

Helping to reduce our carbon footprint and environmental impact

Parish Hall & Office

The Parish Council (PC) moved into the new hall/office in June 2019, the building has an Energy Performance Asset Rating of 26 (B) and only 1 point off an A rated building.

Recycling - By moving into the building the PC has been able to use a recycling bin. As we have only been in the building for a short time we are not able to calculate the amount of recycling we would undertake within a year but this is something we will look into. Previously paper and card would have gone in the general waste as the last premises did not have capacity for recycling so this will have a significant positive impact.

Recycling - By moving into the building we have also been able to implement a crisp packet recycling scheme, as we now have the room to store the packets ready for collection. The scheme has only been running for 6 months and already we have recycled 2196 units and earned 1908 community points which we will be able to redeem towards a variety of charitable gifts or for a cash donation once we have enough points.

Energy - Since moving into the building we have avoided '236 kg of CO₂' by using Bulb Energy for our Gas and Electricity.

Travel - Some of our Councillors regularly car share when attending PC meetings.

Allotments

The PC provides 20 community allotments which encourages a 'grow your own' sustainable lifestyle which reduces our tenants carbon footprint as well as promoting healthier lifestyles. Our allotments are also great for wildlife as there are many fruit trees and flowers to attract pollinators which in turn attract other wildlife.

Local Parks and Nature Reserves

We run two parks and one nature reserve. More information on how the nature reserve helps our bio-diversity and environment can be found here <https://ggpc.org.uk/gwithian-green/>. We were very pleased to welcome two bee hives to the nature reserve in 2014. We have also planted 151sqm of insect loving plants and 11 new trees within our parks.



Other projects coming forward

Councillors undertake a pledge

Our Parish Councillors have agreed to undertake the following pledge for 2021:-

I commit to reducing my carbon footprint by taking a hard look at the footprint of my food, the electricity I use, and how I get from place to place. I can start making an impact right away by committing to the following:

Food

- I will set a goal of reducing the food waste in my home from its current levels.
- I commit to only buying what I need and eat what I buy!

Electricity

- I will check out solar panels or look into community solar projects in my area
- I will look into options to switch to renewable energy from my utilities company.

Transportation

- I commit to reducing the fossil fuel impact of my daily commute to work or school by walking, riding my bike, carpooling, or using public transportation one or more days per week.

Park projects

The PC applied for two grants through the Pocket Parks scheme, if successful the scheme would have allowed us to double the number of trees and planting within our parks. Unfortunately the grant was unsuccessful, we were however successful with a small grant from the CC Community Chest fund and this will be used as match funding to apply for further grants to supply more plants and tree in our parks.

Weeds on highway

Over the last few years the PC has taken over the spraying of weeds along the public highway footway system for certain areas within the Parish, this was something that was previously undertaken by Cornwall Council but due to budget cuts they could not carry it on. The Parish Council is mindful of the systems used in the past to remove weeds and the affect that may have on our environment. Therefore it has taken the decision to trial a different method of weed control.

Having looked at various eco friendly options the PC has decided to trial good old fashioned people power and our contractor will be removing weeds and detritus from the highway edges by hand for 2021. By keeping the highway footway edges clear with this method we may also help the drainage system in specific areas too as all the detritus helps to clog this up and that could lead to potential flooding.

We will focus on the worst affected areas first as undertaking the work this way will be more time consuming and we do not want there to be any extra financial cost to the community during the trial years so we will see how it goes and consider our options in the future.

Trees & wild planting - Connor Downs

The PC was approached by two residents who live in Connor Downs regarding trialling a project to plant grass verges with wildflowers and introduce more trees. The PC agreed to support the idea in principle but agreed that the project would initially be on the proposed development where the residents live only with a review to follow before rolling out to any other areas and that all the residents involved give written consent for the project prior to starting it. The Parish Council is working with residents on the project which they hope will start in 2020.

Community Emergency Plan

The Parish Council approved the implementation of a Community Emergency Plan (CEP) in January 2020. A community emergency plan is a written document detailing the steps the community will take before, during and after an emergency incident. It helps to manage local activities to reduce the risk to people and property in the community. A community emergency plan can deal with specific emergency incidents like flooding, snow or fire. Or it can be a general emergency plan to cover any event. The first draft of our CEP was finished at the end of March 2020 and was forwarded to Cornwall Council for their approval.

Allotments

In August 2020 the Council agreed to look into the possibility of creating a borehole at the allotments to give a regular water supply along with eco friendly toilet solutions.



- Crisp packet recycling scheme

Bees at the Green -

