

SITWELL WARD

Covering Guilthwaite, Herringthorpe, Morthen, Sitwell, Whiston and Upper Whiston



Councillor
Simon Burnett



Councillor
David Fisher



Councillor
Tony Griffin

Report to Full Council

February 2024

Ward priorities

- Continue working with partners to mitigate the impact of flooding
- Work with local partners to improve provision for both young people/elderly
- Work with partners to improve the environment
- Road safety/Traffic
- Crime/Anti-social Behaviour

How these ward priorities were agreed and working in partnership

We used a range of data and information as well as feedback from our residents. This was to ensure our priorities reflected both the community's aspirations and our aspirations as Sitwell Ward Councillors.

We work with the Parish Council, local churches and various voluntary and community sector organisations, and bodies including the Council, the Police, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency to help us deliver the priorities.



Please see below examples of some of the work we've been doing in Sitwell Ward:

Working with partners to mitigate the impact of flooding

We worked closely with colleagues from RMBC Drainage, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency to organise a multi-agency clean-up of Whiston Brook. In advance of the clean-up, partners had a stall at the local Summer Festival promoting the clean-up day and encouraging the local community to get involved.

The clean-up day was supported by 30+ people. We spent the day tidying and cutting back vegetation, creating new wildlife habitat and improving existing habitat for wildlife, pulling up invasive species and litter picking around the Brook. Feedback was extremely positive, and this is an exercise we are keen to repeat in the future.

We continue to work with partners on this priority, particularly in light of recent events. In January, we led on a neighbourhood tour with Council staff, the Drainage Team and Environment Agency



Work with local partners to improve provision for both young people/elderly

We worked with Whiston Youth Club after they approached us wanting to upskill their staff in mental health. Ward funding was used to train 4 Youth Club staff in The Trauma Informed Practice Approach. This will enable staff to understand ways to approach managing behaviour, mental health and young people with difficulties in the youth group.



After visiting a coffee morning at Whiston Methodist Church, we spoke to attendees there about people struggling to walk to the main entrance due to the lack of a handrail. The group successfully applied for ward budget funding and have now had a handrail installed. This has received great feedback. We have also provided funding towards a Memory Cafe at Herringthorpe United Reformed Church. The project was a great success.

Work with partners to improve the environment

We are supporting improvements to Herringthorpe Valley Park and the surrounding woodland. Following a walkabout of the area requested by the community, we have provided funding for a new path and improvements to the woodland. We have also worked with the Community Payback Team to improve and re-paint youth shelters, benches and bins in the park.



Another project involves improving the environment and creating a new walk at Whiston Meadows. We have provided funding for 2 gates, a stile and 2 information posts at the site.

Finally, we are working with Council staff on our Towns / Villages Project, making improvements to both Stag and Worrygoose roundabouts. We have used ward funding to complement this work and hope to see an illuminated Christmas tree at Worrygoose roundabout.

Road Safety/traffic

Alongside SYP, we have conducted numerous walkabouts around schools after receiving reports of speeding cars and inconsiderate parking. As part of this work, we have also supported Op Slow Downs with SYP on busy roads. We are allocating money from the Ward's Community Infrastructure Levy to purchase several Vehicle Activated Speed signs which we will be able to move around the ward targeting areas where alleged speeding is taking place.

Crime/Anti-Social behaviour

During our monthly meetings with RMBC and SYP, we were able to discuss with the officers investigating a series of domestic burglaries what they are doing and hear about some positive results.

After reports of fly tipping, we worked with officers and volunteers to clean up part of Royds Moor. There remains a need to look at ways to deter people from littering and fly tipping around the Ward.

