

Environment Plan

Aims:

To support the development of facilities and community life in the Parish Council area in environmentally sustainable ways.

Objectives:



Biodiversity: To conserve and create habitats, and encourage biodiversity.



Heritage: To preserve our cultural heritage, and learn from our past.



Projects: To carry out environmental projects giving added value to this area and also to grant-funded projects to be carried out by community groups.



Climate Change: To work towards addressing and adapting to climate change, which will increase self-sufficiency and sustainability in our communities.



Appearance: To improve and protect the aesthetic beauty of our surroundings.

Aims:

To support the development of facilities and community life in the Parish Council area in environmentally sustainable ways.

Objectives:

1. Heritage: To preserve our cultural heritage, and learn from our past.
2. Nature: To conserve and create habitats, and encourage biodiversity.
3. Climate Change: To work towards addressing and adapting to climate change, which will increase self-sufficiency and sustainability in our communities.
4. Appearance: To improve and protect the aesthetic beauty of our surroundings.
5. Projects: To carry out environmental projects which will give added value to this area, and which fit in with our environmental objectives. Also to finance projects to be carried out by community groups with the same principles in mind.
6. Community Consultation: To provide ways in which residents and community organisations can feed into the Environment Plan

Objective 1: Heritage – To preserve our cultural heritage, and learn from our past

Issue	Action	Timescale	Resources Implications	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
To preserve and help promote Burton Cross and its history	The Cross and surroundings have been repaired.	Ongoing		Kirkburton Civic Society, Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association.	Discussion surrounding the telephone box and the bin continue. BEG requesting permission to put plaque over Christmas tree socket engraved with approx date, and re-site bin to less conspicuous location. Advice on planning permission received & passed to BEG. Grant agreed for the project and cheque to be issued on completion of the above.
To preserve Ward Guidestoops/Milestones in the Parish	To work with Kirklees to complete renovation and repair.	Ongoing	.	Kirklees Highways and Conservation.	Survey of Guidestoops is with Kirklees Highways. 2 guidestoops repaired, working with Kirklees on the others.
To contribute towards preserving the historical nature of Burton Dean	Further improvements taking place re trailways & information boards.				Work continuing to improve the site.
To provide information to the public so that our historical heritage is not lost and to encourage tourism to the area.	To provide a tourist guide to our historical past. To provide boards giving information about the history of places. To create a Kirkburton Heritage Trail.			Kirklees Tourist Information. and to work with the East Peak Innovation Partnership to encourage tourism to the area.	Website is being developed highlighting the attractions of the various villages in the Parish/EPIP area. Other suitable projects supported by EPIP.

Objective 2: Nature - To conserve and create habitats, and encourage biodiversity

Issue	Action	Timescale	Resources Implications	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
To encourage biodiversity by supporting the Kirklees Biodiversity Study	To work with Kirklees Environment Unit. Create a list of identified important habitats in the Kirkburton Ward.	Ongoing		Kirklees Environment Unit and Jeff Keenleyside	Ongoing logging of existing biodiversity.
To provide habitats	To work with Kirklees Environment Unit to provide ponds, bird & bat boxes and fruit trees.	Ongoing		Neil Windett & Jeff Keenleyside Biodiversity Co-ordinator	Advice awaited re locations for bat boxes. Bird boxes have been purchased distributed to schools & Kirkheaton Church. Possibility of creating a wetland area at Grange Moor allotments.
To preserve and improve Dogley Nature Reserve	New wetland and ponds being created – work with Kirklees to find out how the Parish Council can help.			Kirklees Biodiversity Unit and Neil Windett	

Objective 3: Climate Change – To work towards mitigating climate change, to increase self sufficiency and sustainability in our communities

