

CIL Funding Round 2023-24: Expression of Interest

Project Title :

100 Trees Project - Birchwalks Wood Tree Planting

Project Details

Please use the "?" icons for help on what to include for each question.

Project Name:	100 Trees Project - Birchwalks Wood Tree Planting
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Project Location: Please describe the location/s of the project. If more than one location, please provide further details within the project summary.
Fittleworth

Project Location (Eastings):	501142
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Project Location (Northings):	118991
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Does the project relate to and support the delivery of the Partnership Management Plan and South Downs Local Plan?
Yes

Project Summary and Outcomes:
<p>Part of the Fittleworth Parish Council strategic plan is the 100 Trees project. The Parish Council have identified a need to carry out strategic tree planting in order to help enhance biodiversity and enhance the character and appearance of the area. Working in partnership with SDNPA Rangers, we wish to restore the area of Ancient Woodland at Birchwalk Woods – an area of open access woodland next to the common which was gifted to the Village by the Bradley Williams family.</p> <p>As its name would suggest, Birchwalk Woods is dominated by areas of silver birch and much of this has self-seeded to create areas that are relatively monocultural. In addition, this area has experienced large incursions of rhododendron and laurel that has entered the woodland from adjoining residential gardens and there are large areas being overtaken with holly and bracken.</p> <p>The project plan envisages clearance of areas of invasive or undesirable growth in the first instance as well as selected areas of secondary birch regrowth. It is not our intention to seek to remove all birch – since that species helps to give the area much of its special character as well as its name – but we think that the biodiversity of the woodland would be enhanced by creating areas of greater variety.</p>

PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

Following that clearance, these areas will then be replanted with native species broadleaf species, selected in partnership with SDNPA Rangers and Volunteers. This will be delivered by our volunteer groups in partnership with Fittleworth Scouts, Cubs and Guides who have already helped replant smaller areas in this woodland.

As part of the project, the existing pathways are being improved to allow greater access to all.

Please demonstrate how your proposed project considers and addresses the needs of people with protected characteristics:*

For example, will these groups benefit from your project, or if they may be negatively impacted, what are you doing to mitigate the impacts?

**Protected characteristics are: Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Sex, Sexual orientation, Race, Religion or belief, Marriage and Civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity.*

Birchwalks Wood is an area of public access that is open to all to enjoy. We are improving the footpaths to improve accessibility for those less physically able.

Estimated Project Start Date	01/10/2024
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Estimated Project Delivery Duration	12
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Project Timing Requirements:

Fittleworth Parish Council aims to plant 100 trees a year. Tree planting is most successful when carried out in autumn and early spring.

Our intention is to clear small areas of undesirable species one at a time, and to plant saplings in those areas once cleared. We are seeking funding to plant 100 trees per annum in 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Project Risks:

There is a risk that some of the trees planted will not survive, especially when we have periods of drought, because there is no water source on site, however we allow for this with the concentration of planting. We are reliant on volunteers to help with the work, in order to mitigate the risk of not having enough volunteers the Parish Council have created a Birchwalks Wood Management Working Group to focus on this area.

Future Management and Maintenance

This funding will help us ensure the ongoing success of the 100 tree project, as we can purchase more trees, stakes and tree guards. We may have to pay for tree surgeons to assist with clearance of larger unwanted trees and scrub and to improve the footpath surfaces. The Birchwalks Wood Management Working group will be responsible for future management and Maintenance, most of which will be carried out by volunteers.

Additional Project Notes (optional):

FPC Strategic plan attached and Birchwalks Wood Management Working Group terms of reference

PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS



(Application Attachment - Birchwalks Wood Management Working Group Terms of Reference 19 -02-2024 v2.doc) is included as an appendix within this file.

2

(Application Attachment - Fitt_Strategic_Plan_2020 Final Version Sept 2020.pdf) is included as an appendix within this file.

Pre-submission

Funding Partners

1

Interest Type:	Interested Party
Organisation / Individual	SDNP
Comments / Other Information	

2

Interest Type:	Landowner
Organisation / Individual	Fittleworth Parish Council
Comments / Other Information	

Will this be led by South Downs National Park Authority? Please only tick yes if this has already been agreed with the National Park Authority.	No
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Resources

Please do not enter any "£" signs or commas when entering financial amounts.

