

# STRATEGY PLAN

2021-2023

To make Diss a successful, vibrant,  
attractive town where people want  
to live, work and visit

DISS TOWN COUNCIL



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# Introduction

Diss Town Council's second strategic plan covers the period 2021-2023 and focuses on three key priorities, all contributing to the Council's vision to make Diss a successful, vibrant, attractive town, where people want to live, work and visit.'

These key priorities are:

- Creating a greener, cleaner and safer town
- Developing and implementing the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan
- Reducing costs and delivering better value.

Within these priorities, we will work with partners to enhance the Mere to make one of the town's greatest assets safer and more usable as well as continuing to manage and improve the other facilities and amenities enjoyed by many in the town.

Our priorities were identified using resident feedback, outcomes from the review of the Council's previous strategic plan and the available resources.

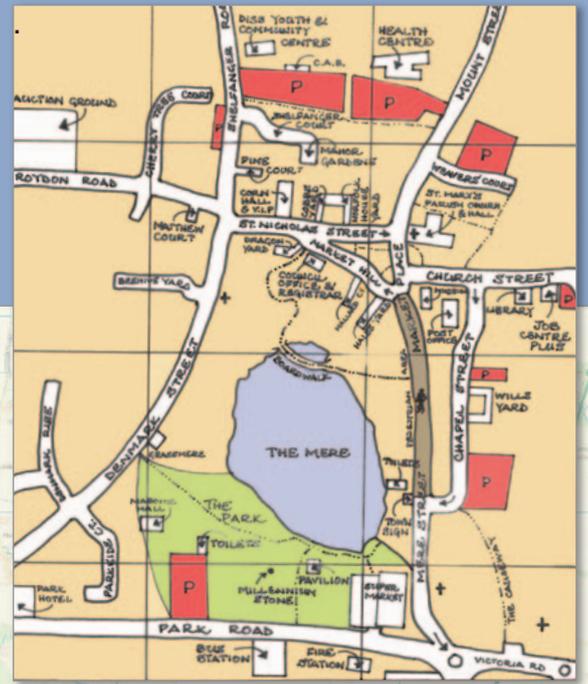
We welcome community involvement in any aspect of Council activity, after all, councillors and staff are here to serve the people of Diss, and this plan will help us to deliver outcomes that matter and make a difference to people's everyday lives.

