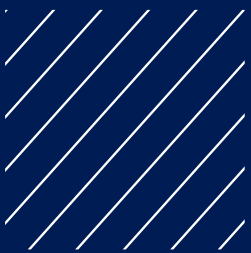




SHAVINGTON  
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+ *One Parish,  
One Community,  
One Vision*

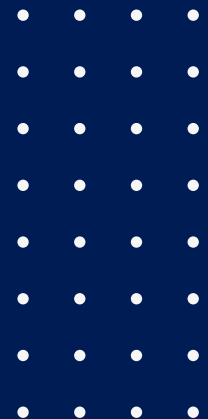
**DRAFT VERSION**



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# Shavington-Cum-Gresty Parish Council Strategy 2024-2029

To get there #together





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# Introduction

## This document sets out what we aim to achieve and how we'll do it.

Over the next five years, we'll work closely with the community, voluntary organisations, businesses, and public bodies. Our goal is to maintain consistent, stable plans that are achievable even when there are changes due to elections.

Our strategy forms the basis for detailed plans and budgets each year. This helps us monitor progress, stay accountable, and respond to new opportunities.

Our approach is flexible yet focused. We assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Parish and Council to capitalise on strengths, tackle weaknesses of the Parish Council, and make the most of opportunities.



### This Booklet Covers:

#### Section 2

Explains our 'Vision' for Shavington-cum-Gresty and the Parish Councils' 'Mission' and how we will go about achieving it. Also, the core values we hold as an organisation.

#### Section 3

Sets out the six Strategic Themes which define the heart of our Strategy.

#### Section 4

Explains the methods we will use to achieve our Strategic Themes.

#### Section 5

Describes the main themes for our work over the next five years and our plans in more detail.

#### Section 6

Covers how we will monitor progress towards our vision and how we will review this strategy.

#### Section 7

Describes the context in which we live locally, with information about our Parish and its history. We have based much of our Strategy on this information.

# Our Vision, Mission & Core Values

## Our Vision

### Our Parish in 2019

We envision Shavington-cum-Gresty as a lively and supportive community by 2029. Residents will actively engage with each other, and our parks, facilities, and services will cater to the diverse needs of everyone.

While preserving our unique identity, we'll ensure easy access and safety. A network of local facilities will collaborate with the community to enhance everyone's quality of life.

## Our Mission

### What We'll Do in the Parish

Our goal is to actively connect and support the Shavington-cum-Gresty community, promoting collaboration among local groups to address shared needs and goals.

We'll provide essential services where needed, partner with others when necessary, and advocate with key partners for a better quality of life for all.

## Our Core Values

### How We'll Act in the Parish



# Our Strategic Themes



## The Areas We Will Focus On



### Building a United Community

#### What We'll Do:

We will bring everyone in our community together. We'll make sure everyone can join in, share their views, and help make our parish a better place for all.



### Celebrating Our Heritage

#### What We'll Do:

We'll honor and share the rich history and culture that make our parish special. Together, we'll use our past to shape a bright future for everyone.



### Improving Health & Wellbeing

#### What We'll Do:

We'll work with others to make sure everyone in our parish feels safe and supported. We want everyone to be healthy and happy, both in body and mind.



### Growing Our Village Economy

#### What We'll Do:

We'll help create more local jobs and support our businesses to grow in a way that's good for everyone. We will use new technology to ensure that our parish can cater to the needs of a larger number of people.



### Protecting Our Environment

#### What We'll Do:

We'll take care of our beautiful surroundings. We'll work together to make our public spaces even better and tackle big issues like climate change and keeping our parish green.



### Making the Council Work Better

#### What We'll Do:

We'll improve how the Parish Council works so we can do a better job for you. We'll make sure we can meet the goals we've set to make our parish a great place to live.



# Our Plan for Shavington-cum-Gresty



## What We'll Do

We'll provide great services and get involved in projects that make our parish better. When we need to, we'll team up with others for a bigger impact. And if we can't make changes ourselves, we'll talk to the people who can, making sure our community's voice is heard.



## Working Together

Our community is our strength. We'll support everyone's efforts and stand up for what makes our parish strong.

We want everyone to join in, share ideas, and help make decisions. We'll listen to you, make sure everyone is heard, and keep you informed about what we're doing.