Estimated Total Project Cost (£) (including in-kind)::
6000

Total Requested (£):	3140.00
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Type of Funding	Other (please specify)
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Organisation	Fittleworth Parish Council
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Amount	2860
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Confirmation Date	09/04/2024
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1

Organisation:	Fittleworth Parish Council
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Value of contribution (if known)	
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In-Kind Contribution Detail:	Man power
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2

Organisation:	Fittleworth Scout Group
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Value of contribution (if known)	
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In-Kind Contribution Detail:	Scrub clearance and tree planting
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Appendices

- 1) Application Attachment - Birchwalks Wood Management Working Group Terms of Reference 19 - 02-2024 v2.doc
- 2) Application Attachment - Fitt_Strategic_Plan_2020 Final Version Sept 2020.pdf

Pre-submission

Birchwalks Wood Management Working Group – Terms of Reference

Birchwalks Wood covers an area of 3.1 hectares and is adjacent to the eastern boundary of Hesworth Common. The underlying geology is Lower Greensand, and the area is freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils. It is designated as Plantation on ancient Woodland Site (PAWS).

The area of woodland is dominated by birch and mixed conifers. Holly, Elder, Rhododendron, and Cherry Laurel, Sycamore, Sweet Chestnut, Yew and Rowan are also present. The ground layer is dominated by bracken and bramble in places. Footpath 686 runs along the northern boundary and there are permissive paths cut through the area.

Why do we need a working group?

Various tasks need to be carried out to keep the pathways clear and the area safe for visitors. The vegetation needs to be monitored for potential diseases.

Invasive species need to be controlled and native species encouraged.

Dead and dangerous trees need identifying and made safe.

Human activity is to be monitored.

To liaise with the Hesworth Common Management Committee to ensure the management of Birchwalks Wood complements that of Hesworth Common.

Regular inspection of trees and footpaths to be carried out.

Working Group to be 2 Parish Councillors and up to 2 Fittleworth residents.

Ownership of Birchwalks Wood

Birchwalks Wood was gifted to Fittleworth Parish Council by Phoebe Bradley Williams in ?. £5,750 was left for future maintenance of the wood only. It was Phoebe Bradley Williams express wishes that this woodland would remain completely separate from Hesworth Common, otherwise the woods are to revert back to the family.

The role of the Management Working Group.

Keep footpaths accessible to visitors.

Arrange removal of dead or dangerous trees and branches.

Thin tree species where necessary.

Remove invasive species such as Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel.

Reduce holly to allow ground flora to spread and native tree regeneration.

Encourage native broadleaf species and Yew, and plant new trees.

Prevent Western red Cedar spreading.

Monitor species for potential diseases.

To encourage villagers involvement.

To produce a schedule of work to be carried out.

Put regular updates in the Parish Magazine.

Public health and safety requirements

The working group recognises the need where possible to provide a safe area for the public to walk. Therefore, measures will be put in place for regular walkers to report any possible dangers which exist, for the working group members to investigate and arrange where necessary remedial work.

Monthly health and safety sheets will be completed by a member of the working group.

Prominent signs, will be placed on gateposts at each end of the main path, on display to warn the public of restricted practises and any safety action to be taken should the need arise.

Financial decision making

Where there is available budget, the chairman of the BMMWG can recommend payments of up to £500. This can be authorised by the Clerk without the need to obtain more than 1 quote.

For amounts more than £500, or if the annual budget has been exceeded, authority is required from Full Council. 2 quotes should be acquired where possible for work in excess of £500 to £1500 and 3 quotes over £1500. It is anticipated that work will be self-funded from Bradley Williams legacy and CIL funding.

AGREED BY FITTLEWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

19/02/2024

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.

