

# **WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **2023 – 2026 Parish Plan**

**Adopted by the Parish Council 08 June 2023**

This document is the Parish Plan for Whittingham Parish Council.

It was prepared by the Council following consultation with parish residents and will be used to guide the work of the Council over the next few years.

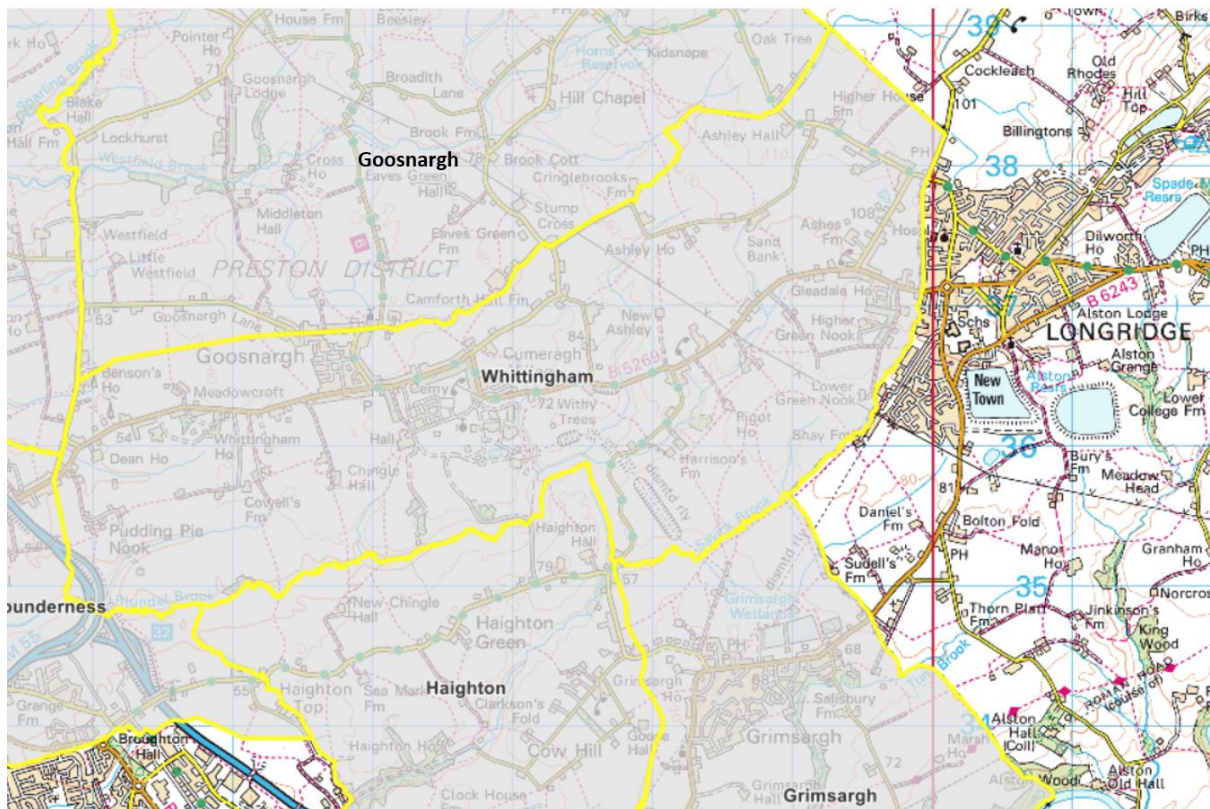
Date: 08 June 2023

## About the Parish

Whittingham Parish has a long history. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book published in 1086 and its name is believed to have derived from 'Hwita', the leader of an Angle tribe, 'Ingas', the name of the tribe, and 'ham', meaning the home of the tribe.

Originally a small, rural parish, the area was transformed in 1873 by the opening of a large psychiatric hospital which had over 3,000 patients at its peak. The hospital area housed staff as well as patients, had its own workshops, and became to a large extent, a self-contained community.

The present day parish is nearly 130 years old. It sits about seven miles north of Preston city centre and runs largely east-west from the M6 motorway to the Longridge boundary. It adjoins Goosnargh Parish to the north and Haighton and Grimsargh parishes to the south.



