

Mudford Parish Council Community Plan 2026-2031

This Community Plan has been developed from the Community Assembly held in March 2026 and the Community Survey carried out in June/July 2026, and reflects the values, aspirations and goals of the local community and the parish council (MPC).

This plan comes at a pivotal moment in Mudford's history as the community is facing significant increase in its population due to two large housing developments approved by Somerset Council which are set to increase the current household number of 339 to 1,356. This increase is expected to put additional pressure on the local infrastructure including traffic congestion.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to champion the interests of Mudford residents by protecting our rural way of life, tackling pollution, flooding and drainage issues, enabling walking and footpath access, preserving our natural environment, and fostering a strong and connected community. We are committed to listening to local people, acting in the best interests of the parish, and ensuring Mudford remains a resilient and thriving place for future generations.

What is a parish council

The council consists of 7 councillors and usually meets every last Thursday of the month (except December) at 7 p.m. at Mudford Village Hall. Agenda and minutes for all of council meetings are published on the council's website: www.mudford-pc.gov.uk. Full agendas are also published on the noticeboard located opposite the village hall and the notices for the meeting are additionally published on the noticeboards located in Hales Meadow and Primrose Lane.

The parish council does not have an office.

Members of the public are permitted to attend all council meetings.¹ There is a section early in the meeting when members of the public may ask questions or make comments to the council. The council may not be able to answer the questions at the meeting and a response may be given at a later date. Members of the public are not permitted to speak during the meeting unless invited by the chair of the council. If the meeting moves to closed session to enable the council to discuss confidential matters, then the public must leave the

¹ Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

meeting.

The council employs one part-time employee: Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer.

The council currently does not have General Power of Competence² and as such must ensure that it can identify a relevant legal power before any action/projects are considered.

What do we do and parish council's assets:

1. Cemetery and Cemetery Chapel – the parish council is a burial authority (as defined by Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order (LACO) 1977) and as such it operates and maintains the cemetery and the chapel.
2. Play equipment, Skate Park and outdoor gym – the parish council owns, maintains and facilitates regular inspections of the facilities. The parish council does not own the land on which these facilities are located. The land is owned by Somerset Council however, the parish council is looking after the land which includes regular grass cutting, tree survey and surgery.
3. Speed Activated devices – the parish council owns two devices located on Mudford Road. The traffic data is downloaded monthly by the clerk and shared on the council's website.
4. Bus shelter – the parish council owns and maintains the bus shelter located on Mudford Road.
5. Two defibrillators – the parish council owns and maintains two defibrillators; one located opposite the village hall and the second one in Hales Meadow. Further information can be found on [MPC's website](#).

Accountability

MPC's accounts are audited every year by both internal and external auditor and shared on the website in line with the Transparency Code.³

Parish council elections take place every 4 years (where approved by the government), and the next election is due to be held in May

² Localism Act 2011

³ Transparency code for smaller Authorities 2015 and Local government transparency code 2015

2027. Anyone who is eligible can stand as a candidate by submitting nomination papers to the Elections Office. If there are more candidates than available seats, residents vote to choose their councillors; if there are enough or fewer candidates than seats, those candidates are elected automatically without a vote (uncontested election).

Priority Ratings

The Action Plan uses a simple priority rating system:

- **High Priority (H):** Actions that are ongoing, time-sensitive, or intended to be delivered before the next Parish Council elections in May 2027.
- **Medium Priority (M):** Actions that are important to achieve the objectives of the Community Plan and will be progressed as resources, funding and opportunities allow.
- **Low Priority (L):** Actions that remain desirable and will be pursued where practical but are of lower urgency or may be dependent on longer-term opportunities, partnerships or external funding.

Reviewing the Plan

The Community Plan (and its Action Plan) are working documents that will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changing community needs, new opportunities and progress made against agreed actions.

Both plans will be reviewed at least annually, ahead of the Parish Council's budget-setting process each autumn, to ensure priorities and resources remain aligned. The first review will take place no later than summer 2027, following the local elections in May 2027.

