

Rural Vision for Peterborough

Background

Peterborough is made up of a total of 24 wards, five of these wards can be considered rural, under the ONS definition which defines areas as rural if they are outside of settlements with more than 10,000 resident population. These wards are Glinton and Wittering, Newborough, Northborough, Eye and Thorney, and Barnack. (In May 2016 the wards will become Glinton & Castor, Wittering, Barnack and Eye, Thorney & Newborough.)

In Peterborough, approximately 12% of the population can be considered as living in a rural ward.

A Sense of Place.



- Our rural area is made up of...
- 5 Wards
 - 23 Parishes
 - 21,776 residents = 12% of total Population
 - 26,307 Hectares = 77% of total Land Mass
 - Growth in population over last 10 years of 2,678 people (10% of overall city's growth)

The rural areas and villages of Peterborough are valued as an important asset now and for the future of Peterborough. They have strong independent local identities and sense of heritage and belonging, choosing to retain their rural way of life, supported by their own social and economic structure (e.g. schools, church, pubs, small businesses), enabling their communities to be viable long term and to evolve.

Peterborough's rural communities, including boundary urban/rural areas offer countryside of great natural beauty, open landscapes, accessible green spaces rich in wildlife and areas and buildings of historical interest for the benefit of all. They offer viable places to live and work, visit and enjoy – for their communities and the people of Peterborough and beyond.

Conserving this unique heritage will be an important part of the future development of Peterborough, contributing to our wider ambitions to 'grow the right way' and be recognised as the national environment capital.

Sustainable Community Strategy

Peterborough's sustainable community strategy aims to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough through improving the quality of life for all.

The vision and priorities are to:

- Create opportunities, tackle inequalities
- Create strong and supportive communities
- Create the country's environmental capital
- Deliver substantial and sustainable growth

All policies, procedures and strategies that form part of the overall community strategy will have a direct or indirect relevance for rural issues. This vision and supporting Parish Charter will direct that all existing and emerging policies, procedures and strategies are '*rural proofed*' to ensure the implications for rural communities are an integral consideration in their development and delivery.

Ownership and governance for the Rural Vision and Parish Charter for Peterborough

A strong rural voice is vital to ensure that the challenges and opportunities facing rural areas are managed in a way that both supports and empowers rural communities and the people who live and work in them.

A Rural Vision and Strategy for Peterborough was originally developed in 2008 by a working group comprising Parish representatives, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) and the Greater Peterborough Partnership (GPP). The aim was to develop a long term and sustainable framework for engaging the rural communities.

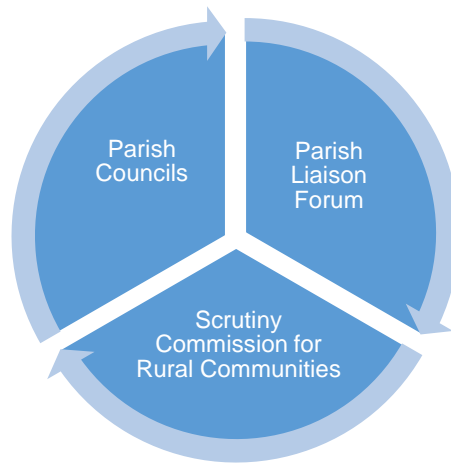
Today all Parish Councils in Peterborough have the regular opportunity via the Parish Liaison Forum to network with peers, share information and best practise and identify and embrace opportunities for working together to address mutually common themes that impact across all areas.

The Parish Liaison Forum now also have a working sub group with a remit to:

- Plan and prepare the agenda for the quarterly Parish Liaison meetings, ensuring these networking opportunities provide educational and informed items of interest and benefit
- Plan and prepare the Annual Parish Conference
- Support and promote the exploration of local interest groups to establish new Community Councils in unparished areas of the city
- Support and promote the role and opportunities of Parish/Community Councils in the current living and working environment
- Develop and implement the Rural Vision and Parish Charter

The Rural Vision will be delivered via the Parish Councils, communities, and the statutory, voluntary sector, and wider civil society sectors, all of whom will be encouraged to adopt the vision, supporting action plan and the Parish Charter.

Up to 4 representatives of the Parish Liaison Forum are co-opted to the Council’s Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities. This governance structure represents the mutual agreement for the City Council to work in partnership with the Parish Councils so that services are delivered more efficiently and meet the needs of the rural communities.



The Shared Vision

The Rural Vision aims to provide a framework for achieving sustainable and viable rural communities in Peterborough and outlines how Peterborough City Council will work in partnership with Parish Councils to ensure that services are delivered more effectively and meet the needs of the local rural (and urban) communities.

Objectives

1. To recognise and promote current activities and programmes that support rural communities
2. To identify the priorities within rural communities to inform linked strategies and plans
3. To provide baseline data and information from which to measure success
4. To develop, implement, monitor and evaluate an annual action plan to ensure continuous alignment and ability to influence strategic priorities locally and across the city
5. To develop a Parish Charter for Peterborough to *‘Improve joint working between the city council and Parish Councils so that services are delivered more efficiently and meet the needs of the local community’*

Delivering the shared vision

An annually refreshed working Action Plan will reflect the strong vision of Peterborough City Council to support Parish Councils achieve their aim to:

- Build ability to be self-supporting, independent rural communities
- Address and challenge infrastructure improvements that ensure rural communities are able to maximise equal opportunities to enhance the quality of life

Common strategic priorities will be captured in the action plan under the following themed headings:

- a. Transport, Utilities and Communications (*incorporating: transport networks; public realm; waste management; electricity, water, gas and ICT connections; public transport; road safety and traffic calming*)
- b. Education and Skills (*incorporating: pre-school, primary, secondary and post-16 education; apprenticeships*)
- c. Environmental Sustainability (*incorporating: flood risk management; carbon emissions reduction; strategic green open spaces; biodiversity conservation; built environment conservation*)
- d. Community and Leisure (*incorporating: affordable housing; community buildings; community safety; parks and open spaces; sports and recreational facilities; crematorium and burial grounds; libraries, museums and lifelong learning; public footpaths and bridleways*)
- e. Health and Wellbeing (*incorporating: Primary Health Care facilities; emergency services*)
- f. Economics (*incorporating: social and micro enterprises; farm diversification and productivity; tourism, culture and heritage; support for village shops and pubs; maintenance of rural character*)

Common Themes across Peterborough's Rural Communities.



Reference and useful information: For more information regarding Parish Councils, PCC Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities and CAPALC refer to: www.peterborough.gov.uk/