

2023/24 Parish Council Objectives

1. Maintain the parish's rural character and existing amenities, whilst encouraging sustainable development				
	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Status
1.1	Consider the impact of local planning applications to – Ensure new developments are sustainable Protect Open Spaces Protect and Improve Public Rights of Way	On-Going	All - Cllr Diggory lead	
1.2	Continue to monitor progress on approved housing developments	On-going	All	
2. Improve Road Safety				
2.1	Consider the potential for further traffic calming measures in consultation with the Police/DCC Traffic Engineer	On going	Cllr Kellett	Carry over from 22/23.Site visit held with Maxine Stobbs and Michelle Mckintosh and Cllrs Kellet and Lowrie – March 22 – awaiting feedback on potential options
2.2	Pursue the potential of widening the footpath opposite double yellow lines next to the footpath from the doctors surgery, as suggested by DCC during the parking survey undertaken in 2021.	June 23	Cllr Wallage/Lee Mowbray - DCC	
2..3	Continue to support the Community Emergency Group with the development of a Community Emergency Plan	On going	Cllr Wallagell	
3. Continue to Improve the appearance and management of the Cemetery				
2.4.	Review contractual arrangements for grounds maintenance and waste management contracts 2024/25	January 2024	Parish Clerk	

2.5	Monthly walkabouts to monitor progress and identify new issues	On going	Parish Clerk	
2.6	Ad hoc grave tops as and when necessary	On going	Parish Clerk /Gardener	
2.7	Reduce size of corner flower bed to allow easier access for grass cutting and add additional flower bed in between bench and memorial tree	June 24	Parish Clerk/Gardener	
2.8	Under take Stress Testing of Headstones	June 24	Parish Clerk/Appropriate specialist contractor.	

4 Improve our public parks and open green spaces

4.1	Replace 8 black planters with Marmax Hexagonal and relocate 2 of the old planters to Finchale View to be planted up and maintained by 2 residents	May 2023	Cllr Wallage in consultation with DCC	Planters delivered to DCC in Dec. DCC looked to install in Jan/Feb but as existing planters planted up with winter/spring bedding it was agreed to leave installation until April/May time prior to Summer bedding
4.2	Install additional general waste bins – (number dependent on cost and DCC agreement of proposed locations)and seek to replace some existing dog bins with black general waste bins.	June 2023	Cllr Wallage in consultation with DCC	Carry over from 22/23. Awaiting costs and agreement of proposed locations from DCC.
4.3	Develop a project to improve the “Rec” - Provision of Adult Gym - Provision of 3 Marmax Picnic Benches - Provision of 3 Marmax Picnic Benches - Provision of Marmax Tree bench around central Tree - Provision of 2 more waste bins - Repaint of Youth Shelter	March 24	Cllr Wallage in consultation with DCC officers and local ward members	In progress – Proposed scheme agreed with DCC. Grant funding applications being prepared by DCC Outdoor Facility Manager.

4.4	Improve the maintenance of public green spaces with regular strimming by our grounds maintenance contractor to supplement grass cutting undertaken by DCC and reduce herbicide spraying Regular maintenance of the village green areas around war memorial	May - Oct	Parish Clerk /Grounds Maintenance Contractor Cllr Wallage/Gardener	n
4.5	Seek replacement of dead rowan tree outside of the cemetery	March 24	Cllr Wallage in consultation with DCC Find and Fix it officer.	Carry over from 22/23. . Find and Fix it time agreed to replace as part of the ad hoc maintenance project agreed in 2021. Still awaiting response from DCC to follow up requests.
4.6	Consider other potential; environmental improvements – Request received to tidy up the approach road from Lambton View to Station Road (ad hoc clearance) and to strimm Hall Lane as part of regular village strimming – but may require ad-hoc initial clearance	March 24	Parish Clerk /Grounds maintenance contractor/DCC	Carry over from 23/24-
4.7	Regular Councillor Village Walkabouts to identify footpaths overgrown, signage overgrown, fly tipping/litter /dog fouling hotspots etc and report to DCC to address or refer requests for Green Group Litter picks	On going	All	
4.8	Discuss ways to help improve the safety and usage of Adventure Park (Parish Plan Outstanding Action)	March 24	Cllr Wallage in consultation with Local Ward Members	C/O from 22/23 Potential further investment from S106 monies.
4.9	Discuss ways to improve the area around	March 24	Cllr Wallage/Cllr Kellett in	Carry over from 22/23.