Key

MPC – Mudford Parish Council; <https://mudford-pc.gov.uk/>

Somerset Council – Local Authority; <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/>

3VFG – Three Villages Flood Group; <https://www.3vfg.org.uk/>

FoMAG – Friends of Mudford Action Group; <https://www.fomag.co.uk/>

VH Committee - Mudford Village Hall Committee, which manages Mudford Village Hall. The hall is not owned or managed by the Parish Council.

<https://www.mudfordvillagehall.org.uk/>

YRCT – Yeovil Rivers Community Trust; <https://yrct.org.uk/>

CC&AP – Chilton Cantelo and Ashington; [Chilton Cantelo Parish meeting](#)

Church – St Mary's Church Mudford; <https://mudfordchurch.org.uk/>

LGA 1972 – Local Government Act 1972

ACTION PLAN

Area	Aims	Objectives and Actions	Lead/ Collaborations	Priority (L-M-H) Timescale	Budget	Power
Community Engagement	To ensure the residents are informed through both digital and physical channels	Develop a comprehensive communication strategy that would help enhance community engagement and transparency, this could include:				
		A community event (such as parish meeting) to share and discuss the results of the survey and the community plan in an informal and accessible way encouraging community engagement. Consider publication of results on one-page leaflet summarising the key findings (household distribution).	Clerk	H October-November 26	Parish Projects To be determined	LGA 1972, s142
		Urgently communicate that the Village Hall's Safe Haven is a dedicated emergency facility.⁴	Clerk	H October-November 26	No cost if in Ark Magazine	LGA 1972, s142
		Periodic leaflet campaigns to raise awareness of local services, events and community safety initiatives, working with the Village Hall and other community partners to help promote key messages, such as the Safe Haven scheme, and reach residents who may not engage with other	MPC	M October-November 26	Admin or Parish Projects To be determined (seek quotes)	LGA 1972, s142

⁴ In the event of an emergency, the Mudford Village Hall is designated as a Safe Haven where residents can go for temporary shelter, information, support, and assistance. The hall provides a central meeting point for the community during incidents such as severe weather, flooding, power outages, or other emergencies, and may be used by emergency responders and MPC to help coordinate local support.

		communication channels. • More noticeboards – Stone Lane, Hinton, at Mudford top (bus shelter) and Hundredstone park (information board) to be considered subject to whether additional coverage is needed. • Facebook Group, WhatsApp group and email newsletter to share dates of next meetings and links to agendas, events, traffic and other important updates and information. • Regular articles in News on MPC's website. • A monthly article in Ark Magazine (delivered to all households). • Annual report published on the website and presented the Annual Parish Meeting. • Budget statement available on the website following the budget setting process in January.	Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk/Chair Chair Clerk	 October-November 26  October-November 26  (in place)  (in place)  April 27  (January 27)	Parish projects – not budgeted for in FY 2026-2027 No cost No cost Grants - Ark Magazine (£500 in FY 2025-2026) No cost No cost	LGA, s142 and Sch 12 para 10 and s111 as above LGA 1972, s137 or s142 LGA 1972, s12 para 15 LGA, s142 and Sch 12 para 10 and s111
Enhancement and Maintenance of parish assets	Village Hall (VH) To enhance and improve existing community assets, investing in their long-term sustainability, safety and usability for current and future residents.	• Investigate grant options for the village hall for secondary glazing (in partnership with the Village Hall Committee) or alternatively budget accordingly to be able to give a grant to the committee. • Explore options for more comfortable seating. • Car park capacity: Explore options together with the Village Hall Committee (owner of the	Clerk/VH Committee VH Committee Clerk/VH Committee	 By November 26  November-January 27  Ongoing	Grants £8,500 + VAT in total required Grants (see budget for FY 2027-2028) No cost to MPC	LGA 1972, s133 LGA 1972, s133 Road Traffic Regulation

