



Fittleworth Parish Council

Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024

September 2020

www.fittleworth-pc.org.uk



About the Plan

The aim of a Strategic Plan (known as “the Plan”) is to give residents and businesses a really good idea of what the Parish Council is trying to achieve for the community of Fittleworth and surrounding areas in the next 3 to 4 years.

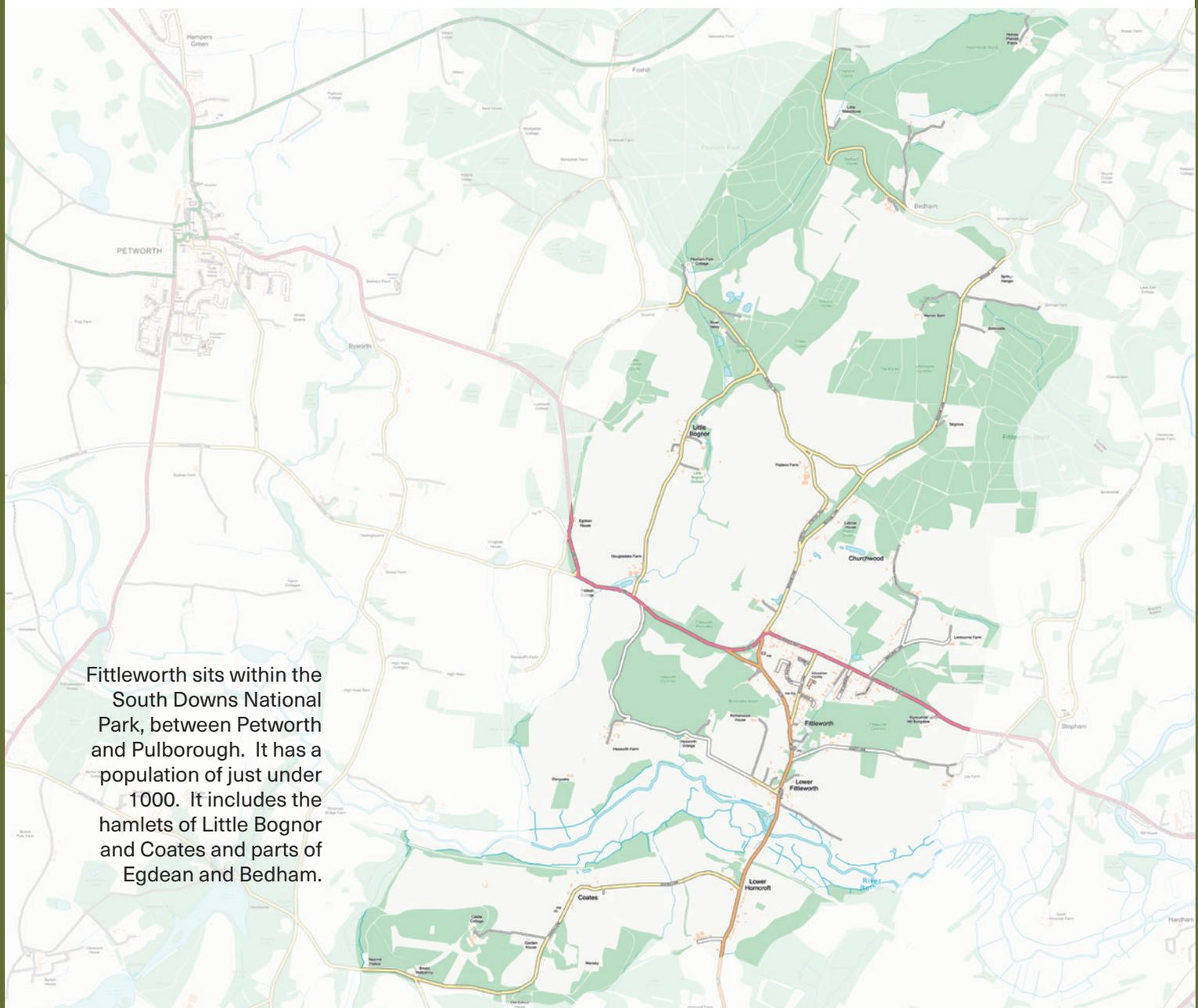
It tells you what the Parish Council hopes to do after we have had feedback from the community.

