



Sitlington Parish Council



Parish Plan

2020 to 2030

Background and purpose of the Parish Plan

A Parish Plan for Sitlington Parish was first drawn up in consultation with residents and published by the Parish Council in 2010.

This was in response to the 2011 Localism Act, which encourages local communities to play a greater role in determining their own future. By creating an Action Plan, the Parish is able to justify funding bids by demonstrating public support for projects. The Plan promotes a sense of community by setting out a shared vision for the Parish and its future

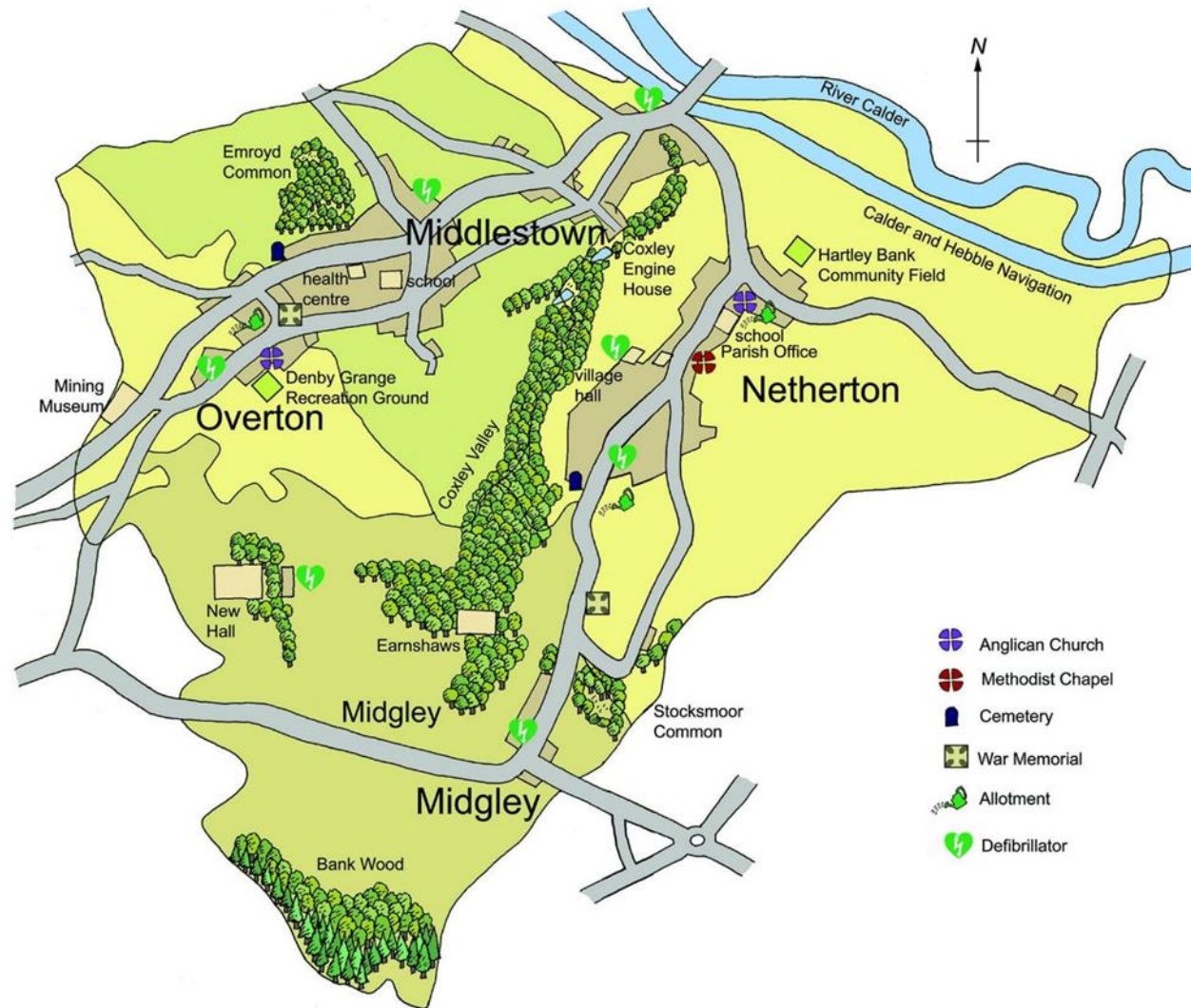
Now ten years later it is due to be updated. Over the ten years there have been huge changes in communication and the understanding of environmental changes, and also a reduction in local authority services.