	the doctor's surgery		consultation with Doctor's surgery, DCC officers and Cllr Hall	Some maintenance clearance and fencing installed at the side of the surgery by the find and fix it team. Boulders also positioned to prevent vehicle access to adjacent large green area. New bench installed . But issues re car park and side path still unresolved. Both ward members are trying to progress with DCC officers.
4.10	Work with the Green Group to deliver an outstanding action in the community led parish plan regarding improving the Middle Rainton Picnic Area as part of a community orchard project (Provision of picnic tables and benches (Potential Benridge Bank S106 funding opportunity)	March 24	Cllr Wallage in consultation DCC officers and local ward members	Carry over from 22/23. Orchard Trees installed in 22 In progress - Option to expand the Green Groups Orchard Project yet to be considered by the GG.
4.11	Continue to maintain the HeritageGarden	On going	Parish Clerk/Gardener/Cllr Wallage	
4.12	Bi Annual Planting of Village Planters	On-going	Parish Clerk/Gardener/Cllr Wallage	
5. Improve Community Engagement and Cohesion				
5.1	Continue to maintain and improve Parish Council website and with regular articles and Parish Council Information	On going	Parish Clerk/	
5.2.	Continue to liaise with community groups	On going	Cllr Wallage	

	via the village partnership			
5.3	Continue to engage with the community via Village News	On going	Parish Clerk/Chair	
5.4	Continue to help improve community engagement via the Parish Council's Facebook page	On Going	Parish Clerk	
5.5	Enter the Parish for the Durham in Bloom Competition	June 23	Cllr Wallage	
5.6	Continue to support community groups with grant funding	On Going	Full Council	
5.7	Promote the filling of councillor vacancies	On Going	Full Council/PC	
5.8	Organise "Carols around the Christmas Tree" Event and the Christmas Tree Switch On Event	December 23	Cllr Wallage/Parish Clerk	
5.9	Continue to work in Partnership with Neighbourhood Police Team	On Going	Parish Clerk/DCC Ward members/parish councillors /	
5.10	Support Community Celebrations of the Kings Coronation	May 23		Bunting and support for school celebrations agreed. Feedback from Head teacher awaited.
5.11	Consider potential options to support the community to retain Arden House as a community facility	June 24	Cllr Diggory	Carry over from 22/23– In progress

6 Improve our governance arrangements

6.1	Achieve Foundation Level of Local Council Award Scheme	March 24	Parish Clerk/Cllr Wallage	In progress – majority of actions complete
6.2	Continue to develop relevant skills and knowledge of Members and Officers through training & development opportunities	On Going	All	
6.3	Keep abreast of relevant updates and new developments via Smaller Local Council Forum	On Going	Cllr Boettcher	
6.4	Prepare draft annual plan for 2024/25	January 24	Full Council/Clerk	

7 Effectively manage the Council's resources and assets				
7.1	Annual Risk Assessment	March 24	Full Council/Clerk	
7.2	Annual Review of Fixed Asset Register	March 24	Clerk	
7.3	Set a balanced budget for 2024/25 and maintain adequate reserves	Jan 24	Full Council/Clerk	
7.4.	Annual review of cemetery fees & charges	March 24	Full Council/Clerk	
7.5	Keep abreast of external funding opportunities - work in consultation with VP and Local Ward Members to develop further improvements as need is identified and funding allows	On going	All	On going
7.6	Consider the potential for on line banking to improve quality of information received from bank and increase flexibility of payment methods	June 23	Parish Clerk	Carry over from 22/23. Change of bank agreed and in the process of implementation