

KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009



KIRKBURTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Administrative Assistant

Meetings:

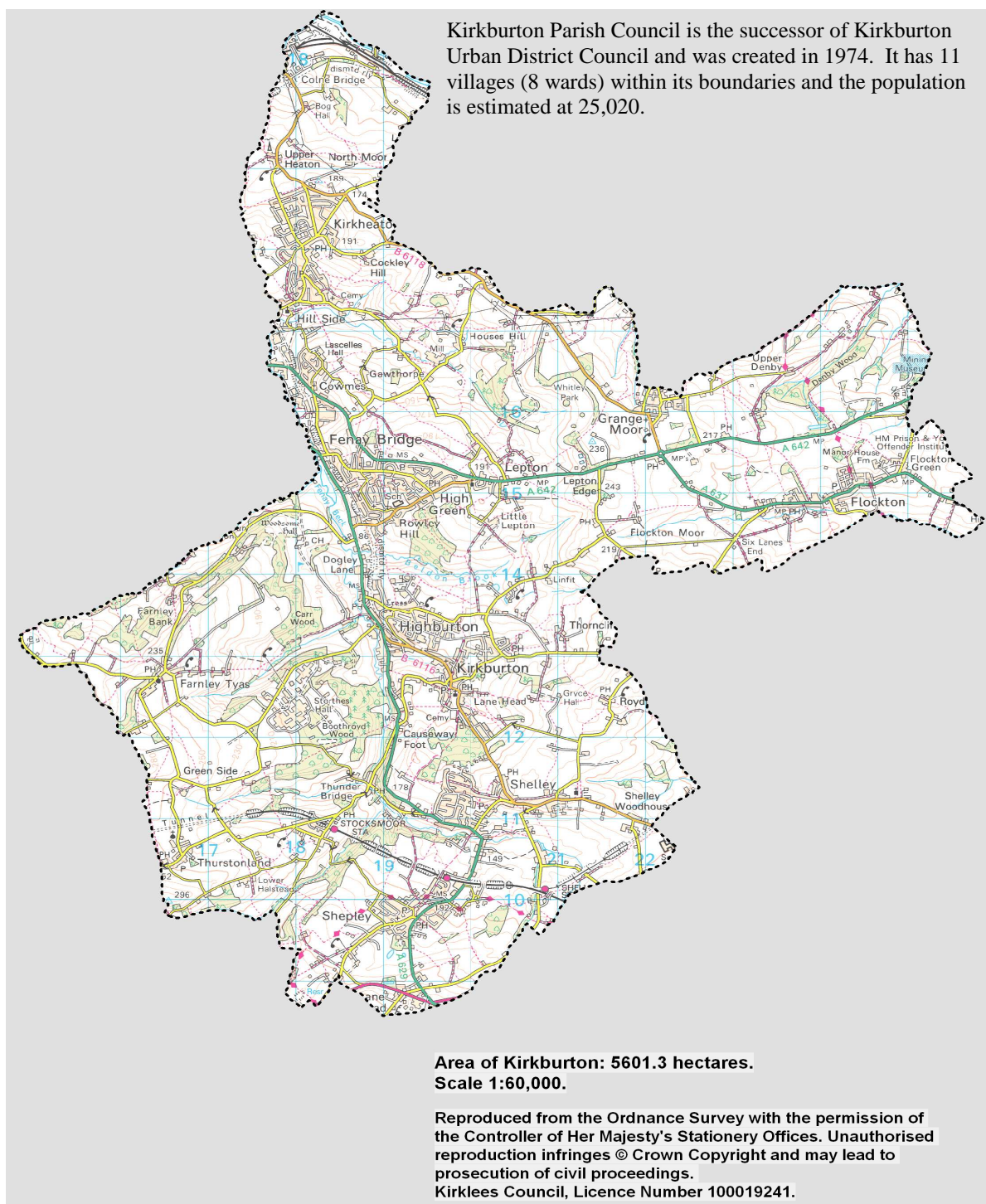
Parish Council meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month. Council meetings dealing with planning and general purpose issues are normally held on the third Thursday of each month (except for May, August and sometimes December). In the forthcoming year, the June meeting will be on the 3rd Thursday (18th June 2009) due to the European elections. Committee meetings are called as and when required.