## Making Decisions

We're here to act quickly and wisely for our parish. We'll grab chances to improve things and make sure our team has what it needs to succeed.

The Village Hall will operate on a break-even basis to support local businesses and organisations, with transparent financial management.



## Being a Good Example

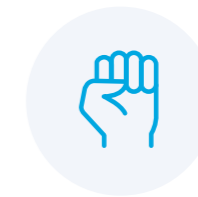
We'll set high standards for ourselves, treating people fairly and respecting our environment.

We'll be a good place to work, support local shops, and try to reduce our environmental footprint. We believe in doing business in a way that helps our parish thrive.



## Facing Today's Challenges

Times are tough, and big issues like climate change and public service cuts affect us all. We're ready to do our part, supporting local actions to fight climate change and stepping in where needed to help our community through hard times.



## Together, Stronger

We're committed to working together, embracing different views, and tackling challenges as a team.

We believe in our community's spirit and power to make a difference. Let's work together for a better future for Shavington-cum-Gresty.

# Our Approach to Key Themes in Shavington-cum-Gresty

While we've outlined the main themes we'll focus on for the next five years, we're reaching out to residents, community groups, organisations, and businesses in Shavington-cum-Gresty to help us develop specific focus areas under each theme for our delivery plan. We'll offer some ideas, but we want this document to be a collaborative effort.

**#together**, we can ensure that our vision for Shavington-cum-Gresty in 2029 becomes a shared plan for everyone.

## Theme #1. Building a United Community

**What We'll Do:** We will bring everyone in our community together. We'll make sure everyone can join in, share their views, and help make our parish a better place for all.

### Celebrating Diversity & Community Engagement

- We will celebrate the growing diversity of our communities by ensuring that everyone is consulted and represented and we will work to connect neighborhoods together.

### Collaboration & Partnership

- We will actively engage with and support a wide range of community organisations that help us achieve our goals and continue to provide funding.
- We will collaborate with partners and service providers, and hold them accountable when necessary.
- We'll also coordinate with stakeholders to develop a shared plan for improving local services.

### Neighbourhood Planning & Advocacy

- We will implement our Neighbourhood Plan, ensuring it stays relevant, and advocate effectively for our parish in planning decisions.
- We will advocate for balanced development in our community, ensuring a variety of housing options that meet the diverse needs of our residents throughout their lives.
- We will work to prevent excessive development in the Parish.
- We will also advocate for sufficient infrastructure and social services to support our community's growth and development.

### Engagement with the Younger Generation

- We will make an effort to connect with the younger generation and meet their needs within the parish.
- We will Ensure they have opportunities to aspire to and engage with the community.

### Promotion of Community Events

- We will make sure to keep promoting and organising high-quality events with partners that bring our community together and strengthen our bonds, or highlight the Parish.
- We will ensure that we actively participate in community events and initiatives to support and enhance our parish.

### Protection of Community Assets

- We will stay vigilant about any concerns regarding the potential loss of community assets, and provide assistance whenever possible.
- Be ready to step in and manage assets if their social value justifies it.

### Public Participation in Council & Committee Meetings

- We will ensure that the public can participate in Council and committee meetings.





## Theme #2. Celebrating Our Heritage

**What We'll Do:** We'll honor and share the rich history and culture that make our parish special. Together, we'll use our past to shape a bright future for everyone.

### Supporting Historical Events

- We will actively support significant public and civic events with historical importance.

### Documenting Parish History

- We will make sure the history of Shavington-cum-Gresty is documented and available for everyone to access.

### Creating Walking Paths & Trails

- We will team up with partners to create more walking paths and trails, opening up access to the heritage of our parish.

### Access to Listed Buildings Register

- We will ensure that everyone can easily access and contribute to the Listed Buildings Register and the Local list.

### Respecting Unique Character

- We will use the planning process to ensure that new buildings respect the unique character of the parish.
- We will explore the advantages of implementing a Parish Design Guide.

### Expanding Arts & Cultural Events

- We will expand the variety of arts and cultural events to highlight the talents of our residents and cultivate community interest.

### Promoting Social Values

- We will collaborate with partners to promote the Parish and its social values, aligning with our commitment to celebrate our heritage.

### Caring for the War Memorial

- We will care for the village War Memorial.