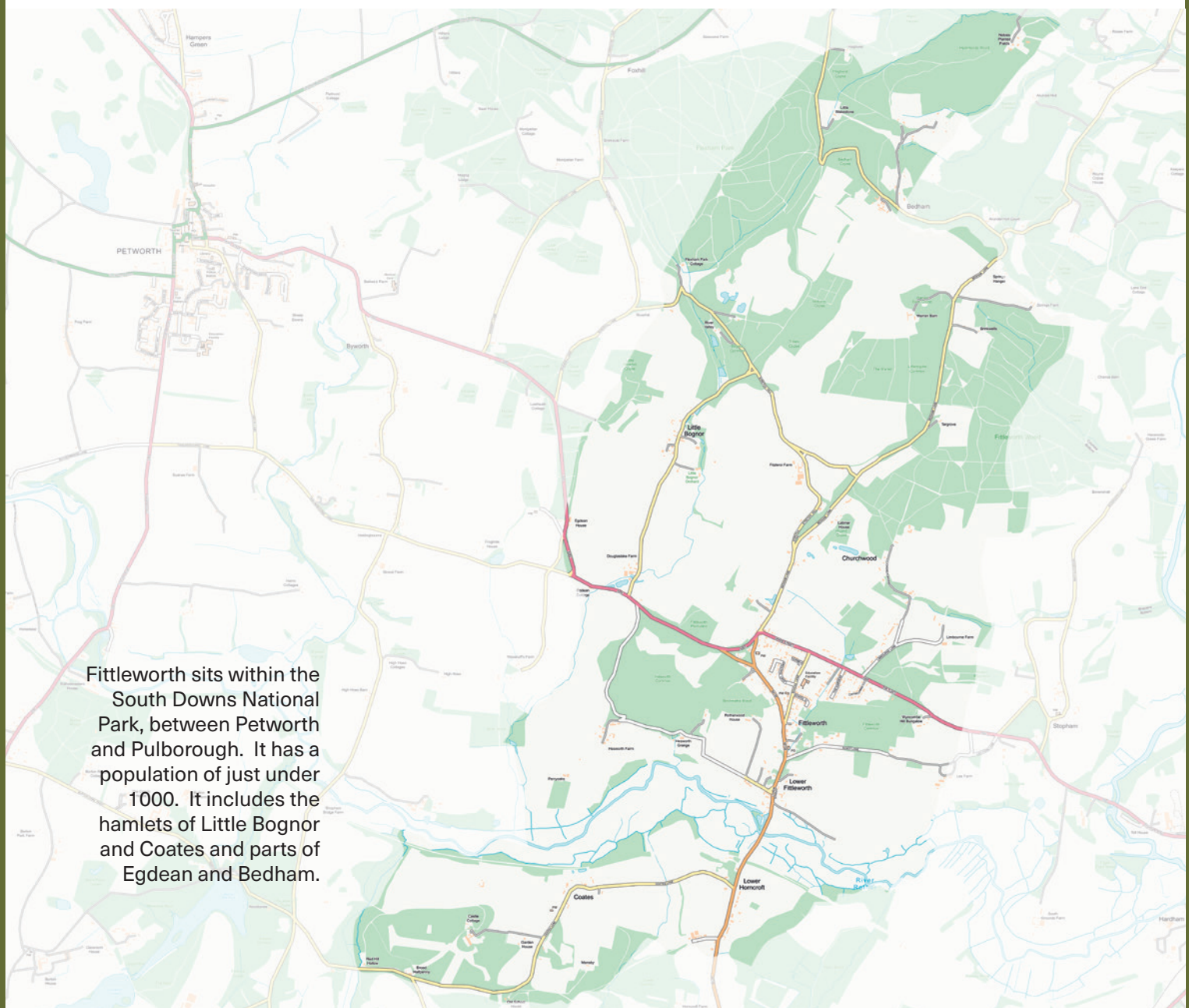
It tells you what the Parish Council hopes to do after we have had feedback from the community.