This plan has aims to address these issues. Along with the community and partner agencies, the Parish will search opportunities to seek grant funding for projects that may previously have been funded by the local authority.

Voluntary action has substantially changed within the local community and demand for this has greatly increased. Sitlington Parish Council aims to promote this in our community.

Our Vision

Sitlington Parish Council –representing a vibrant community with a rural lifestyle



Our Community

Brief History

The medieval Vill, or township of Shitlington, which was to become the present civil parish of Sitlington in 1929, was first recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. Sitlington Parish covers a large area which incorporates the villages of Middlestown, Netherton, Overton and Midgley, and includes agricultural land, woodlands and lots of areas to walk. It is part of the Rural Ward of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council.

The Parish has two schools and a good number of shops and businesses in Middlestown. There are still a number of pubs in the Parish and places to eat. Middlestown has a doctor's surgery and there are pharmacies in both Middlestown and Netherton.

The National Coal Mining Museum for England is in the Parish. Close to the Parish is also the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, and the Hepworth Gallery is in nearby Wakefield.

Local employment opportunities include, the National Coal Mining Museum, HMP New Hall and young offenders institution, and Earnshaw's Fencing Centre. There are also two schools that employ staff from the Parish and teach primary age children.

There are good highway links to access towns and cities in the area. The questionnaire found that residents choose to live in the parish due to the location and easy access to work in places such as Wakefield, Leeds and Barnsley. Many residents raised concerns about the public transport links in the Parish to these places and felt frustrated by the service offered.

The Parish Council

A Parish council is a civil local authority found in England and is the first tier of government. It is an elected corporate body and have variable tax raising powers. Parish Councils can vary in size and the precept will reflect the number of households that contribute to the council tax bill in the area. The Parish Council has the power to raise money by the precept (a mandatory demand) on the District Council. Sitlington Parish Council has 11 Parish Councillors working on behalf of both wards, two members of staff, and are responsible for many assets such as the two cemeteries in the Parish in Middletown and Netherton. We also have three allotment sites, two at Netherton and one at Overton.

Parish Plan process

The Parish Council began the consultation process in January 2019. Meetings were arranged to agree the questions for a questionnaire to residents to identify areas that effects their day to day living in the Parish.

The questionnaire was compiled and sent out to residents via Coxley news. This could also be accessed on the Facebook page, website and via email on request.

Once the findings were analysed, two public meetings were held, one in Netherton and one in Middletown, and these gave residents the chance to discuss the questionnaire and raise concerns in the Parish. At the Netherton meeting both representatives from Arriva and Tiger buses attended. At both meetings there was a District Councillor in attendance to represent Wakefield Council.





Some comments made by residents during these sessions were: -

The bus service through the village is not sufficient and can contribute to social isolation of the community

Flockton Bypass and how it will affect Sitlington

Enquires about neighbourhood watch for the villages

More notice boards in the Parish to notify resident of activities

Maintenance of the footpaths /stiles are inadequate, more information on the footpaths

The Framework for Action

The public questionnaire was sent to all homes in the Parish, and this identified a number of headings

- ❖ **Maintain the village character**
- ❖ **Enhance community spirit**
- ❖ **Improve health and safety**
- ❖ **Maintain village amenities**
- ❖ **Improve communication**
- ❖ **Conserve biodiversity**
- ❖ **Enhance leisure facilities**
- ❖ **Enhance cultural, educational and spiritual life**
- ❖ **Promote a sustainable life style**




The following tables list ongoing and proposed actions and recent achievements under the ten themes of this framework.

ENVIRONMENT


AIMS: -

- To Maintain the character of the four villages
- To Enhance community spirit
- To ensure the Parish Council supports environmental issues
- To protect the rural environment of the Parish and support green belt planning policies to help preserve the green belt.
- To encourage activities which support sustainable living, which contributes towards reducing the impact on climate change

AIMS	LEAD	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ACTIONS
Preservation of the green belt	Parish Council	High	Ongoing throughout the plan	This is an ongoing matter, identifying potential developments from Wakefield Council local plan. Parish Council will receive Planning applications for the Parish. Check and consider planning applications in the Parish.
To care for trees, and look for opportunities to plant more.	Parish Council	Medium	Ongoing throughout the plan, identifying objectives for each year.	At Emroyd the Parish Council owns a 14-hectare wood, in 2019 the friends of Emroyd planted over 300 young trees with the help of volunteers. The council will continue to support the work of the friends' group in managing and improving this community space. Also added was a track to enable easier access around the woodland for all.