This Plan will be used to guide the Parish Council in its work until 2024. We will need to seek the support and co-operation of SDNPA, Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council to help us make this happen. The Plan will be reviewed annually and will be used to allocate money and plan activities for the coming year.

This Plan will give our local community a better idea of what the Parish Council does and explain the responsibilities of other organisations with whom we work closely.

Please do tell us what you think about the Plan. We welcome your comments.

Fittleworth and the Parish Council



Fittleworth sits within the South Downs National Park, between Petworth and Pulborough. It has a population of just under 1000. It includes the hamlets of Little Bognor and Coates and parts of Egdean and Bedham.

Fittleworth Parish Council

The Parish Council owns certain areas of land within the parish boundaries. The largest of these are Hesworth Common and Birchwalks Woods which are owned and maintained by the Parish Council and are much loved and used by both residents and visitors to the village. The Parish Council also owns the recreation ground where the community shop is situated and the land on which the Scout Hut, Bowls Club and Rifle Club stand. We also own and maintain on behalf of the community the Sports Pavilion and Bowls Pavilion building. Although the village hall and associated car park are owned by a separate CIO (previously a separate trust), the Parish Council works closely with them.

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and has an important role to play in making sure that the interests of the village and outlying areas are taken into account in any decisions that are made.

We work closely with South Downs National Parks Authority (SDNPA), Chichester District Council (CDC) and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and the and other organisations.

Who does what?

WSCC

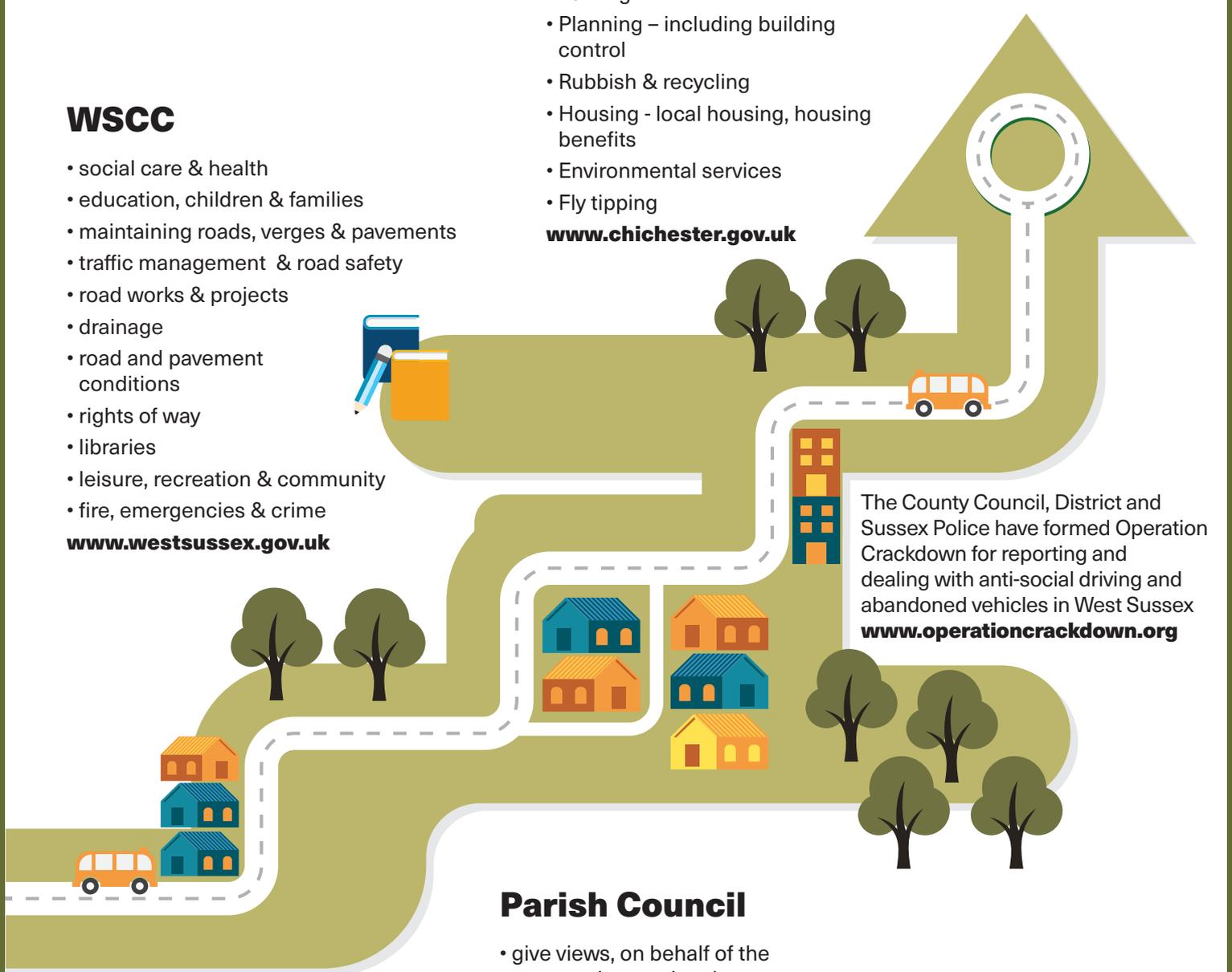
- social care & health
- education, children & families
- maintaining roads, verges & pavements
- traffic management & road safety
- road works & projects
- drainage
- road and pavement conditions
- rights of way
- libraries
- leisure, recreation & community
- fire, emergencies & crime