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**

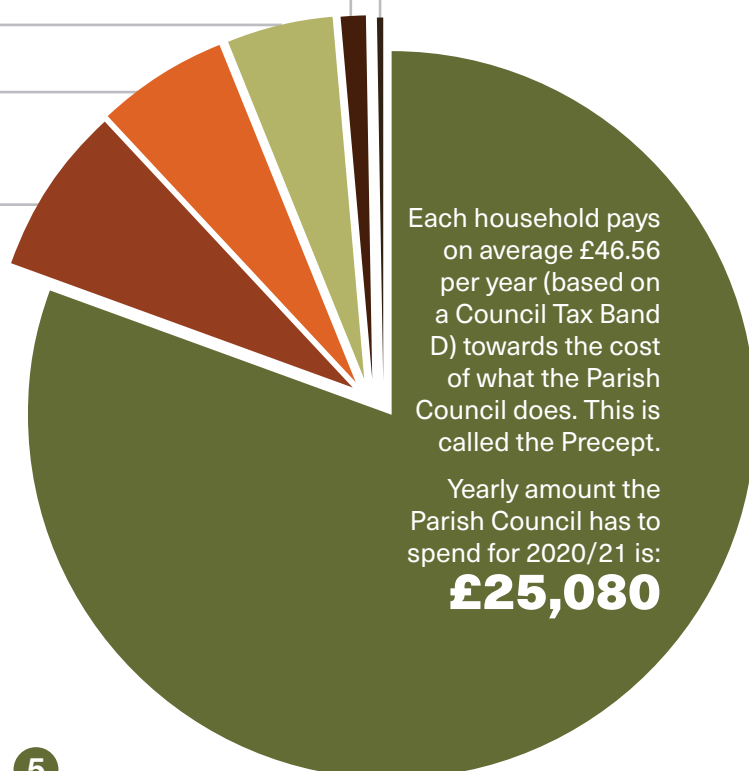
Other **£321**

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

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

Hesworth Common grants **£2,400**

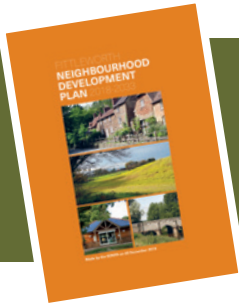
Total income:
£31,123



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

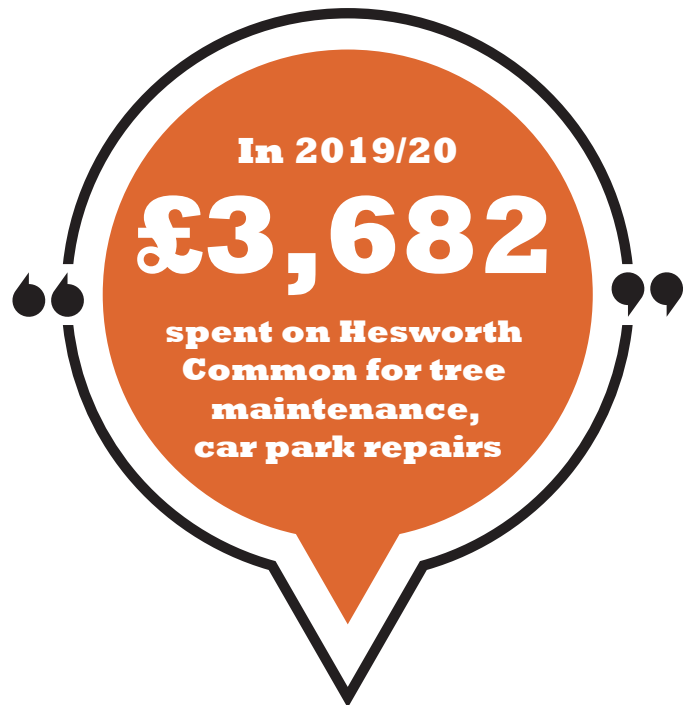
Following the Parish Council Elections of 2019 and the Fittleworth Neighbourhood Plan being agreed by the village, the Parish Council feels that now is the time to look again at the Plan of the Parish Council for 2020 to 2024.

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

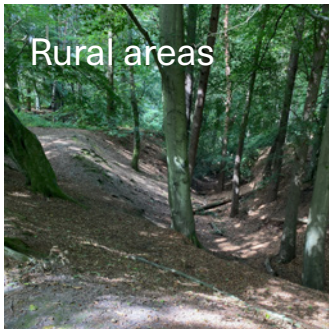


Objective 2: To secure development that enhances the design, character, appearance and landscape setting of the village; reflects the existing density, scale and use of local materials and incorporates appropriate renewable and low carbon technology.



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.



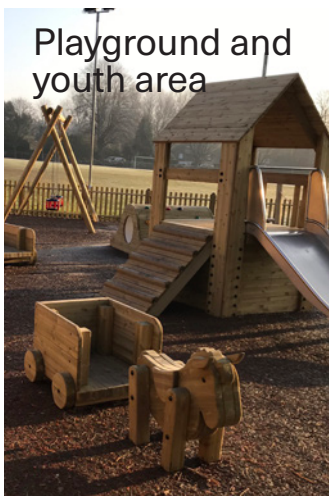
Rural areas



Recreation ground



Village hall



Playground and youth area



Clubs and associations



Playgroup



Shop and post office



Pub



School



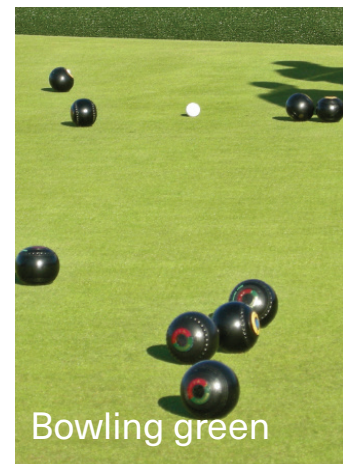
Sports Pavilion



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.

