

Cannock Wood Parish Council constantly strives to work on behalf of parishioners on the issues that matter to the village. The Council is always keen to receive ideas and suggestions from parishioners on areas of interest or concern and where it is felt the Council may assist. Listed below is the current schedule of activity; this is regularly reviewed and updated as projects finish and priorities change.

Action Plan for 2025/2026

During the Council year 2025/2026 Cannock Wood Parish Council will undertake the following actions:

- Comment on all planning applications which fall within or impact on the Parish.
- Represent the views and promote the interests of the parish, particularly in relation to Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) and Staffordshire County Council (SCC).
- Engage with the community including by maintaining an up-to-date website and noticeboard and by providing feedback to every household on achievements against the 2024/2025 action plan. Review and update descriptive and community information on the website.
- Listen, investigate and respond to issues identified by the parish of Cannock Wood and, if appropriate, to signpost to the correct person/ organisation for resolution/ further progression.
- Report potholes, pavement trip hazards, flooding, blocked gullies, public rights of way issues to SCC and street cleansing and waste disposal issues to CCDC.
- Monitor speed indicator device data.
- Work with and support local groups for the improvement of the facilities, environment and social and economic wellbeing in the community within budgetary constraints.
- Deliver speedy and transparent decisions through full meetings of the Council.
- Maintain good financial practices, ensuring transparency and value for money.
- Promote training and induction and ongoing support for members of staff and councillors.
- Ensure that the requirement to conserve and enhance biodiversity is part of decision-making and that incremental improvements are made year on year.
- Maintain good governance, working towards achieving as many as possible of the requirements for the Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme.
- Keep a watching brief on changes to local government as they affect parish councils in SCC and CCDC following the publication of the English Devolution white paper in December 2024.

Key projects for 2025/2026 include:

- Continue footpath debris clearance, including on Hayfield and Cumberledge Hills and as needed.
- Continue delivering improvements arising from the community survey 2024.
 1. Bench at the top of Sycamore Hill to be installed spring 2025
 2. more pockets or ribbons of wildflowers growing in the village
 3. Improving the condition of some of our public footpaths, such as CW3 at the top of the reservoir. Wood chippings on the worst of the muddy sections, possibly laid on top of sheep wool.
- Extend defibrillator coverage within the village if sites become available and provide a free first aid course.
- Change of mowing regime for the large verge area at the top of Cumberledge Hill to be finalised (possibility of siting a bench there).
- Continue discussions with field committee about improving the condition of the borders of the field.
- Rekindle discussions with SSW regarding improvement of biodiversity on the reservoir site and the rhododendron encroaching on the woodland strip alongside the footpath.
- Engage with CCDC regarding street sweeping and/or consider additional sweeps.
- Engage with CCDC regarding Nunswell Park and Castle Ring, habitat assessments and biodiversity strategy.
- Foster and facilitate events which are open to all and free to attend.
- Consider what improvements highlighted by the Best Kept Village Community feedback are worthwhile working towards.