		car park, currently leased to Somerset Council).				Act 1984, s57
	Recreation Ground and Playing Field To enhance and improve existing community assets, investing in their long-term sustainability, safety and usability for current and future residents.	Ongoing maintenance: Identify (following the annual inspection planned for August) which assets require replacement and appropriate timescale. Identify how CiL funds can be used to improve these assets. Future enhancement: - Consider plans for the creation of a nature-based play area and other updated facilities, identifying suitable opportunities, funding sources and delivery options. - Consider creating an all-weather perimeter path to improve accessibility, particularly in adverse weather conditions. - Consider establishing a fenced dog exercise area for off-lead walking.	Clerk & Contractors MPC MPC MPC	H August 26-January 27 M July-October 27 M July-October 27 M July-October 27	Play Area Inspections and Maintenance Inspections (FY 2026-2027): Weekly - £775 Annual - £180 Maintenance: £2,500 Budget for when required Budget for when required	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19
	Cemetery To enhance and improve existing community assets, investing in their long-term sustainability, safety and usability for current and future residents.	- Complete the extension of the cemetery onto the adjoining land already owned by MPC to provide additional burial space, including obtaining professional advice on layout, drainage and groundwater considerations, and preparing a design and cost estimate to enable the works to be planned and delivered. - Consider acquisition of adjacent land. - Investigate options for nature-friendly burials, provision for people of all faiths and none, additional ash interment space to help manage future capacity.	MPC Clerk Clerk	H Extension before end of 2030 Designer 2027-2028 M 2-3 years M 2-3 years	Reserves (Cemetery Land/Consecration) Budget for when required (Cem Land Cons Reserves not sufficient) Reserves (Cemetery and consecration fund)	LACO (Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order) 1977

		Consider biodiversity enhancements such as no-mow areas and wildlife-friendly planting (see section on Environment).	MPC	 By March 27	Hedges and Trees (£1,000 FY 26-27)	
	Church To enhance and improve existing community assets, investing in their long-term sustainability, safety and usability for current and future residents.	Explore opportunities to support the church as an important heritage asset, including the maintenance, repair, and preservation of the historic building.	MPC	 By October 27	Grants	Repair dependent-clocks, open churchyard - or LGA 1972 s137 for the rest
Pollution	Water Quality To improve and protect the parish environment by supporting community-led action to address water pollution and agricultural run-off	Work in partnership with 3VFG and local volunteers to support community-led monitoring of local watercourses and pollution incidents: - Gather and maintain evidence of sewage pollution and agricultural run-off affecting the parish. - Publicise water quality issues and provide residents with information on how to report concerns. - Regularly raise local concerns and evidence with Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and other relevant organisations. - Seek updates on planned infrastructure improvements and share these with residents.	MPC MPC/3VFG MPC/3VFG MPC/3VFG MPC/3VFG	 ongoing	Grants to 3VFG (Grants budget)	No regulatory powers. Public Health Act 1936, s125 (power to utilise wells, springs or streams) Or LGA 1972, s137
	Fly-Tipping To improve and protect the parish environment by supporting community-led action to address fly-tipping	- Encourage residents to promptly report fly-tipping incidents to Somerset Council. - Promote awareness of reporting processes through parish communications. - Monitor and identify recurring fly-tipping hotspots within the parish.	MPC MPC MPC	 ongoing  ongoing  ongoing	No cost Ark magazine	No direct legal powers Information campaign: LGA 1972, s142

		Escalate persistent issues to Somerset Council and advocate for appropriate enforcement and preventative measures. Investigate reporting to the police and establish the most effective way to ensure MPC is made aware of all incidents.	MPC	H ongoing		
Flooding	To improve River Management and Infrastructure	- Continue the process of adverse ownership of Withy Bed (land registration) so a conservation project can be developed at the location. - Ensure the parish council and the Three Villages Flood Group (3VFG) identify the required mitigations to the flooding issues, and these are presented to Somerset Council for consideration (and funding).	Clerk/Cllr Bartlett (partnership with YRCT) MPC/3VFG	H 2026-2027 H September 2026 and ongoing	Parish Projects (£1,700 agreed in FY 2026-2027) General Parish Maintenance (Ditches £1,500 in FY 2026-2027)	Limitation Act 1980, s15 Public Health Act 1936, s260
	To actively engage with relevant authorities	- Continue engagement with 3VFG, YRCT, Somerset Council and Environment Agency to ensure projects including desilting the river and nature-based strategies are put in place to mitigate the flooding. - Actively engage with upstream and downstream communities to prevent any agreed approaches worsening the current situation.	MPC/3VFG MPC/3VFG	H Ongoing H Ongoing	No cost No cost	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, s40 and Environment Act 2021
	To empower community action	Continue engagement with 3VFG and local farmers in identification of areas that can be improved.	MPC/3VFG	H Ongoing	No cost	LGA 1972, s111
Traffic, Road Safety, Pedestrian access and Public Transport	To improve footpath accessibility	- Continue to pursue the diversion of Public Footpath Y18/1 (Footbridge at Hinton over the river Yeo), working with Somerset Council to support the resolution of this ongoing matter. - Assess the accessibility of public footpaths and rights of way within the parish,	Clerk/MPC	H Ongoing	No cost	Highways Act 1980, s43
			MPC	M March 2027	No cost	

