



Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey  
Chief Operating Officer

52 Derby Street  
Ormskirk  
West Lancashire  
L39 2DF

Wednesday, 28 February 2024

**TO: COUNCILLORS** D WEST, P HOGAN, T DE FREITAS, J FINCH, J GORDON,  
P HENNESSY, P HESKETH, K JUCKES, S LAWTON AND  
K LLOYD

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in the **CABINET/COMMITTEE ROOM, 52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK L39 2DF** on **THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024** at **7.00 PM** at which your attendance is requested.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JSL', written over a faint circular stamp.

Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey  
Chief Operating Officer

**AGENDA**  
**(Open to the Public)**

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**  
To be apprised of any changes to the membership of the Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.
- 3. URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN**  
Note: No other business is permitted unless, by reasons of special circumstances, which shall be specified at the meeting, the Chairman is of the opinion that the item(s) should be considered as a matter of urgency.

- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 1 - 2  
If a member requires advice on Declarations of Interest, he/she is advised to contact the Legal and Democratic Services Manager in advance of the meeting. (For the assistance of members a checklist for use in considering their position any particular item is included at the end of this agenda sheet.)
- 5. DECLARATIONS OF A PARTY WHIP**  
In accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 16, Members must declare the existence of any Party Whip, and the nature of it, when considering any matter in the following categories:
- The review of any decision of Cabinet or
  - The performance of any Member of the Cabinet
- N.B. The Secretary of State believes whipping is incompatible with Overview and Scrutiny.
- 6. MINUTES** 3 - 6  
To receive as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023.
- 7. PUBLIC SPEAKING** 7 - 10  
Residents of West Lancashire, on giving notice, may address the meeting to make representations on any item on the agenda except where the public and press are to be excluded during consideration of the item. The deadline for submissions is 10.00am on Friday 1 March 2024. A copy of the public speaking protocol and form to be completed is attached.
- 8. CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY**  
To consider a presentation from a representative of West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 9. PROGRESS REVIEW - COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, INC COMMUNITY ORCHARDS** 11 - 16  
To receive a presentation from Dan Massey, Outdoor Recreation Manager.
- 10. ITEMS FROM THE MEMBERS' UPDATED INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA AT THE REQUEST OF A MEMBER**  
There are no items under this heading.
- 11. MEMBERS ITEMS / CCFA (COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION)**  
There are no items under this heading.

**We can provide this document, upon request, on audiotape, in large print, in Braille and in other languages.**

**FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE: Please see attached sheet.**

**MOBILE PHONES: These should be switched off or to 'silent' at all meetings.**

For further information, please contact:-

Democratic Services on 01695 583312

Or email [Member.Services@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:Member.Services@westlancs.gov.uk)

**FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE FOR:  
COUNCIL MEETINGS WHERE OFFICERS ARE PRESENT  
(52 DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK)**

**PERSON IN CHARGE:** Most Senior Officer Present  
**ZONE WARDEN:** Member Services Officer / Lawyer  
**DOOR WARDEN(S)** Usher / Caretaker

**IF YOU DISCOVER A FIRE**

1. Operate the nearest **FIRE CALL POINT** by breaking the glass.
2. Attack the fire with the extinguishers provided only if you have been trained and it is safe to do so. **Do not** take risks.

**ON HEARING THE FIRE ALARM**

1. Leave the building via the **NEAREST SAFE EXIT**. **Do not stop** to collect personal belongings.
2. Proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** on the car park and report your presence to the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.
3. **Do NOT** return to the premises until authorised to do so by the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.

**NOTES:**

Officers are required to direct all visitors regarding these procedures i.e. exit routes and place of assembly.

The only persons not required to report to the Assembly Point are the Door Wardens.

**CHECKLIST FOR PERSON IN CHARGE**

1. Advise other interested parties present that you are the person in charge in the event of an evacuation.
2. Make yourself familiar with the location of the fire escape routes and inform any interested parties of the escape routes.
3. Make yourself familiar with the location of the assembly point and inform any interested parties of that location.
4. Make yourself familiar with the location of the fire alarm and detection control panel.
5. Ensure that the zone warden and door wardens are aware of their roles and responsibilities.
6. Arrange for a register of attendance to be completed (if considered appropriate / practicable).

**IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, OR THE FIRE ALARM BEING SOUNDED**

1. Ensure that the room in which the meeting is being held is cleared of all persons.
2. Evacuate via the nearest safe Fire Exit and proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** in the car park.
3. Delegate a person at the **ASSEMBLY POINT** who will proceed to **HOME CARE LINK** in order to ensure that a back-up call is made to the **FIRE BRIGADE**.
4. Delegate another person to ensure that **DOOR WARDENS** have been posted outside the relevant Fire Exit Doors.

5. Ensure that the **ZONE WARDEN** has reported to you on the results of his checks, **i.e.** that the rooms in use have been cleared of all persons.
6. If an Attendance Register has been taken, take a **ROLL CALL**.
7. Report the results of these checks to the Fire and Rescue Service on arrival and inform them of the location of the **FIRE ALARM CONTROL PANEL**.
8. Authorise return to the building only when it is cleared to do so by the **FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE OFFICER IN CHARGE**. Inform the **DOOR WARDENS** to allow re-entry to the building.

**NOTE:**

The Fire Alarm system will automatically call the Fire Brigade. The purpose of the 999 back-up call is to meet a requirement of the Fire Precautions Act to supplement the automatic call.

**CHECKLIST FOR ZONE WARDEN**

1. Carry out a physical check of the rooms being used for the meeting, including adjacent toilets, kitchen.
2. Ensure that **ALL PERSONS**, both officers and members of the public are made aware of the **FIRE ALERT**.
3. Ensure that **ALL PERSONS** evacuate **IMMEDIATELY**, in accordance with the **FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**.
4. Proceed to the **ASSEMBLY POINT** and report to the **PERSON IN CHARGE** that the rooms within your control have been cleared.
5. Assist the **PERSON IN CHARGE** to discharge their duties.

It is desirable that the **ZONE WARDEN** should be an **OFFICER** who is normally based in this building and is familiar with the layout of the rooms to be checked.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOOR WARDENS**

1. Stand outside the **FIRE EXIT DOOR(S)**
2. Keep the **FIRE EXIT DOOR SHUT**.
3. Ensure that **NO PERSON**, whether staff or public enters the building until **YOU** are told by the **PERSON IN CHARGE** that it is safe to do so.
4. If anyone attempts to enter the premises, report this to the **PERSON IN CHARGE**.
5. Do not leave the door **UNATTENDED**.



# Agenda Item 4

## MEMBERS INTERESTS 2012

A Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter considered at a meeting must disclose the interest to the meeting at which they are present, except where it has been entered on the Register.

A Member with a non pecuniary or pecuniary interest in any business of the Council must disclose the existence and nature of that interest at commencement of consideration or when the interest becomes apparent.

Where sensitive information relating to an interest is not registered in the register, you must indicate that you have an interest, but need not disclose the sensitive information.

Please tick relevant boxes

Notes

	<b>General</b>		
1.	I have a disclosable pecuniary interest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 5 below</i>
2.	I have a non-pecuniary interest.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
3.	<p>I have a pecuniary interest <b>because</b></p> <p>it affects my financial position or the financial position of a connected person or, a body described in 10.1(1)(i) and (ii) <b>and</b> the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>it relates to the determining of any approval consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to me or a connected person or, a body described in 10.1(1)(i) and (ii) <b>and</b> the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></div>       <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></div>	<p><i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 5 or 6 below</i></p>       <p><i>You cannot speak or vote and must withdraw unless you have also ticked 5 or 6 below</i></p>
4.	I have a disclosable pecuniary interest (Dispensation 20/09/16) or a pecuniary interest but it relates to the functions of my Council in respect of:		
(i)	Housing where I am a tenant of the Council, and those functions do not relate particularly to my tenancy or lease.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(ii)	school meals, or school transport and travelling expenses where I am a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, and it does not relate particularly to the school which the child attends.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(iii)	Statutory sick pay where I am in receipt or entitled to receipt of such pay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(iv)	An allowance, payment or indemnity given to Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(v)	Any ceremonial honour given to Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
(vi)	Setting Council tax or a precept under the LGFA 1992	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak and vote</i>
5.	A Standards Committee dispensation applies (relevant lines in the budget – Dispensation 15/09/20 – 14/09/24)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>See the terms of the dispensation</i>
6.	I have a pecuniary interest in the business but I can attend to make representations, answer questions or give evidence as the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>You may speak but must leave the room once you have finished and cannot vote</i>

**'disclosable pecuniary interest'** (DPI) means an interest of a description specified below which is your interest, your spouse's or civil partner's or the interest of somebody who you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners and you are aware that that other person has the interest.