Issue	Action	Timescale	Resources Implications	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
To help community organisations reduce their utility bills/carbon emissions by using energy conservation and microgeneration in community buildings	May 2008 – Burton Village Hall Solar panels installed June 2008 – BRE Awards achieved November 2008. Finalist in Regional Microgeneration Awards 2010. Publicity for the Council received in various publications.	Ongoing			Sustainable Energy budget is available to support community groups to introduce renewable energy into their buildings. Also provide advice and assistance wherever possible, and bring together groups who have experience in these matters with others looking to improve their buildings in this manner.
To increase the amount of food grown and sourced locally.	To support the maintenance of existing allotments. To work with Kirklees to increase the number of allotments available. To encourage residents and schools to grow more food, by initiating projects.	Ongoing	Costs covered by Environment Budget. Councillor time to deliver project information and equipment.	Local schools Kirklees	a) Sunflower competition has been run successfully for 2 consecutive years. b) Further improvements planned for Grange Moor allotments. c) Grants available for schools & community groups to create gardens and allotments. d) Looking for additional sites for allotments. e) Cllrs worked with Kirklees to enable new site to be installed in Kirkburton, which is now fully operational. Letter published in Examiner. f) Proposal to plant 1,000 fruit trees across the Parish being developed.
To improve local recycling facilities and encourage their use.	To consider this as a Committee initiative next year. To look into ways of improving commercial glass & hard plastic recycling.	Ongoing			

Objective 3: Climate Change – To work towards mitigating climate change, to increase self sufficiency and sustainability in our communities (Cont'd)

Issue	Action	Timescale	Resources Implications	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
Encourage the use of Public Transport by keeping watching brief on bus services in the area, notifying problems as they arise.	To liaise with the WYPTE on bus services, promote volunteer and alternative bus services in the area.	Ongoing		WY Metro	2010 Existing Boxing Day services were maintained, but it was not possible to extend the service. Metro advertised volunteer services. Monitoring regular services & commenting where appropriate. Have objected to latest cuts in services.
Public Awareness	To raise public awareness of the issues and show how individuals can make a difference by lowering their personal carbon footprints, as well as advising on the methods.	Ongoing	Funded from various budgets	Holme Valley PC Kirklees Other Parish Councils SLCC	<p>a) Participation at Honley Show and hosting the Environment Fayre. Also will take part in any other appropriate events.</p> <p>b) Publicising Council's microgeneration policy & encourage other PC's to duplicate the policy and budget for it. Presentation given to Meltham TC, which now has a link to our website.</p> <p>c) Advice sought from YLCA to pass on to another member Council.</p>

Objective 4: Appearance – To improve and protect the aesthetic beauty of our surroundings

Issue	Action	Timescale	Resources Implications	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
To reduce the incidences whereby the beauty of our communities are compromised.	To consider how the Committee can take action to minimise the problems – Litter Dog Fouling Vandalism Fly Tipping	Ongoing	Campaign Literature – in village magazines, flyers, posters, in localities and schools Spray Painting pavements with notices.	Kirklees Environment Unit	Taking part in pilot scheme with Kirklees. Kirklees providing 2 dispensers and installing them, PC providing the dog waste bags. It will be monitored & if successful the PC will consider extending it across the Parish. Looking to extend the project wider.
To make the villages pleasant to visit, both for the benefit of residents and visitors	Provision of hanging baskets and Christmas trees.	Annually		Bradley Nurseries	100 hanging baskets are provided across the Parish in almost every village. 10 Christmas trees provided in most centres across the Parish.
To encourage more people to enjoy the local countryside and outstanding views.	Provision of public seats	Ongoing			Rolling programme of repairing / replacing public seats across the Parish. Currently awaiting delivery of new seats for Farnley Tyas, Flockton and Grange Moor, and consulting on appropriate sites for 2 new seats in Kirkheaton. Also award grants for seats, the most recent one being to Shelley Community Association to provide a new bespoke one outside Shelley Village Hall.

Objective 5: Projects and Grants – a) To set up projects which will enable community groups and organisations to set up environmental projects, and help to achieve the Council’s environmental objectives.

