

# **WHASHTON PARISH - NET ZERO CARBON FOOTPRINT PROJECT**



## **1. Introduction**

Climate change is happening, and the impact will be felt in Whashton, like everywhere on Earth, so we must all try to address the problem in whatever way that we can. The Whashton Parish Meeting Committee is proposing a Net Zero Carbon Footprint Project, the aim of which is to move towards energy generated from sustainable and renewable sources. Net zero means balancing our carbon emissions with carbon removal from the atmosphere; in other words, getting the sum of carbon dioxide produced from our day-to-day activities here in Whashton to nothing: Net Zero. This is important to protect our lives and our world against catastrophic climate change and environmental degeneration caused by rising levels of carbon dioxide. Apart from a drive towards sustainable and renewable energy, we want to improve the environment and biodiversity of the Whashton Parish.

## **2. Background**

The UK Government is committed to reducing carbon emissions and in turn, Richmondshire District Council has recently established a Climate Change Partnership Group to support the achievement of net zero carbon emissions across Richmondshire. Other communities, notably Barningham, have also initiated their own local projects with the same goals. With this in mind, Whashton Parish Meeting Committee believe that our own community should also contribute to this activity, albeit on a smaller scale, to help drive down carbon emission and improve the environment for future generations.

## **3. Proposed Projects**

There are two related but distinct parts to the proposed Project for Whashton Parish, namely energy and biodiversity.

### **3.1 Energy**

The aim of this project is to investigate energy efficiency improvements to reduce energy costs for Whashton Parish residents with the ultimate goal of net carbon zero emissions. At this stage the Parish Meeting Committee is unable to predict the outcome of the project, but we believe it is essential to commence with an Action Plan, shown in Appendix 1, which will establish the feasibility and extent of the project.

### **3.2 Biodiversity**

Whashton Parish is situated in Holmedale, defined as An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Conservation Area in which there are many and varied flora and fauna. The Parish Meeting Committee agreed that to monitor and grow the biodiversity of this lovely place, a group of enthusiastic residents would be called upon to form the Whashton Wildlife Group (WWG). A call for volunteers resulted in the WWG forming in January 2021 and a number of meetings have been held to discuss and develop an Action Plan to deliver some key goals in 2021-2022, and this is shown in Appendix 2.

## **Appendix 1 – Energy Project Action Plan**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Process</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Current energy use in Whashton Parish	Survey of residents & publish data	SZ	April 2021
Join RDC Climate Change Partnership Sub-Teams	Attend meetings & input to project plan.	SZ /JM	April 2021 onwards
Review sustainable & renewable energy options for residents	Liaise with TVCA, RDC, NYCC, GOV.UK	SZ/IM	April 2021 onwards
Research funding streams to support project	Liaise with TVCA, RDC, NYCC, GOV.UK	SZ/IM	April 2021 onwards
Review Project feasibility	Issue initial report	SZ/IM	June 2021

## Appendix 2 – Biodiversity Project Action Plan

	Objective	How to make it happen	Who will do it	When by
1	<p>Creation of wildlife areas within Whashton Parish area;</p> <p>Entrance bank Bobby's Bank Nature Recovery Area(1) Back of village green (2) Sturdy House lane (3)</p>	<p>Committee members to start major work (covered by insurance) Tree removal planning obtained.</p> <p>Entrance bank, Bobby's Bank Nature Recovery Area(1) Back of village green, Quarry Bank Nature Recovery Area(2) Sturdy House lane (3) tbc</p> <p>Whashton Wildlife Group (WWG) to make nest boxes, bug hotels, plant bulbs, wildflower seeds to help develop areas once cleared.</p> <p>Good verge Guide – Plant life to inform cutting of green to encourage wildflowers for pollinators. Aerial photograph of trial shared in Newsletter April 2021.</p>	<p>SZ, TZ, RO, JM, IM</p> <p>WWG</p>	<p>End of March 2021 (1), (2),</p>
2	<p>Community orchard</p>	<p>Essentially this year needs to be spent deciding on the number and range of trees you can plant, the rootstock which is appropriate and preparation of the site.</p> <p>Hilary Dodson Chairman, Northern Fruit Group</p> <p>- Arrange meeting and research varieties <a href="https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england">https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/national-lottery-awards-for-all-england</a></p> <p>WWG to design orchard area design</p>	<p>SZ WWG</p>	<p>Ongoing – start autumn 2021</p>
3	<p>Meadow areas on the green</p>	<p>SZ to attend Meadow workshop on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and feedback to WWG</p> <p>WWG to design meadow area</p>	<p>SZ WWG SS</p>	
4	<p>Enhancing local</p>	<p>Engagement with local landowners: Hartforth Estate, Zetland Estate, MOD (DIO forester responsible for North Region and her e-mail is <a href="mailto:Elisabeth.Airey100@mod.gov.uk">Elisabeth.Airey100@mod.gov.uk</a>.</p>	<p>SZ WWG</p>	<p>Autumn 2021</p>

	hedgerows	Karen Fisher Ecologist responsible for the Natural environment and contactable on <a href="mailto:Karen.Fisher105@mod.gov.uk">Karen.Fisher105@mod.gov.uk</a> , Local Farmers.  Application for grants from Woodland Trust, <a href="https://www.ydmt.org/what-we-do/tree-planting/woodland-grants">https://www.ydmt.org/what-we-do/tree-planting/woodland-grants</a>		start date
5	Tree planting	As above Biodiversity officer for NYCC has been contacted <a href="#">The Northern Forest: Planting 50 Million Trees   The Woodland Trust</a> <a href="#">Community Woods - Woodland Trust</a> <a href="https://www.cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk/news/free-trees-for-community-woodlands/">https://www.cprenorthyorkshire.co.uk/news/free-trees-for-community-woodlands/</a> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/woodland-creation-with-will-richardson-tickets-145669335905">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/woodland-creation-with-will-richardson-tickets-145669335905</a>	SZ SS PB to attend webinar and feedback	Autumn 2021 start date
6	Seed and plant swap stop	Social gathering, designated shelved cupboard by notice board? Newsletter		
7	Insect friendly gardening	By using newsletter to encourage this, Approach RHS for community gardening grant	SZ	
8	Hedgehog project	Approach Sunderland Hedgehog rescue to see if we can adopt more hedgehogs for the village. Newsletter	SZ	TBC
9	Litter picking	Keeping vigilant and conducting regular litter picking walks	JM WWG	