**Interest**

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation

Sponsorship

**Prescribed description**

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by M in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of M.

	This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to M's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to M's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

*"body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest" means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest; "director" includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;*

*"land" excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income; "M" means a member of a relevant authority;*

*"member" includes a co-opted member; "relevant authority" means the authority of which M is a member;*

*"relevant period" means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which M gives notice to the Monitoring Officer of a DPI;*

*"relevant person" means M or M's spouse or civil partner, a person with whom M is living as husband or wife or a person with whom M is living as if they were civil partners;*

*"securities" means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.*

**'non pecuniary interest'** means interests falling within the following descriptions:

- 10.1(1)(i) Any body of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management and to which you are appointed or nominated by your authority;
- (ii) Any body (a) exercising functions of a public nature; (b) directed to charitable purposes; or (c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union), of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management;
- (iii) Any easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
- 10.2(2) A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial position or the well-being or financial position of a connected person to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward, as the case may be, affected by the decision.

**'a connected person'** means

- (a) a member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association, or
- (b) any person or body who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (c) any person or body in whom such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (d) any body of a type described in sub-paragraph 10.1(1)(i) or (ii).

**'body exercising functions of a public nature'** means

Regional and local development agencies, other government agencies, other Councils, public health bodies, council-owned companies exercising public functions, arms length management organisations carrying out housing functions on behalf of your authority, school governing bodies.

A Member with a personal interest who has made an executive decision in relation to that matter must ensure any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of that interest.

**NB** Section 21(13) of the LGA 2000 overrides any Code provisions to oblige an executive member to attend an overview and scrutiny meeting to answer questions.



# Agenda Item 6

## CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD: Thursday, 14 December 2023

Start: 7.00 pm

Finish: 7.15 pm

### PRESENT:

Councillor: D West (Chairman)  
P Hogan (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: P Hogan T De Freitas  
J Gordon P Hennessy  
P Hesketh S Lawton  
K Lloyd

Officers: Lisa Windle, Head of Corporate and Customer Services  
Adam Spicer, Assistant Solicitor  
Dan Massey, Outdoor Recreation Manager  
Stephen Bissette, Clean & Green Operations Manager  
Christine Wood, Interim Democratic Services Officer

### 1 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Julian Finch.

### 2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to Membership of the Committee.

### 3 URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no urgent items of business.

### 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### 5 DECLARATIONS OF A PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of Party Whip.

### 6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 21 September 2023, be received as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

### 7 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this heading.

**8 ITEMS FROM THE MEMBERS' UPDATED INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA AT THE  
REQUEST OF A MEMBER**

There were no items under this heading.

**9 MEMBERS ITEMS / CCFA (COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION)**

There were no items under this heading.

**10 UPDATES FOR THE LITTER CLEARANCE IN WEST LANCS, INCLUDING FLY  
TIPPING AND GROT SPOTS AND TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Clean and Green Operations Manager presented the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources the purpose of which was to provide the Committee with an update on the actions completed for the Litter Clearance in West Lancashire, including Fly Tipping and Grot Spots.

An update for each project was provided as follows:

**1. To roll out Community Skip Days in other parts of the Borough in conjunction with Parish Councils**

It was reported that no further communications had been received from Parish Councils.

**2. Eco Schools to invite the 58 Primary Schools within West Lancashire to enter a competition to design a Poster showing their 'Eco School Ethos'. Winning schools will receive a Character Bin and will receive an educational visit by the Environmental Enforcement Team**

The Committee was advised that 56 entries had been received from 4 primary schools as follows:

- Burscough Village Primary School, Burscough
- Pontville School, Ormskirk
- Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE School, Hesketh Bank
- St Johns RC Primary School, Burscough

The Committee was further advised that the 6 winning entries had been chosen by the Portfolio Holder for Street Scene (Councillor Neil Furey).

