

Mission

To represent the best interests of our local community, ensuring Shincliffe Parish is a safe, welcoming and desirable place to live and visit both now and in the future.

Principles & Strategies

1. **Integrity & Accountability:** At all times we will act with integrity & honesty, keeping our community's best interests at heart. Discussions (unless confidential) are open and minutes published. All financial transactions & reports meet the highest audit standards.
2. **Protect and nurture our local environment:** We will seek to protect our local environment and promote ecologically sound and sustainable solutions wherever practical.
3. **Promote community values:** We will encourage and promote social and community values by working in co-operation with, and supporting where practical, local organisations and groups.
4. **Safety & Security:** The health and safety of our residents and visitors is always at the forefront of our decision making.
5. **Cost effective:** We will seek to ensure that all services and goods purchased are of good quality and offer value for money.
6. **Think long-term:** We will make decisions for the long-term benefit of Shincliffe Parish.

Key priorities for 2023

- **Neighbourhood Plan:** Design, develop and deploy a high quality "Neighbourhood Plan" which will sit alongside the Durham County Council overall plan and set the direction for any future planning & development decisions in Shincliffe Parish, ensuring local opinions are considered. Target completion date December 2023. *[Total Council – 1,2,6]*
- **Parish Resilience:** Develop a Parish Resilience Plan to ensure that we have plans, a team of volunteers and necessary equipment, in place for any future emergencies – e.g. storms, pandemics, floods etc. Target completion date Sept 2023. *[Parish Resilience Forum – 1,3,4,5,6]*
- **Traffic Management:** Work with Durham County Council and local residents to improve the road safety within Shincliffe Parish, looking at parking, speed restrictions, HGV limitations etc. Target completion date December 2023. *[Total Council – 1,3,4,6]*
- **Local Climate Action:** Roll out a program of local climate change initiatives, potentially including EV charging points within the parish; hold a series of public meetings for residents publicising sustainable energy saving opportunities incl. grants available; investigating opportunities for "group buying" solar panels etc. Target completion date December 2023. *[Climate Change Committee – 1,2,3,6]*
- **Planting Review:** Review the planting options within the parish for both flower beds and trees to ensure where possible sustainable solutions are adopted, for example replacing some annuals with perennials or shrubs. Target completion date October 2023. *[Horticulture Committee – 1,2,5,6]*
- **Community Events:** Use events to promote community cohesion. *[Total Council – 3,6]*

Committee Focus Areas

Finance Committee: Chair: Cllr Ashfield

- **Financial Stewardship:** Ensure all financial records continue to be of the highest standards of stewardship and costs reviewed. [1,5,6]
- **Budget Management:** Objective and expert advice given to the council members on budgeting and affordability. [1,5,6]
- **Sustainable procurement:** Ensuring that the goods and services purchased by the parish council are sourced in an environmentally responsible manner whilst being cost effective. [1,2,5]
- **Precept Advice:** Objective advice given to the full council on setting the annual precept, considering agreed plans & priorities, any external factors (e.g. inflation, grants etc) and any impact decisions may have on reserves. [1,5,6]

Horticulture Committee: Chair: Cllr Clatworthy

- **Keeping Shincliffe Beautiful:** Work with contract gardener to ensure planting and maintenance meets agreed strategies. Encourage & reward residents by running an annual garden competition. [1,2,3,6]
- **Adopting new areas for planting:** Review options for adopting other flower beds within the Parish. [1,2,6]
- **Park management:** Continue with regular high quality checks of the Shincliffe Village park equipment and if needed maintenance/repairs. [1,3,4,5,6]
- **Tree management:** Undertake reviews and where needed, maintenance, of all Parish owned trees. [1,2,4,5,6]
- **Biodiversity:** Protecting and enhancing local habitats and wildlife and promoting the use of sustainable land management practices (local farms etc.). [1,2,6]
- **Flower Beds:** maintain the existing flower beds to promote biodiversity. [2,6]

Climate Action Committee: Chair: Cllr Ashfield

- **Energy efficiency:** Encouraging energy efficiency in and promoting the use of renewable energy sources. [1,2]
- **Waste management:** Implementing effective waste reduction, recycling, and reducing the use of single-use plastics. [1,2]
- **Sustainable transportation:** Encouraging the use of active transportation (e.g., walking, cycling), reducing reliance on personal vehicles, and promoting the use of public transportation. [1,2]
- **Community engagement:** Engaging the local community in sustainability initiatives and educating residents about the importance of environmental protection. [1,2,3]
- **Climate action:** Adopting policies and practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. [1,2]

Parish Resilience Forum: Chair: Mr Michael Banks.

- **Work with local resources:** to set up a permanent resilience forum to enable the community to cope with future emergencies and source any equipment, identify local resources available. [1,3,5,6]
- **Test readiness:** ensure readiness on an ongoing basis. [1,4,6]