The heart of the parish is the village green, hall, pub, school and church which sit at the centre of the area. Although technically parts of the area are in Goosnargh Parish, the area is generally referred to by residents as Goosnargh and we have maintained this usage. The Cumeragh and Halfpenny Lane areas are also increasingly important.

The parish, together with neighbouring parishes, has seen significant residential growth in recent years with the development of many new properties. This has been driven largely by speculative developers and many residents believe the scale of building has now becoming excessive and unsustainable, with little evidence for local demand on this scale.

There is a strong wish that, as far as possible, the parish with the village at its heart, should be protected to ensure that it maintains its rural village feel. This, in its broadest sense, forms a major theme of this plan.

## Residents Priorities

As part of developing this plan, we consulted with Parish residents on their priorities for the area in 2022. Residents top priorities were as follows:

Overall Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to keep the parish and the village rural, and a nice place to live.</li> <li>to limit local development to local needs as far as possible,</li> <li>to ensure an appropriate supporting infrastructure for existing developments,</li> <li>to avoid infrastructure projects that will drive further unwanted development.</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to press Planning Authorities to require new builds to comply with the building standards that exist when building starts, rather than those which applied when permission was given.</li> </ul> <p>This will ensure that developers cannot land bank for long periods of time and then build at lower standards than currently apply.</p>
Recreation, Sport and Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide support for the Bowling Club, Cricket Club and similar groups,</li> <li>provide play facilities for under 5s on the village green</li> <li>provide support for a new building for youth organisations.</li> </ul>
Culture, Community and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure a regular police presence in the parish.</li> </ul>
Education, Training and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure local schools can favour local access.</li> <li>get a new primary school built on the old hospital site.</li> </ul>
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve the condition of parish roads.</li> <li>Reduce speeding in the village area.</li> </ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>find ways of ensuring Planning Conditions imposed as part of planning permissions are properly enforced.</li> <li>ensure Preston' Council's next Development Plan is explicit about the volume, location and intended timescales of any new developments to be permitted in the parish and surrounding areas.</li> <li>ensure the plan says specifically what is special about villages so that planning applications can be tested against these criteria.</li> <li>find ways of preventing change of use / scope /scale of developments after planning permission has been granted.</li> <li>Find ways to limit planning development to meet local levels of demand rather than for speculative development.</li> </ul>

## The Vision

Following the consultation, our overall vision for the parish is as follows:

- We want the parish to feel like one community, regardless of where people live.
- Where people naturally look to neighbouring areas because of where they live, we still want them to feel part of the Whittingham parish and hopefully feel fondly towards it.
- We want it to feel inclusive for everyone, non-cliquey, and easy to become involved.
  
- We want the parish to be an attractive place, somewhere we can all be proud of and enjoy.
- We want to make the village the beating heart of the parish, vibrant and active, and a place that nurtures the spirit.
- Across the parish we want to limit development to local need as far as we can, minimise traffic growth and speed, prevent the loss of green space, and minimise noise and dust.
- In short, we want to keep the parish and the village a nice place to live.
  
- We recognise the need for supporting infrastructure to support current and recently approved development plans.
- We want to make sure this is delivered as promised and in a timely fashion and we want to make sure that this does not then drive further unwanted development.
  
- We want the people of the parish to feel informed about what is going on and to be able to properly influence and shape the future of the area.
- And we want people to stand up and be counted, to get involved and to help deliver this overall vision.

As a Parish Council we have limited legal powers and we caveat the aims of this plan with the realism that the Parish Council is a small body of just seven volunteer councillors and a supporting Parish Clerk.

We will do what we can directly.

We will also act as a catalyst to get residents and others with a legitimate interest in achieving the overall vision actively involved in campaigning and other activities that will be needed to deliver the parish and village we all want to see.

Question numbers in the tables refer to the original discussion draft. Scores are from the consultation with residents. They are not intended to be sequential or include all numbers.