Meetings are usually held at Burton Village Hall at 7.30 pm, with the Council meetings commencing with a Public Question Time when members of the public are invited to address the Council on any issue, over which it has a power. These arrangements are subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting each year.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Council and Committee meetings, except where it is notified that a particular item of business is exempt under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

INDEX

Contact Details and Meeting Procedures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Map of Kirkburton Parish Council area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Chairman's Overview of the Year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Summary of Council's Activities & Decisions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Summary of the Accounts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Details of the Small Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Details of Community Project Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Environment Committee Expenditure & Summary of Projects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9-10
Contact details of Kirkburton Parish Councillors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11

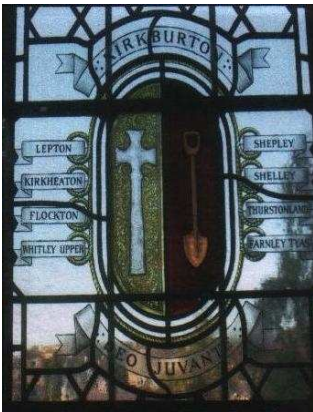


Chairman's Overview of the Year

It has been another active year at Kirkburton Parish Council. The year started very well with the Council winning the British Renewable Energy Awards, Region category, for its new Microgeneration Policy, which is given to the best initiative or policy by local authorities or regional agencies to encourage take-up of renewable energy. The judge commented "This small parish appears to be doing more than our national Government."



Work in this direction continued by grant funding 50% of the costs of the solar panel installation at Burton Village Hall, and a feasibility study for a similar installation at Stocksmoor Village Hall. As well as contributing to a reduction in carbon emissions and energy savings in the Parish, the policy has also influenced other areas of the country – following press coverage of the policy in various publications, there have been numerous enquiries for information and requests for speakers on the policy. It would be nice to see similar policies springing up across the country and to know that Kirkburton has played at least a small part in that.



As well as looking to the future, the Council also cares about the past and the area's heritage. To this end my fellow Kirkburton ward members and I were pleased to see that as a result of our influence, Kirklees has made repairs to Highburton Cross. Before the work, the Cross was beginning to look rather precarious. We still feel the siting of the litter bin directly in front is entirely inappropriate. We're trying to persuade Kirklees of this view and have it moved to a less conspicuous spot.

I was also particularly pleased to see the old Council stained glass window, which used to be in Kirkburton Town Hall, installed into All Hallows Church, Kirkburton. It was blessed at the start of the Civic Sunday service. I started a new tradition this year by holding the Service as Evensong instead of a morning service. Most people seemed to approve and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who came and supported the White Rose Charity, both at the Civic Service and at various events held throughout the year.

Council continues to be vigilant in trying to safeguard the rural character and charm of the villages within the Parish for the future. Whilst not opposed to development per se, we feel that any changes and new buildings must fit in with what is here already, and not detract from the beautiful countryside, we all value so highly. With these aims in mind, the Council monitors most of the planning applications lodged in this area, making recommendations to Kirklees Planning Service, where the final decision is taken. Councillors have also been actively involved in discussions on the Local Development Framework, which will influence the development for many years to come. Unfortunately, however, we are not always successful in our representations. There was huge disappointment in the case of the Tesco Express store on North Road, Kirkburton. Having successfully won over the Kirklees Councillors, it was particularly upsetting to see the Planning Inspectorate overrule their decision on appeal.

I would like to pay tribute to all the voluntary organisations in the Parish – it's quite surprising how many volunteers there are. I very much enjoyed taking part in your events throughout my year as Chairman and would like to thank you all for making me so welcome. Congratulations are particularly due to the Kirkheaton Senior Citizens Club, who have recently celebrated their 60th Anniversary. Margaret Ainley can be seen in the photograph to the right, cutting the cake at the Celebration.



Before closing, I would like to pay tribute to Marjorie Russell, who sadly passed away earlier this year. She served her local community for many years as a Huddersfield Councillor and a Parish Councillor. She was a much respected, active lady and former chairman of Kirkburton Parish Council.

Our thoughts are also with Cllr Richard Bottomley, whose wife sadly passed away after a long illness. It was with regret that I accepted Cllr Bottomley's resignation, and would like to thank him for his contributions to the work of the Council.