## Theme #3. Improving Health & Wellbeing

**What We'll Do:** We'll work with others to make sure everyone in our parish feels safe and supported. We want everyone to be healthy and happy, both in body and mind.

### Supporting Health Initiatives

- We will support and collaborate with initiatives that help locals lead healthier lives.

### Addressing Social Isolation

- To tackle social isolation and loneliness in our community, we will help out with befriending programs and provide community transport where needed, in addition to public transport.

### Advocating for Better Access to Services

- We will advocate for better access to health and social care services within our community, ensuring that everyone, especially at the local level, has the support they need.

### Enhancing Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities

- We will ensure that individuals with disabilities have their needs met by enhancing accessibility and providing adequate facilities.

### Preserving Recreational & Sports Facilities

- We will oppose any new developments that result in the loss of recreational or sports facilities unless equivalent alternatives are provided.
- We will help local sports and leisure groups play a bigger part in meeting the community's needs.
- We will maintain the Vine Tree Play area.
- We will provide allotments for residents.



### Enhancing Community Safety

- We will collaborate with the Police and other partners to enhance community safety initiatives.
- We will create a Parish Emergency Plan in collaboration with relevant external organisations.
- We will ensure that home safety and health advice/information is easily accessible through our Parish Council channels.
- We will conduct a thorough examination of the Council's activities and facilities to reduce crime.

### Supporting Vulnerable Members of the Community

- We will utilise the assets and resources of the Council to support the most vulnerable members of our community.

### Advocating for Better Roads & Safety Measures

- We will advocate for better roads and regular maintenance, enhancing safety for all.
- We will collaborate with others to ensure that house numbers are clearly visible throughout the Parish.



## Theme #4. Growing Our Village Economy

**What We'll Do:** We'll help create more local jobs and support our businesses to grow in a way that's good for everyone. We will use new technology to ensure that our parish can cater to the needs of a larger number of people.

### Collaborating with Nearby Businesses

- We will collaborate with nearby businesses to boost their visibility, attract more visitors to the Parish, foster local employment opportunities, and facilitate networking among them.

### Supporting Remote Working

- We will support remote working for both employees and freelancers by connecting them and understanding their common needs.

### Attracting Compatible Businesses

- We will actively collaborate with partners to attract businesses that fit well with our village vibe. These businesses should bring more job options and enhance our village amenities.

### Boosting Tourism

- We will collaborate with partners to boost tourism in the Parish, encouraging visitors to explore and enjoy its heritage, facilities, services, and events.



## Theme #5. Protecting Our Environment

**What We'll Do:** We'll take care of our beautiful surroundings. We'll work together to make our public spaces even better and tackle big issues like climate change and keeping our parish green.

### Safeguarding Local Environment

- We will collaborate with partners to safeguard and improve our local environment by preserving its natural beauty, biodiversity, and important landscapes.

### Enhancing Green Spaces

- We will team up with partners to enhance our open spaces and green areas in the Parish.
- We will also improve footpaths and cycle routes, both within the Parish and connecting to neighboring areas.

### Ensuring Cleanliness & Accessibility

- We will ensure that public areas remain clean, easily accessible, and free of litter.
- We will maintain our gardens and flower displays.
- We will explore the possibility of taking on more responsibilities for grounds upkeep if the Cheshire East Council's budget cuts negatively affect our parish with the implementation of a Ranger service.

### Supporting Ecological Areas

- We will actively acquire and support the development and maintenance of an ecological area.



### Collaboration for Climate Solutions

- We will collaborate with local communities and active groups to create practical solutions for the climate and ecological challenges, aiming to enhance the sustainability of the Parish.

### Leading by Example

- We will lead by example in preserving our environment by establishing rigorous environmental standards for ourselves.

### Addressing Nuisance Complaints

- We will serve as advocates and liaisons with other agencies to address and resolve complaints about nuisances.





## Theme #6. Making the Council Work Better

**What We'll Do:** We'll improve how the Parish Council works so we can do a better job for you. We'll make sure we can meet the goals we've set to make our parish a great place to live.

### Organising Work Priorities

- We will organise our work priorities based on a corporate strategy, after consulting with our communities and partners.

### Enhancing Skills & Capabilities

- We will enhance the skills and capabilities of the Council.