www.westsussex.gov.uk

CDC

- Council tax
- Parking
- Planning – including building control
- Rubbish & recycling
- Housing - local housing, housing benefits
- Environmental services
- Fly tipping

www.chichester.gov.uk



The County Council, District and Sussex Police have formed Operation Crackdown for reporting and dealing with anti-social driving and abandoned vehicles in West Sussex

www.operationcrackdown.org

SDNPA

- maintaining and enhancing the character of the area
- planning Authority (although the processing of all but the most major schemes is subcontracted to Chichester District Council)
- sustainability

www.southdowns.gov.uk

Parish Council

- give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish
- undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents
- work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish
- alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken
- help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities
- volunteers – Councillors,

Hesworth Common Committee, Planning Committee, Tree Warden, Litter collection, Tree Planters

www.fittleworth-pc.org.uk

Committees and working groups

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lee Scott (*Chair*)
Mike Allin
David Brittain
Tony Broughton
Jane Claxton

HUMAN RESOURCES / STAFFING COMMITTEE

Jane Claxton
(*Chair – PC*)
David Brittain
Chris Welfare

ENGAGEMENT, RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

Kerry Coughtrey (*Chair*)
David Brittain (*Vice-chair*)
Robin Dunstan
Alison Welterveden
(*Non PC member*)

COMMUNICATION WORKING GROUP

Kerry Coughtrey
Clerk
Margaret Welfare
(*Non PC member*)

FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

All councillors – footpaths to be allocated to specific councillors

CORONAVIRUS WORKING GROUP

Jane Claxton
Chris Welfare
Clerk
Alison Welterveden
(*Non PC member*)
Revd David Crook
(*Non PC member*)
Mick Foote
(*Non PC member*)

HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP

Lee Scott
Tony Broughton
Chris Welfare
Adrian Webb
(*Non PC member*)
Sally Tanner
(*Non PC member*)
Christine Parker
(*Non PC member*)

