



**Acaster Malbis**  
Parish Council

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# STRATEGIC PLAN

for

**Acaster Malbis Parish Council**

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## Introduction

This Strategic Plan provides information about the goals and aspiration of Acaster Malbis Parish Council over the short, medium and long term.

The aim of the plan is to give residents of the parish of Acaster Malbis a clear understanding of what their parish council would like to achieve going forward.

Each year a number of goals and aspirations will be taken from this plan and will form the Business Plan for the next council year that starts in May.

The goals are divided into 2 discrete sections; continue goals and development goals.

Continue goals are those activities/goals that the council currently undertakes and wishes to sustain or improve each year.

Development goals are those that are new to the parish and are aspirational in nature. Some of the goals may be aspirational, long term and may not be achievable.

### Definitions

The following is the definition of the duration used in the document for short, medium and long term.

Short: within 3 years

Medium: 3-10 years

Long: over 10 years.

## Mission Statement

We aim to be a forward-thinking council that adapts to changing circumstances, embraces innovation, and continuously seeks to improve the services and facilities we provide to our residents.

## Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a vibrant and inclusive community that is connected, engaged, and resilient. We seek to foster a sense of belonging among all members of our community and to promote a high quality of life for all.

## Continue Goals

Continue goals are those goals that we strive to complete each and every year. These goals may be modified each year to reflect any changes in circumstance or additional objectives around the goal in question.

### GC01 Strategic Plan

To produce and maintain a Strategic Plan for Acaster Malbis for the short, medium and long term. The plan will include:

- Mission Statement.
- Vision Statement.
- A number of goals that continue every year.
- A number of development goals that we would like to achieve over the short, medium and long term.

### GC02 General Power of Competence

To be able to declare the General Power of Competence for the council year commencing May 2024. This will require:

- A clerk qualified to CiLCA level.
- At least 5 elected councillors (66% of councillors) elected in 2023.

### GC03 Grass Cutting and Verge Maintenance

To put in place a grass cutting and verge maintenance contract to supplement the activity of the City of York Council's grass cutting program. This will require:

- Establishing the frequency and extent of COYC's verge maintenance.
- Creating a cutting plan and schedule.
- Creating a tender for the contract.
- Letting a contract.

### GC04 Footpath Maintenance

It is important for the wellbeing of the residents of Acaster Malbis that the footpaths within the parish are maintained and accessible. Although not directly responsible for their maintenance, the council can help by:

- Monitoring the condition of footpaths and associated furniture (stiles, waymarker etc).
- Producing a yearly report on the condition of the footpaths and send it to COYC.
- Checking accessibility on footpath routes.

### **GC05 Himalayan Balsam Control**

To continue the project to control the Himalayan Balsam in the parish, that will include:

- Re-work areas that were previously visited.
- Visit new areas with an identified problem e.g. South Ings, drainage ditches, Stub Wood.
- To increase community awareness and involvement of the project.

### **GC06 Dog Fouling**

Dog fouling continues to be an issue in various parts of the village. The following measures will be undertaken to help control the issue:

- Communication campaign to promote awareness.
- Review the locations of the current dog waste bins in the village.
- Replace old signage that is faded or damaged.
- Adopt a zero-tolerance campaign that commits the council to report all occurrences of dog fouling to COYC for enforcement.

### **GC07 Speeding in the Village**

In general the traffic through the village is light, but there are a few vehicles travelling through the village at speeds in excess of the 30mph speed limit.

- Continue with Community Speed Awareness monitoring.
- Purchase own equipment e.g. monitor equipment, signs etc.

### **GC08 Slipway Rent**

To review the rent charge on The Slipway to ensure that the village is getting a market value return on the lease. The current lease operates on a 3-year fixed price arrangement and the next opportunity to review the rent will be December 2024.

### **GC09 Village in Bloom**

The village has a single planter near to the Pinfold on Mill Lane. The aim of this goal is to extend planting in the village that may include:

- Extend village planting
- Additional daffodils in verges
- Planters with edible crops

### **GC10 Hedge Maintenance**

Develop a better strategy for dealing with overgrown hedges in the village.