# Recent key achievements

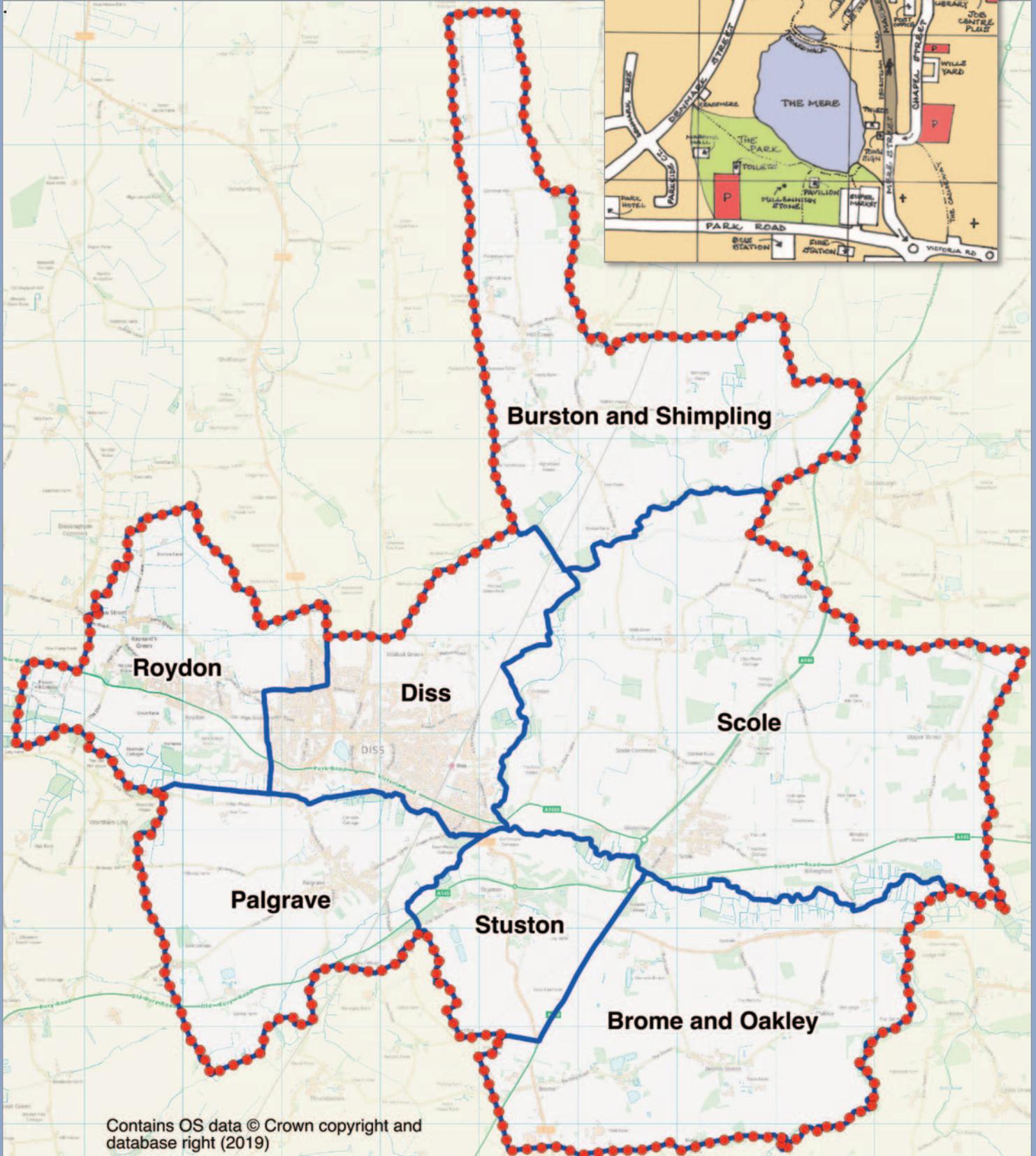
- Improvements to the Diss Youth & Community Centre including a new kitchenette / bar area, support to Park Radio Ltd to expand their growth into Norfolk and to a project to restore an ancient walkway to the rear of the site.
- Upgrading the town's streetlights to more efficient LEDs alongside a programme of column replacement.
- Working alongside the Royal British Legion & St Mary's church to keep the spirit and solemnity of Remembrance Day alive and the spirit of Christmas with a special virtual Christmas Lights Switch-On.
- Partnership with Norfolk County Council to ensure considerable progress towards key infrastructure projects namely the link road between the railway station and Nelson road and the Vinces Road / A1066 junction scheme.
- Refurbishment of the Mere's Mouth area and improvements to pedestrian safety.
- Consulting on the draft of the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan, a seven-parish partnership in action.
- Planning consent to install a beacon in the park to act as a reminder of the strength, light and hope that is at the heart of our community.
- New website launched.
- Grant awards made to support local organisations who are benefitting the residents of Diss.
- Continuing to work, meeting remotely, to ensure that facilities and services in Diss remained unaffected throughout the pandemic.

# Town Map

## Diss Town Centre



## Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan area



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# Your town councillors



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Diss Town Council has 14 councillors who are either elected every four years or co-opted. They are all volunteers from the community who care about Diss and making it the best place it can be. Councillors form committees which are decision making bodies with a key role being to set the budget and decide how funds are spent.

**The Council has three main committees:**

**Facilities – responsible for maintaining and improving existing Council-owned facilities and assets**

**Executive – ensures the efficient and cost-effective resource management of the Council**

**Infrastructure – responsible for working with partners to represent the interests of the community on all infrastructure matters.**

All Council meetings are open to the public with an opportunity at the start of each meeting to ask questions. They usually take place at Diss Corn Hall.