## THEME 1 - ENVIRONMENT

No	Score	Objective	Action	Key Partners	Date / Lead
20	70	Require new builds to comply with the building standards that exist when building starts rather than when permission is given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with Council and try to make as a policy.</li> <li>Ask other parishes to adopt approach as standard response to planning applications.</li> </ul>	Preston Council	Clerk / Cllr Price (also look at CIL & land banking)
18	67	Encourage the water company to comment on planning applications before approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with United Utilities.</li> <li>Identify pressure points.</li> <li>Ensure Preston Council planning dept aware.</li> </ul>	Invite United Utilities to meetings to discuss their approach.	Summer 2023
17	65	Identify green soak-away areas and feed these in to Preston Council planning as no-build areas	Discuss with Lancs. County Council how to address this.		Clerk to look up previous details.
11	47	Identify all parish walks and develop plans to improve access, stiles, signage, benches etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish known list of current walks and status.</li> <li>Develop action plan for each and prioritise.</li> <li>Identify other heritage and similar walks.</li> <li>Pursue woodland walk around hospital site.</li> </ul>	Other parishes	4 walks – priority is to address the two entirely in Whittingham Clerk / Cllr Marginson
12	46	Support the annual festival by asking for volunteers to help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively promote via parish website &amp; WhitWhat</li> </ul>		As required
16	44	Improve the provision and maintenance of waste and dog bins?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify where provision needed.</li> <li>Seek provision from Preston Council</li> </ul>	Key issue is Preston City Council emptying bins.  Invite the council to a parish council meeting.	Publish info to residents about what needs to be done to make this happen. Encourage residents to lobby city councillors

Consultation items dropped:

14. Appointment of Lengthsman to help maintain the parish area (28), Superseded by a parish maintenance contract.

19. How important is it that we find appropriate partners to advise residents on energy use minimisation? (12)

13. How important is it that we develop plans for the orchard area at the hospital site? (9)

15. How important is it that we enhance the village area so that we can enter the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition? (3)

21. How important is it to provide public toilets in the parish?(-36)

## THEME 2 - RECREATION, SPORT AND LEISURE

No	Score	Objective	Action	Key Partners	Date / Lead
26	31	Support and promote the Bowling Club, Cricket Club, Tennis Club, Longridge football club and other similar groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint a council lead/leads to engage and develop this area.</li> </ul>		Cllr Marginson / Cllr Brooks offered to lead.
23	25	Provide play facilities and play equipment on the village green for the under 5s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently concentrating on football pitch.</li> <li>Address after football pitch completed.</li> </ul>	Preston City Council.	Autumn / Winter 2023
24	24	Support a new building or site for the scouts and other youth organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider favourably for CIL investment subject to active engagement by the scouts and other youth organisations.</li> <li>Ensure groups are aware of County Council crowd funding mechanism to fund raise when planning permission gained.</li> <li>Meet with Scouts org to discuss their involvement.</li> </ul>		Cllr Marginson to support as appropriate.

*Consultation items dropped:*

25. How important is it that the parish council supports and promotes the activities of the WI, the Heritage Group and similar social / interest groups? (18)

29. How important is it that the parish council supports and promotes projects to re-wild green areas? (15)

27. How important is it that the parish council supports and promotes inter-village activities and competitions to revitalise sport and leisure in the area? (2)

28. How important is it that the parish council supports and promotes the provision of allotments? (-25)

### THEME 3 - CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND SERVICES

No	Score	Objective	Action	Key Partners	Date / Lead
38	43	Help enable a regular community Police presence in the parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with police to understand constraints.</li> <li>Support police initiative for mobile presence including adding to website</li> </ul>	Lancashire police	Clerk to add info about mobile presence to the council website.
31	35	Look at opportunities to restore and re-purpose St John's Church on the hospital site for community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out informal explorations</li> <li>Establish sub-group with interested residents to actively explore options and sources of funding.</li> <li>Aim to produce resourced development proposal by June 2024</li> </ul>		Cllr Woodburn to do initial work.
37	29	Increase outreach health and care services in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult further on services needed and what can be provided (health checks, cholesterol checks, breast screening)</li> </ul>	NHS	Clerk to invite County Cllr Sue Whittam Lead Member for Health to come and talk what support is available
34	22	Ensure better information about what is going on <u>socially</u> in the parish and how people can get involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider developing 'WhitWhat' social website.</li> <li>Run by residents if possible.</li> </ul>		Councillors to suggest content. Cllr Price to progress a prototype
36	17	Provide support in the area for victims of child abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, homophobia, racism, drug and alcohol misuse, anti-social behaviour and other normally unspoken issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint a council Safeguarding champion.</li> <li>Ensure appropriate provision of information on council website and via village hall.</li> <li>Explore with relevant agencies what else might be appropriate.</li> </ul>	Police Commissioner Lancs. Social Services.	Cllr Clarke offered to be safeguarding champion