				<p>Consider areas where trees can be added and obtain further advice for trees that are the Parish Council's responsibility.</p> <p>Carry out any advised work to ensure these trees are safe.</p>
The condition of roads in the Parish	Parish Council, Wakefield District Council	High	As and when required to deal with matters as they arise.	<p>Parish Council to liaise with District Council to raise concerns about roads in the Parish. Advise residents on how to report concerns to the District Council. These can also be reported to the Parish Council to report to the District Council.</p> <p>Residents can report through Wakefield Councils My Account</p>
Condition of the pavements in the Parish	Parish Council Wakefield District Council	High	As and when required to deal with matters as they arise	<p>Parish Council to liaise with District Council to raise concerns about pavements in the Parish. Advise residents on how to report concerns to the District Council. These can also be reported to the Parish Council to report to the District Council.</p> <p>Residents can report through Wakefield Councils My Account</p>
Parking on pavements and verges	Parish Council	Medium		The situation to be monitored and consider education of the motorists on how this can affect residents with pushchairs

				and wheelchairs, and to ensure there is sufficient accessibility on pavements for pedestrians.
Muddy footpaths, bridleways and the use of horses and bicycles on the footpaths.	Parish Council	Medium	Objectives to be set on a yearly basis to work towards a complete audit.	A working group to be set up to produce an audit of the footpaths and bridleways, taking into account the condition of the footpaths while walking the footpaths and bridleways in the Parish.
Continue and increase the successful litter picking group	Parish Council in partnership with the community Sitlington Litter picking groups	Medium	The Parish Council will work closely with the litter picking group to support the volunteers to help them achieve their goals.	To continue the successful work of the Sitlington litter picking groups and individuals, supported by the Parish Council. Equipment will be provided by the Parish Council who will support the advertising of the events. Continue a close working relationship with WMDC to provide refuse sacks and collection of bags after the litter picks. Work alongside there stop the drop campaign sharing information to residents via social media To work closely with Keep Britain Tidy to promote the annual Great British Spring clean in the Parish.
Address the problem of dog fouling.	Parish Council in partnership with WMDC dog warden and dog walkers and the Community	High	Ongoing within the Parish dealing with target areas and liaising with the dog warden from Wakefield Council.	Working in partnership with Wakefield Council's dog warden and stop the drop campaign, sharing information with residents through various platforms. Work closely with Wakefield Council on strategies for education and notification


				
Explore opportunities for community recycling	Parish Council in partnership with WMDC	Medium	To consider the options to recycle with WMDC	Fly tipping to be reported promptly by the Parish Council. To approach the District Council to consider free bulk waste disposal for Sitlington periodically. Contact other Parish Councils that have this initiative in place, for advice. Work closely with the District Councillors to promote a working relationship.
Address issues of health and safety in the environment.			Annual tree inspections. Reporting to Wakefield Council on a regular basis of work required on footpaths and bridleways.	This area deals with health and safety matters, for example slippery footpaths, overgrown hedges, and inconsiderate parking. Safety of trees in the Parish
Water courses floods issues	Wakefield Council	Medium	Ongoing working closely with all agencies	Working in partnership with WMDC

SPORTS, RECREATION AND LEISURE

AIMS: -

- To enhance community spirit
- To Enhance and support leisure facilities
- To Improve communication to inform residents of activities and events.
- To improve the health and wellbeing of the community
- To encourage use of local footpaths and bridleways

AIMS	LEAD	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ACTION
Encourage use of local footpaths and bridleways	Parish Council	High	Work together with Wakefield Council and District Councillor on objectives on an annual basis.	<p>Liaise with local walking group to review and audit the quality of footpaths and bridleways.</p> <p>Inviting the walking group to the village hall after their walks to discuss feedback. Liaise with Coxley live regarding update of the walk leaflets previously developed to consider reproducing for walkers.</p> <p>Liaise with British horse society on bridleway status.</p> <p>Work closely with Wakefield Council's PROW team to support the footpath structure in the parish.</p>