And finally, I wish particularly to thank Robert Barraclough, who took upon his own shoulders much of my workload above and beyond the call of duty. I'd like to wish him well in his forthcoming year of office.

Cllr Geof Hickey
Chairman
2008-09

Summary of the Council's Activities and Decisions

Shelley Village Hall has seen some improvements over the last year. The old porch was demolished and the rear entrance upgraded, bringing it up to current standards and providing a new disabled entrance/exit. This will be most useful now that the village hall is to be used as an outreach post office. This proposal presented a challenge, but with the Community Association, Post Office and the Parish Council all working together, we have achieved this. All the Councillors were behind the idea from the start and together with the Clerk, they worked hard to overcome all the problems and deliver the service to the people of Shelley. It's good to see the village hall being put to such good use. Along with many other people, the Parish Council sent in a letter of full support to the Post Office's consultation.

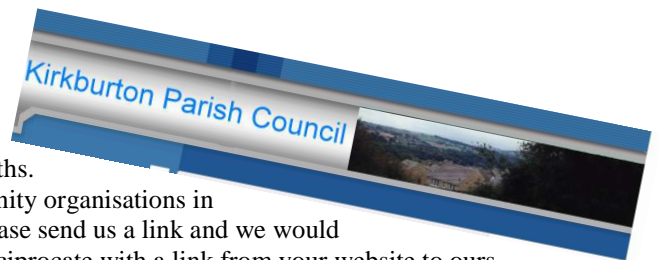


Work at the village hall will continue in the coming year too, as Council has put more funding aside to cover further improvements, the details of which are currently being planned. And as the end of the existing lease approaches, much thought and discussion is taking place about the future of the building and the best way of retaining it for the community. The Parish Council recognises what an asset it is for all the many groups who use it and the community as a whole, so it is determined that the village hall will continue to be available to support the communities of the future. We are, of course, indebted to everyone at the Community Association for their commitment in looking after the hall on a regular basis, and keeping it in such a good condition. We look forward to a positive future in a more coherent relationship with the Community Association.

Kirkheaton Churchyard. The Council continues to work with the representatives of the Church regarding the maintenance of the churchyard. We are particularly grateful to the Unpaid Works Unit, who did a tremendous job in clearing all the overgrown trees from the section at the bottom. Council is also grateful to the contractor for tending the grass. We are working with the Kirklees Trees Officer to manage the trees, and further work may take place later this year. We are also liaising with the Vicar and various other organisations on the repair to the wall. It will hopefully be carried out in conjunction with the Church's extension work, to try and ensure the best use of resources and a co-ordinated finish to the job. Council would like to thank everyone at the Parochial Church Council for their ongoing assistance and willing co-operation.

Council's Website has seen some improvements and upgrading, and we know that more people are now coming to rely on this for regular information about the Parish Council and its activities. We are hoping to develop it further over the coming months.

At the moment we are trying to develop the Links Pages for community organisations in the Parish. If you would like your community website included, please send us a link and we would be happy to oblige. Likewise, we would be grateful if you would reciprocate with a link from your website to ours – this way we can all work together to improve communications and the flow of information.



Noticeboards have been put up in the villages not served by Area Committee ones as another means of communicating with the public. Hopefully they will also become a reliable source of information for everyone. We are willing to display notices for community groups to advertise your various events and fundraisers. Please contact the Clerk if you have something to display, and she will be happy to give you details of the appropriate keyholder.

Parish Council Role/Kirklees Review

The Parish Councillors are very much a part of the villages they represent. Many of them sit on committees of village organisations and feed information both ways, trying to ensure that the Parish Council supports the population wherever it can. It was particularly heartening therefore to read the many positive responses on the work of the Parish Council and its Councillors, which were sent in to Kirklees during the Review of Parish Councils. Comments such as "Without the support [of the Parish Council] the Group might well have collapsed some years ago", were very well received. Messages of praise and support were also received from various Kirklees Officers and Councillors. There were also, of course, some constructive criticisms and suggestions of different ways of working in the future. We are all looking forward to learning of the conclusions and when the Review is complete, the Council will consider all of the comments to see if there is any merit in changing any of its working practices in line with the suggestions put forward.