Issue	Action	Timescale	Resources Implications	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
To support the development Healey Greave Wood & Meadow	Proposal to provide pathways. Initiate creation of a path, carrying out a wildlife survey and a scheme of planting to ultimately improve biodiversity. Document and advertise scheme.	Ongoing		Neil Windett and Kirklees Countryside Unit and Shelley Conservation Group and BEG –see Obj 6 No 6	Meadows adopted and lease signed by BEG and Shelley Conservation Group. Shelley Conservation Group planted appropriate flowers.
Thunderbridge Meadow					Monitoring the site & in contact with Garganey Trust & HSBC who jointly maintain it.
To encourage the use of footpaths, both for enjoyment of the countryside and health	To publish the Parish Council walks in leaflet and CD form. Work to be completed includes checking accuracy of maps, planning location for waymarkers and installing them, finalising leaflets complete with info on area and photographs. printing leaflets. Seats and information boards also to be provided.	Ongoing	Co-funded with EPIP	Neil Windett – Kirklees Countryside Unit and to work with the LIG partners to complete the project.	Denby Dale Walkers Are Welcome Group (Kirkburton sub-committee) are progressing this project.

Objective 5: Projects and Grants – a) To set up projects which will enable community groups and organisations to set up environmental projects, and help to achieve the Council’s environmental objectives (Cont’d)

Issue	Action	Timescale	Resources Implications	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
Living Christmas Trees	Looking for suitable sites.	Ongoing		Kirklees/Other Local Landowners	When sites have been identified they will be assessed for suitability. The landowner’s permission will be requested & local residents will be consulted.
Village Green Project in Kirkheaton	To support the application/s for village green status.	Ongoing			Kirkheaton Parish Councillors are working with the residents.

Objective 5: b) To award grants to support environment projects carried out by community groups and organisations, which support at least one of the Objectives in the Environment Plan.

Group	Details of Grant	Project	Awarded £
Financial Year 2011/12			
Thurstonland First School	To reclaim an underused piece of land adjacent to the school.	To create a pond and nature study area. The children put together the grant application and will be involved in the creation of the project, which will give them experience of team work as well as gaining outdoor skills and increasing their knowledge of wildlife.	1,594.60
Financial Year 2010/11			
Farnley Tyas Community Group	Towards shrubs for recreation ground	To improve the attractiveness of the area and encourage increased use by local families and the community in general. Hoped to encourage more people to walk in their local area and to enjoy the outdoors.	250
Highburton Playgroup	Purchase of water butt	It was installed at the Village Hall's sensory garden and is used to teach very young children the importance of saving the earth's essential resources and recycling.	50
Shepley Methodist Church	Co-funding project at the graveyard	To regenerate the graveyard to attract more wildlife to the area. Will also encourage more tourists into the area, as it is the burial place of the founder of Liverpool FC & Everton FC. Cllrs worked with the Church, local residents and EPIP on the project.	844
Shelley First School	Towards cost of a willow tipi	Children planted it in the garden themselves. The project gave them practical experience of gardening and working as a team, as well as increasing their awareness of the presence of wildlife in an area they pass every day.	50
Farnley Tyas Community Group	Purchase of picnic furniture	To further enhance the recreation ground for the enjoyment of residents of all ages. It will encourage greater usage, leading to a more active population and assist in community cohesion.	240
KHCA(Burton Environment Group)	Burton Dean Park	Phase 1 of project creating trailways at the wildlife park, encouraging people outside to enjoy the natural surroundings & take exercise. Without this grant the project would not have been possible.	3,100
Shelley College	Eco Park	To create a community pond dipping facility, further developing this area and adding an extra dimension.	2,340

