



## **8. PROPOSED PURCHASES**

To consider the purchase of equipment to support the safe and effective delivery of local environment projects and events.

- a) HRTC Van lease (enc).

## **9. ACTIVE TRAVEL**

To consider opportunities for Active Travel projects and decide on appropriate actions.

## **10. HIGH HIRST WOODMEADOW**

To receive an update on the following projects and decide on appropriate actions:

- a) High Hirst Woodmeadow Volunteer Review – Spring 2026 (enc).
- b) Upcoming events – Meadows Day and Haytime Tea

## **11. ALLOTMENTS**

To receive an update on the following projects and decide on appropriate actions:

- a) High Hirst Allotments
- b) Banksfield Allotments
- c) High Hirst Allotments DAF Accessibility Audit (enc).
- d) Banksfield Allotments DAF Accessibility Audit (enc).

## **12. OTHER PROJECTS & UPDATES**

To receive an update on the following projects:

- a) Hanging Baskets
- b) Hebden Royd Green Network
- c) Spring Clean 2026 Review (enc).
- d) Community Bulb Planting Review (enc).
- e) Mytholmroyd Beacon update (enc).
- f) CROWS Annual Review 2026 (enc).

## **13. CALDERDALE ENERGY PARK**

To consider any matters relating to the CEP and decide on actions as appropriate.

- a) CEP Consultation - HRTC Position Statement opposing the proposal to be forwarded to by Cllr Butterick & Harvey on behalf of HRTC.  
(Minute 547)

*“Further to a public survey undertaken in 2025 and information made available to the community since that time, Hebden Royd Town Council is committed to stand with the mandate given by its community. The Town Council strongly opposes the development the Calderdale Energy Park on the grounds of*

*destruction of peat, associated flood risks and CO2 emissions. There are many other concerns most notably the impact on the natural habitat and biodiversity of this Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation.”*

**14. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

To receive an update regarding the plan and decide on appropriate actions

**15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To resolve to exclude members of the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 during consideration of items of a confidential nature.



## **LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- Membership:** 7 Councillors and Ex-officio
- Non-councillor:** Not applicable to this committee
- Quorum:** Three Town Councillors with voting rights
- Meetings:** Four meetings per year (or as required)

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The aim of this Committee is to enhance and protect the local environment and promote climate awareness and action within the Town Council's boundaries, working with the community and partners to build a greener, more sustainable town.
- 1.2 The Committee is to:
- I. Promote sustainable living and reduce the environmental impact of the Town Council's activities.
  - II. Encourage local action on climate change, biodiversity and nature recovery. Oversee local environmental initiatives, including green infrastructure, tree planting, and waste reduction.
  - III. Engage and support local groups working on environmental and climate-related projects.
  - IV. Champion education and awareness campaigns around environmental protection and climate resilience.

### **2. Membership**

- 2.1 The Local Environment & Climate Committee shall consist of seven Town Councillors, to be elected annually at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.
- 2.2 The Mayor is Ex-Officio on this Committee

- 2.3 Three members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 2.4 The Chair and Vice-Chair are to be elected annually at the first meeting of this Committee (following the Annual Meeting of the Town Council) and shall hold office for the council year.
- 2.5 In the event of the resignation, disqualification, or death of a Councillor during the year any vacancy on the Local Environment & Allotments Committee will be filled at the next meeting of the Full Council.
- 2.6 Substitutions are permitted in the event of a member's absence from a meeting of the Local Environment & Allotments Committee. The member unable to attend must arrange their own substitution and notify the clerk by 5pm on the day of the meeting.

### **3. Meetings**

- 3.1 Four scheduled meetings per year, other meeting may be called if required to consider urgent issues.
- 3.2 Public notice of meetings shall be given in accordance with Schedule 12, Paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **4. Documentation**

- 4.1 Minutes of all meetings will be recorded by an officer of the Council and circulated for information at Full Council meetings.
- 4.2 Reports, documents and correspondence relating to this Committee are available to Full Council on request.
- 4.3 All correspondence shall be conducted through the Town Clerk.

### **5. Scope**

- 5.1 To decide and incur expenditure within budget on environmental improvement projects, including green spaces which encourage the prosperity and positive promotion of the area. Campaigns and education projects related to climate awareness and sustainability. Biodiversity and nature recovery initiatives at High Hirst Woodmeadow and across Hebden Royd.
- 5.2 To advise the Council on matters relating to environmental and climate issues including but not limited to: Renewable energy use and energy efficiency in Council buildings and operations, recycling schemes and circular economy initiatives, nature conservation, pollution reduction and green travel.