<p>Expand where possible play and sports areas</p> 	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Work with outside agents/residents/volunteers to support the development of play areas in the Parish</p>	<p>Work with grant providers to obtain funding for sporting and play activities Offer taster sessions. Encourage appropriate use of the old cricket field (now renamed Hartley Bank community field which acknowledges the links to the former colliery).</p> <p>Community engagement of the proposed use of the cricket field and pavilion. A friends of Hartley Bank community field has been set up to work closely with the Parish Council to develop the area as a community space.</p> <p>Ensure continued use and support of Denby Grange Sport club and consider working with Denby Grange to support grant funding for an outdoor gym facility.</p> <p>Identify the area at the back of the village hall Netherton as a play area for older children, investigate funding options and cost</p> <p>The play area at Netherton has a new toddler area, picnic bench and recently surfaced with wet pour due to the mud in this area.</p> <p>Also now instated is a basket swing</p> <p>Suitable seating for areas within the Parish.</p> <p>Liaise with Wakefield Council to ensure the facilities at Middlestown Play area are sufficient and fit for propose.</p>
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Support Netherton Village Hall to optimise its use for the community	Support of the Parish Council, Netherton Village Hall trust Netherton Village Hall Committee and Friends of Netherton Village Hall	Medium	Yearly objectives to achieve annual aims of the Village Hall.	Work closely with all involved to promote new events in the hall for all in the community. Approach the community to establish what types of activities they would want in the Hall and approach local groups to do taster sessions.
Support local organisations and groups in the community	Parish Council	Medium	To be completed by Spring 2023. Gathering of information	Maintain an up-to-date list of local groups and organisation with their contact details, with their permission. Consider a Facebook page to advertise events in the Parish Website, notice boards and Coxley news. Support community groups with grant applications where applicable.
To support the Netherton Sports and Social club as a community facility			Working closely with the committee of the Netherton S&SC to support the community asset.	Following the demise of the Netherton Working men's club in accordance with the constitution and wishes of the original club, The council continues to monitor and support the club's activities to ensure it remains a valuable asset to the community.
To continue to support the allotment sites in the Parish at 2 at Netherton and 1 at Overton.			Water supply to be installed by the end of February 2023. Work on the community plot to be complete by the end of August.	Investigate further development to include A water supply for Netherton central A community plot and turning point Notice board to encourage clearer communication with tenants.

			A timescale for notice boards at Overton and Netherton Central to be considered 2023.	

TRANSPORT

AIMS: -

- To work with other parties to improve transport links to the surrounding areas.
- To work with the District Council to identify concerns of the residents and action matters raised.

AIMS	LEAD	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ACTION
Improve local bus and transport provision for all	Parish Council, District Council, WY Metro and Bus companies	High	<p>Working closely with the bus companies and the District Councillors.</p> <p>Meeting to be arrange for early 2023</p> <p>Public meeting to be considered in 2023 for residents to</p>	<p>Work towards forming a Sitlington Liaison Group with the bus companies</p> <p>Liaise with the District Councillors to promote use of and increase provision of this service for the elderly and restricted mobility within the parish.</p> <p>Approach the bus companies to consider the use of smaller buses at off peak times.</p> <p>Proposed new routes through neighbouring villages, working with other Parishes to develop better services.</p> <p>Taxi use in the Parish is increasing and adequate safeguarding needs to be in place as it is some of our most vulnerable people in our community that use this mode of transport.</p> <p>Work with other agencies to educate residents about the use of licenced taxis.</p>

			ask bus companies questions about the service.	Work closely with the District Councillors to improve transport links in the area for residents.
Improve conditions of the roads	Parish Council District Councillors WMDC/Highways	High	The Parish Council will report any on going issues as they arise.	Parish Council to work with partners (WMDC to survey road conditions and work to improve them. Parish Council to report any concerns raised to the District Council.
Reduce parking problems by our schools	Parish Council NPT(Neighbourhood Policing Team) Safe scheme Officers Both schools in the area to work to make these areas safer at school times	High	Targeted approached to this matter agreed on a monthly basis.	To raise awareness within the community of road safety issues adjacent to our schools and liaise with the Police, Safe Scheme officers and the District Council with a view to implementing specific measures to create safer conditions at school times. To approach the District council highways to consider implementing the 20-plenty scheme at Middlestown academy.
Work to address excessive speeding in the Parish	Parish Council NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team) Safe scheme Officers WMDC	High	Monthly targets agreed for the safe scheme to target areas of concerns. Working closely with the NPT.	Working closely with the Police NPT to promote use of Smiley Sid and other deterrents. Parish Council to work closely with the safe scheme officers to target areas of speeding and work on strategies to reduce speed in these areas of concern.
Be aware of new road networks and appropriate networks				Liaise with District Councillors on any major plan from the District Council and keep updated on the Local framework for the district

				Keep up to date with news of the Flockton bypass. Consideration to approach British rail about the re-opening of Horbury station as considered in the previous plan.
Review cycle routes	Parish Council Working groups	Low	To be considered	To be considered by the working group to liaise with local cyclists to establish routes and work required.