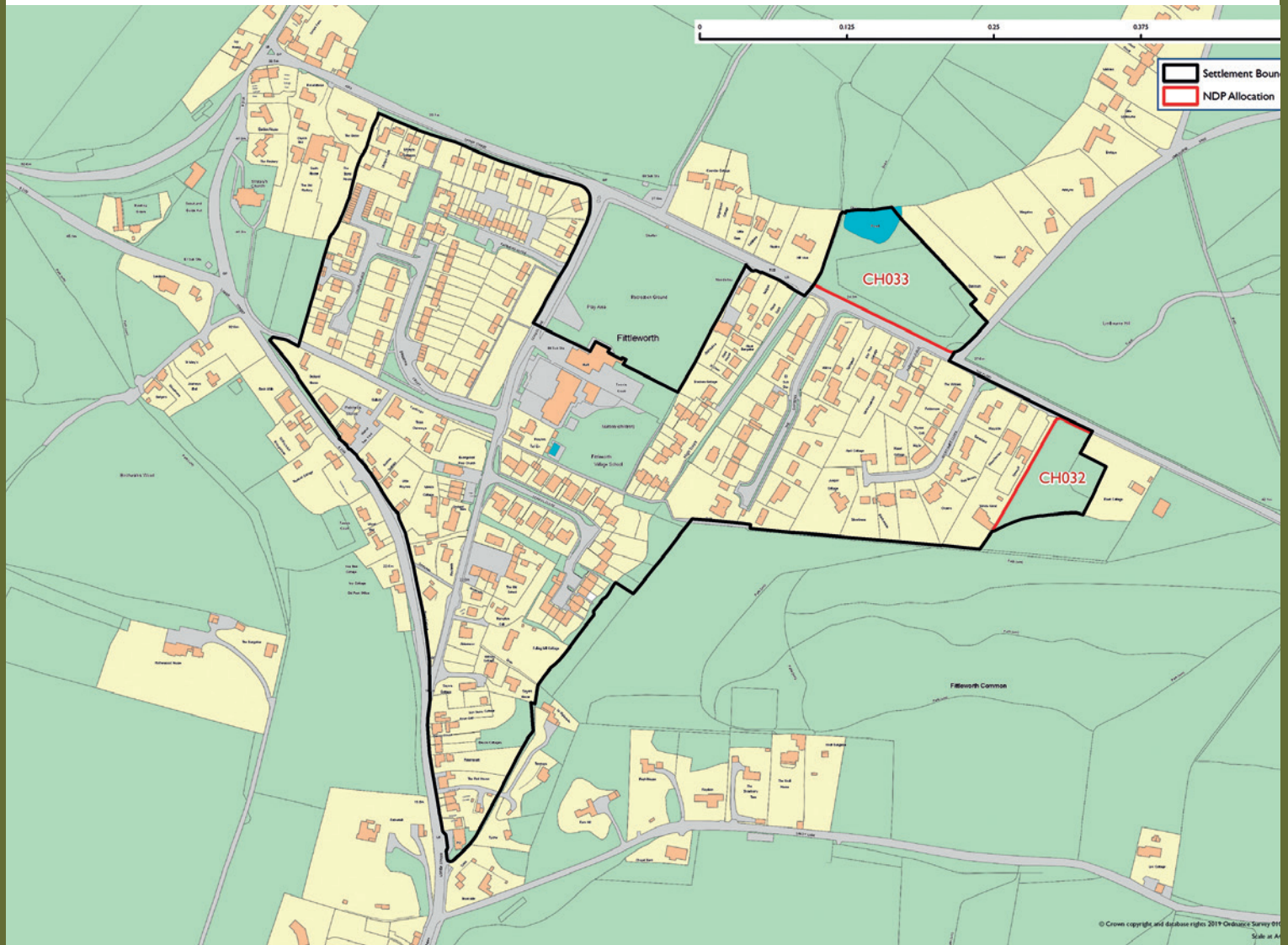
Our aims over the next 5 years are:



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