- 5.3 To work with local environmental groups, community organisations, and statutory bodies to identify, plan and support initiatives that address local environmental and climate priorities.
- 5.4 To support the Council’s commitments to reduce carbon emissions and become a more sustainable and resilient community.
- 5.5 To explore opportunities for grant funding and partnerships that align with the aims of the Committee.
- 5.6 To lead on tree management and planting initiatives within the Town Council’s remit, and liaise with relevant authorities on tree protection and management matters.
- 5.7 To represent the Town Council in consultations relating to climate, biodiversity, local nature plans and the management of green spaces.
- 5.8 To ensure risk management and Health & Safety systems are in place for areas under the Committee's control.
- 5.9 To work with partners and stakeholders on sustainable travel and access projects (e.g. cycle infrastructure, walking routes, electric vehicle charging).
- 5.10 To encourage public involvement and consultation in environmental planning and climate action.
- 5.11 To develop and support the delivery of media communication regarding local environment and climate on behalf of the Council.

## **6. Review**

- 6.1 The Local Environment & Climate Committee’s Terms of Reference are to be reviewed annually at the first meeting of the Committee following the Annual Meeting of the Town Council, or in response to changes in legislation or Council policy.

## HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

### Meeting of the LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE Held WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2026

#### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Woodhead (Chair), Guilfoyle, Harvey, Hoyle and Macdonald.

Deputy Clerk: E Andrews

**ABSENT:** Councillors Boggis and Morse

**500. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANY SUBSTITUTIONS.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Morse.

**501. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS FOR THIS MEETING.**

There were no members interests reported at this meeting.

**502. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 25 February 2026**

There were no matters arising.

**503. CALDERDALE ENERGY PARK (CEP)**

Members discussed matters relating to the CEP.

**RESOLVED:** The Committee will produce a statement to more widely affirm the Council's position on the CEP proposal, informed by the mandate established following the public survey undertaken in late 2025.

**RESOLVED:** A dedicated section of the HRTC website will be created to share further information on the CEP. This will include the Council's position which will be updated as plans evolve where appropriate. It will also include signposting to key information and documentation sent to, and received from, CMBC and CEP as appropriate.

**RESOLVED:** The points issued to CMBC (as noted below) in relation to the statutory consultation period, are to be shared with CEP to underscore HRTC's position on the proposal in its current form.

a) Delay the start of the statutory community consultation until after the Calderdale Council elections on May 7th, and a time at which Calderdale Energy Park's Preliminary Environmental Information is in a fit state to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development help to inform their consultation responses on the Proposed Development.

b) Extend the consultation period from 6 to 12 weeks.

c) Include information in the Statement of Community Consultation about how Calderdale Energy Park intend to publicise and consult on their Preliminary Environmental Information.

**RESOLVED:** Correspondence will be issued to CEP from the Committee, to request the recognition HRTC and a key community consultee given the scale and significance of the project and request clarification on how and when CEP intends to engage in dialogue with the Council.

**504.**

**EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was no resolution to exclude members of the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

The meeting finished at 6:58pm.

Received by email on 12.5.2026

Dear Gareth

I have noticed this year that we have rather a lot of Spanish bluebells around Hebden Bridge. These are a threat to our UK wild native ones such as those in Hardcastle Crag. This website explains how to tell the difference and why they are a threat.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife/how-identify/spanish-or-native-bluebell#:~:text=The%20UK's%20woodlands%20are%20home,resources%20like%20light%20and%20space.>

They have appeared in my garden and are very difficult to dig up but I have been removing flowering stems so that the insects cannot cross-pollinate. Can anything be done about the ones growing on Council property?

