

Environment Plan 2014 - 15

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, value our historical assets and learn from our past.



Projects: To carry out environmental projects giving added value to this area and to support community groups' environmental projects.

Climate Change: To work towards 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.

Community Consultation: To involve residents in environmental work in the area and provide ways in which residents and community organisations can contribute to the Environment Plan.



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

Issue	Action	Timescale	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
To preserve and help promote Highburton 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 is currently in the process of commissioning a plaque to take the place of the litter bin, which covers the Christmas tree socket. Kirklees Council has refurbished the seat.
To preserve Ward Guidestoops/Milestones in the Parish	Renovation and repair of guidestoops. Installation of new guidestoops on the Parish Walks.	Completed	Kirklees Highways and Conservation & EPIP	Guidestoops at Thurstonland and Kirkheaton repaired and renovated. 10 new guidestoops have been installed on each Parish Walk, which have been suitably engraved to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
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 encourage more tourists to this area.	Ongoing	Kirklees Tourist Information / the East Peak Innovation Partnership / Kirklees Libraries	EPIP Tourism Website now online highlighting the attractions & events in the area. Parish Council website also includes details of community groups and events. The Parish Walks website and leaflets give historic info about the areas the routes pass through. The public are regularly invited to contribute & have their notices inserted free of charge in the PC noticeboards & website. Provision of walks leaflets to the public and libraries.

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

Issue	Action	Timescale	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
To provide habitats	<p>Aim to provide ponds, bird & bat boxes and fruit trees. Also supporting schools with expertise & funding for this.</p> <p>Fruit Tree Project</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>Community Groups Schools Allotment tenants Bat Conservation Trust</p> <p>Community Groups, Allotment Tenants, Schools and Residents</p>	<p>Free bat boxes obtained from the Green Business Network. Sites to be identified & permission obtained before installation. Awaiting help from the WY Bat Group. .Bird boxes have been purchased distributed to schools & Kirkheaton Church. Work on creating a wetland area at Grange Moor allotments is to start in Autumn 2015.</p> <p>Huddersfield Beekeepers Assn to give a talk at a future Environment Committee meeting.</p> <p>1000 fruit trees have been being planted across the whole Parish by Cllrs & volunteers on public land, at the allotments and also in school grounds.</p> <p>Free trees were also offered to the Community Associations to pass to residents for donations, thus both raising funds, supporting wildlife & increasing amount of locally grown food. There was a good take up from the majority of Community Associations.</p>

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

Issue	Action	Timescale	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 - ongoing savings in £'s & carbon reductions. June 2008 - BRE Awards achieved November 2008. Finalist in Regional Microgeneration Awards 2010. Publicity for the Council received in various publications.	Ongoing		Provision of 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. Continue to lobby for inclusion of renewable energy in new building developments in the Council's role as consultee on planning applications.
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	Local schools Kirklees	<p>a) Over the past few years the Council has run a number of projects supporting this objective including sunflower competitions, allotment competitions and providing grants to schools & community groups to create vegetable gardens.</p> <p>b) The Council is looking for additional sites for allotments & improving existing sites.</p> <p>c) Cllrs worked with Kirklees to enable new site to be installed in Kirkburton, and also on the community orchard in Kirkburton. Both are now fully operational.</p> <p>d) Fruit tree project was implemented.</p> <p>e) Honley Show stand included Seed Lucky Dip for children - easy to grow fruit & vegetables.</p>
To improve local recycling facilities and encourage their use.		Ongoing		To continue to promote the importance of recycling to reduce the amount of refuse being disposed of in landfill.

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

Issue	Action	Timescale	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
Encourage the use of Public Transport	To liaise with the WYPTE on bus services, promote volunteer and alternative bus services in the area.	Ongoing	WY Metro	Monitoring regular services & commenting where appropriate. Successful in maintaining Boxing Day service. Lobbying resulted in reversal of some planned route reductions in 2012.
Public Awareness	To raise public awareness of the issues & show that individuals can make a difference & show them how to lower their personal carbon footprints.	Ongoing	Holme Valley PC Denby Dale PC Kirklees Other Parish Councils SLCC	a) Hosting of Environment Fayre, Participation at Honley & Emley Shows, as well as any other appropriate events. b) Advice sought from YLCA to pass on to another member Council.
Water Conservation	To increase the amount of water recycled and to raise awareness to encourage people to think more about how much water they are using.	Completed		30 water butts provided free of charge to parishioners. Public and allotment tenants being encouraged to use recycled water and practise water conservation.
Increase in locally sourced food	a) To encourage locally grown crops	Ongoing		An annual allotment competition is run at each of the allotment gardens to try to maintain a high standard of cultivation and to encourage the tenants to keep on growing their own and thus increasing the amount of fresh vegetables and fruit grown and eaten locally. Also keeps the allotment gardens in a good condition.
	b) To run a series of gardening workshops	Completed		Workshops were run on 2 consecutive years for allotment tenants, to help them to start and improve their plots. Participation of the workshops also brought the tenants together and helped them to work as a community, bringing benefits such as seed sharing and sharing of information on common problems.