*Consultation items dropped:*

33. How important do you think it is that we provide support for people in the parish who may be 'digitally excluded' due to lack of knowledge, equipment or other reasons? (21)

39. How important is it to improve the current provision of mobile library services in the parish? (-12)

#### THEME 4 - EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

No	Score	Objective	Action	Key Partners	Date / Lead
41	44	Explore what can be done to favour local access to local schools?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek council rep on teaching staff or Board of Governors at local schools.</li> <li>• Engage with Lancs. CC.</li> <li>• <i>Individual members can attend governing body meetings as they wish.</i></li> </ul>	Local schools	Clerk to follow up with LCC re developments
42	38	Support a new primary school being built on the hospital site?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify and publish existing planning obligations on council website.</li> <li>• Explore enforcement with the planning authority if appropriate.</li> <li>• Seek councillor rep involvement to shape admissions criteria.</li> </ul>		Clerk to action.

*Consultation items dropped:*

45. *To what extent do we need to improve telephone and broadband provision in the parish to support home working? (22)*

43. *To what extent is it important to improve the provision of after-school activities? (13)*

44. *To what extent is it important for the parish council to try and develop and promote job opportunities in the parish? (4)*



## THEME 5 - TRANSPORT

No	Score	Objective	Action	Key Partners	Date / Lead
52	55	Improve the condition of Parish roads?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively promote the Love Clean Streets app.</li> <li>Encourage residents to use.</li> </ul>	Lancashire County Council	Ongoing
51	42	Try to get enforcement speed cameras installed to reduce speeding in the village area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore option of 2 Gatso cameras or average speed checks on Whittingham Lane.</li> <li>Recruit and train 6 resident speed checkers.</li> <li>Add to newsletter / website</li> </ul>	Lancashire Police	Invite police to Parish Council meeting.
53	28	Improve / enforce parking restrictions outside Goosnargh Post Office to improve safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Police advise parking in the area reduces speeding.</li> <li>Revisit when other measures in place.</li> </ul>	Lancashire Police Lancs. County Council	Clerk to discuss with PCSO (Lancs. Police)
		<i>New item added post-consultation</i>  Provide additional transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lancashire Council Green travel officer to attend council meeting in and follow up.</li> <li>Identify requirements to hospital site for transport to Longridge / Broughton high schools</li> </ul>	Lancs. County Council	Clerk to progress.

### Consultation items dropped:

47. How important is it to improve existing bus services in the area? (17)

50. How important is it to improve the provision of special transport services in the parish for the elderly and disabled? (13)

48. How important is it to provide a bus service through the new estate? (-34)

49. How important is it to provide a bus service along Halfpenny Lane and other areas (please say where in the notes area at the end of this section)? (-50)

## THEME 6 - HOUSING

No	Score	Objective	Action	Key Partners	Date / Lead
60	83	Find ways of ensuring formal Planning Conditions imposed as part of planning permissions are properly enforced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify what is not being properly enforced.</li> <li>Engage with Preston Council to understand current enforcement activity.</li> <li>Explore with other parishes the costs of jointly employing an enforcement officer with appropriate powers.</li> <li>Fund via Cil or precept if appropriate.</li> <li>Let residents know how to complain to the right people.</li> </ul>	Preston Council	Clerk to contact Preston Council when we have a specific example.
57	82	Ensure Preston Council's new Development Plan is explicit about the volume, location and intended timescale of any new developments to be permitted in the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Preston Council on current and emerging legal obligations and constraints.</li> <li>Actively share council intentions with residents.</li> <li>Build a campaigning force amongst residents</li> </ul>		Form a parish working group when we get sight of the new plan.
61	81	Find ways of preventing change of use / change of scope / change of scale of developments after planning permission has been granted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Preston Council / Lancs. Council to understand current mechanisms.</li> <li>Ensure all changes requested notified in advance to Parish Council.</li> <li>Build a campaigning force amongst residents against any inappropriate changes.</li> </ul>		Clerk to seek response from planning
59	80	Determine what infrastructure is likely to be needed for future permitted planning levels and ensure this is considered in all planning applications in the parish without it inadvertently then driving further development?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Longridge, Broughton and other parishes to resurrect cross-parish group and outline an infrastructure development plan for the area.</li> <li>Include details of other infrastructure needs and limitations</li> </ul>		Cllr Hall to explore re-establishing cross-parish group with other parishes.
56	78	Meet with Preston Council to understand local responses to their 'Call for Sites' and discuss parish views on housing development <u>before</u> the first draft of their new Development Plan is published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep abreast and respond to City Council consultations via a working group.</li> </ul>	Timing is no longer feasible.	Postponed until further information is available from the City Council.