Regards

**Local Environment & Climate 2026-27**

Expenditure	Description	BUDGET 26/27	ACTUAL 26/27	COMMITTED 26/27	TOTAL 26/27	BUDGET 25/26	TOTAL 25/26	BUDGET 24/25	ACTUAL 24/25
<b>LAND &amp; BIODIVERSITY</b>								£ 6,500.00	£ 6,500.00
Meadows Day	Room Hire, Forest School Activities, Ecology/Local History Walk	£ 821.60	£ 40.00	£ 505.00	£ 545.00	£ 800.00	£ 466.59	£ -	£ -
Events	Moth Breakfasts, Haytime with Haytime Tea, Bat Walks.	£ 1,100.00	£ 50.00	£ 100.00	£ 150.00	£ 420.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Law Field	Legal Fees	£ 1,027.00			£ -	£ 1,000.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Equipment & Tools	For Volunteering	£ 1,500.00		£ 31.80	£ 31.80	£ 20.00	£ 82.30	£ -	£ -
Materials	Replacement trees, gate fixings etc	£ 750.00		£ 25.00	£ -				
Dog Waste Provision	Dog poo bags & dispenser maintenance	£ 1,000.00	£ 64.79	£ 894.24	£ 959.03				
CROWS	Annual Payment	£ 1,500.00			£ -				
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>									
New Projects	TBC	£ 1,000.00			£ -	£ 7,020.00	£ 7,664.00	£ 1,775.00	£ 8,775.00
Hanging Baskets	Supply/Install/Watering	£ 17,500.00		£ 6,420.00	£ 6,420.00	£ 15,000.00	£ 16,522.00	£ 7,000.00	£ 6,561.98
Transport	Active Travel - Committee to consider	£ -			£ -	£ -	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00
Green Hub	New Project - with P&E	£ 1,000.00			£ -				
Supporting Outside Bodies	e.g. Supporting Friends CHP	£ 500.00			£ -				
Youth engagement	TBC	£ 500.00			£ -				
Transport	Van	£ 5,000.00			£ -				
<b>ALLOTMENTS</b>									
Allotment Maintenance	General Maintenance e.g. skips, footpath aggregate	£ 1,000.00			£ -	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,537.84	£ 4,000.00	£ 4,000.00
Water	Water at High Hirst	£ 300.00			£ -				
Tool Hire	Chainsaw & Brushcutter	£ 500.00		£ 51.07	£ 51.07				
Materials	Paint/Fence Panels	£ 500.00		£ 26.00	£ 26.00				
Contingency against income	Against income	£ 1,051.40			£ -				
<b>REDUNDANT BUDGET LINES</b>									
Young People/Youth								£ 4,500.00	£ 4,500.00
Buildings & Tech								£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00
Cross Cutting								£ 2,500.00	£ 2,740.00
Power Scythe						£ 1,100.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Scything & Haymaking						£ 1,500.00	£ 799.14	£ -	£ -
Friends of High Hirst						£ 150.00	£ 130.00	£ -	£ -
Site Surveys						£ 300.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
Coppicing						£ 500.00	£ -	£ -	£ -
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 36,550.00</b>	<b>£ 154.79</b>	<b>£ 8,053.11</b>	<b>£ 8,182.90</b>	<b>£ 25,760.00</b>	<b>£ 29,701.87</b>	<b>£ 33,275.00</b>	<b>£ 40,076.98</b>
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIRED</b>	<b>£ 36,550.00</b>					<b>£ 25,760.00</b>		<b>£ 33,275.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>									
Scything Course							£ 240.00		£ 240.00
Hanging Baskets (based on £60)	LESS INCOME	£ 6,450.00			£ -		£ 5,912.00		
Allotments		£ 2,000.00			£ -		£ 1,242.80		
Coppice Products		£ 100.00			£ -				
Grants									
	<b>PROPOSED HRTC BUDGET</b>	<b>£ 28,000.00</b>	<b>-£ 154.79</b>	<b>-£ 8,053.11</b>	<b>-£ 8,182.90</b>		<b>£ 3,452.93</b>		<b>-£ 6,561.98</b>

## Proposed van usage estimates 2026

### Events

Hebden's Happy Hounds: 2 days (set up & take down)

Transporting: gazebos, tables, materials and equipment

Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd Remembrance Sunday: 4 days (set up & take down)

Transporting: gazebos, tables, materials and equipment

Light up the Valley Mytholmroyd & Hebden Bridge: 4 days (set up & take down)

Transport: gazebos, tables, barriers materials and equipment

Meadows Day 2 Days (set up & take down)

Transporting: gazebos, tables, materials and equipment

Haytime 10 days – equipment, tools and materials

Spring Clean x 3 days – tools, equipment and materials

Bulb and wildflower maintenance x 3 days – tools, equipment and materials

Christmas lighting – x 5 days Christmas barrier; construction, transport, breakdown and installation

Total: 33 days

### High Hirst Woodmeadow Project

High Hirst Woodmeadow Project Volunteer Workdays x 12 – tools, equipment & materials

Reactive journeys when livestock is grazing High Hirst Woodmeadow e.g. temporary fencing

Activities – bat walks, moth breakfasts, apple day – equipment, materials, gazebo

Transporting coppice products and hay bales for sale

Total: 12 days

### Allotments

Allotment Workdays x 4 Banksfield & x 4 High Hirst - tools, equipment & materials.

Regular Transportation of maintenance equipment such as replacement fencing for allotments; post & wire, post and rail

Collection of materials from Gardenius – replacement trees, materials

Total: 8 days

### Hebden Royd Green Network

Hebden Royd Green Network support for groups who don't have access to a van:  
e.g. Friends of Calder Holmes Park, Mytholmroyd Community Station etc  
Supporting groups in delivery of activities e.g. Friends of Brearley Fields balsam pull  
Community Engagement events  
CVLT High Street site support?

**Dog Waste Bag Dispensers** x 12 days with  
monthly inspections in Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd – tools, equipment and  
materials.

Total: 12

### **Hebden Bridge Picture House**

It is anticipated that there would also be use from Hebden Bridge Picture House by the  
Facilities and Technical Manager for the carriage of maintenance equipment.

### **Miscellaneous**

Furniture, office equipment purchases and transport.

**Total: 65**

**High Hirst Woodmeadow Spring 2026 Volunteer Review – March, April & May 2026**

Number of volunteer workdays: 3

Number of individual volunteers: 31

Number of new volunteers: 14

Number of volunteer hours contributed: 117.5

Number of hazel stools coppiced: 14

Number of coppice products produced: 14 hedging stakes.

