



# EMERSONS GREEN

---

## TOWN COUNCIL

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2027**

## EMERSONS GREEN TOWN COUNCIL'S CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027

### Creating a thriving, healthy and strong community in Emersons Green

Emersons Green is a vibrant, thriving town on the outskirts of Bristol and has a population of just under 12,000. It is perfectly located for access to the large City adjoining with all its attractions and things to do, the nearby M4 motorway offering easy and quick access to London, South Wales and the rest of the national motorway network and any amount of open countryside should it be sought. Whilst a relatively new area, it is home to excellent facilities, parks, play areas and services.

Emersons Green Town Council forms the base tier of local government and works with the South Gloucestershire Unitary Council in seeking to provide the very best in local services. We are ideally placed to deliver services and facilities both needed and wanted by the residents who we serve.

The Town Council is committed to providing excellence in the services and facilities which it delivers, underpinned by the flexibility to change direction if required, we aim to be responsive, accessible, and transparent in our approach.

There are sixteen Councillors representing four Town Wards who are elected every four years. The next town-wide elections will be in May 2023.

The Council operates a committee system, which sets the budget and decides how funds are to be spent. Council meetings are open to the public, and the Council provides monthly surgeries where the public can attend and raise issues with their elected representatives and our partner agencies.

Every May the Council elects its Mayor, the Town's first citizen and its ambassador. The work of the Council is managed by a small team of Officers, overseen by our Town Clerk.

This Strategic Plan has been designed after consultation with stakeholders, residents and of course, my fellow Councillors to offer clarity as to the Council's aims and aspirations over the next five years. It is a living document which will be regularly monitored and updated as required.

I do hope that you find it both informative and interesting. Should you require any further information relating to the plan then please do contact the Council accordingly.



Councillor Simon Budd  
Chairman – Emersons Green Town Council

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document, and the Action Plan which accompanies it, has been prepared in order to clearly set out the key priorities and objectives for Emersons Green Town Council over the next five years or so. The document sets out a vision for the Council and the Council's five Corporate Priorities, which are:

- 1. Improve the management and maintenance of the parks & open spaces managed by the Council.**
- 2. Ensure that the climate change agenda is at the forefront in all that the Council does.**
- 3. Seek to ensure that the youth in the town are catered for in as comprehensive a manner as possible.**
- 4. Ensure that all opportunities for the devolution of services from South Gloucestershire Council are considered, along with all joint working opportunities.**
- 5. Strive for continuous service improvement and efficiency, and support our economy and the town.**

The aim of the document is to give residents of Emersons Green a clear understanding of what the Council is trying to achieve and how it intends to deliver accordingly. It sets out what the Council will focus on over that period so that residents and of course the elected Councillors and staff are clear on the direction of travel for the Council.

Of course, as a Town Council, there are a number of service areas and facilities which the Council cannot undertake for various reasons, but it will do all it can to influence those public bodies where the impacts of their actions (or non-actions) are detrimental to Emersons Green as a place.



## OUR VISION FOR EMERSONS GREEN

Emersons Green will be a vibrant, cohesive, and prosperous place where people want to live. It will aim to be as sustainable and green a place as possible whilst offering up a healthy place to work, rest and play. It will play its part in supporting the wider social and economic ambitions and aspirations of the area, thereby enabling the town to reach its potential.

## EMERSONS GREEN MISSION STATEMENT

*"Using its allowable powers, Emersons Green Town Council will do all it can to create a welcoming and vibrant town, promoting civic pride and improving the quality of life for those who live, work and visit."*



## THE COUNCIL'S VALUES

The Council will at all times:

- Be an advocate and campaigning voice for the people of Emersons Green.
- Work to the highest standards of integrity and openness and deliver services to the best of our abilities.
- Work in partnership with other organisations to improve services and deliver value for money for the Emersons Green Town Council and the taxpayer.