MAINTENANCE

Coordinator
Tony Broughton
Mike Allin

DEFIBRILLATOR WARDEN

Chris Welfare

HESWORTH COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mike Allin (*Chair*)
Lee Scott
Chris Welfare
Hazel Barkworth
(*Non PC member*)
Charles Winchester
(*SDNP representative*)

How is the Parish Council funded

Ground rent (Scout hut, rifle club and bowls club) **£60**

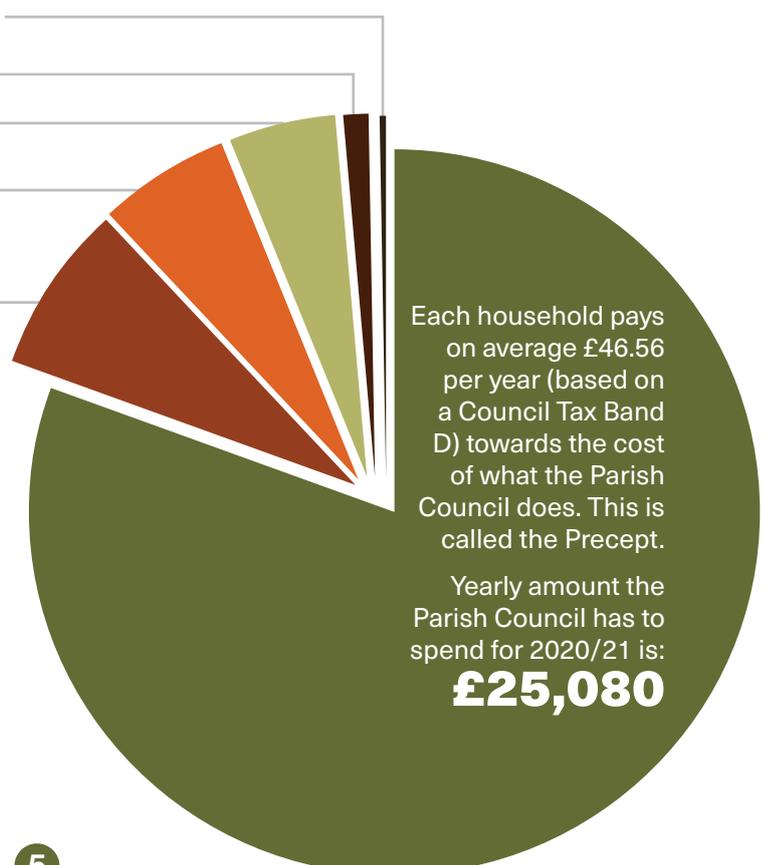
Other **£321**

Recreation ground income from the shop **£1,462**

Sports and Social Club licence fee **£1,800**

Hesworth Common grants **£2,400**

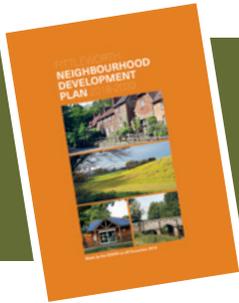
Total income:
£31,123



These figures represent the year 2020-21

Successes since 2017

The first Strategic Plan working document for Fittleworth Parish Council prepared in 2017, covering the period 2017 to 2022.



Neighbourhood Plan

November 2014
Public meeting

June 2015
Housing Survey

October 2015
Village meeting

January 2018
Public consultation
Pre-submission Plan

February 2019
Public consultation
arranged by SDNPA

July 2019
Independent Examiners
report

November 2019
Referendum – Village voted
YES

December 2019
Plan “made” by SDNPA

Village Shop

January 2016
Working party set up

2017
Fund raising drive for shop,
playground and youth area
– over £403,000 raised
through donations, shares
and grants

April 2018
Work started

September 2018
Work completed

6th October 2018
Grand opening

January 2019
Post Office opened

Staffed by volunteers
across all ages

Going from strength
to strength

Playground and Youth Area

Village consultation –
wishlist for parents and
children

Fundraising drive as shown
under shop heading

April 2018
Old playground closed and
removed

October 2018
New playground opened

Hesworth Common

We continue to follow
the Management Plan
for the maintenance and
improvement of Hesworth
Common which is used by
everyone