Number of plug plants planted: 300

Number of fascines installed: 9

Length of drystone wall restored: 6 metres

Income generated from coppice products: £0

Economic value of volunteer contribution (number of total volunteer hours multiplied by the Minimum wage, £12.71 per hour): £1493.43

**Hebden Royd Town Council Allotments Spring 2026 Review**

Total number of plots: 50

Number of occupied plots: 49

Number of unpaid plot rents: 10

Number on waiting list: 15

Number of non-cultivation letter issued: 1 at Banksfield

Volunteer Workdays: 20<sup>th</sup> May – High Hirst Allotments, 21<sup>st</sup> May Banksfield Allotments.

Tenants participation in workdays: 1 on High Hirst and 1 on Banksfield.

Tenant hours contributed:

2 hours of vegetation management at Banksfield (trimming hedges)

2 hours of pathway improvements at High Hirst with raking of grass cuttings from trimming back.

### **Disability Access Forum High Hirst Allotment: Accessibility Audit 2026**

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026, Gareth Muir, Hebden Royd Town Council Local Environment and Allotments Officer met with June Eaton from Hebden Bridge Disability Access Forum to assess accessibility issues on site. A site assessment was undertaken identifying issues which could result in barriers to accessibility for existing and potential site users. The following is a summary of the issues discussed with solutions to mitigate the identified issues.

- Information relating to the location of the site was missing from the HRTC website, it was suggested that this was added to the allotment webpage along with information regarding the parking, which is on street. Bus times and routes were also suggestions to be added to the webpage
- Manor Drive leading to the allotment entrance has overgrown vegetation obscuring the entrance and the nearest pavement is covered in vegetation. CMBC Highways to be contacted regarding this with a view to clearing the obstructions.
- Additional signage was suggested for Manor Drive in an easy read format: black text on white background using plain English from a first-person perspective. Plot signage was suggested to be black text on a white background in a large format to help identify the individual plots.
- Site entrance – the gate although lightweight was impeded by weeds, which will be removed during site maintenance. A suggestion was made to replace the existing latch with an ‘Easy Latch’ to aide in opening and closing.
- Pathways were identified as requiring maintenance to surfaces with redressing to fill potholes. A suggestion was made to keep the pathways clear of obstacles.
- The water tap was identified as having a trip hazard next to it, which will be back filled with aggregate and surrounding vegetation to be removed. A sign to be installed reading ‘WATER’ and information for new Tenants that the taps are a ‘hozelock’ fitting which can be difficult to attach.
- The compost bays were identified as being of sound construction with signage indicating which bays to fill, however it was suggested that additional signage is put in place to indicate which bays should not be filled.

- The slope from Plot 19 to Plot 41 was identified as being very difficult to traverse using walking aide(s) and/or a wheelchair. Due to this being access to Lawfield for grazing animals installing additional steps would not be appropriate as these could result in the livestock being injured. The presence of a handrail was identified as a positive, however it was suggested that encroaching vegetation was kept clear to prevent a trip hazard and that contrasting colours were used to aide those with visual impairments.
- Plots 1 to 19 were identified as the most accessible on site. Meaningful adjustments could be made to enable new Tenants with additional mobility requirements to install abutting and adjoining paths to enable wheelchair access with the ability to turn around. A suggestion was made to include information on the website that HRTC was amenable to enabling prospective Tenants to make meaningful adjustments to use the site on a case-by-case basis. This could take the form of an 'access statement'. Wording of which could be 'We (HRTC) welcome applications from those with additional needs, with meaningful adjustments being made where required'.

**Additional comments from June Eaton:**

- Toilets. It would be good to give information on the nearest toilets to existing and prospective tenants, on your website and/or in the information for applicants. That is important information for many. Some people with continence issues can use non-accessible toilets but need to know where they are. Do you have good relations with Dodnaze Community Centre? They do have an accessible toilet there, so perhaps you could explore whether they would welcome allotment tenants at times they are open? Otherwise, I guess the nearest toilets are in Hebden town centre.
- Seating. Could you consider a bench in the common access area, somewhere near the compost bins? People who cannot walk far or stand for long, might find that helpful.
- Path surfaces Although expensive, it would obviously help wheelchair users (and pushchairs) if the allotment paths had a firm surface, especially in wet weather. Maybe you could consider improving the area at the entrance, to the tap and to the first few plots? As well as potential tenants, existing plot holders might have friends or family members who need access to the plots and who would benefit from that. I attach some path

surface information, which Councillor Nikki Harvey sent me during our planning for the Woodmeadow path. As you know, compacted, smaller hardcore as on the Woodmeadow path, is accessible for many users if maintained.

- Allocation. I realise you have a long waiting list. But would it be possible to prioritise the plots nearest to the entrance, if they become vacant, for disabled people, particularly those with mobility impairments or using wheelchairs/scooters? (Note - some places have problems accommodating very large mobility scooters. This might not be an issue at the allotments but may be worth considering in advance.)
- Handrail to slope down from plot 19 - although white or yellow give the best visual contrast against a dark background, you could consider other pale colours.