		identifying barriers such as inaccessible stiles, overgrowth, damaged surfaces and inadequate signage. - Continue to work with landowners and relevant partners to maintain and expand the network of permissive paths where appropriate. - Work with Somerset Council, landowners and relevant authorities to advocate for accessibility improvements. - Encourage residents to report issues affecting the safety and accessibility of footpaths. - Promote (publicise) and maintain accessible walking routes (share maps) to encourage greater use of the parish's public rights of way and permissive path network.	Clerk/PC MPC MPC MPC	 Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing	No cost Hedges and Trees (£3,500 in FY 2026-2027) No cost/Ark No cost/Ark	Highways Act 1980, s43
	To support measures that reduce the impact of pavement parking	- Encourage residents to report persistent problems through the appropriate channels. - Liaise with Somerset Council, local councillors and relevant authorities regarding identified hotspots. - Promote awareness of considerate parking and the importance of keeping footways clear and accessible. - Advocate (to Somerset Council) for appropriate measures where pavement parking presents a significant safety or accessibility concern.	MPC MPC MPC MPC	 Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing	No cost No cost No cost – unless leafletting or Ark No cost	No legal powers for enforcement
	To improve road safety and explore the potential introduction of a 20mph speed limit and other measures within the parish	- Consider and investigate a pelican crossing in the village. Request further visual calming, speed camera re-instatement and HGV re-routing with Somerset Council. - Continue downloading and publishing the traffic data, to identify who the data can be shared with to highlight the speeding issues in the village.	MPC/Clerk Clerk	 By April 27  Monthly	No cost at this stage (budget for further measures)	Highways Act 1980, s274A and Local Government

		- Actively engage with the Speed Watch and co-operate the approach. - Assess the need for further traffic management measures, including potential speed reduction and traffic-calming options (such as speed bumps), taking into account local evidence, community views, and whether Somerset Council considers such measures necessary and approve their implementation. Any proposals may also require further public consultation before being progressed.	MPC	H Ongoing		and Rating Act 1997, s30
			MPC	H by May 27	Traffic calming – likely at a cost to MPC Budget accordingly	
	To cooperate with neighbouring parishes	Engage with neighbouring parishes to identify areas of concern (speeding, accidents) that should be highlighted to Somerset and Avon Police and Somerset Council.	MPC/ Speed Watch	M Ongoing	No cost	LGA 1972, s111
	To improve access to the village hall	Explore options how pedestrian access could be improved (road safety – pedestrian crossing opposite the village hall).	MPC/ VH Committee/ Speed Watch	M By April 27	No cost at this stage Future budget	Highways Act 1980, s274A
	To advocate for improved public transport	- Explore the feasibility of a community transport scheme, working with residents and local partners. - Promote existing transport options and support services through parish communications. - Gather evidence of local transport needs and service gaps. - Liaise with transport providers and relevant authorities to advocate for improvements where possible.	MPC	L By May 28	No cost at this stage	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s26
			MPC	L By May 28		
			MPC	L by May 28		
			MPC	L By May 28		
	To maintain speed activated devices	Ensure sufficient funds are available for a replacement of the ageing speed activated devices.	Clerk	H November-January 27 (budget setting)	Reserves (and additions to reserves from FY 2026-2027)	Highways Act 1980, s274A

