

Local government provides a wide range of services to the public.  
 Different tiers of government are responsible for different services.  
 The following list gives an indication of where responsibilities lie although there may be variations.  
 A local council is empowered only to exercise its statutory powers.  
 Any such organisation acting beyond its legal powers is said to be acting ultra vires.  
 Local councils can be restrained by the courts if they so act.  
 Parish Clerks should check the legal position before their Parish Council enters into any new business.

Parish Councils typically & routinely lobby to ensure that many of the things that are important to YOU are dealt with. If we can't do it ourselves we will try to make sure that another authority does it!

### WHO DOES WHAT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County Council (or unitary authority)	District Council (or unitary authority)	Parish Council Powers
Education	Collection of Council tax and rates	Allotments
Fire	Elections - runs all aspects of elections	Burial grounds
Highways – maintenance, traffic management and street lighting.	Environmental Health	Bus shelters
Libraries	Housing	Public benches
Recreation, Arts and Museums	Local Plans	Footpaths
Social Services	Planning applications	Markets
Strategic Planning	Public conveniences	Recreation
Trading Standards	Recreation, Arts, Museums, Tourism	Arts and Museums
Transport	Minor Roads, footpaths, car parks	Village Halls and village greens
Waste Disposal	Waste Collection and recycling	War memorials

### POWERS AND DUTIES OF PARISH COUNCILS

Parish Councils may only act where they have the powers to do so.

Listed below is a summary of the main powers and duties of parish councils. This is not a definitive list.

Topic	Powers and Duties
Allotments	Power to provide allotments and a duty to provide allotments if demand is unsatisfied
Burial grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	Power to acquire, provide and maintain. Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials Power to contribute towards expenses of burial grounds and cemeteries provided by others
Byelaws	Power to make bye-laws for: Pleasure grounds Cycle parks Baths and swimming pools Open Spaces and Burial grounds Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms Markets maintained by the parish Council
Charities	Right to appoint trustee to some parochial charities.
Churchyards	Power to contribute to the cost of a churchyard in use <u>Duty</u> to maintain a closed churchyard where duty has been transferred by the church.
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks.
Commons and common pasture	Power to protect any registered common with no registered owner. Power to contribute to cost of scheme for registration and management of commons. Power to provide common pasture.
Conference facilities	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities.
Crime prevention	Power to install equipment/establish a scheme for crime prevention.
Ditches and drains	Power to deal with ponds, ditches and drains containing filth or a matter prejudicial to public health.
Employment	Power to employ staff to carry out council functions.
Entertainment and the arts	Power to provide public entertainment & premises for giving entertainment. Power to develop & improve knowledge of the arts.
Flagpoles	Power to erect flagpoles.
Footpaths	Power to repair and maintain public footpaths.

<b>Gifts</b>	Power to accept gifts (usually for specific purposes).
<b>Halls</b>	Power to provide and furnish buildings for public meetings & to contribute to the expenses of another parish council or person providing such facilities. Power to provide and equip premises for indoor sport or physical recreation or for the use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objects.
<b>Highways</b>	Power to light roads and public places. Power to maintain parking places. Power to enter into agreement to dedicate & widen highways. Power to provide traffic signs and other notices. Power to plant and maintain roadside verges. Power to contribute to cost of traffic calming by highways authority. Power to instigate use of & need for local roads & traffic control.
<b>Information and Advice</b>	Power to provide information for the public about local services. Power to help voluntary organisations providing information & advice.
<b>Land</b>	Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate dispose of land.
<b>Legal proceedings</b>	Power to prosecute and defend legal proceedings.
<b>Litter</b>	Power to provide litter bins.
<b>Lotteries</b>	Power to promote local lotteries.
<b>Money</b>	Power to borrow money. Power to raise money from the Council tax by precepting on the district council. Power to invest in statutory securities.
<b>Planning</b>	Right to be notified of planning applications and to comment.
<b>Public lavatories</b>	Power to provide and maintain lavatories.
<b>Recreation</b>	Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds & open spaces & to manage & control them Power to provide indoor facilities such as sports centres, swimming pools etc. Power to provide outdoor facilities such as pitches for team

	<p>games, athletic grounds etc. Power to provide boating ponds. Power to provide public seats on the highway.</p>
<b>Seats &amp; Shelters</b>	<p>Power to provide and maintain shelters for general public use and bus shelters.</p>
<b>Tourism</b>	<p>Power to encourage tourism.</p>
<b>Transport</b>	<p>Power to establish local car sharing scheme Power to make grants for bus services benefiting local elderly or disabled people. Power to make grants to local community bus services Power to subsidise taxi fares for eligible local residents. Power to publicise information on local public transport services.</p>
<b>Village Greens</b>	<p>Power to maintain village greens</p>
<b>War Memorials</b>	<p>Power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt war memorials.</p>
<b>Water supply</b>	<p>Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom.</p>
<b>S137 General Expenditure Power</b>	<p>If any situation is not covered by one of the specific powers listed above, power to spend money on purpose in the interest of and direct benefit to the parish or its inhabitants. (limited to £6.15 per elector per annum)*</p>

\* or whatever is the current sum as decided by Central Government.