#### **Suggested actions going forward:**

1. Add additional information to the allotment webpage including location, accessibility and parking information.
2. Contact CMBC Highways with a view to remove encroaching vegetation blocking access to the site entrance.
3. Explore additional signage on Manor Drive to direct site users to the allotments.
4. Continue pathway maintenance to ensure access and movement on site is not restricted, e.g. filling potholes, clearing encroaching vegetation.
5. Amend existing signage into accessible formats on site; at the water point, compost bays and individual plots.
6. Ensure that the handrail from Plot 19 down the slope is not impeded by vegetation and is made visually striking through the addition of contrasting colours.
7. Provide accessibility information to existing and potential Tenants.
8. Undergo further review of the site at differing times of the year to identify additional hazards, e.g. pathway accessibility during wet ground conditions.

### **Disability Access Forum Banksfield Allotment Accessibility Audit 2026**

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Gareth Muir Hebden Royd Town Council Local Environment and Allotments Officer met with June Eaton from Hebden Bridge Disability Access Forum to assess accessibility issues on site. A site assessment was undertaken identifying issues which could result in barriers to accessibility for existing and potential site users. The following is a summary of the issues discussed with solutions to mitigate the identified issues.

- Information relating to the location of the site was missing from the HRTC website, it was suggested that this was added to the allotment webpage along with information regarding parking, which is on street. Bus times and routes were also suggested additions to the webpage. Information regarding the allotment site, such as parking and accessibility could be added to the website and given to prospective Tenants for them to assess as to whether an offered allotment plot would be suitable for them to take on. Information about the time it takes to walk from the nearest bus stop was also suggested.
- Due to the steep nature of the site and the steps already in situ, several plots were identified that would benefit from the installation of handrail(s). These plots are Plot numbers 3, 5 and 6A (two handrails).
- The lack of shade on site was identified as a factor which could negatively impact individuals with health conditions and it was suggested that Tenants be allowed to set up parasols to have shade in periods of intense heat.
- Several plots have sole access via steps. The quality and composition of these steps vary greatly. The installation of handrails would aid in using the existing steps and where needed replacing the existing steps with steps of equal distance and height would enable existing and future tenants to access the site. Existing stone steps have been identified as being slippery during the winter months and would benefit from regular cleaning including jet washing where possible.
- The lack of mains water onsite was identified as an issue whereby Tenants might struggle to move water on site. A suggestion of a communal water harvesting system being installed alongside encouraging existing Tenants with sheds to harvest rainwater. A

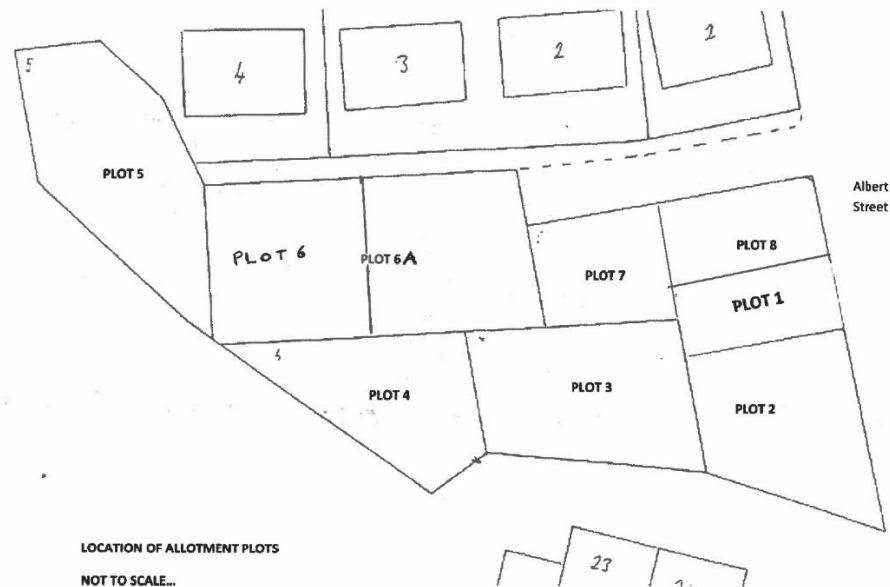
suggestion was made to contact Yorkshire Water regarding the possibility of a mains water connection.

- Existing fences panels when replaced could be replaced with gates such as on Plot 2, which is accessible by steps, could have a gate replacement to prevent the need to access the plot by steps.
- Accessible signage on site, such as black text on a white background was suggested, with information being in that format in the site noticeboard.

### **Suggested Actions going forward:**

1. Update the website with information regarding, parking, bus routes and walking times.
2. Install handrails on plots which need them when identified by Tenants as an access requirement.
3. Allow Tenants to have parasols on site to provide shade when working.
4. Replace steps as and when necessary, with risers and treads conforming to accepted accessible design standards and dimensions.
5. Encourage Tenants to harvest rainwater and follow up with Yorkshire Water regarding the installation of a mains water point on site.
6. Replace decrepit fence panels with gate(s), where appropriate to improve access from the highway and reduce the need for steps.
7. Ensure onsite signage is accessible to those with visual impairments. Use plain English in text to aid in cognitive processing.

