

Puddletown Area Parish Council

Parish Action Plan 2025 – 2030

A five-year community plan for the Puddletown Area Parish, including the villages of Athelhampton, Burleston, Puddletown and Tolpuddle.



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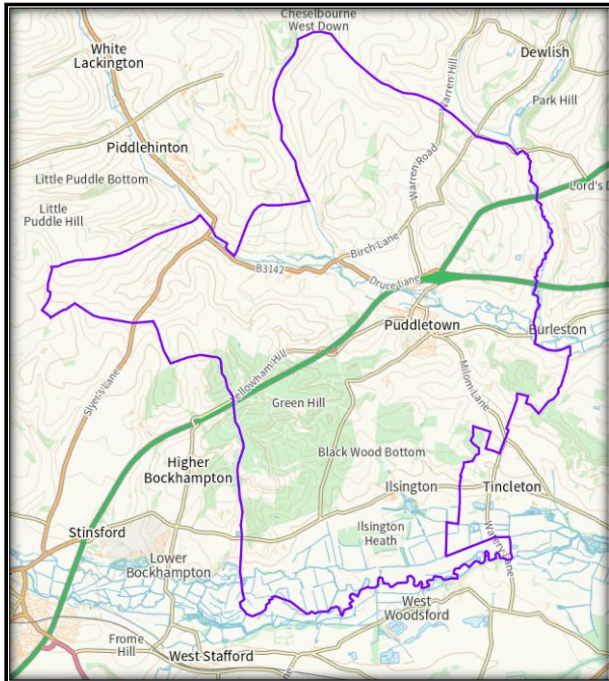
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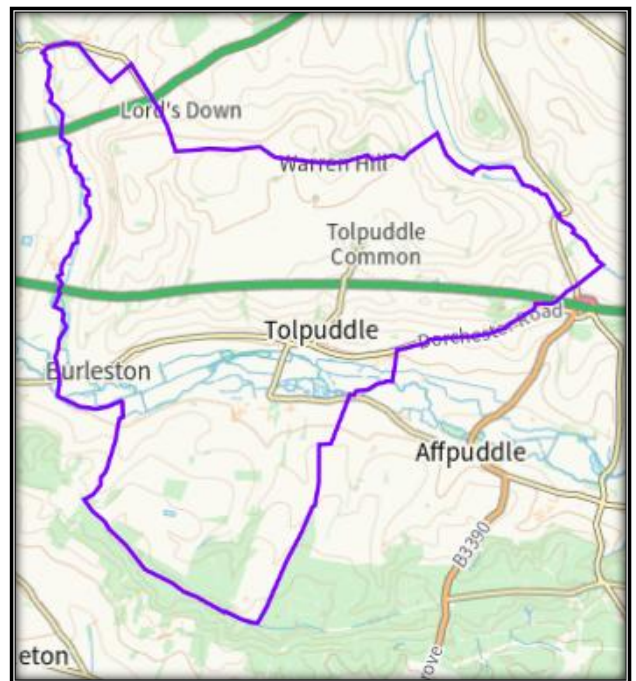
1. About Puddletown Area Parish

Puddletown Area Parish is in central Dorset and includes the villages of Athelhampton, Burleston, Puddletown and Tolpuddle, together with their surrounding rural landscapes. The Parish Council operates as a grouped council, with Athelhampton and Puddletown forming one parish and Burleston and Tolpuddle forming another. The area is characterised by rolling countryside, historic settlements, and a rich cultural heritage, including renowned landmarks, farmland, woodlands, and a varied network of footpaths that provides access to much of the surrounding countryside.

Athelhampton & Puddletown Parish



Burleston & Tolpuddle Parish



2. What is a Parish Action Plan?

A Parish Action Plan (PAP) is a document created by the Parish Council to capture the community's aspirations for how Puddletown Area Parish should develop over the coming years. It is a living document that evolves as priorities change and identifies practical steps that can help achieve the shared vision for the future.

3. How Are Parish Action Plans Created?

The plan is developed through community engagement, gathering ideas, concerns and suggestions from residents, local businesses, and community groups. Once projects are agreed, they are added to the plan and may be allocated to a working group or the Clerk for development. Progress is reviewed regularly and updates are published annually to keep residents informed.

4. Why Create a Parish Action Plan?

The Parish Action Plan provides a structured approach to achieving community aspirations and addressing local challenges. Its creation offers several key benefits:

- Enhances communication between the Parish Council and residents.
- Provides evidence of need to support funding bids and grant applications.
- Promotes cooperation between residents, Dorset Council, and local organisations.
- Encourages community participation and volunteer involvement.
- Acts as a living record of the community's vision and progress.
- Helps preserve the unique landscape, heritage, and rural character of the parish.

5. Vision for the Parish 2025–2030

To preserve the distinctive character of Puddletown Area Parish and its surrounding countryside while supporting sustainable, connected, and thriving communities for residents and visitors alike, and, where possible, aligning with solutions to the challenges of the climate and ecological emergency (for example flooding resilience and local energy generation).