Pontville School, Ormskirk had been presented with bins on 12 October 2023. The Clean and Green Operations Manager, Clean and Green Area Manager, Councillor Neil Furey and Mayoress Maureen Nixon and her consort, Mr Laughton Wilkinson had attended the presentation. A photograph of the visit and presentation was appended to the report at Appendix 1.

A bin presentation would be taking place at All Saints CE Primary School in

Hesketh Bank during January 2024.

**3. Volunteer Litter Picking**

It was reported that there had been a slight drop off in requests for litter picking equipment and that this was normal during the Winter months.

**4. Environmental Borough Improvements to tackle Grot Spot Locations, four locations**

The Committee was advised that projects 1 (East Gillibrands, Skelmersdale), 2 (West Pimbo, Skelmersdale) and 3 (Old Boundary Way, Ormskirk) had been completed. Project 4 (Elmers Clough, Skelmersdale) would commence on 25 November 2024 and was expected to take approximately 4 weeks.

Photograph images of before and after completion of work of Projects 2 and 3 were appended to the report at Appendices 2 and 3.

It was anticipated that actions would be completed before the end of January 2024.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

**11 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY ORCHARDS, TASK & FINISH  
GROUP**

The Outdoor Recreation Manager presented the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources the purpose of which was to provide an update on the actions completed to plant orchards at six sites in West Lancashire.

The Committee was advised that Council Officers had conducted a community consultation with the communities surrounding the short-listed sites. The on-line survey had become live on 10 February 2023 and closed on 27 February 2023. Approximately, 260 letters and questionnaires had been hand delivered to residents directly surrounding the proposed sites on 10 February 2023. Postal responses had been accepted until 29 February 2023. Posters had been displayed in the six areas to promote the consultation to residents from the wider area. The poster had included a QR code to the online survey.

In addition, residents at the Brookhouse Road and Cotton Drive site had completed a longer questionnaire and had been asked if they wanted a wildflower in addition to fruit trees. To increase the response rate, the Community Connectors Team had knocked on residents' doors to complete the questionnaire with residents.

It was reported that the consultation had received 164 responses and that overall, responses had been positive. Details of the responses as detailed in the report were outlined to the Committee.

It was also reported that as agreed by the Task and Finish Group, the QR code signs had been attached to some of the tree stakes at each site which would link to the new Community Orchards webpage on the Council website.

The Committee was advised that the Tree Policy had now been approved at a meeting of the Cabinet held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

12 **FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED: That the updated Work Programme be noted.

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**Chairman**

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING – PROTOCOL**

### **(For meetings of Cabinet, Overview & Scrutiny Committees, Audit & Governance Committee and Standards Committee)**

#### **1.0 Public Speaking**

1.1 Residents of West Lancashire may, on giving notice, address any of the above meetings to make representations on any item on the agenda for those meetings, except where the public and press are to be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item.

1.2 The form attached as an Appendix to this Protocol should be used for submitting requests.

#### **2.0 Deadline for submission**

2.1 The prescribed form should be received by Member Services by 10.00 am on the Friday of the week preceding the meeting. This can be submitted by e-mail to [member.services@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:member.services@westlancs.gov.uk) or by sending to:

Member Services  
West Lancashire Borough Council  
52 Derby Street  
Ormskirk  
West Lancashire  
L39 2DF

2.2 Completed forms will be collated by Member Services and circulated via e-mail to relevant Members and officers and published on the Council website via Modgov. Only the name of the resident and details of the issue to be raised will be published.

2.3 Groups of persons with similar views should elect a spokesperson to speak on their behalf to avoid undue repetition of similar points. Spokespersons should identify in writing on whose behalf they are speaking.