2020 plan

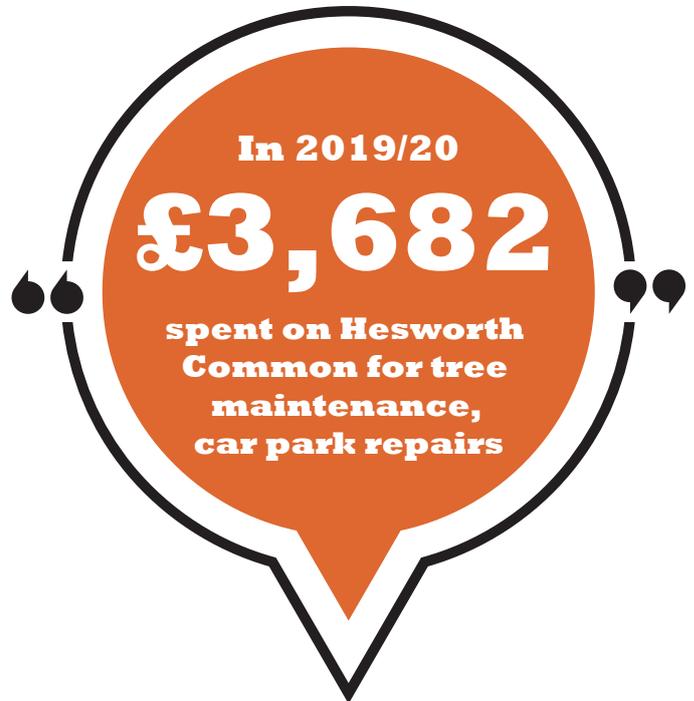
Following the Parish Council Elections of 2019 and the Fittleworth Neighbourhood Plan being agreed by the village, the Parish Council feels that now is the time to look again at the Plan of the Parish Council for 2020 to 2024.

The Neighbourhood Plan set out four objectives for the village which will feed into our Plan for 2020-2024.

What we hope to do

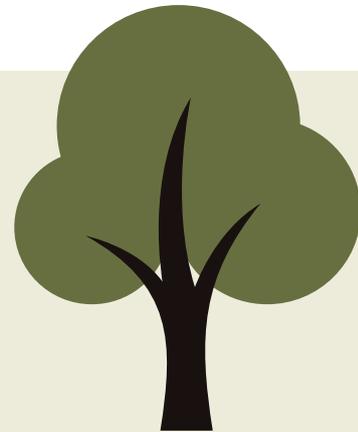
The Neighbourhood Plan set out four objectives for the village which will feed into our Plan for 2020-2024.

Objective 1: To conserve and enhance the local environment, taking opportunities to enhance the local landscape, ecology and heritage and incorporate measures to reduce the risk of flooding, or other damage to the environment



Hesworth Common

Hesworth Common is 100 acres owned by the Parish Council and looked after by The Hesworth Management Committee. Volunteer groups of all ages help to maintain it throughout the year. Funding is currently received through the Stewardship Grant from Natural England.



Our aims over the next 5 years are to:

- maintain a pleasant, unspoilt stretch of countryside, which villagers and visitors can enjoy;
- preserve a variety of habitats, to encourage wildlife and increase areas of gorse and hedgerow to expand bird life;
- avoid urbanising the common.

How we hope to achieve this

- increase areas of heathland, wild flowers and encourage rare varieties of flowers and plants in the bog area to flourish;
- increase tree planting in small areas, introducing new varieties where possible;
- provide special areas of interest for local groups, school children, scouts, cubs and guides.

Appearance of our village

The Parish Council aims to always make the village look welcoming.

Our aims over the next 5 years are to:

- implement the Footpath charter for the Parish
- find out from Parishioners how to improve the village
- encourage local people to be involved in litter picking, village maintenance.

How we hope to achieve this

- working with local landowners to enhance and improve local footpaths.
- using the Parish newsletter, website and social media to encourage Parishioners to get involved.
- work with other groups within the village to promote participation in improving the appearance of the village.



