

Strategic / Plan

ARLESEY TOWN COUNCIL 2025-2029

Foreword

This document provides an outline of the discussions that have taken place within the Council in May 2025 in shaping a Strategic Plan for the period 2025 to 2029. It explains to Councillors, staff, residents and the local community exactly what the Council intends to achieve over the next four years. The plan will be regularly reviewed to ensure that progress is being made. The Council is excited to deliver this plan and is determined to ensure that Arlesey remains a town that delivers quality services to our residents, local businesses, visitors and the wider community.

Introduction

Arlesey is a growing village in Central Bedfordshire with a proud history and a strong sense of community. It has a mix of long-time residents and newer families drawn to the area for its green spaces, good schools, and easy rail links to London. Over the years, Arlesey has seen new developments and a steady increase in population, while still keeping its village feel and local identity.

Arlesey Town Council is the first tier of local government and was formed in 1974. It works alongside Central Bedfordshire Council, the main authority responsible for things like roads, schools and social care. The Town Council focuses on what matters most to our local community – looking after shared spaces, supporting local projects, and making sure residents have a voice in decisions that affect our town.

Population: As of the 2021 Census, Arlesey had a population of 6,022 residents. [Wikipedia](#)

Households: In the 2011 Census, there were 2,344 households in Arlesey. [Wikipedia](#)

Electorate: A recent Community Governance Review (as of **1 May 2025**) indicated 4,705 registered electors centralbedfordshire.gov.uk+1

Our Mission

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL?

The mission of Arlesey Town Council is to represent the people of Arlesey, to foster a strong sense of community and to create a welcoming and safe environment for all. We are committed to encouraging community spirit, supporting local well-being and ensuring Arlesey continues to be a great place to live, work and visit.

Our *Values*

Our values underpin our decisions and actions. We aspire to be:

- **Inclusive and Respectful**

We are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment where everyone feels heard, valued, and respected. We engage with our community in a way that is accessible, empathetic, and open to all voices.

- **Transparent and Accountable**

We act with integrity and transparency in all our decisions, communications, and use of public resources. We uphold high standards of governance and are accountable to the residents we serve.

- **Sustainable and Responsible**

We are conscious of our long-term impact and strive to deliver value for money while making responsible choices that support environmental sustainability, community well-being, and future resilience.



Objectives

OUR KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2029

The complex, challenging issues and changing circumstances faced by the local community require the Council to identify relevant, pertinent strategic objectives that will be understood by residents and drive action in order to make progress towards the desired outcomes for Arlesey.

The four year plan has three key priorities and an overarching aspiration of improving the quality of town life.

- **To promote the well-being, safety and identity of the Arlesey Community.**

Arlesey Town Council will prioritise initiatives that support the health, safety, cohesion and identity of the town. This includes improving access to green spaces, responding to antisocial behaviour, safeguarding community assets, and supporting events and services that foster a strong sense of belonging and pride among all residents.

- **To build strong partnerships that support a thriving and connected town.**

The Council will work collaboratively with local organisations, schools, voluntary groups, developers and other public bodies to enhance opportunities for local people. This includes improving communication channels, supporting inclusive community engagement, and creating connections that strengthen Arlesey's sense of place and shared purpose.

- **To deliver and sustain value facilities and services for the benefit of residents and the environment.**

Arlesey Town Council will strive to make the best use of its limited land and resources to improve the availability, quality and accessibility of public facilities. This includes reviewing current usage, developing new services in line with community needs, and ensuring that decisions are sustainable, inclusive, and value for money.

OBJECTIVE 1

To promote the well-being, safety and identity of the Arlesey Community

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Deliver a programme of small-scale community-led events
2. Explore the establishment of a Repair Cafe
3. Develop and implement biodiversity projects
4. Support local initiatives

OBJECTIVE 2

To build strong partnerships that support a thriving and connected town

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Undertake a community engagement programme including surveys and listening events
2. Develop a stakeholder engagement strategy to foster two-way support for projects
3. Create and adopt a Council Communication Strategy with regular evaluation milestones
4. Upgrade the Council's website and bring content management in-house
5. Strengthen community connections through continued collaboration and support for local initiatives

OBJECTIVE 3

To deliver and sustain value facilities and services for the benefit of residents and the environment

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Conduct a staffing and resources review
2. Identify and assess the impact of housing developments on infrastructure
3. Develop a pipeline of innovative community projects with an annual shortlist process
4. Ensure sustainable management of green spaces
5. Maintain the quality and usability of public spaces
6. Continue assessment and resolution planning for Council owned assets