

Shadforth Parish Council Sustainability Policy and Action Plan

Shadforth Parish Council is committed to promoting opportunity for all, health and wellbeing, and encouraging a healthy natural environment within its boundary. Underpinning all of these is the principle of sustainable development, embodied within the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Shadforth Parish Council recognises its role in helping to deliver these goals. We therefore wish to adopt the following Sustainability Principles, which will underpin all our work. From these, we will identify a series of short, medium and long-term actions which can be monitored and developed over time to demonstrate continuous, measurable improvement in our sustainability performance.

While land and services within our direct control is limited, we have a significant role to play in encouraging others, working in partnership, and raising awareness of issues such as climate change.

Sustainability Principles

Shadforth Parish Council will, wherever feasible and within financial and operating constraints, seek to:

- Improve health and wellbeing
- Improve education and skills and lifelong learning
- Reduce inequality and improve accessibility to facilities
- Reduce carbon emissions and combat the effects of climate change
- Reduce water consumption and improve water quality
- Improve air quality
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity
- Conserve and enhance the historic environment
- Minimise the production of waste
- Encourage sustainable investment within the parish

Shadforth Parish Council Action Plan for Sustainability 2.2.2020

Timescale:

SHORT - delivered within 1-3 year

MEDIUM - delivered within 3-5 years

LONG - delivered within 5-10 years

| Sustainability Objective | Actions | Timescale | Monitoring | Responsibility |
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| General | Comment upon planning applications to recommend that they become as sustainable as possible | Ongoing | Number of relevant comments recorded in PC minutes | Whole PC |
| | Encouragement across all community groups to establish a sustainability champion | Short | Sustainability champions in place | Whole PC / Local community groups |
| 1. Improve health and wellbeing | Actively encourage activities and events to bring people together | Short | Number of people engaging in activities/events | Whole PC / Local Community Groups |
| | Promote way-marked routes of specific distances for walking and/or cycling (leaflets etc) | Short | Metres of way-marked routes | Estates Committee / Local Community Groups |
| | Explore options for additional allotment provision within the parish within each village | Short to Medium | Number of additional allotments across the three villages Number of people on waiting list | Estates Committee |
| | Explore opportunities for improved/additional footpaths and cycle tracks across the parish and linking beyond. | Medium | Metres of additional footpath / marked cycleway | Estates Committee / Local Community Groups |
| | Explore options for community gardening / food | Medium to | Number of people involved in | Estates Committee / |

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| | space within each village | Long | communal gardening | Local Community Groups |
| | Explore partnership opportunities with health trusts and organisations to promote exercise, improved diet and lifestyle | Medium to Long | Number of partnerships in place Number of people participating in organised exercise initiatives | To be determined? Local Community Groups |
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| 2. Improve education, skills and lifelong learning | Establish links with neighbouring parishes to run joint events and courses | Short | Number of joint training events | Whole PC / Local Community Groups |
| | Encourage skill sharing between councillors, across parishes, and across the community | Short | Audit in place for local / parish councillors | Whole PC |
| | Explore and support more partnerships with local education providers to run more courses within the parish | Short to medium | Number of courses being run across the Parish | Whole PC / Local Community Groups |
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| 3. Reduce inequality and improve accessibility to facilities | Establish meaningful consultation mechanisms across the parish | Short | Number of parish meetings Number of people attending parish meetings | Whole PC |
| | Adopt sustainable and ethical trading criteria for operations undertaken or supported by the parish | Short | Number of purchases / grants influenced by policies | Whole PC |
| | Establish additional opportunities for joint village events within the parish | Short | Number of joint village events taking place | Whole PC / Local community groups |
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| 4. Reduce carbon emissions and combat the effects of climate change | Encourage car sharing (or walking and cycling!) for PC meetings | Short | Number of car journeys to PC meetings | Whole PC (Clerk) |

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| | Encourage behaviours to reduce emissions, eg: by integrating actions and information into community events | Short | Number of actions / behaviours identified by local community groups to reduce emissions | Whole PC / Local community groups |
| | Explore opportunities for an active tree planting regime across the parish | Short | Number of trees planted | Whole PC / Local community groups |
| | Adopt a sustainability appraisal methodology for all Parish Council grants and expenditure | Short | Number of purchases / grants influenced by policies | Whole PC |
| | Use only peat-free compost in all PC activities | Short | Amount of plants / compost containing peat purchased | Whole PC |
| | Promote energy efficiency in homes and buildings across the parish in association with key partners | Medium | Number of events including information to promote energy efficiency | Whole PC |
| | Explore opportunities for generation of energy from renewable and low-carbon fuels within the parish (eg: PV on village halls) | Long | Amount of energy generated from renewable sources | Whole PC |
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| 5. Reduce water consumption and improve water quality | Encourage measures which reduce water consumption across the parish, in association with key agencies | Medium | Number of events including information to promote water efficiency | Whole PC |
| | Encourage low water maintenance gardening | Medium to long | Number of events including information to promote water efficiency | Whole PC |
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| 6. Improve air quality | Encourage the use of public transport and car sharing through education / events | Medium | Number of events including information to promote public transport / car sharing | Whole PC |
| | Work with key agencies to promote cleaner emissions from buses | Medium to long | Number of interventions made to County Council | Whole PC |

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| | Work with key agencies to reduce traffic speed through the villages | Medium to long | Number of traffic calming measures established in villages | Whole PC |
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| 7. Maintain and enhance biodiversity | Encourage the increased planting of wildflowers / native bulbs across the parish (eg: road verges, open space, allotments, cemetery) | Short | Number / length of bulbs / areas planted | Whole PC / local community groups |
| | Explore the opportunities for recording and monitoring key sites and species (including Biodiversity Action Plan targets) within the parish | Short to medium | Number of events / actions promoting biodiversity recording and monitoring Number of recording regimes in place | Whole PC / local community groups |
| | Support the improved management of sites (in particular PC sites), in association with key partners and landowners, to enhance biodiversity | Medium | Number of improved interventions for biodiversity | Estates committee / local community groups |
| | Encourage more environmentally friendly options for weed control in key PC areas (eg: cemetery, allotments) | Medium | Reduction in amount of glyphosate used | Estates Committee |
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| 8. Conserve and enhance the historic environment | Understand the significance of the historic assets within the parish | Short | Number of Statements of Significance in place | Whole PC / local community groups |
| | Explore options with English Heritage for improved management/enhancement of Ludworth Tower | Medium | Level of contact with English Heritage | Whole PC |
| | Develop a Conservation Area Management Plan for Shadforth Village Conservation Area, in association with key agencies | Medium to Long | Conservation Area Management plans in place Number of historic assets conserved and enhanced | Whole PC / local community groups |
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| 9. Minimise the production of waste | Encourage reuse and recycling opportunities at all Parish Council and community events | Short | Number of events including information to promote reuse and recycling | Whole PC / local community groups |
| | Discourage the use of single-use plastics at all parish events, and explore options for wider initiatives | Short to medium | Number of events which have actively reduced single use plastics | Whole PC / local community groups |
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| 10. Encourage sustainable investment within the parish | Actively support local businesses through the activities of the council | Short | Number of purchases made from local businesses as a percentage of all purchases made | Whole PC |
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