100 Trees Project

Tree planting has a positive and long-term benefit.

Our aims over the next 5 years are to:

- help tackle the climate crisis
- help reduce the risk of flooding
- help protect the soil from erosion
- provide and protect habitats for animals

How we hope to achieve this

- plant 100 new trees each year in the parish



Environment Policies

Our aims over the next 5 years are to:

- conserve the local area through planning
- look at options to resolve flooding issues along the Rother
- explore e-charging points for visitors to the village
- review Mineral Planning (ROMP) due 2021

How we hope to achieve this

- work with other agencies including Heritage Trust and Environment Agency to reduce Fittleworth's impact on the environment. (2050 targets)
- work with planning authorities to deliver sustainable developments
- meet SDNPA sustainability policy targets



Objective 2: To secure development that enhances the design, character, appearance and landscape setting of the village; reflects the existing density, scale and use of local materials and incorporates appropriate renewable and low carbon technology.



Parish Council priorities that developers need to incorporate in any scheme

Objective 3: To support existing and new community facilities to meet the needs of the parish and to protect existing sites currently providing local employment.



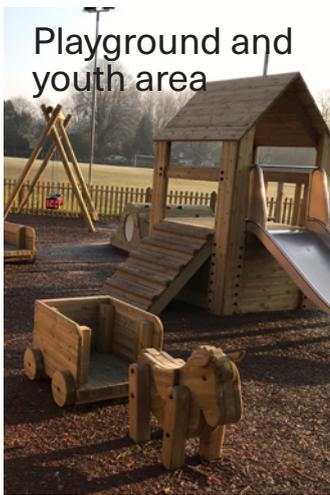
Rural areas



Recreation ground



Village hall



Playground and youth area



Clubs and associations



Playgroup



Shop and post office



Pub



School



Sports Pavilion



Local businesses



Sports and Social club



Bowling green



Church



Rifle club



Scout and Guide hut

Objective 3: Our aims for the next 5 years



Supporting the infrastructure of the business and home working environment. Explore improved broadband for outlying areas, networking groups, hotdesking opportunities.



To achieve a family friendly community through utilising the Sports Pavilion and the Sports & Social Club to create a family friendly hub. A questionnaire will be used to find out what Fittleworth residents and residents of surrounding villages to see what people of all ages would like from a revamped sports pavilion.



Comprehensive parking solution at the Village Hall car park. The community groups who benefit from the car park to work together to resolve the long term issue.



Making the village pedestrian and cycle friendly. Exploring traffic calming measures such as village gate markers, improved safety for around bus stops for school children – making safe crossings.

Objective 4: To improve opportunities for young families with limited financial resources and in housing need to live in the village by encouraging and supporting the provision of affordable/low cost housing, with preference given to those with local connections.

