

Mistley Parish Council – Synopsis of Community Action/Business Plan Projects

- **Grants for Community Groups** - The Parish Council works has detailed on its website and Community Action/Business Plan and works closely with Voluntary organisations or community groups wishing to be considered for a grant. Local groups are reminded about this. Those interested in applying are asked to email/write the Parish Council and include the following information:-
 - The specific amount of the grant;
 - What the funding is for;
 - Breakdown of costs and any funds already raised;
 - How the project will benefit Mistley and its residents and how many residents will benefit; (if possible an approximate breakdown of age groups too);
 - Latest set of Accounts/full Financial Statement of no more than 3 x A4 pages.

The grant is not available to fund individuals, commercial or statutory organisations. In making decisions the Parish Council observes the various guidelines. The Parish Council works closely with local groups and endeavours to support them as much as it can.

- **Community Litter Picking Events** – These events take place twice per annum – Spring and Autumn. The Parish Council is aware that social isolation and loneliness are key factors contributing to health and wellbeing, of older people in particular. However, the rising older population means more individuals are experiencing loneliness. This is particularly relevant to Mistley residents with its relatively high proportion of older people. Our Litter Picking events encourage all sectors of the community to come together, including our elderly and less-able/disabled. Some of our less able residents assist with making refreshments for our volunteer Litter Pickers, or they co-ordinate maps or areas to target for collecting litter. Everybody has an important role to play in our community Litter Picking events. We endeavour to provide healthy snacks as part of our refreshments to our Volunteers. Our community is more connected as some local businesses join our Litter Pickers. Local shops assist and support by providing tea, coffee, milk, refreshments etc. The local baker, maltings and restaurant/hotel have also assisted with providing cakes, but we don't have cakes for every Litter Pick, just the occasional event as a treat, as we do try to encourage providing healthy snacks for our events. We hold our Litter Picking events on Saturday mornings. However, there is a joined-up community approach as we also work in partnership with our local Primary School and we assist with organising a Litter Picking event with the School on the Friday before our Saturday events for the children, parents and teachers who are unable to attend the Saturday events. We are aware of some residents with mental health issues who attend our twice-yearly Community Litter Picking events, which provide a sense of purpose and interaction for them. Our local clubs join our Litter Picking events too, including the Rugby Club, Football Club, Bowls Club, and the Rotary Club. We cover various distances around the Village during our Litter Picking events and this assists with improving activity and can help with obesity. We allocate different areas/distances depending upon individual fitness levels and preferences. Fresh air is good for peoples' wellbeing too. Litter Picking events are a resource to help individuals and local groups organise awareness-raising educational activities in our local area. The events all about inspiring the community to work together with others in the locally to clean it up, making the area where we live a better place to be. During our events we collect litter and products to recycle. Areas

where higher levels of litter are present are shown to attract crimes. The Parish Council consider that it sends different messages to people who see us picking litter. If an older person sees somebody younger litter picking or vice versa then that can really help inspire others to get involved to make a real difference. One message resonates and that is to take pride in the place that our local residents call home, i.e. Mistley Village. We recycle litter and use different coloured bags to separate the different sorts of products/litter that we collect. Wild animals and domesticated animals are trapped in discarded litter every day. Mistley Parish Council and the Village are proud of our Swans and our local heritage. Collecting litter helps with our ongoing programme of care and protection of our Swans. Our local shops will continue to assist us by donating our refreshments, e.g. bottles of water, fruit juice, tea, coffee, milk and healthy snacks.

- Planning Committee Meetings – The Parish Council is consulted by the Local Planning Authority, i.e. Tendring District Council on all planning and development matters in Mistley. However, Tendring District Council makes the final decision on planning proposals unless they go to appeal. Residents – if you are commenting and making observations to the District Council about any planning applications, then please copy the details to the Parish Council. The Parish Council has a Planning Committee which meets every 3 weeks in order to fit in with the timescales for planning applications and the District Council. The Parish Council makes its recommendations to the District Council after these Planning Committee Meetings for approval or refusal on any planning proposals in the Village. Please feel free to attend any of these Meetings which are open to the public and there is the opportunity to address the Parish Council's Planning Committee for a short period. You will probably be aware that the Parish Council will always hold an Extraordinary Meeting for any large planning applications in the Village so that your views can be fully heard and considered. For example, Extraordinary Meetings were held for the Mistley Place Park planning application were held.
- Asset of Community Value (ACV) - The Village Pub – The Parish Council is often the first point of contact for local people. The Parish Council aims to “sign-post” residents to the most appropriate level of local government. It has an important role to play in promoting the Village, representing its interests and supporting the work of different groups in the community. For this particular AVC - the owner of the public house asked the Local Planning Authority if the pub can be demolished and two residential dwellings erected on this site. However, there is no evidence to demonstrate that the public house has being marketed and no evidence of the business being unviable under an improved business case – possibly with a different public house owner. The change of use would be a loss of amenity in the community as this is the only public house in the Village. The application for change of use of the pub was refused by the local planning authority. Community ownership plays an important role because if this much-loved pub closes there will be no pub in the Village and it will be the last community service for Mistley and will mean a huge loss. Closing the pub will have an emotional effect that will seriously affect the future economy and community infrastructure with nowhere to meet and no focus for the community life and there will be no community cohesion. Community ownership plays an important role because if this much-loved pub closes there will be no pub in the Village and it will be the last community service for Mistley and will mean a huge loss. Closing the pub will have an emotional effect that will seriously affect the future economy and community infrastructure with nowhere to meet and no focus for the community life and there will be no community cohesion. Mistley Community is a

strong force and it brings creatively, business acumen and hands-on support, backed by and led by the Parish Council. The ACV application was successful. Now the Community are pulling together with a view to owning and organising the running of its own pub and taking these plans (following the public consultation) through to fruition. The community is preparing a bid and getting a business plan together, whilst gathering resources to bid/buy this ACV.

- Joint Environmental Working Party – Mistley Parish Council has joined Manningtree Town Council and Lawford Parish Councils following the formation of a Joint Environmental Working Party. This being as a result of points raised at the recent Essex County Council Climate Crisis Conference and the declaration of a Climate Emergency by Tendring District Council. The Parish Council has nominated two formal Councillor representatives to join the said Working Party. One of the areas that the Essex Climate Action Commission is concerned about is Community Engagement. Their latest bulletin states that Commissioners have discussed the need to engage with residents, businesses, and schools, and to encourage them to be active environmental citizens, inviting a more inclusive approach and the Working Party has been looking at how to put these aims into practice. A dialogue and suggested actions towards mitigating or slowing down some of the effects of climate change and improving the environment have started in terms of increasing biodiversity.

Any specific message concerning the environment or climate change that one of the Councils wants to put across could be reinforced if all three Councils work on the same focus at the same time. Local 'eco-groups' and other interested parties will be asked to join.

- Practical Actions for Climate and Environment (PACE) – The Parish Council supports this Group along with Lawford Parish Council and Manningtree Town Council including encouraging the installation of nesting boxes for Swifts. Boxes have been installed at Mistley Village Hall – a community asset owned by the Parish Council. These nest-boxes have been set up to give summer-visiting swifts a place to nest and breed year after year. Swifts like high, deep crevices to nest and the Village Hall is perfect for this. The Parish Council would like to assist Swifts as their numbers have declined dramatically.

Adopted 18/05/2021. Last Reviewed 20.05.24. Next Review Date May 2025.