6. Strategic Themes

The Parish Action Plan is structured around several strategic themes that reflect the priorities and aspirations of the community. These themes provide a clear framework for action and guide decision-making across key areas of parish life:

- Community Engagement & Governance
- Community Facilities & Infrastructure
- Climate Change, Environment, Landscape & Biodiversity
- Heritage, Tourism & Local Economy
- Housing, Planning & Local People
- Transport, Access & Parking

7. Action Plan

See end of document for the ~~d~~full list.

8. Implementation & Monitoring

The Parish Action Plan will be adopted by Puddletown Area Parish Council and reviewed annually. Progress will be published on the Parish Council website and shared with residents. Each project will have a Lead Councillor, a working group, or the Clerk responsible for monitoring progress

9. Next Steps for Puddletown Area Parish Council

- a. Launch public consultation to identify parish priorities.
- b. Draft and review project proposals under each theme.
- c. Approve the plan at a full Parish Council meeting.
- d. Begin implementation of priority projects.
- e. Review and update the plan annually.

Action Plan

Key DC = Dorset Council, PC = Parish Council

	Project/Policy	Details	Current Position	Current Resource and Finance Implications	Lead Member / Officer	Next Steps
Community Engagement & Governance	Annual Parish Meeting	Meeting held in May each year.	Local organisations / charities invited to exhibit around the hall. Parish Council representative welcomes everyone, invites them to have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, and to engage with the stall holders and updates them on what the Council has achieved this year, and plans for the following year.	Modest cost for materials/events	Clerk	Plan consultation event, advertise widely
	Enhanced community engagement	Through better publicity in Parish magazines and newsletters				
	Grants to facilitate community groups and facilities					
	Parish Action Plan online, update regularly	Living document which evolves as priorities change.	Draft created November 2025	None	Clerk	Agree format and content. Consult with residents.
	Policies and Procedures	Parish Council to adopt and adhere to both legal and best practice policies and procedures	Review of all policies underway.	None	Clerk	Continue with review.

Community Facilities & Infrastructure	Puddletown Pavillion and Sports ground	Pavillion leased to PRIDE, who maintain and manage the day-to-day operations.	Facilities include, bar / kitchen, eating / meeting area, changing rooms, toilets, storeroom and the upstairs is sub-leased. Floodlit Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) (Tennis Court) Cricket practice nets, MUGA (Basketball area), Cricket pitch & Football pitch	Maintenance to outside of building and structural items.	Cllr Brown & Cllr Ridout	Lease due for renewal 2029.
	Noticeboards	Four notices boards, one in each village.	Displays agenda for forth coming meeting, and local information.	Routine maintenance	Clerk	Continue to display information and inspection annually.
	Playparks Butt Close, Orchard Meadow & Puddletown Rec,	Monitor playground equipment, and safety surfaces.	Annual inspection commissioned for all playparks by PAPC. Quarterly inspections carried out by external contractor.	Up to £500 per annum for inspections. Plus, maintenance	Cllr Giancola, Cllr Ridout	Continue with inspections and maintenance work
	Village Halls	one in Tolpuddle, one in Puddletown	Both Tolpuddle and Puddletown village hall run by independent Trustees.	N/A	N/A	Continue to liaise.
Climate Change, Environment, Landscape & Biodiversity	Counter the impact of Climate Change and to protect and restore local wildlife		Tree Management plan			
	Emergency Plan (Inc Severe Weather Plan)	To create an Emergency Plan for the Parish	To be started. Dorset Council releasing template in 2026	Unknown		Create Emergency Plan Working Group
Heritage, Tourism & Local Economy						

Housing, Planning & Local People	Holiday-let /second home impact assessment	Understand impact on community, housing stock, local services	To be done. Known issue region-wide	Cost of survey		Research, engage Dorset Council
	Planning Applications	Advisory work on impact of planning applications and wider housing development				
Transport, Access & Parking	Car parking review.	Monitor parking capacity, signage and usage	Admin in place to monitor. Signage to be added in late 2025. Annual review of surface.	Cost of annual levelling.		Annual inspection and risk assessment due November 2026
	Footpath/cycle links	Some footpaths already exist and are maintained by the landowner.	No continual footpath between Puddletown and Tolpuddle. Council to consider adding a permissive path between current Right of Way's to link both parishes.	Cost of legal documentation and creating of path		Form working group to take on project
	Report near miss / non-injury Collisions	Highlight the important of reporting all near miss / non-injury collisions	Run adverts in Parish Magazine periodically throughout the year.	N/A		
	Traffic calming	Address speed through parish, and increase pedestrian safety	The main road through the parish is a relief road for the A35. Limited options for speed control.	Minimal to maintain Community Speed Watch equipment.		Continue to liaise with Dorset Council. Seek and explore measurers to encourage visitors to respect our villages and residents in driving speeds.