### Delivering Excellent Services

- We'll deliver excellent services either directly or through partnerships, tailored to meet both the needs of the community and individual preferences.

### Implementing Delivery Plan

- We will implement a Delivery Plan focused on achieving outcomes, along with performance management to track progress.

### Ensuring Proactive Leadership & Effective Systems

- Ensure proactive leadership and effective systems and checks to enhance the functioning of the Parish Council.

### Leading by Example

- We will lead by example in preserving our environment by establishing rigorous environmental standards for ourselves.

### Ensuring Clear Communication & Transparency

- We will ensure clear and open communication channels, fostering transparency in our actions.

# Monitoring Our Progress



**We want to see how our work, both by the Parish Council and the community, is making a difference and moving us closer to our vision for Shavington-cum-Gresty. To do this, we'll involve the community in drafting and reviewing our strategy. This will help us understand what's working well, who we're helping, and who might need more support with new projects or activities.**

For each important aspect of our strategy, we'll set out specific actions and goals in our Delivery Plan. These tasks will be assigned to different parts of the Council and overseen by the Parish Clerk. The full Council will keep an eye on our progress.

We'll set target dates for each action and regularly update everyone on how we're doing. Alongside this, we'll also create a budget plan for the next five years to make sure we have the money we need to achieve our aims. This way, we can keep track of our progress and stay on course to reach our long-term goals.



# Understanding Our Community



## Shavington-cum-Gresty: A Journey Through 900 Years of History

Shavington-cum-Gresty is a civil parish with both a busy village, Shavington, and a peaceful hamlet, Gresty, located half a mile north of Shavington. Its history dates back to the ancient parish of Wybunbury, but significant changes occurred in 1894, altering its administrative status.

Shavington's origins are uncertain, first mentioned around 1280 during Edward I's reign. Gresty's history dates back to the early 14th century, adding to the parish's heritage.

In the late 19th century, Shavington-cum-Gresty transformed from a rural area to a thriving community, driven by the Grand Junction Railway. This period saw the development of housing like Alma Buildings and Osborne Grove.

During the 19th century, Methodist chapels and educational institutions, such as Shavington Academy, were established, reflecting the community's religious and educational values.

The 20th century brought further changes, with expansions like Park Estate and Greenfields estate. Today, the parish continues to evolve while preserving its history. Recent years have seen an increase in housing projects, reflecting its ongoing growth.



