ongoing | n/a |  | FSP          |

## Human Resources and Management

|                                     | Objective                                                                                        | Timescale | Funding         |  | Responsible Committee |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| Health & Safety                     | Undertake a review of procedures and consider employing a professional company to overview       | 2024      | New Budget Item |  | FSP                   |
| Continuing Professional Development | Ensure all staff have access to courses to enable them to deliver the Council's aims effectively | Ongoing   | Existing budget |  | FSP                   |
| Staff Capacity                      | Ensure that the correct staffing levels                                                          | Ongoing   | n/a             |  | FSP                   |

|    |                                                                  |         |         |  |  |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|--|--|
|    | are kept allowing the Council to achieve its aims and objectives |         |         |  |  |
| IT | Ensure up to date IT for Staff and Councillors                   | Ongoing | Precept |  |  |