### **Banksfield Allotment Site plan.**



### Additional Comments from June Eaton

A few comments on your report actions:

1. Information - include that street parking is limited and mostly steep
2. handrails - good contrast against background for visibility
3. shade - for plots not near trees, important for everyone but particularly people with chronic health conditions, not only heart conditions
4. any step improvements to consider textured surface (whether stone or concrete) for better slip resistance, would need advice. Include contrast nosings.

Banksfield plots 1 and 2 are probably the most likely to be potentially accessible for people with mobility impairments, if plot 2 was accessed by gate from Aspinall Street rather than its current steps from Bank view. And maybe provide wider paths within the plots. Although the road and pavement there are steep which could exclude some people. (Maybe the allotment fence could accommodate a handrail if needed by tenants in the future?)

Some people with mobility impairments can manage good steps with handrails more easily than they can manage slopes. So, some people arriving by car might access plots 5, 6, 6a from Royd View which is level parking. Those are very large plots so some disabled people with limited capacity might manage half a plot more easily.

**Hebden Royd Green Network Spring Clean 2026 Review**

**Cragg Vale**

Refuse Sacks collected: 9

Number of volunteers: 10

Volunteer hours: 10

**Hebden Bridge**

Refuse Sacks collected: 7

Number of volunteers: 2

Volunteer Hours: 4

**Mytholmroyd**

Refuse Sacks collected: 20

Number of volunteers: 11

Volunteer Hours: 22

Total of refuse sacks collected: **36**

Total number of volunteers: **33**

Volunteer Hours total: **36**

Volunteer contribution (minimum wage at £12.71 per hour multiplied by volunteer hours) **£ 457.56**

**Community Groups who took part in Hebden Royd Spring Clean 2026**

- Cragg Vale Community Association
- Halifax Wandering Wombles

Hebden Royd Spring Clean 2026 map layer:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1FDayzHs-ynlc2Na51UfiLn5O4xvpf\\_4&usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1FDayzHs-ynlc2Na51UfiLn5O4xvpf_4&usp=sharing)

### **Hebden Royd Bulb Planting 2025/26 Review**

Number of bulbs:

10 x 25 kg sacks, approximately 400-500 bulbs per sack.

#### **Community Groups involved**

The Friends of Hebden Bridge Station

Mayroyd Moorings

Hebden Bridge WI

St John's Church, Cragg Vale

Community Payback

Cragg Vale Community Association

Canals and River Trust Hebden Bridge Volunteer Group

#### **Planting locations**

Cragg Vale Community Garden

St John's Cragg Vale

Cragg Vale bus turning area

New Road, Cragg Vale

Mayroyd Moorings, Hebden Bridge

Hebden Bridge Station

Hebden Bridge Station Carpark

Commercial Street/Union Street, Hebden Bridge

Commercial Street, Hebden Bridge

New Road Car Park, Hebden Bridge

St James Church, Hebden Bridge

Black Pit Lock, Hebden Bridge

Rochdale Canal planting: Hebble End to Stubbings Planting

Hebden Bridge Picture House

Hebden Royd Bulb Planting Map

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1XmRfWn2QT6vuNs8I-sgcMs-Llbqs-dM&usp=sharing>

On 8<sup>th</sup> April, bulb planting partners were contacted with an offer form HRTC for support to 'lift and split' existing flower bulbs and to harvest seed for future planting. At the time of writing there has been no uptake on this offer.

**Mytholmroyd Beacon update**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Gareth Muir – Hebden Royd Town Council Local Environment Officer spoke with the contractor who fabricated the Mytholmroyd beacon.

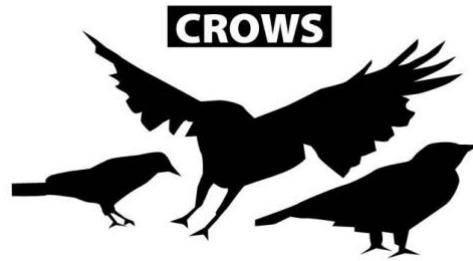
The contractor was asked if it were possible to fabricate a grill to go over the basket to prevent unauthorised access. They said it was possible, but this would involve working at height to install and operate the beacon.

The contractor fed back that Jason Boom (the previous Town Clerk) had given the specification for the beacon to be made and installed for the Diamond Jubilee (2012) without the requirement that it would be a long-term installation. Therefore, at the time of production, the contractor estimated that the working shelf life of the beacon should have been around five years.

Without inspecting the beacon for corrosion, particularly within the pole / stand itself, we are unable to gauge how safe it is. The contractor also commented that falling ash from burning material in the basket above would be acidic, and this could have contributed to potential corrosion within the pole over time, any damage of this type wouldn't necessarily be visible from the outside. Additionally, the contractor noted that the location of the beacon made it difficult to regularly inspect and maintain.