## OUR BROAD AIMS

- ❖ To enhance the town and maintain it to as high a standard as possible
- ❖ To place the green and sustainability agenda at the heart of all we do
- ❖ To work with stakeholders and the Unitary Council in seeking out opportunities to enhance and improve the town
- ❖ To manage and maintain our green spaces and facilities to the highest standards possible
- ❖ To engage with, and seek to provide, additional and better facilities and services for young people in the town

## THE STRATEGIC PLAN CYCLE



## PLAN METHODOLOGY

- All members and officers of the Council were invited to complete a survey to better understand the Council's current thinking about the Council, what was good, not so good, where improvements could be made and so on.
- The stakeholders with whom the Council engages were asked for their views using a similar survey.
- Residents were invited to have their say via a similar survey.
- The surveys were made available in several ways, supported by publicity, so that as many people as possible were able to take part.
- The results of the surveys, unsurprisingly, showed that there is a range of opinions about the strengths and weaknesses of the current situation, but broad areas of consensus do emerge:

**Clarity and Vision:** the need for a clear vision for the future of Emersons Green that is reflective of needs.

**Focus and Planning:** the need for a clear focus on priorities, linked to a plan for delivery.

**Review:** the need to regularly review and update the plan and the actions in order to demonstrate progress.

- In summary, the results suggested that the Council needs to focus its review on better understanding the priorities and aspirations of the local community; setting a clear vision for the next five years or so with supporting objectives and milestones against which progress may be measured. This will help the Council focus on things that are most important to the community and assess the impact of the decisions it takes and the resources it allocates.

## **A HISTORY OF EMERSONS GREEN AND AN OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL**

### **HISTORY**

Emersons Green was established in April 1974 following the re-organisation of Local Government arrangements at that time.

However, Mangotsfield has existed for many centuries with Manegodesfelle appearing in the Domesday Book in 1086. The area has been covered by a Parish Council since they were first introduced in 1894.

In 2015 Mangotsfield Rural Parish Council changed its name to Emersons Green Town Council following a Community Governance Review due to the considerable development taking place in the area.

The Emersons Green Town Council area now covers Emersons Green, Lyde Green, Blackhorse, Pomphrey, and parts of Mangotsfield and the edge of Downend.

The Town Council is responsible for most of the common land within its boundary, these areas are vital for nature and for people to enjoy. The largest is Rodway Common being approximately 35 acres.

In the Spring of 2018, the Town Council moved to a new purpose-built building on Westerleigh Road. The Council Chamber is available for use by the public when not being used for Council business.

### **OVERVIEW**

The Council itself comprises 16 elected representatives that are democratically elected (typically) every four years. The next elections are due in May 2023. For Town Council purposes Emersons Green is divided into 4 wards.

The elected Council is the body that makes decisions, and this is achieved through Committees and Working Groups that have delegated authority in line with the Council's Constitution, Standing Orders and Delegation of Authority to Members and Officers.

Emersons Green Town Council itself is chaired by the Town Mayor who typically serves one year of office and is elected from the Council itself. The Council then has a committee structure that governs the strategic direction and much of the day-to-day business of the Council.