Representation

Both the Parish Council as a body and individual Councillors liaise with the Police Authority, Metro and the bus companies as well as many departments within Kirklees such as Housing, Planning, Highways, etc. The Kirkheaton members have spent a lot of time this year trying to solve the problem of the school bus stop and have been liaising with the school, Metro, First Bus and the residents, trying to find a compromise acceptable to all. As you will guess, this is not an easy task, but the Parish Council is very resilient and is doggedly pursuing this in the hope that a solution will be found.



Allotments are growing in popularity, and currently the Council is struggling to keep up with the increased demand. The Council has supported two petitions for the establishment of new allotment gardens in Shelley and Kirkburton and would like to establish them on land owned by Kirklees. Negotiations are currently in progress, but due to the complexity of the issue, it is likely to take some time before the matter can be resolved. The Council is also looking into other means of increasing the number of plots available, whilst attempting to keep the increased costs at a reasonable level for the precept-payer – not an easy equation!

The two allotment gardens we manage at present are being fairly well-used. Council has recently had the drive cleared at Shepley and a new tap installed, as the water supply had all but stopped. At Grange Moor there

have been quite a few changes in tenancies and we look forward to the new plots being equally well used when the new gardeners have settled in. One of the tenants, Mr Taylor (pictured right), has recently celebrated 50 years gardening at Grange Moor allotments – our heartfelt congratulations go to him.



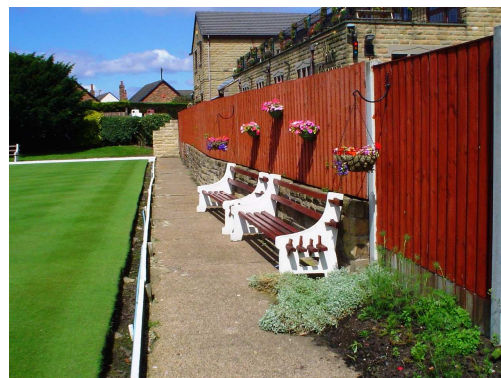
Summary of Accounts 2008-09*		£
Precept		127,000
Refunds of VAT and Rent		12,083
Shelley Village Hall Rent		4,575
Other		1,781
Total Income		£145,439
General Running Costs:		33,702
Administration including employment costs, insurance, office equipment, postage, stationery, telephone/internet.		
Rent and VAT (to be reclaimed in full)		8,521
Civic Governance:		11,594
Audit, conferences, chains of office, civic functions, elections, legal/professional advice and fees, subscriptions, training.		
Public Information:		1,419
Advertisements, annual report, newsletter and noticeboards.		
Grants:		43,687
Small grants to 55 non-profit organisations within the Parish; community projects, environment and renewable energy grants.		
Village Projects:		
Shelley Village Hall		16,916
Kirkheaton Churchyard		2,520
Hanging baskets, Christmas trees and poppy wreaths		8,908
Preparation and installation of the stained glass window into All Hallows Church, Kirkburton		7,930
Allotments, bird boxes, flowering bulbs, public seats, sunflower competition, water butts		4,921
Total Expenditure:		£140,118
Allocated Reserves (To cover costs of projects in progress, but not yet completed):		49,161
General Reserve:		49,677

* All figures are subject to audit. Details of the full accounts can be viewed on the website

The general reserve figure is at the lower end of the range legally required to be maintained by Parish Councils under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2007.