All information to be considered regarding ongoing management of the beacon by HRTC.

# Community Rights of Way Service



## 2025 – 2026 review

### Some highlights of the year

Most of our work involved jobs that had been reported by the general public, but we also worked on some long-term projects:

- Many issues were sorted on a series of paths through woodlands from Ripponden to Longley.
- On the [Todmorden Moor Geology Trail](#) we replaced boardwalks, added new waymark posts and refurbished the information boards. We republished a new walk leaflet covering the trail.
- The Ripponden to Rishworth Riverside path upgrades and waymarking were completed and this lovely walk is now published on [Heart of the Pennines website](#).
- The access to Pecket Well playground was improved by dealing with drainage and adding in some steps.
- We completed the refurbishment of the steps on the Calderdale Way down to Hebble Hole bridge.
- A significant amount of work has been carried out in and around Ryburn, particularly on the riverside path and in Rough Hey wood.
- [A Walk around Luddenden Dean](#) was walked out, rewritten and re-published. Waymarking, drainage and other problems on the whole route were sorted.
- We worked with Jim Jarrett, the author of the [Fielden Trail](#), to revise the route directions and improve the waymarking. Work on this trail will continue this year.

**Over a thousand sessions were worked by volunteers.** We have continued working three days a week in nearly all weather.

Sadly, we lost one of our volunteers this year. Frank Sharman brought incisiveness, thoughtfulness and kindness to CROWS tasks and an ability to solve complex drainage problems! He will be very much missed by us.

# Where we worked





*Steps in Hebden Bridge.*



*New marker post above Todmorden*



*Revetment in Luddenden.*



*Surveying and waymarking in Blackshawhead.*



*Boardwalk at Gaddings.*



*Stile at Nab End.*



*Drainage on Langfield Common.*



*Information board in Hardcastle Crag.*



*Bridge repair at Blake Dean.*



*Drainage at Withens Clough.*

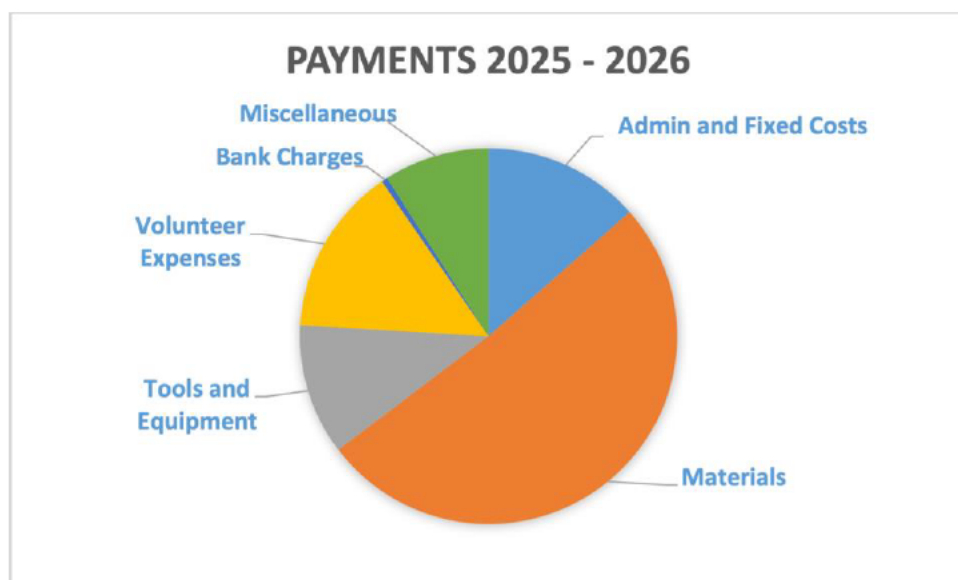
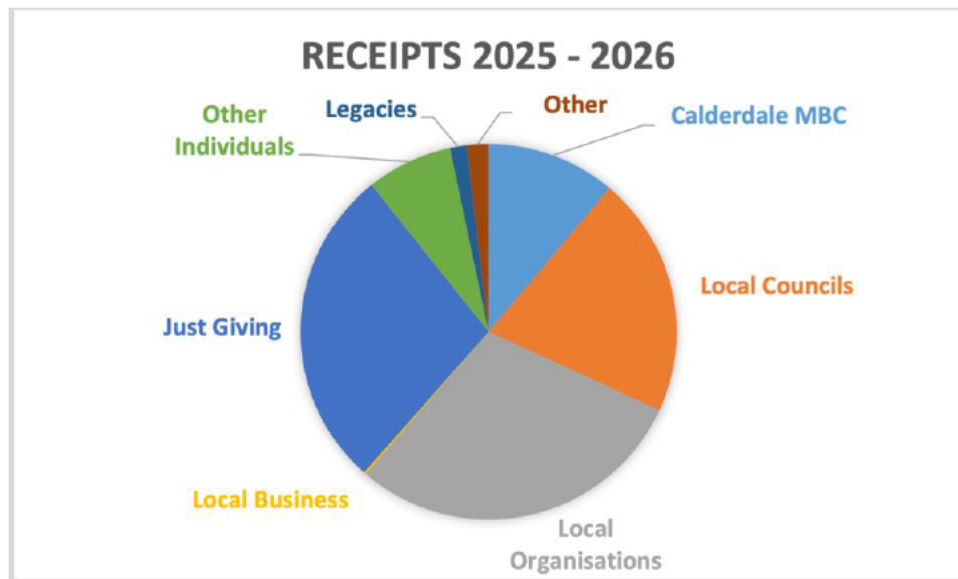


