



WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

White Colne Village Hall, Bures Road, White Colne, CO6 2QA.

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Village of the Year 2025

Action Plan 2026-27

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
1	Environmental Sustainability & Energy Efficiency		
1.1	Continue optimizing the solar panels, battery storage, and air source heat pump at the Village Hall.		
1.2	Host renewable energy education events to support the progress of the Colne Valley Community Energy Project.		
1.3	Support biodiversity and habitat conservation throughout the village.		
1.4	Create Management Policies for parish council owned and/or managed land.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
2	Community Engagement & Volunteers		
2.1	Continue supporting the Stationmasters Café as a bi-weekly community hub.		
2.2	Ensure the successful reopening of the Community Warm Hub in November 2025.		
2.3	Empower the WO Helpers Group to organize events and support community initiatives.		
2.4	Support the introduction of the new mobile Social Supermarket at the village hall.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
3	Infrastructure & Facilities Development		
3.1	Promote the community garden and continue to engage with local groups, e.g. the Scouts, children's holiday club.		
3.2	Maximize the use of the upgraded village hall for community events.		
3.3	Research external funding opportunities to improve playground facilities.		
3.4	Aspire to install Village Gateways.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
4	Allotments: Fencing, Promotion & Community Involvement		
4.1	Explore funding for new fencing via budgeting, sponsorship, fundraising, or in-kind support.		
4.2	Encourage formation of an Allotment Society to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinate group buying for discounts ○ Sell surplus produce to raise funds ○ Assist with site maintenance and representation 		
4.3	Promote available plots and the benefits of allotment gardening.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
5	Community Orchard Maintenance		
5.1	Engage local volunteers or groups for ongoing care and education.		
5.2	Host orchard-themed events.		
5.3	Create Management Policy for the Community Orchard.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
6	Governance & Financial Stewardship		
6.1	Manage council finances responsibly, keeping the precept stable if possible.		
6.2	Complete statutory audits and ensure public rights to view accounts.		
6.3	Review and update council policies regularly.		
6.4	Encourage all councillors to undertake relevant training to support their roles and improve the effectiveness of the council.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
7	Communication & Community Relations		
7.1	Keep the council website updated with relevant news and information.		
7.2	Ensure information leaflets are printed and delivered free to every household at least quarterly, maintaining this as a vital communication channel.		
7.3	Develop new ways for residents to provide feedback and ideas.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
8	Community Safety & Wellbeing		
8.1	Deploy the mobile SID (Speed Indicator Device) at various locations around the village to monitor vehicle speeds and collect data for sharing with the police.		
8.2	Continue to fund and maintain the village defibrillator, and to provide training for local volunteers in its use.		
8.3	Continue to report highway defects and maintenance issues to Essex County Council: Tell us - Essex County Council		
8.4	Attempt to find a new solution to the continued destruction of the pavement in Colneford Hill Identify and implement ways to keep pavements clear, signage clean, and public areas well-maintained to ensure a safe and accessible environment for all residents.		

Reference	Objective	Target	Complete
9	Looking Ahead: Devolution and Local Empowerment		
9.1	Monitor developments in the Essex devolution programme and advocate for increased responsibilities and funding at the parish level.		
9.2	Continue to pursue the transfer of the village hall tenure via a community asset transfer, in line with the ongoing devolution programme.		
9.3	Prepare for potential new duties such as local highways maintenance, green space oversight, or small grants administration.		
9.4	Build partnerships with neighbouring parishes, Braintree District Council, and Essex County Council to demonstrate readiness and capacity for devolved responsibilities.		
9.5	Develop partnerships, where possible, with forthcoming Unitary Authority.		

Reviewed & Amended 16.09.2025

Reviewed & Amended 19.05.2026