Small Grants Awarded 2008-09

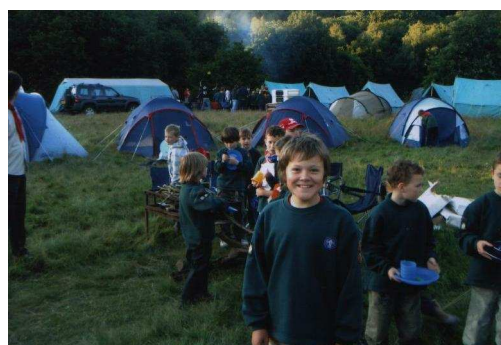
	£
Flockton Cricket Club	270
Flockton Football Club	200
Flockton Playgroup	50
Flockton Green Working Men's Club	200
Grange Moor Play Group (Emergency Grant)	580
Burton Out of School Club	200
Highburton Baby & Toddler Group	75
Highburton Playgroup	200
Kirkburton Business Association	200
Kirkburton Middle School	100
Kirkburton PCC	200
Kirkburton Pre-School	200
Kirkburton Senior Citizens Support Group	200
119 th Huddersfield (Kirkheaton) Brownies	200
119 th Huddersfield (Kirkheaton) Guides	200
119 th Huddersfield (Kirkheaton) Rainbows	200
44 th Huddersfield (Kirkheaton) Cubs	200
Kirkheaton Bellringers	200
Kirkheaton PCC	200
Kirkheaton Senior Citizens Club	200
Lepton Highlanders Girls Football Club	200
Lepton Highlanders Junior Football Club	350
Lepton PCC	200
Lepton Pilots	200
Far Bank Playgroup	200
Pierrot Players Amateur Dramatic Society	480
Scissett Youth Band	200
Shelley Bridge Club	137
Shelley Community Association	400
Shelley Conservation Group	200
Shelley Junior Football	200
Shelley Over 60's Club	200
Shelley PCC	200
Shelley Scout Group	250
Shelley Thursday Club	200
23 rd Huddersfield Shepley Scout Group	250
Shepley Band	200
Shepley Bird & Wildlife Group	200
Shepley Bowling Club	190
Shepley Croquet Club	200
Shepley & District Naturalists Society	150
Shepley Football	200
Shepley Good Companions	200
Shepley PCC	200
Shepley Spring Festival	200
Shepley Village Association	200
Shepley Women's Institute	200
13 th Pennine East Rainbow Unit (Thurstonland)	200
Farnley Tyas Community Group	200
Stocksmoor Toddler Group	200
Stocksmoor Village Hall	200
Stocksmoor Women's Institute	200
Thurstonland & Stocksmoor OOS Club	200
Thurstonland PCC	200
St Lucius Church, Farnley Tyas	100
Total Small Grants Awarded	£11,912



Grange Moor Bowling Club



Lepton Pilots



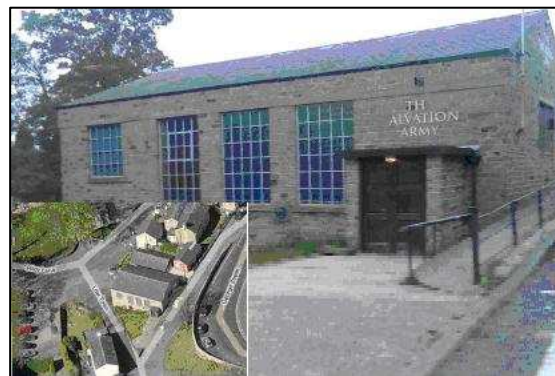
Shepley Scouts










Stocksmoor Women's Institute



Shepley Band in Vackelsang, Sweden



The Hub in Kirkburton

Community Projects:		£
	Shepley Band towards costs of participating in the Vackelsang Village Festival in Sweden	3,000
	Far Bank Playgroup in Shelley towards the costs of providing facilities in the new portacabin	5,000
	Kirkheaton Scouts & Guides for the fencing costs around the building	4,688
	Lepton Methodist Church towards the costs of improving the building	3,500
	Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association towards the costs of improving the security facilities	492
	Denby Dale Centre towards essential professional fees prior to the purchase of the Salvation Army Hall in Kirkburton (The Hub).	2,371
	Shepley Village Association towards the costs of providing events to take place during the visit of the Aurin Choir from Hungary.	2,500
Total Spent		£21,552

Letter

On behalf of the Kirkheaton Scout & Guide Associations I would like to publicly thank Kirkburton Parish Council for all their help over the past 18 months in helping us to rebuild our Headquarters after the loss of our roof and all the subsequent refurbishment that was necessary. The very generous and immediate response to our urgent request ensured that we were able to go ahead with replacing the roof. We also had considerable help in replacing the fencing with a much more secure structure so that hopefully we will not have the same vandal problem that has caused so much damage in the past.



To the right is a photograph of our building showing some of the work which has been done.

Over many years we have applied for a grant to help us with ensuring that our building has been kept in good repair. We have never been refused and are appreciative of your continued support.

Jean Beverley
Chairperson

Partnership Working

The Parish Council also works alongside other organisations in order to try and ensure that the views of its residents are heard. It continues to work with the two Kirklees Area Committees which cover this area, where Councillors provide local knowledge and information - one of their main strengths. The Councillors and Clerk also work with the other Parish and Town Councils in the district on issues of common interest. All take their roles very seriously and over the course of the year many of them have attended several training events, often in their own personal time, to improve their knowledge and expertise.



