

WHAT A PARISH COUNCIL CAN AND CANNOT DO

In addition to its duties, the council has powers to act on a wide variety of matters, but it must act for the benefit of the community it serves.

Examples of things that a Parish Council might do include:

- Provide a public clock**
- Provide public noticeboards**
- Provide a public convenience**
- Support a local festival**
- Support a parish society**
- Sponsor local sports teams**
- Support a local carnival or Jubilee event**
- Erect a War Memorial**
- Install CCTV equipment**
- Provide a parish community centre**
- Plant trees or flowers on verges**
- Erect dog anti-fouling signs**
- Install and maintain play equipment in a park**
- Install a duck house on the village pond**

What it can't do though....

**Your council must act for the benefit of the community it serves:
-- it must NOT act for the benefit of a single individual or group of individuals**

The Localism Act (2011) essentially gives councils the same powers as any individual has, subject to a few conditions.

Basically there are very few things that the council may not do, but it must be able to support its actions by reference to an appropriate piece of legislation. If it cannot do so then it is acting beyond its powers ('ultra vires').