We also have a team of dedicated staff who work alongside councillors to implement the decisions of Council. Find out more at [diss.gov.uk](http://diss.gov.uk).

# About Diss Town Council

Diss is the largest of four market towns in the Waveney Valley, close to Norfolk's border with Suffolk. It has a population of approximately 7,500 although Diss serves around 40,000 people from the wider catchment area.

Diss Town Council forms the tier of local government closest to the people of Diss. Our three main functions are to represent the residents of Diss, to manage key sites and facilities in the town and to work in partnership with a wide range of organisations including District and County Councils to make Diss a successful, vibrant, attractive town, where people want to live, work and visit.

In addition to revenue generated from our sites, most of our income (85% in 2021/22) comes from the residents of Diss via Council Tax and goes towards maintaining, running, and improving the Youth & Community Centre, the market, park and Mere, the cemetery, sports ground and The Corn Hall. The remaining funds are used to support local organisations with grant funding and to facilitate key town events.

The Town Council is committed to being an advocate and campaigning voice for the people of Diss, working to the highest standards of integrity and openness and delivering services to the best of our abilities, being accountable and honouring our responsibilities as well as being inclusive and supportive of the whole community.

# Objective 1

## Create a greener, cleaner and safer town

- Work with partners to enhance the cleanliness of the town centre by reviewing schedule priorities and investing in additional resources.
- Seek to improve our green spaces, floral displays and consider possibilities for planting additional trees in the town.
- Improve the water quality of the Mere and install wildlife information boards.
- Seek opportunities to work collaboratively to utilise our green spaces and the Mere.
- Investigate the opportunity for renewable energies across our sites to reduce the council's carbon footprint.
- Work with local businesses to identify steps to reduce the town's carbon footprint.
- Continue to improve the town centre CCTV provision and work with partners to ensure the town remains a safe place.
- Reduce waste and increase in-house recycling.
- Protect local green spaces and improve cycle routes and footpaths through the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan.
- Continue to invest in and develop our outside facilities.

# Objective 2

## Develop and implement the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan

- Write the draft Plan which will include feedback from the consultations held in 2020 and submit it to South Norfolk Council (SNC).
- Oversee completion of the Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) for all proposed sites for new housing.
- Work with SNC to publish and formally consult on the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- Support SNC in arranging an independent examination and a referendum on the adoption of the Plan.
- To seek a majority community support for the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan.