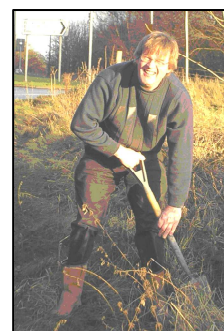
The Council's programme for hanging baskets and Christmas trees was slightly extended this year. New brackets were put up in Stocksmoor where 10 baskets were on display in the summer – bringing the total across the Parish up to 96, and the Parish Council included Farnley Tyas in its Christmas tree provision. The total number of trees provided in the Parish is now 10, one of which is supplied free of charge by Kirklees.



Environment Projects	£
Autumn crocus	1,500
Purchase and installation of a seat in memory of the late Cllr Brian Webster	595
Equipment used for the sunflower competition.	382
Bird boxes	300
Grant to Shelley First School for the purchase of school garden equipment	530
Grant to Highburton First School to upgrade the school pond in line with revised health & safety guidelines and convert a disused play area into school garden	1,960
Purchase of water butts for residents in the Parish	1,652
Grant to Farnley Tyas First School for the purchase of school garden equipment	700
Grant to Shelley College for additional safety measures around the pond in the 'Eco' garden	930
Grant to Shepley First School to purchase a nestbox and feeding camera.	314
Total	£8,866

Giant Sunflower Competition

The Environment Committee was very popular – there were 19 members of the Council on it as well as three members of the public, all of whom have worked hard over the year on several projects. The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Michelle Atkinson, has visited all of the First Schools in the Parish delivering bird boxes for them to put up in their grounds, as well as making a presentation to the Year 3 children on the newly-launched Sunflower Competition. All the children of that age group are invited to take part, and in September the flowers will be judged, with the one with the widest head taking the prize in each school. We look forward to reporting further on this later in the year.



Daffodil bulbs being planted along Wakefield Road

There is also now a Public Session before Environment meetings when people can put forward their own ideas for projects, or voice opinions on the Committee's projects. The Committee would very much like to see this slot being used by the public. The meeting dates will be publicised in the newsletter, on the website and in the noticeboards.



Shelley College students build raised flowerbeds for Highburton First School



Councillors in Shepley (left) and Lepton (right) plant autumn crocus



Work has continued on the Parish Walks project. Councillors can be seen below taking a break from putting up the waymarkers around Shelley.



Environment Plan

The Committee has also brought all its various projects and aims into an Environment Plan to improve forward-planning and also encourage the public to contribute with opinions and ideas. A summary of the latest Plan is below with the full version available on the website. Questionnaires have been sent out to community groups across the Parish inviting views and suggestions for work in the future. All the responses will be collated and considered by the Committee, and may be included in the Plan in the future. If you have not already responded, please do so – your opinions are valuable to us.

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-fund projects to be carried out by community groups.

Climate Change: To work towards combating 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.



***Thank you** for taking the trouble to read our Annual Report. The Council is here to serve everyone in the area, so if you have any views or ideas on the work of the Parish Council, please let us know as we are interested to hear them. Suggestions for new projects we could take up in the future are also welcome.*

We are also here to represent the views of the residents, so if there are any issues you would like the Council to take up on your behalf, do let us know and we will do our best for you.

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Flockton		
Lin Holroyd	11a Hardcastle Lane, Flockton, Wakefield. WF4 4AR	01924 848780
Jimmy Paxton	7 Park Side, Flockton, Wakefield. WF4 4AD	01924 848445
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Derek Hardcastle	The Manse, 95 Penistone Road, Fenay Bridge, Huddersfield. HD8 0LF derek.hardcastle@kirklees.gov.uk	07779 628147
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Sylvia Murphy	Thornes Farmhouse, 5 Thornes Fold, Knotty Lane, Lepton, Huddersfield. HD8 0ND	602841
Lepton and Whitley Upper		
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Cassandra Whittingham	32 Bedford Avenue, Grange Moor, Wakefield. WF4 4EL casswhittingham@googlemail.com	07813 184469
Shelley		
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Malcolm MacDonald	45 Westerley Lane, Shelley HD8 8HW macdonaldofshelley@hotmail.com	609032
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Vacancy		
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Thurstonland/Farnley Tyas		
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