*Path clearance at Longley Lane, Ryburn.*



*Dog gate on Hurst Road.*

# Funding and Finance



Our funding group developed our funding policy. We aim not to be over reliant on public funds and last year we feel that we achieved a good balance of sources.

- **Local councils** again generously supported our work.
- **Individual donations** increased, with a significant number of people opting to use [Just Giving](#).
- We had more donations from **local community groups and user groups**.
- We received several donations from the '**legacies**' of local path users.
- **Calderdale Council Highways** continued their support for our work.

# Thanks

We try to respond to funders and donors as best we can, but we would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their financial support last year:

12th Halifax Sea Scouts	Natural England
Active Calderdale	(Pennine Way & Pennine Bridleway)
Blackshaw Parish Council	Old Town Post Office Shop
Blackshaw Head Fell Race	Picture This
Calder Valley Fell Runners	Ramble Worldwide Outdoor Trust
Calderdale Council Highways	Reaps Moss Wind Farm
Calderdale Long Distance Walkers	Ripponden Parish Council
Calderdale Ramblers	Ripponden Ward Forum
Cornholme Wreath Makers	Russell family
Cragg Vale Community Association	Ryburn Bash
Friends of Calderdale Countryside	Todmorden Harriers
Haworth Hobble	Todmorden Town Council
Hebden Royd Town Council	Todmorden Ward Forum
Heptonstall Fell Race	Todmorden Wind Farm (through CFFC)
Heptonstall Parish Council	Todwalkers
Luudenden Mayors fund	Upper Stoodley Residents' Association
Midgley Community Forum	Wadsworth Parish Council
Midgley Village Shop	Yorkshire Veterans Association

Thanks also to the many people who gave us anonymous donations either directly or through 'Just Giving'.

## Thanks for in-kind help

We rely on local businesses and individuals to sustain our work, in particular:

- CALVAG for always delivering wherever and whenever we need them.
- Ian Clarkson for dealing with fallen trees - often at short notice.
- Calderdale Council Highways for support, advice and guidance.
- Amy Gault from SPLAT for helping us to keep ourselves safe.
- Ian Whitehead at Calder Computers who keeps our IT systems going and helps us when something goes wrong.
- Angela Wright for the meticulous checking of our accounts.
- Dylan Wilby and Graham Ramsden for helping us with our social media.
- The Dusty Miller, Mytholmroyd, for hosting our meetings.
- Keith Devine for designing several new information boards and waymarks.
- Pennine Signs for printing waymarks and information boards for us, often at short notice.
- Everyone who took the time to make reports to our website.
- All the landowners who have allowed us to work on their land and provided advice, practical help and funding.

# Publicity

- [Our website](#) has been completely rebuilt. Over 5,000 users visited the site during the year.
- [Our Blog](#) forms a unique public record of our work and was visited over 500 times a month during the year.
- [Our Facebook page](#) now has 3600 regular followers, with posts also shared with 30 local and recreational groups.
- We produced a new leaflet about 'Collections in Memory'.
- We had some great coverage of our work in Ripponden in the BBC Countryfile magazine

# Improving the way we are organised

We all joined CROWS to improve rights-of-way, but to do that we need an infrastructure to support the work. To be sustainable, we have continued to share the organisational workload.

This year:

- We recruited five new volunteers and have reorganised our recruitment and induction process.
- We now have a group of volunteers that is able to upload videos to our Facebook page.
- We upgraded our risk assessment process as part of a periodic review of our safety policies.
- We trained 11 people in 'out-doors first aid'.
- We developed a system for tracking the progress of jobs in Ripponden.

# Plans for 2026 - 2027

- CROWS has grown in size over the last few years so we now need to review how we co-ordinate, organise and run worksite tasks.
- We have a major programme for work on the Calderdale stretch of the Pennine Way.
- With Calderdale Highways, we have a project to improve the waymarking of paths leading off public roadsides.
- We will complete our work to repair and replace stiles into Open Access land in the Todmorden area.
- We will need to respond to a request from Calderdale Council safety by developing a more formal programme of training and assessment of volunteers with a particular emphasis on safety.

And of course, we will continue responding to reports of encroaching vegetation, muddy paths, unclear waymarking, dodgy stiles, broken gates, sagging boardwalks and rotting revetments - the list goes on!

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