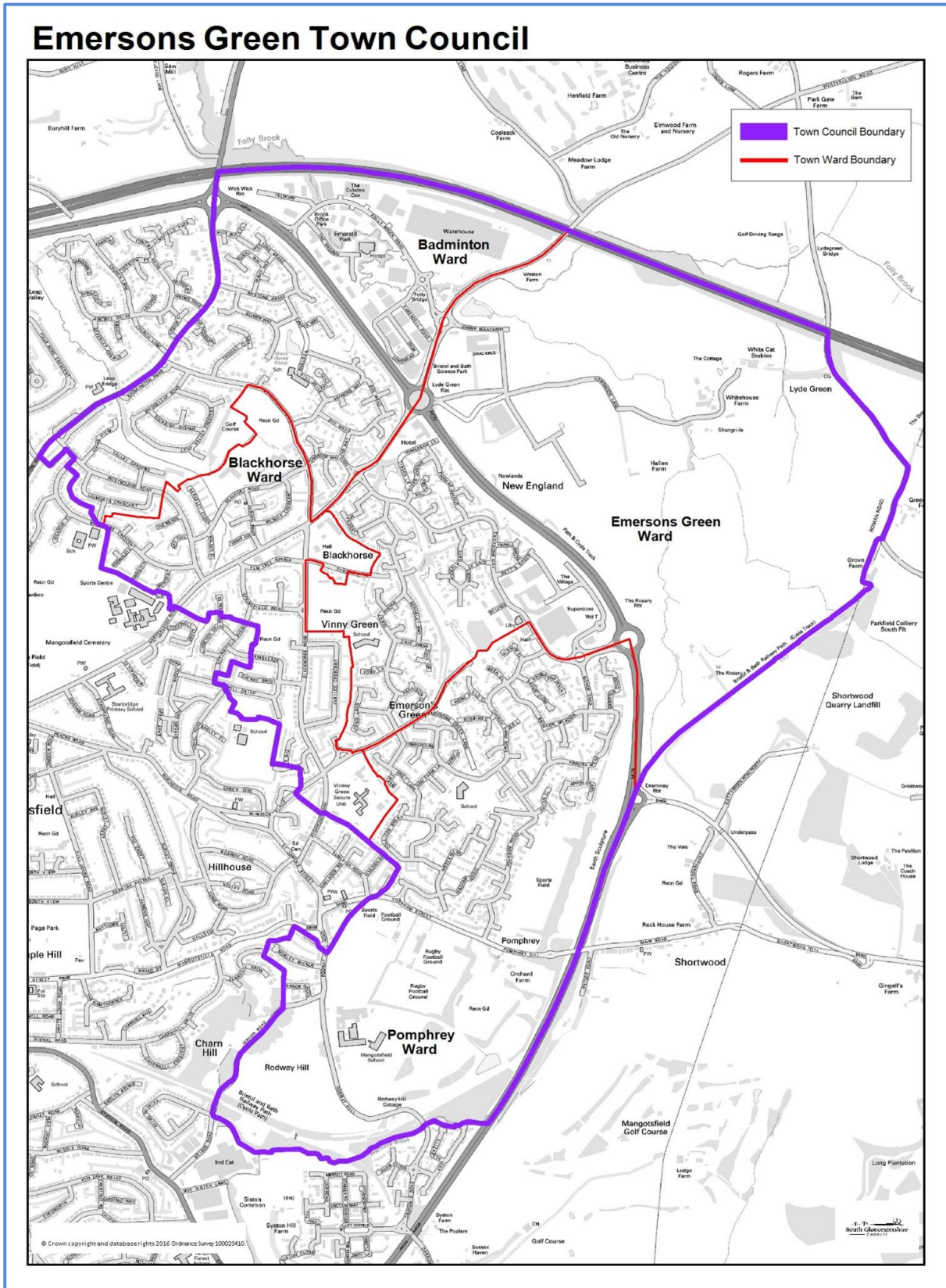
The Council is funded by the income it generates, and by the residents of the Town Council area, through what is known as a precept on the council tax charge. The 2022/23 budget set a total precept target of £269,073 which equates to a council tax charge of £39-99 per council tax band D household per year. The Council's total gross expenditure for 2022/23 is budgeted to be around £292,000. The Council also has an allocated capital reserve to undertake agreed projects and improvements and a general reserve in line with Government guidelines. Further information is available via the Council's website [www.emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](http://www.emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk).

Supporting the Council is a workforce of 3 that the Council employs to deliver services and ensure that all decisions are made appropriately. The Council officer structure is headed by the Town Clerk who is also the statutory Head of the Paid Service and Responsible Finance Officer.

Details of the Council's Committee and staffing structures are set out overleaf.