# Objective 3

## Reduce costs and deliver better value

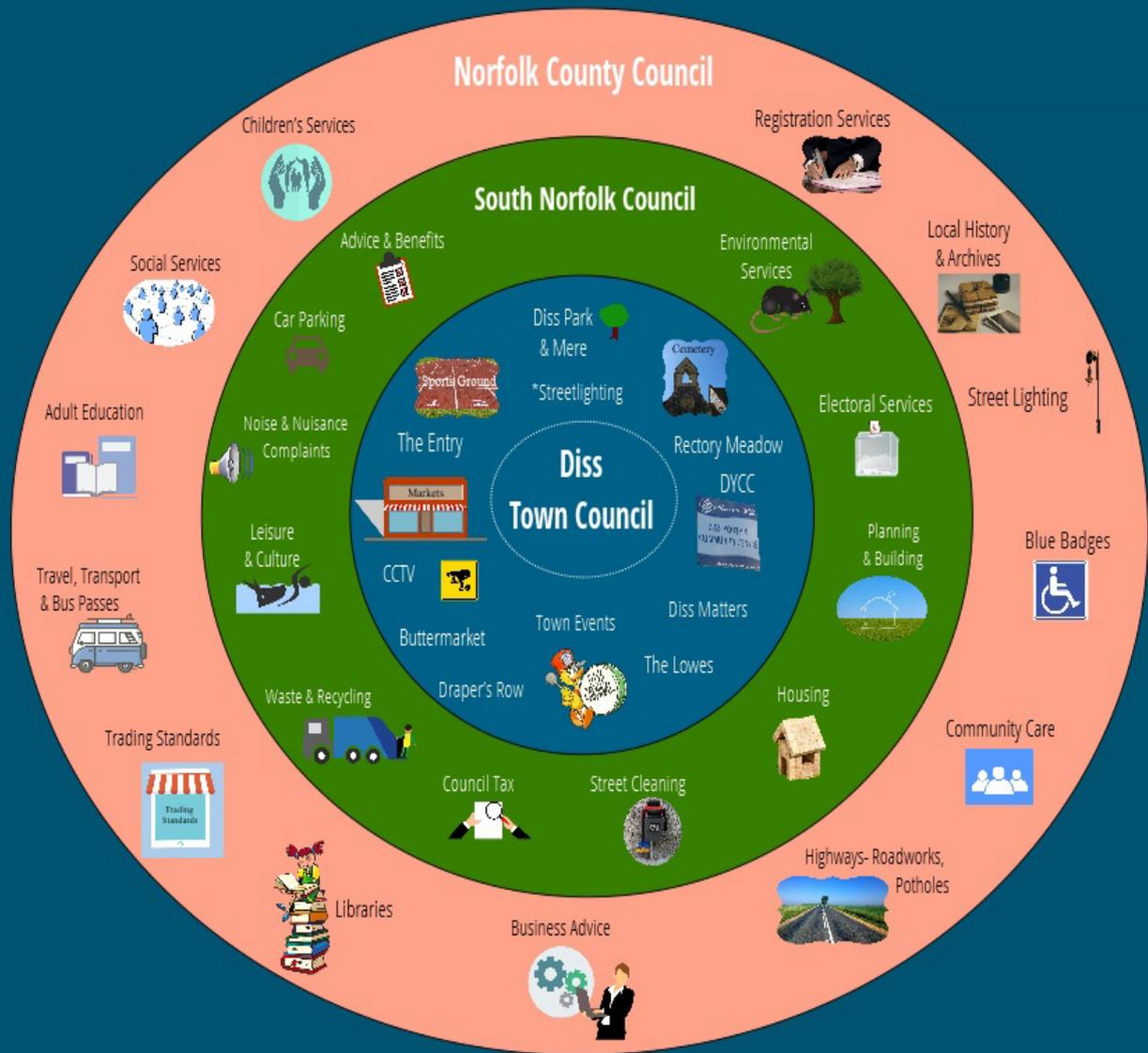
- Investigate opportunities to take on shared or devolved service provision.
- Consider options for working with neighbouring parishes and other organisations to increase the Council's local delivery of services.
- Work with suppliers to deliver better value.
- Review existing contracts to identify cost savings.
- Create an asset/facility management programme to forward budget more effectively.
- Increase revenue generated at the Sports Ground and Diss Youth & Community Centre sites through additional bookings where capacity allows.
- Investigate options for increasing the footfall in the town centre through increased market activity and an expanded events programme/additional events.
- Invest in our staff and councillors, providing training opportunities where appropriate.

# Checking progress

A list of activities will make up an 'Action Plan' which will be monitored by Council with each of the three main committees reviewing progress against its own objectives and targets.

An annual report will be considered towards the end of each year to understand the progress made and where further work is needed. The Strategy Plan will be available on the Town Council website so residents can see what the Council is doing to meet the needs of the community. Changes to the plan will be made where considered necessary and progress will be published.

# YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES



Relevant contact details for the above services:-

 Norfolk County Council: 0344 800 8020  South Norfolk Council: 01508 533701

 Diss Town Council: 01379 643848 (Streetlighting: 0800 591 055) Email: [towncouncil@diss.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@diss.gov.uk)

Website: [www.diss.gov.uk](http://www.diss.gov.uk)  @DissTC  @DissTownCouncil  disstowncouncil