POLICE AND CRIME

AIMS: -

- To reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and traffic problems
- To give parishioners direction for reporting of crime or liaising with the Police.

AIMS	LEAD	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ACTION
To work with the police and the safe scheme to provide extra policing in the Parish	Parish Council Safe scheme officers	High	Annually a budget agreed for the safe scheme. Monthly targeted objectives for the scheme.	The Parish Council to consider the budget annually for the Police safe scheme, working closely with the officers to target areas of concerns. Safe scheme report to be received monthly and added to the Parish Council website/social media for residents to access. With regular updates on Facebook. With a dedicated Parish Councillor to liaise with the Safe Scheme officer.
To work with West Yorkshire Police and other partners on strategies to reduce excessive speed on roads in the Parish	Parish Council WYP Safe scheme Officers	High	Parish Council to request strategies from the NPT to support the	Promote regular use of Smiley Sid and other deterrents. Parish Council to work closing with the safe scheme officers to target areas of speeding and work on strategies to reduce speed in these areas of concern.

	NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team) WMDC		Police safe scheme in the Parish. Identify the evidence required in 2023 to adopt a 20-plenty scheme for Middlestown school.	Consideration to adopt the 20-plenty scheme for targeted areas such as Netherton school and Middlestown Academy. Speed survey in targeted areas to establish a pattern of behaviour and speed.
To work more closely with the NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team)	Parish Council	High	Regular meetings to be arranged over year.	To liaise closely with the NPT to work on crime prevention strategies for the Parish. Share NPT advice on website and social media and any outside events for crime prevention.
Develop a crime prevention strategy for the Parish	Parish Council working closely with partners to support the strategy	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration to become a Smart Water area and seek appropriate funding. • Promote the neighbourhood watch scheme • Consider a village alert scheme • Arrange a crime prevention session for residents to attend to discuss initiatives in both wards.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

AIMS: -

- To promote and support the health and welling of the community

AIMS	LEAD	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ACTION
To approach health organisations in the Parish to discuss a number of matters raised through the Parish Plan process	Parish Council Outside agencies	Medium	Consultation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review access to the surgeries, clinic and pharmacies • Consider the transport issues based around access to the doctor's surgery in Middlestown and liaise with surgery on matters raised by residents. • Working with the health organisations to develop more suitable appointment time and pharmacy opening times.
To promote the organisation of well-being and self-help groups	Parish Council Netherton Village Hall Trust Outside agencies Community groups	Medium	Identify work required through working groups to approach groups and advertise area of interest to residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the availability of self-help groups and encourage these to use local facilities as increasingly GP surgeries are referring patients to alternative therapies. • To consider and promote health walks and buggy walks to engage different areas of the community
Defibrillators in the community	Parish Council	High	Now complete Training has also been	The Parish Council to continue to maintain and publicise the four defibrillators in the Parish, and consider adding others. Adding of further defibrillators to cover the Parish at: - New Hall Way (now added)

			completed in both wards.	Horbury Bridge (now added) Denby Grange sports (now added) Coxley Engine House Hartley Bank Community field
Work with outside agencies to adopt/ promote a “safe here” Parish.	Parish Council Outside organisations	Medium	Ongoing once established	To work with outside agencies to identify areas where the Parish Council can ensure a safe environment for all to live.

ENHANCE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

AIMS: -

To encourage community pride and involvement

AIMS	LEAD	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	ACTION
To produce updated village information, leaflets and website material	Parish Council	High	User friendly Parish Plan leaflet (completed) Working group to investigate an updated leaflet similar to the one completed for the last plan.	To consider areas for new notice boards for community information. Consider the production of leaflets to support the aims of the working groups for areas such as walks and heritage in the Parish

Encourage community pride and involvement in projects and volunteering. For example, litter picking, working groups and involvement in community organisations.	Parish Council Community organisations	Medium	Updated annually	Work with community organisations to promote volunteering, and make residents more aware of clubs and activities in the community. The Parish Council will compile a list of activities and organisations.
Promote and organise social events in the Parish to promote community involvement and help to combat loneliness	Parish Council Community organisations	Medium	Annual objectives considered. (2022) Coffee and cake, book sprints at Hartley Bank to encourage residents to get together and make new friends.	The Parish Council to work with other community organisations to give residents more information about events in the community. The Parish Council to consider ways to promote local organisations in the Parish. Looking at the most suitable way to promote and advise residents about events in the Parish.