62	75	Develop a Neighbourhood Plan to give the Parish Council legal powers to influence planning decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Await clarification on emerging planning legislation as to whether still relevant.</li> </ul>		On hold until new legislation known.
58	72	Seeks ways to limit permitted planning development to levels of local demand rather than for speculative development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build councillor knowledge of social / affordable housing.</li> <li>• Review planning authorities Housing Needs Assessments and challenge where appropriate.</li> <li>• Understand relevant legislation (e.g. trees / wildlife, infill etc) that can be used to block inappropriate planning.</li> <li>• Develop parish policy paper on what is important when supporting planning applications (<i>scale, hedge preservation, set back from road garden space, surface drainage etc.</i>)</li> <li>• Be proactive in responding to consultations on development plan.</li> <li>• Be proactive in responding to development plan.</li> <li>• Be proactive in reviewing reports / decisions which do not take objections into account.</li> <li>• Ensure council officers are held properly into account.</li> <li>• Ensure council planning policies are properly applied to planning applications.</li> <li>• Attend planning committee meetings as appropriate to challenge decisions.</li> <li>• Require developers to show local demand.</li> <li>• Audit where new residents are coming from and links to the parish.</li> <li>• Pro-actively challenge developers seeking to make inappropriate developments.</li> </ul>	Lancs. County Council. Preston City Council	On hold until new legislation known.

55	57	Help develop residents understanding of the new Planning White Paper when it is published?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively promote new information and understanding when available.</li> <li>• Arrange expert presentation event at the village hall for residents.</li> <li>• Build understanding of how the new legislation can help achieve the overall vision of this plan.</li> </ul>		On hold until new legislation known.
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Consultation items dropped:

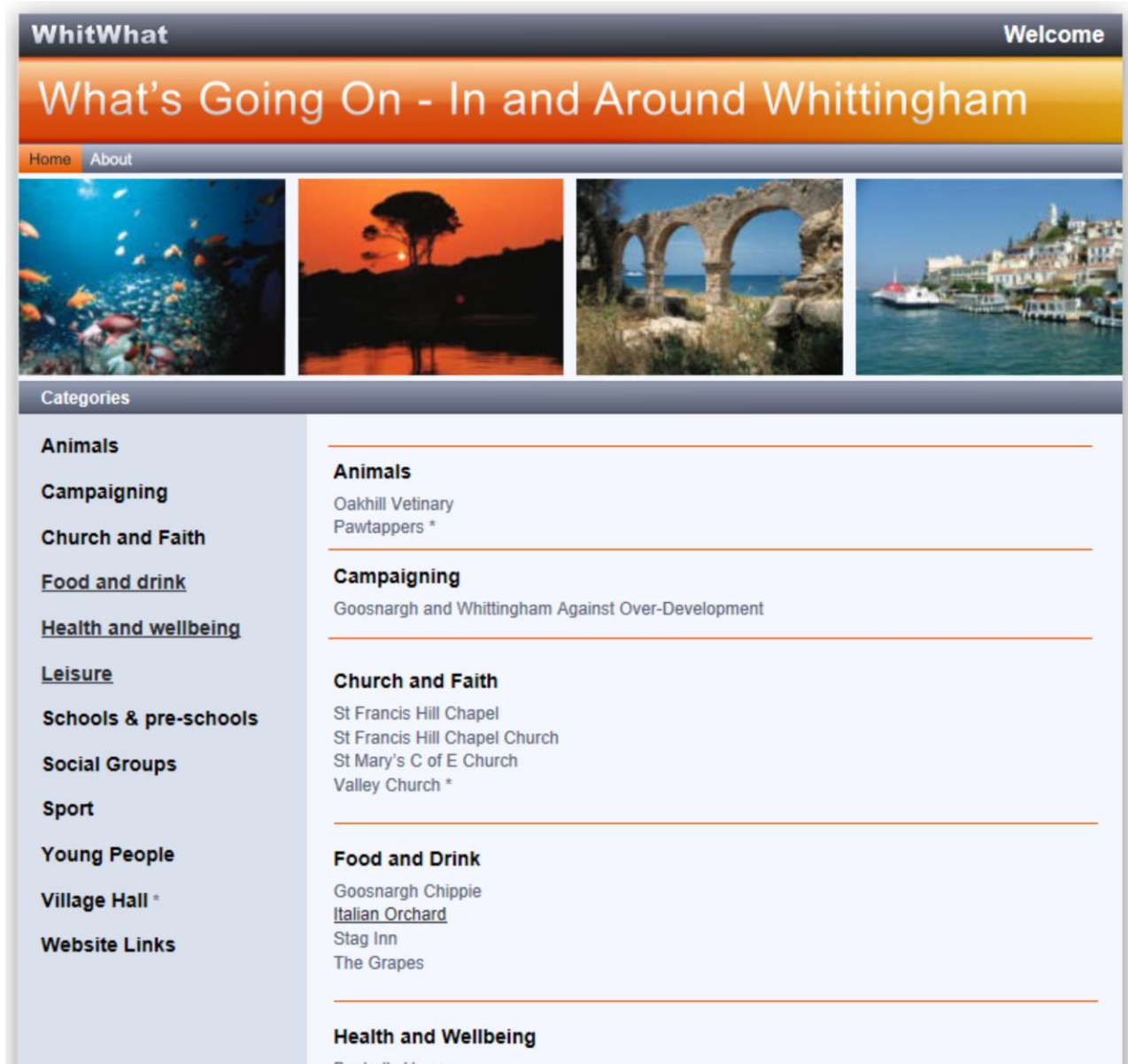
None.

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## WhitWhat Example Illustration

The following is an initial example of a website illustrating what is going on in and around Whittingham to make it easier for people to get involved in local activities if they wish.




It is intended that the website will be independent of the parish council but aligned to the aims set out in the Parish Plan.



**WhitWhat** Welcome

# What's Going On - In and Around Whittingham

Home About



**Categories**

- Animals**
- Campaigning**
- Church and Faith**
- Food and drink
- Health and wellbeing
- Leisure
- Schools & pre-schools**
- Social Groups**
- Sport**
- Young People**
- Village Hall \***
- Website Links**

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**Animals**  
Oakhill Vetinary  
Pawtappers \*

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**Campaigning**  
Goosnargh and Whittingham Against Over-Development

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**Church and Faith**  
St Francis Hill Chapel  
St Francis Hill Chapel Church  
St Mary's C of E Church  
Valley Church \*

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**Food and Drink**  
Goosnargh Chippie  
Italian Orchard  
Stag Inn  
The Grapes

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**Health and Wellbeing**  
Ruchelle House

## Categories

Animals

Campaigning

Church and Faith

Food and drink

Health and wellbeing

**Leisure**

Schools & pre-schools

Social Groups

Sport

Young People

Village Hall \*

Website Links

### **Bowland Forest Gliding Club**

The Gliding Club first started flying back in the 1950's and has owned its present airfield since 1973. Surrounded by the beautiful Bowland Forest countryside (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), the club makes a wonderful base for flights over stunning local scenery.

Weather permitting, we fly on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year.

Visitor trial flights and voucher flights are available on Saturdays and Sundays. We also run pre-booked Group Visitor Evenings throughout the spring and summer.

The club operates on a collaborative basis. Members are expected to join in with the various duties required to get people into the air rather than just turn up, fly and go. As a result, the club is friendly and welcoming and is able to offer the cheapest flying rates in the country.

New members are welcome.

Bowland Forest Gliding Club Ltd.  
Fiddlers Lane,  
Chipping,  
Preston,  
PR3 2WN

W3W: prancing.musician.flying

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