Group	Details of Grant	Project	Awarded £
KHCA (Burton Environment Group)	Highburton Cross area	To design suitable plaque for installation over the Christmas tree socket, thus enabling the litter bin to be moved to less conspicuous location within this area. This will enhance a sensitive and historic site in the village. Group in process of obtaining written permission from landowner and investigating the need for planning permission.	620
Financial Year 2009/10			
Kirkburton & Highburton CA (BEG)	Purchase of flail machine	To cut grass on land for which community groups have the maintenance responsibilities, allowing people to look after the area and giving a greater sense of common ownership.	4,158
Shelley First School	School Trip	Cover cost of a school trip to the National Mining Museum where the children gained knowledge of local industrial history, which is an essential part of their heritage.	300
Flockton First School	School Garden	Purchase of equipment for establishment of vegetable garden and maintenance of new flowerbeds, which gave the children an area of their own to maintain whilst teaching them some gardening skills at the same time.	350
Grange Moor First School	School garden	To cultivate an overgrown area of land giving the children experience of teamwork and making a visible long-term improvement to their school grounds, providing new skills for the children and raising an interest in home grown food.	500
Kirklees Countryside Unit	Dry stone walling in Farnley Tyas	To cover the tuition costs of a drystone walling course repairing walls in Farnley Tyas. This was a significant improvement to the area, which would not otherwise be possible. At the same time it added to the local skills in the area. All this was achieved through partnership working with Kirklees.	880
Shepley Village Association	Drainage improvements	Match-funding with Kirklees to improve drainage along a section of the Kirklees Way, a route highly promoted by Kirklees and well used by walkers hailing from far and near. Partnership working has achieved an improvement for the local residents and given further encouragement to tourists to visit the area and support the local economy.	675

Group	Details of Grant	Project	Awarded £
Financial Year 2009/10 (Cont'd)			
Highburton First School	School pond	To undertake further work on the school pond adding to the children's experience of the environment, improving the local biodiversity and giving the students of Shelley College an opportunity of developing their skills at working with a younger age group.	800
Flockton First School	Greenhouse & Shed	To purchase a greenhouse & shed for new school allotment, providing a safe home for the tools, which otherwise had to be carried each time by children crossing a busy main road. Also increased the likelihood of successful gardening, as the area is fairly exposed to the weather. Children are aiming to grow vegetables for some of their school dinners. This will encourage youngsters into healthy eating and show them that it can also be fun.	1,500
Shelley Community Association	Seating	To purchase a bespoke seat for the garden at SVH to be sited to take full advantage of the spectacular view over the valley, where it will be enjoyed by local residents, users of the village hall and walkers passing through.	750
Kirklees Countryside Unit	Beginners Gardening Course	To fund a short course on vegetable growing, encouraging more people into healthy eating/living and reducing food miles at the same time. Joint project with Kirklees - Council covered the costs and Kirklees assisted with their expertise and provided the venue.	480
Thurstonland Village Association	Recreation Ground	Purchase & installation of picnic table, litter bin & replacement gate for Thurstonland Recreation Ground, providing an important new resource in the village. This is a new group, who were helped by the Cllrs & Clerk both in planning the project, sorting out match-funding and assisting in the Parish environment grant application. As well as obtaining the new facility, it has started a new working relationship between several people in different organisations. The local Cllrs assisted considerably in the original setting up of the organisation.	1,803
KHCA (Burton Environment Group)	Insurance Premium	To enable the local people to maintain Burton Dean Park, thus taking ownership of the local facility, which they have themselves largely created.	297.42

Group	Details of Grant	Project	Awarded £
Financial Year 2008/09			
Shelley First School	School Garden	To purchase gardening equipment, seeds and a water butt, encouraging management of an outdoor area and sensible water conservation.	530
Highburton First School	School pond and conversion of disused play area into a garden	To restore and develop the school pond and to convert a disused and dangerous play area into a school garden, increasing the local biodiversity and giving the school an added resource to assist in the teaching of a range of subjects.	1,960
Farnley Tyas First School	Purchase of gardening equipment	To use to develop and maintain the school garden, improving an unused section of school grounds and encouraging healthy eating.	700
Shelley College	'Eco' Garden	To implement additional safety measures around the pond, to encourage further use of this facility.	930
Shepley First School	Nest box & camera	Purchase of a nestbox and feeding camera providing the children with a firsthand view of the wonders of nature.	314
Financial Year 2007/08			
Flockton First School	Road safety	Production of posters and car stickers to encourage safer driving, thus benefitting the pedestrians and cyclists in the village.	150
Shepley Bird & Wildlife Group	Purchase of digiprojector	To be used to illustrate talks on nature and ornithology, thus increasing the interest in the subject and encouraging wider membership.	500
Shelley College	'Eco' Park	To complete the walk and finance the information boards around this very interesting wildlife area, which will make the experience more interesting to visitors.	1,735

Plan accurate as at 01.09.11