Housing development	To improve advocacy	Attend Somerset Council's planning meetings and relevant training to ensure the councillors and clerk are well informed of the current planning procedures. Consider further training for the councillors and the clerk.	MPC/Clerk	H Ongoing	Training Consider increasing training budget for 2027-2028 (after election)	LGA 1972, s175
	To establish parish housing needs	Advocate for Section 106 (S106) funding to offset the direct infrastructure and community impacts caused by new development projects (which can include new social/affordable housing as well as other amenities).	MPC/FoMAG	H Ongoing		LGA 1972, s111
	To protect against infill ⁵ development	Raise awareness of the Somerset Council's emerging Local Plan so that the parishioners can share their views.	Clerk	H Ongoing 2026-2028	No cost (use website and social media)	LGA 1972, s111 and s142
Environment, Nature and Conservation	To increase the parish's resilience to climate change - Act to Adapt (Climate Adaptation Plan)	Continue to work with Somerset Wildlife Trust and 3VFG to develop and implement an Act to Adapt climate adaptation plan for the parish.	MPC/3VFG	H 2026-2027	£1,000 Grant from Somerset Wildlife Trust expected to be received	Various powers dependent on specific actions
		Identify actions to reduce climate-related risks.	MPC/3VFG	H By April 27	No cost	
		Engage residents, landowners and community groups in delivering local adaptation projects (such as Withy Bed Conservation Project and Act to Adapt initiatives).	MPC/3VFG	H ongoing	Budget accordingly for FY 2027-2028	
		Monitor progress and review the adaptation plan as required.	MPC/3VFG	H twice a year	No cost	

⁵ Infill development is the construction of new homes on small plots of land between or alongside existing buildings within the village.

		Support educational events and initiatives related to climate change.	MPC/3VFG CC&AP	H ongoing	No cost	
	To put Mudford's Biodiversity Plan ⁶ in Action	- Identify actions that can be done as soon as possible with limited budget (such as bird boxes), wild meadow in the playing field, no mow corner at the cemetery. - Develop a plan for more planting in the Recreation Ground and the Cemetery. Seek arboriculturist's advice. - Work with the Church, to explore re-wilding opportunities in the church grounds. - Encourage community involvement through volunteering opportunities.	Clerk/3VFG MPC MPC MPC	M By January 27 M By January 27 M By January 27 M By January 27	Hedges and Trees (£1,000 in FY 2026-2027-Biodiversity) Hedges and Trees (survey - £1,000 in FY 2026-2027)	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, s40 and Environment Act 2021
Community Events	Village Hall and Church Events To increase opportunities for residents to come together by supporting inclusive community events that are accessible to all age groups	Work with the Village Hall to identify gaps in current provision and opportunities for new events: - Support the delivery of events and activities for young children and families at the Village Hall. - Encourage a programme of events that includes evenings and weekends to maximise accessibility and participation. - Promote seasonal community events throughout the year. Collaborate with Mudford Church to identify opportunities for a broader community role through music, arts, social gatherings, and other activities, strengthening its value as a key heritage asset.	MPC/VH Committee MPC/VH Committee MPC/VH Committee MPC/Mudford Church	M Ongoing M Ongoing M Ongoing M Ongoing	Grants (increase budget for FY 2027-2028)	LGA 1972, s145 LGA 1972 s145 and LGA 1972 s137

⁶ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, s40 and Environment Act 2021, s102

	Outdoor and nature-based events To encourage community participation, wellbeing and appreciation of the local environment through outdoor and nature-based activities	• Work with VH, 3VFG and volunteers to develop seasonal outdoor events and activities. • Promote activities that encourage engagement with local wildlife, biodiversity and the countryside. • Encourage events that make use of the parish's open spaces, footpaths and natural assets.	MPC/3VFG /VH Committee MPC/3VFG /VH Committee MPC/3VFG /VH Committee	M By July 27 M Ongoing M Ongoing	Grants (increase budget for FY 2027-2028)	LGA 1972, s145 and s137
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This Community Plan has been developed in response to the findings of the Community Survey. The survey and supporting work were made possible through funding from Viridor and the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) Community Health & Wellbeing Programme, via the Somerset Council Public Health Programme.

Mudford Parish Council gratefully acknowledges the support of Viridor, SALC, and Somerset Council in enabling this important community engagement initiative.

This Community Plan was adopted by Mudford Parish Council on 29th September 2026 (minute reference 26/244).