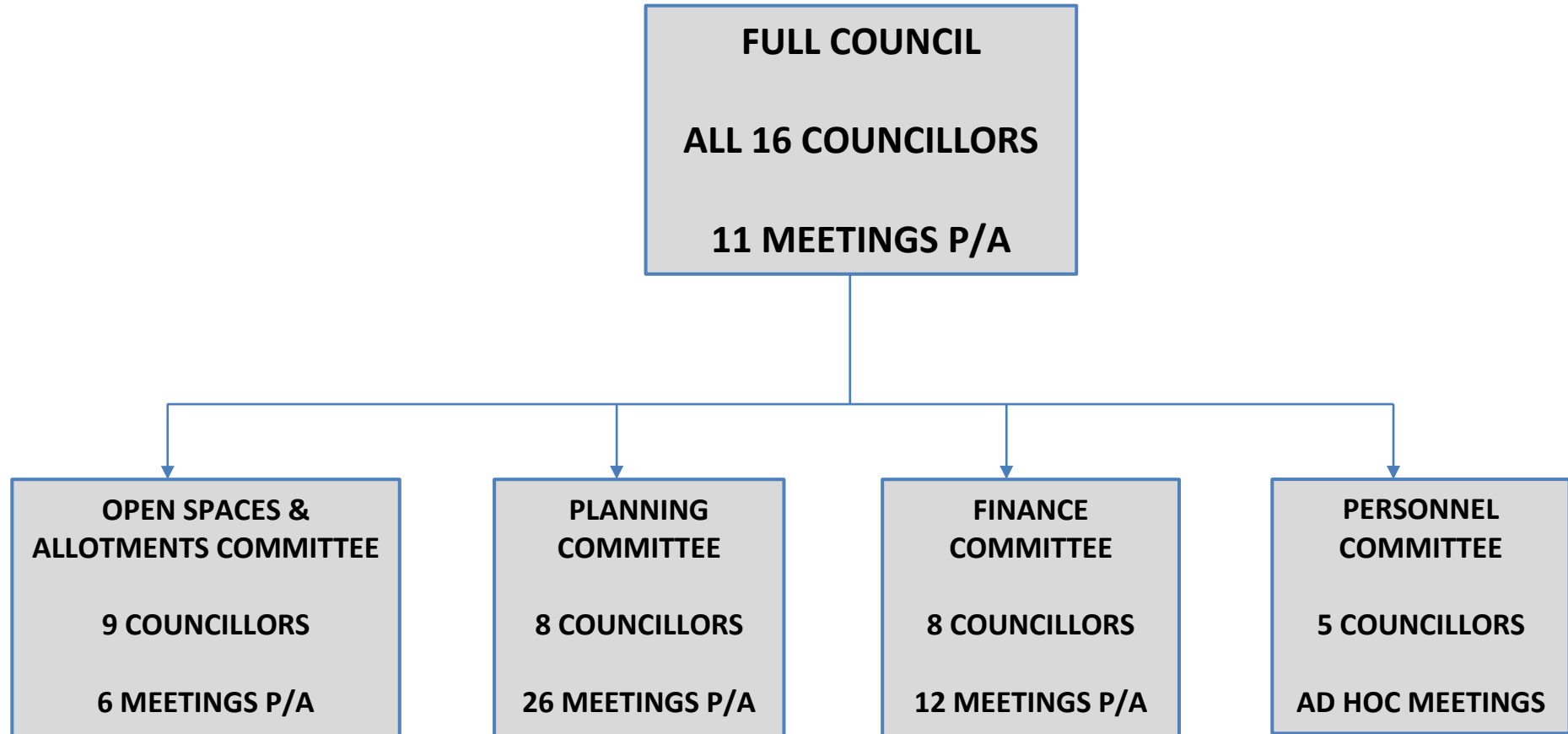
# TOWN & WARD MAP



Note: a more detailed parish map can be found on our website at [www.emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](http://www.emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk)



## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



## **COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES OVERVIEW:**

### **1. FULL COUNCIL:**

A meeting of all the Councillors with a remit of overseeing all the activities and decisions of the Council. Has certain responsibilities which cannot be delegated to a committee.

### **2. FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

This Committee receives and considers all income and expenditure incurred each month, monitors the Council budgets, considers all grant applications before making recommendations. Annually it scrutinises the budget and recommends to the Full Council the level of the precept that is required for the following financial year.

### **3. PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

The Committee comments on planning applications and is consulted on a range of issues including strategic and transport planning.

### **4. OPEN SPACES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE:**

The Committee considers the maintenance of land for which the Town Council is responsible. More information can be found at:

<https://www.emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk/town-council/what-we-do/>

### **5. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

The committee determines all matters relating to the staffing of the Council and sits as and when required.