# Shavington-cum-Gresty Landscape: A Journey Through Fields & Woods

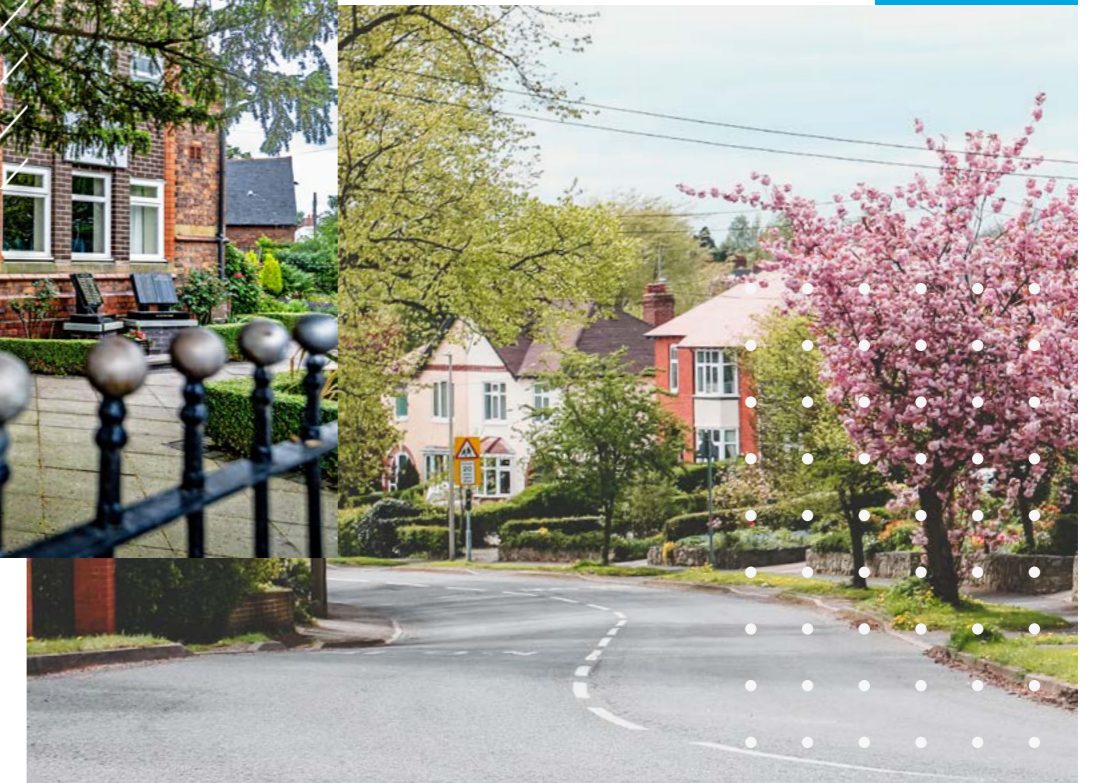
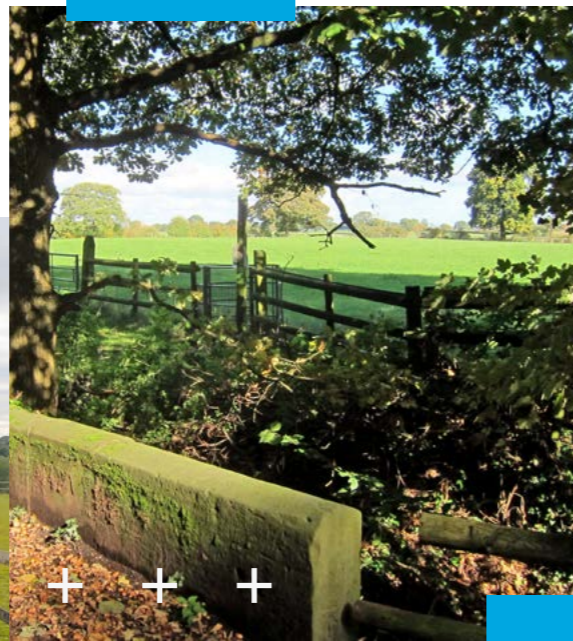
The landscape of Shavington-cum-Gresty is mostly flat, with some rolling areas, located on the border of the Cheshire Plain. Covering over 950 acres, the parish is mainly farmland and is bordered by neighboring areas such as Willaston, Rope, Wistaston, Hough, Wybunbury, Basford, and southern Crewe. The Shavington-Basford-Hough Bypass (A500) divides the parish into two sections, with Gresty to the north and Shavington to the south.

According to the 2008 Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment, the parish is partly urban and partly categorized as Lower Farms and Woods Landscape Character Type. This includes features such as:

- A vast, gently rolling plain with intermittent sandstone ridges.
- Some woodlands, including coniferous woods and scattered orchards.

- Well-maintained field boundaries, with dairy farming being prevalent.
- Various wetland habitats, significant for wader breeding, and numerous rivers and ponds.
- Historical sites like iron-age hill forts, ridge and furrow formations, and moated houses.
- A mix of farmsteads, small hamlets, larger settlements, and estate parklands.
- Reserves of silica sand and salt, along with transportation routes and nature reserves.

Specifically, the Barthomley Character Area within the parish features gently undulating landscapes with fields of various sizes, influenced by historical land use. Recent changes include residential development on former agricultural land, driven by proximity to Crewe and its railway connections, leading to growth in settlements like Haslington, Hough, Shavington, Weston, and Wheelock.



## Shavington-cum-Gresty: A Journey Through Architectural Heritage & Community Insights

### Present-Day Parish

Shavington-cum-Gresty, located in Cheshire East, includes settlements like Dodds Bank and Park Estate. Covering 380 hectares, it has a population of 6,264, with an older demographic compared to nearby areas. Most homes are detached or semi-detached, showing high rates of ownership. The community is diverse, including a growing population from Hong Kong. Affordable housing is needed despite overall affluence.

### Community Profile

Health indicators are positive, with many reporting good health. While Shavington-cum-Gresty lacks local job opportunities, it has a thriving business scene with over 50 establishments. Crime rates are lower than national averages, contributing to community safety.







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This booklet was published in March 2024  
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If you have any questions about the  
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