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

Issue	Action	Timescale	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 of dog fouling.	Ongoing	Kirklees Environmental Health / Community Groups Dog Wardens	<p>24 dog wastebag dispensers installed in 10 villages & refilled regularly. Sites are monitored for effectiveness.</p> <p>Articles have been published in many village magazines, consulting on the sites for the dispensers and raising awareness of the problem.</p> <p>School poster competition held to involve children. The winning designs were printed and displayed to encourage dog owners to pick up after their animals. Now used as publicity.</p> <p>Tie bags distributed to some villages via Community Associations and Libraries and made available on gate posts in fouling black spots in some areas.</p>
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 Kirklees Council	<p>100 hanging baskets are provided across the Parish in almost every village.</p> <p>10 Christmas trees provided in most centres across the Parish - 2 of them planted by villagers & Councillors.</p> <p>Christmas lights provided above the shops in Lepton Square.</p>
To encourage more people to enjoy the local countryside and outstanding views.	Provision of public seats	Ongoing		<p>Rolling maintenance programme of public seats across the Parish. Seats in Farnley Tyas, Shelley and Stockmoor have been repaired. Replacement seats provided in Kirkheaton and Healey Greave Lane. Further repairs planned in Shepley and Thurstonland.</p>

Objective 4: Appearance – To improve and protect the aesthetic beauty of our surroundings (Cont'd)

Issue	Action	Timescale	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
To encourage more people to enjoy the local countryside and outstanding views.	Parish Circular Walks	Ongoing	EPIP	Route leaflets of 10 circulars distributed across the Parish via libraries & tourism offices. Jubilee Charity Walk held on the Lepton walk and the second Chairman's Sponsored walk was held in Flockton.

Objective 5: Projects and Grants – a) To set up and run projects which meet one or more of the Environmental Aims and to raise awareness of environmental issues amongst the general public.

Issue	Action	Timescale	Partners	Progress and Evaluation
To encourage the use of footpaths, both for enjoyment of the countryside and health	Parish Council walks designed by Parish Councillors have been published in leaflet form and a website is under construction.	Ongoing	Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome	<p>The walks are complete and the leaflets have been published with several reprints. The website has been started and is currently under construction. Funded by EPIP with a contribution from the Parish Council. The Parish Council has taken over future responsibility for the walks & guidestoops.</p> <p>Parish Jubilee Walk took place in June 2012 on the Lepton route. Chairman's Charity Walk in 2013 was along the Flockton route.</p>
Living Christmas Trees	Looking for suitable sites and consulting with local residents	Ongoing	Kirklees/Other Local Landowners	<p>Trees have been planted in Lascelles Hall and Thurstonland with the help of residents and Councillors.</p> <p>When other sites have been identified they will be assessed for suitability. The landowner's permission will be requested & local residents will be consulted before any planting takes places.</p>

Objective 5: Projects and Grants – 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 2014/15			
Shelley Over 60's	Additional hanging baskets	Towards the cost of providing additional hanging baskets on Huddersfield Road extending the spread of floral arrangements throughout the village.	500
Yetton Together	Plants & Flowering Tubs	Towards the cost of purchasing tubs and planting up with seasonal bulbs and flowers, to enhance the village.	879
Huddersfield Civic Society	Restoration of the gravestone of Edward Hughes FRIBA	Towards the restoration of the memorial stone of Edward Hughes FRIBA at St Paul's in Shepley. Mr Hughes was a 19 th century local architect responsible for creating the many attractive buildings in the area and shaping the face of Huddersfield & district.	644
Highburton First School	Creation of Forest School	To cover the costs of new fencing and equipment needed to convert an unused section of the field into a Forest School.	4,063
Kirkburton Middle School	Access to community garage	To create a drainage channel and hardcore to address flooding problems at the entrance to the community garage.	2,886
Financial Year 2013/14			
Thurstonland Village Association	Plants & shrubs	To plant on the recreation ground and enhance its appearance, encouraging more use of the space.	175
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association	Low Energy Light bulbs	To purchase and install low energy light bulbs in Burton Village Hall replacing the existing, to reduce carbon use and costs.	550
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association (Burton Env 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 2012/13			
Stockmoor Village Association	Bulb Planting	To contribute towards the cost of spring and autumn bulbs for the village planters.	1855
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association	Hanging Baskets	To supplement those already provided by the PC to enhance the villages of Kirkburton & Highburton.	750
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association	Burton Dean Park	To complete the extension trail and the circuit back to North Road at Burton Dean Park	1,950
Farnley Tyas Community Group	Public Seat	To purchase and install a seat made from recycled materials.	349
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association	Insurance Premium	To cover local volunteers working at Burton Dean & other open spaces.	385

Objective 5: Projects and Grants – 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. (Cont)

Group	Details of Grant	Project	Awarded £
Financial Year 2014/15 (Cont'd)			
Shepley Women's Institute	Trip	To contribute towards the visit to a biodiversity demonstration garden.	175
Yetton Together	Hanging Baskets	To contribute to the cost of additional hanging baskets in Kirkheaton	825

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
Stocksmoor Community Association	Purchase of planters.	To raise awareness of the village centre, particularly to motorists & encourage sensible driving speeds, and enhance the area generally.	254
Shelley First School	Purchase of sheds & equipment.	To purchase equipment for use on the school garden, and to provide secure storage facilities.	500
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association (Burton Env Group)	Purchase of garage	To provide secure storage for the flail machine at Shelley College, used to maintain land by community groups.	500
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 & 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.	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 enhance the recreation ground for the enjoyment of residents of all ages. To encourage greater usage, leading to a more active population.	240

Objective 5: Projects and Grants – 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. (Cont)

Group	Details of Grant	Project	Awarded £
Financial Year 2010/11			

Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association (Burton Env 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

Financial Year 2009/10			
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association (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

Group	Details of Grant	Project	Awarded £
Financial Year 2009/10 (Cont'd)			
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
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.	1,803
Kirkburton & Highburton Community Association (BEG)	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.	930
Shepley First School	Nest box & camera	Purchase of a nestbox & feeding camera providing the children with a firsthand view of nature.	314
Financial Year 2007/08			
Flockton First School	Road safety	Production of posters and car stickers to encourage safer driving & alternative means of transport to benefit pedestrians & cyclists.	150
Shepley Bird & Wildlife Group	Purchase of dig projector	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 walk around wildlife area to add interest for visitors.	1,735

Correct as at 18.04 2015