### **NOTE:**

For more information on the Town Council and a calendar of meetings visit

<https://www.emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk/meeting-dates>

### **ACCOUNTS:**

The Council's latest budget, accounting statements and other financial information can be viewed at:

<https://www.emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk/accounts-and-accountability/>

## COUNCILLORS:

James Hunt: Badminton Ward

Email: [james.hunt@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:james.hunt@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07525 150102

Rachael Hunt: Badminton Ward

Email: [rachael.hunt@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:rachael.hunt@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07860 181315

Alka Mehta-Graham: Badminton Ward

Email: [alka@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:alka@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07947 184546

Sadik Al-Hassan: Blackhorse Ward

Email: [sadik.al-hassan@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sadik.al-hassan@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07815 326187

Bobbie Sunderland: Blackhorse Ward

Email: [bobbie.sunderland@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bobbie.sunderland@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07759 236624

Steve Bassett: Emersons Green Ward

Email: [steve.bassett@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:steve.bassett@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07753 613481

Simon Budd: Emersons Green Ward

Email: [simon.budd@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.budd@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 0117 9492935

Caroline Johnson: Emersons Green Ward

Email: [caroline.johnson@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.johnson@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07798 660373

Pat Morgan: Emersons Green Ward

Email: [pat.morgan@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:pat.morgan@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07847 821410

Matt Palmer: Emersons Green Ward

Email: [matt.palmer@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:matt.palmer@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07738 589329

Christopher Edwardson: Emersons Green Ward

Email: [christopher.edwardson@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.edwardson@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07885 695910

Simon Jones: Emersons Green Ward

Email: [simon.jones@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.jones@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: TBC

Sally Hill: Pomphrey Ward

Email: [sally.hill@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:sally.hill@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 0117 9575822

Rich Nichols: Pomphrey Ward

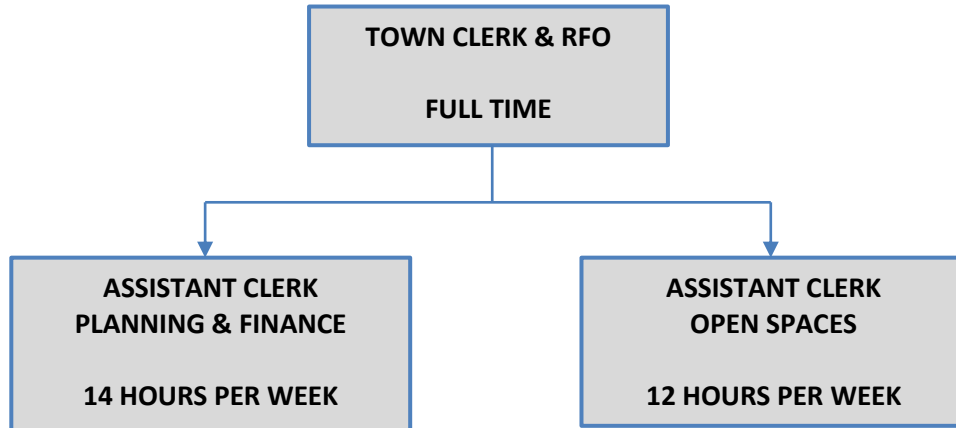
Email: [rich.nichols@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:rich.nichols@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 07814 698276

Dave Somers: Pomphrey Ward

Email: [dave.somers@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:dave.somers@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk). Phone: 0117 9109620

## OFFICER STRUCTURE & TEAM:

The Council delegates the delivery of its agreed aims and aspirations and staff management to its Town Clerk and the other staff employed.



### OFFICER TEAM PROFILES:

#### **Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.**

The Town Council's most senior officer and responsible for the Council's staff and overseeing the work of the Council. Works closely with the Councillors, advising on strategy, policy and legal matters amongst numerous other issues. The post is the designated Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer as required by the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **Assistant Clerk (Planning & Finance).**

Responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial and other resourcing affairs as well as coordinating and managing the Council's response to planning applications within the town.

#### **Assistant Clerk (Open Spaces).**

Responsible for overseeing the Council's green space management and maintenance, the allotments service and liaising with contractors.

#### **Note:**

Both Assistant Clerk posts act in place of the Town Clerk role in the event of absence.

## **REVIEW:**

This Corporate Strategic Plan is to help the Council deliver its vision for Emersons Green.

The actions contained herein will be regularly monitored to ensure progress on delivering the priorities. The Plan will also receive scrutiny by the elected Councillors on a regular basis.



## **CONTACT DETAILS:**

**EMERSONS GREEN TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES  
WESTERLEIGH ROAD  
EMERSONS GREEN  
BS16 7AN**

Telephone: 0117 3026989

Email: [clerk@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk)



**Also, why not follow us on: Twitter, Facebook and / or Instagram?**

