

THE ROLE OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS IN HEALTH & WELLBEING

26 June 2023

Danny Moody

Health & Wellbeing - Overview

- Nothing new
 - Public Health Acts 1875 (public recreation), 1936 (ditches and ponds, toilets, public baths)
 - Local Government Act 2000 (Power of Wellbeing)
 - Localism Act 2011 (General Power of Competence)
 - Coronavirus Act 2020
- It's what parish and town councils already do
- Raison d'être:
 - “To promote the economic, environmental, and social wellbeing of the parish”

Health & Wellbeing – Why Now?

- The Covid Pandemic was a game changer
- The cost-of-living crisis is a game changer
- Increase in mental health issues (depression, loneliness, isolation)
- Modern living (sedentary, isolated, stressful)
- Local government austerity... less money, ever-greater demand
- The imperative to prevent (or reduce) problems before they escalate – the so-called “prevention agenda” or “left shift”.

Health & Wellbeing – Language



We need to get upstream, – and that’s where parish and town councils are!

Health & Wellbeing – Language



STP – Sustainability & Transformation Plan or
Sticky Toffee Pudding?

The Best Start In Life

- Our communities will raise children to become healthy adults, who themselves raise healthy families and are net contributors to a healthy society.
- Women are healthy and well during and after pregnancy.
- All children grow and develop well so they are ready and equipped to start school

The Best Start In Life



Play areas | Community buildings | Pocket Parks | Food Larders
Toddler Groups | Small Grants Programmes | Custodian Trustee

Opportunity to be fit, well & independent

- The county's built environment and infrastructure will support people to be more active and make healthier food choices easier to make.
- Long term conditions and their risk-factors will be spotted early and treated appropriately

Opportunity to be fit, well & independent



Outdoor gyms | Community buildings | Allotments | Footpaths
| Small Grants Programmes | Community Transport Schemes | Warm
Welcoming Spaces | Good Neighbour Schemes | Cycleways

Good housing in places that are clean and green

- While new homes are being built across the county, priority will be given to ensuring that these new developments are green, with plenty of access to open green spaces, urban trees and other green and blue infrastructure.

Good housing in places that are clean and green



Neighbourhood Planning | Commenting on Planning Applications |
Design Statements | Public Open Space | Electric Vehicle Charging
Car Share Schemes | Small Grants Programmes |

Communications - Key Role



Forensic local knowledge | Links with groups and organisations
Communication channels | On the ground | Flexible/Reactive

What to do next

- Map your council's assets and services against the Ten Ambitions.
- One size does not fill all.
- Every parish and town council makes a contribution, no matter how large or small.
- Prepare to be involved more formally.

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