

Cowfold Parish Council – Infrastructure Development Plan



Cowfold Parish Council

Submission June 2025

1. Introduction

This Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) supports the objectives outlined in the Cowfold Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan. It identifies, prioritizes, and coordinates key infrastructure needs to ensure the sustainable development of Cowfold, balancing growth with community, environmental, and heritage considerations.

2. Vision & Objectives

Vision:

To ensure Cowfold develops in a sustainable and community-focused manner, preserving its rural character while improving infrastructure and services to meet the evolving needs of residents. It is also designed and aimed at further supporting the Strategic Objectives set out in Cowfold Neighbourhood Plan (August 2024 Submission) - <https://www.cowfold-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Cowfold-Neighbourhood-Plan.pdf>

Key Objectives:

- Support sustainable housing and employment growth
- Enhance connectivity and transport
- Improve community facilities and services
- Protect the environment and rural character
- Promote resilience, safety, and well-being

3. Infrastructure Needs Assessment

Transport & Accessibility *(Neighbourhood Plan – Chapter 8)*

- Road Safety Improvements: Traffic calming measures on A272 and A281; Enhanced pedestrian crossings and signage near school zones and further general calming measures within the Parish.
- Public Transport Enhancement: Engage with bus service providers to maintain and expand rural routes; Install covered bus shelters with real-time info displays
- Active Travel Infrastructure: Develop safe cycling and walking routes; Add bicycle parking racks at key locations – Note WSCC Active Travel Strategy Plan- [West Sussex Active Travel Strategy 2024 to 2036](#).
- Village Parking Provisions: To review and provide representations to enhance the current parking offered within the village for residents and local businesses. – *Policy 16 (Page 44) – CNP.*

Digital & Utility Infrastructure

- Broadband Connectivity: Ensure full fibre-optic broadband rollout – *Policy 15 (Page 39) – CNP.*
- Utilities & Drainage: Improve water pressure, sewage systems, and drainage

Community Facilities

- Village Hall Upgrades: Expand facilities for flexible use and support the increase of bookings to the Allmond Centre - [Home | The Allmond Centre](#)
- Health & Social Care: Support access to GP services and outreach programs – *Aim 6 (Page 26) – CNP.*

- Education: Monitor school capacity and future-proof local provision – *The proposed development of Little Potters will only enhance the school offering with the incorporation of a dedicated car parking facility.*

Green & Environmental Infrastructure

- Green Spaces & Recreation: Enhance play areas; Create walking trails and gardens. This also complements and links directly with WSCC (LCWUP) Plan - [West Sussex Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan \(L C WIP\)](#), and Rights of Way Management Plan - [West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2028](#)
- Flood Resilience: Flood risk management including culvert maintenance
- Sustainable Energy & Climate Action: Promote solar energy; Encourage energy-efficient building

4. Delivery & Funding Mechanisms

Partnerships

- Horsham District Council
- West Sussex County Council
- Utility providers
- Local developers
- Community groups

Funding Sources

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Section 106 Agreements
- Rural development grants
- UK Government Levelling Up / Shared Prosperity Funds
- Parish Council precept (where appropriate)

5. Implementation Timeline

<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Key Actions</i>
<i>Short Term (1–2 years)</i>	Traffic calming measures, broadband improvements, play area upgrades
<i>Medium Term (3–5 years)</i>	Village hall expansion, cycle/walkway network, green space development
<i>Long Term (5+ years)</i>	Flood resilience schemes, EV infrastructure, energy projects

6. Monitoring & Review

- Annual review by Parish Council in consultation with community stakeholders
- Integration with the Horsham District Local Plan and other regional strategies
- Regular community feedback via surveys and forums