#### **3.0 Scope**

3.1 Any matters raised must be relevant to an item on the agenda for the meeting.

3.2 The Borough Solicitor may reject a submission if it:

- (i) is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- (ii) is substantially the same as representations which have already been submitted at a previous meeting; or
- (iii) discloses or requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

#### **4.0 Number of items**

- 4.1 A maximum of one form per resident will be accepted for each Agenda Item.
- 4.2 There will be a maximum of 10 speakers per meeting. Where there are more than 10 forms submitted by residents, the Borough Solicitor will prioritise the list of those allowed to speak. This will be considered having regard to all relevant matters including:
  - a. The order in which forms were received.
  - b. If one resident has asked to speak on a number of items, priority will be given to other residents who also wish to speak
  - c. Whether a request has been submitted in relation to the same issue.
- 4.3 All submissions will be circulated to Members of the relevant body and officers for information, although no amendments will be made to the list of speakers once it has been compiled (regardless of withdrawal of a request to speak).

#### **5.0 At the Meeting**

- 5.1 Speakers will be shown to their seats. At the commencement of consideration of each agenda item the Leader/Chairman will invite members of the public to make their representations. Residents will have up to 3 minutes to address the meeting. The address must reflect the issue included on the prescribed form submitted in advance.
- 5.2 Members may discuss what the speaker has said along with all other information, when all public speakers on that item have finished and will then make a decision. Speakers should not circulate any supporting documentation at the meeting and should not enter into a debate with Councillors.
- 5.4 If residents feel nervous or uncomfortable speaking in public, then they can ask someone else to do it for them. They can also bring an interpreter if they need one. They should be aware there may be others speaking as well.
- 5.5 Speakers may leave the meeting at any time, taking care not to disturb the meeting.

(Please see attached form.)



## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING AT MEETINGS

**MEETING & DATE** .....

**NAME** .....

**ADDRESS** .....

.....

Post Code .....

**PHONE** .....

**Email** .....

Please indicate if you will be in attendance at the meeting

<p><b>YES/NO*</b></p> <p>*delete as applicable</p>
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Note: This page will not be published.

(P.T.O.)

PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE MATTER YOU WISH TO RAISE

Agenda Item      Number .....

Title .....

Details .....

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Name .....    Dated .....

*Completed forms to be submitted by 10.00am on the Friday of the week preceding the meeting to:-*

*Member Services, West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2DF or  
Email: [member.services@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:member.services@westlancs.gov.uk)*

*If you require any assistance regarding your attendance at a meeting (including access) or if you have any queries regarding your submission please contact Member Services on 01695 585065*

Note: This page will be published.





# Community Orchards Project Summary

## Why did we plant orchards?



There is significant pressure to plant more trees, however in West Lancashire there are a number of issues which hinder large scale tree planting:

- We are already blessed with a large tree stock
- The west of the borough has large tracts of Peat (and salt marsh) and some of the best agricultural land in the country
- Residential areas provide potential issues
- Parks are all 'full' – over 8000 trees planted over the last few years, and further planting would have a negative impact on other habitats

## So Orchards.....



So, orchards make sense – modest sized trees, in modest sized areas:

- help mitigate the effects of climate change,
- have a social value,
- provide free food,
- provide wildlife habitat,
- help struggling pollinators and are
- easy to maintain within current budgets

# Sites shortlist



- We sent an email to all councillors asking for potential planting locations
- Site visits where we considered:
  - **Deliverability**
  - **Longevity**
  - **Proximity to the Community**
  - **Space available**
  - **Accessibility**
  - **Potential food poverty in the area**

We also looked at the location of peatland



# Sites, Services and Spades



The sites chosen for planting were:

- The Community Garden – Elswick, Tanhouse
- Eskdale, Tanhouse
- Kiln Lane Playing fields, Skelmersdale
- Thompson Avenue, Ormskirk
- Cotton Drive/Tennyson Drive, Ormskirk
- Manor Road, Burscough

Page 15

The sites were then checked for underground services and appropriate minor twiddles to location were made

And planting was then carried out by the Rangers, their regular volunteers and students from Pontville School



From this community consultation was carried out  
With very positive results

QR codes were added to the tree stakes  
These guide folk to the council website  
where there is info on orchards and  
what can be done with the fruit





- 95% success rate – very dry weather caused some trees to fail and one was snapped
- Replaced from existing spares
- The success of the scheme means that fruit trees are now considered in all planting and restocking schemes
- Especially valuable for small sites in built up areas – as you can select appropriate root stocks to limit the ultimate size of the tree