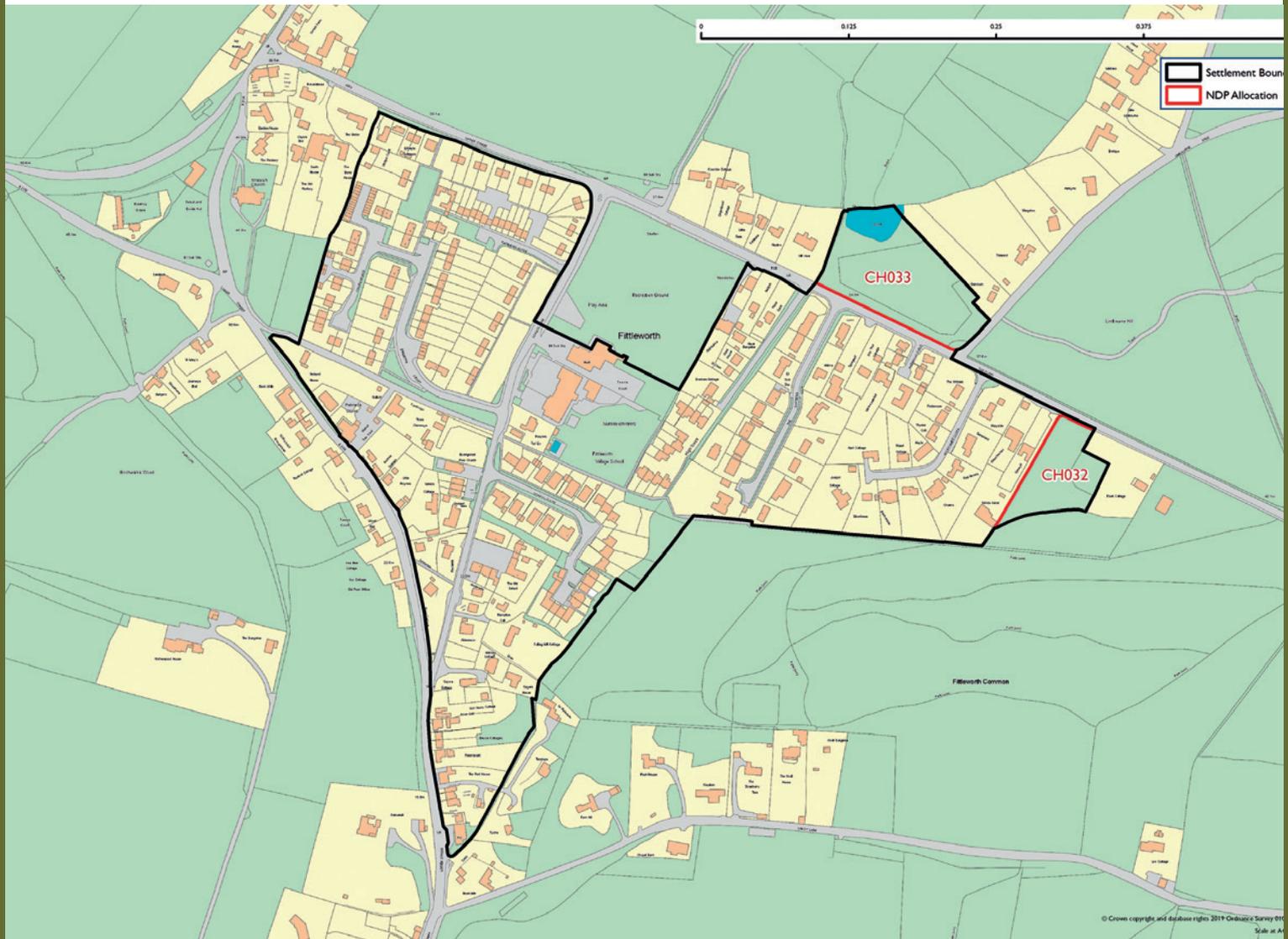
Our aims over the next 5 years are:



Objective 4: Sites that developers can potentially use for housing and working with them to get the best results for the Parish.

Land at corner of Limbourne Lane/The Fleet (CH033) – Approximately 12 homes

At least 50% of the units (i.e. homes) are affordable housing and secured as such in perpetuity.



Fleet Cottage (CH032) – 6 homes

Two affordable dwellings will be secured on site, in perpetuity, at least one of these dwellings should be a rented affordable tenure;

The type and tenure of the housing reflects local need, in particular for one and two bedroom dwellings.

Summary

Objective 1:

Preserve and enhancing the local environment.

Objective 2:

Maintaining the character, charm and carbon footprint of the village.

Objective 3:

Community facilities – something for everyone.

Objective 4:

Affordable and low cost housing for local people.

Fittleworth – A village for all

Fittleworth Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors

Jane Claxton *Chairman*

Kerry Coughtrey *Deputy Chair*

Mike Allin

David Brittain

Tony Broughton

Robin Dunstan

Lee Scott

Chris Welfare

Parish Clerk – Louise Collis

07411 571500

clerk@fittleworth-pc.org.uk