- Note the hedges that are known for causing obstruction to road or footway users.
- Report the hedge to COYC in a timely manner before they become a significant problem.

## GC11 Littering

- Coordinate the activities of active litter pickers in the village.
- Check the current littering signage throughout the village.
- Add additional signage where littering is seen to be a problem.
- Update the website with advice on littering and how to report it to City of York Council.

## Development Goals

### GD01 Community Pub

The Ship Inn has been registered with the City of York Council as an asset of community value meaning that the parish council has the option to purchase the pub for 6 months assuming that Stonegate wish to sell.

This goal is for the council to have a plan ready should Stonegate wish to sell the The Ship Inn.

### GD02 Village Green

The parish council does not own any land that can be used for community activities. The goal is to be able to purchase land should it become available. The land could be used for the following activities that would become goals in their own right should land become available:

- Children's Play Park
- Community Garden
- Cricket/Football Pitch
- Village Green for picnics/festivals/events etc.

### GD03 Village Seating

There are at present two places in the parish where seating is provided (the Pinfold on Mill Lane, the verge at Lakeside). The goal is to identify further areas where seating could be placed and then install the additional seating.

### GD04 Tree Protection

There are many trees in the village, but not so many have Tree Protection Orders placed upon them. The goal is to identify trees 'of merit' that should have a protect order and pursue this with the City of York Council.

### GD05 Village Signs

There are village signs marking the boundary of the village from various roads. These signs should be maintained as follows:

- Check visibility of the sign at a reasonable height
- Replace signs that are missing or are in poor condition.
- Raise the height of the signs where they are obscured by grass and are difficult to mow.

### **GD06 Designated Footpaths & Walks**

There are a number of pleasant walks in and around the parish, but these are not necessarily well known or documented. The goal is to produce a framework around which walks can be documented and mapped and made available to the public.

### **GD07 Volunteers Scheme**

There are lots of volunteers in the community that provide an invaluable service. The scheme is to bring the volunteers together and keep them informed about activities in the village that require assistance. The goal will be to create a list comprising:

- Community helpers
- Skills available
- Shared resources

### **GD08 Water Level Telemetry**

To add local telemetry such that the flood levels can be more accurately monitored and information made available to the residents via the council website. This might include:

- Local river level gauge
- In-footway flood detectors
- Flood warning road signs

With this telemetry it might be possible to remotely control the Moor End sewage pumps to stop/start at the correct times.

### **GD09 Road/Footway Cleaning**

The amount of road/gulley cleaning from the City of York Council is reducing as part of cost saving measures. Our goal is to add additional street cleaning services to maintain the village road and footways to an acceptable standard. This may include:

- Organise private road sweeping
- Organise private gully cleaning
- Develop better contacts in COYC for organising/reporting of issues.

### **GD10 Pinfold**

The pinfold is one of a few assets held by the parish council and is largely unutilised.

The goals for the pinfold are as follows:

- Refurbish interior – remove weeds and replace weed membrane as appropriate.
- Add a plaque setting out the historical context of the Pinfold.
- Plant some scented roses and other scented plants to create a scented garden.

### **GD11 Local Council Award Scheme**

It is important the council is recognised as a well run council and to meet its full potential. In order to help with this, the goal is to achieve an award on the Local Council Award Scheme. The awards possible on the scheme are:

- Foundation Award – demonstrates that a council meets the requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice.
- Quality Award – demonstrates that a council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.
- Quality Gold Award – demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

### **GD12 Emergency Planning**

Take more responsibility for publishing/coordinating/communicating Emergency Plans in the parish.

- Establish an Emergency Planning Working Group.
- Publish documentation on the council website.
- Publish contact details on the noticeboards.

### **GD13 Village Hall Noticeboard**

The noticeboard at the village hall has been deteriorating for a number of years. There have been a number of plans to rejuvenate the noticeboard, however, for various reasons this has not happened.

The goal is to look at new designs and options for a new noticeboard and replace the current one. Consideration should be given to having a shared noticeboard with the trustees of the Memorial Hall.