

Action for the Environment

The Harrogate District Local Agenda 21 Plan



FOREWORD

Practising what you preach has to be the first port of call for any group or society which is aiming to persuade others to change their actions.

That is why we, respectively as Leader of Harrogate Borough Council and Chairman of Action for the Environment Group, are happy to put our seal of approval to the Harrogate District Agenda 21 Plan.

You only have to look at the tremendous response the Council has had to the trial kerbside recycling scheme, where just 13,000 properties are already helping us divert over 25 tonnes of rubbish per week from going to landfill, to realise that people are prepared to change, provided they are given the right information and opportunity to carry out that change.

Just as one small change in attitude can add up to a massive change in how we manage and protect our environment, the number of actions and plans detailed in this document add up to something we can be proud to leave for those who come after us.

The Harrogate District Action 21 Plan – Action for the Environment – sets out a vision for the district and identifies the key environmental action areas.

We will continue to ‘look in the mirror’ to sustain our efforts. And, as community leaders, we will continue to work in partnership to ensure that every individual, household, business and organisation has the opportunity to add to those efforts.

Councillor Geoff Webber

Leader of Harrogate Borough Council

Peter Armitage

Chairman of Action for the Environment Group



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The name **Local Agenda 21** was first used in 1992 at a United Nations Conference when over 120 of the world's leaders including the UK agreed that every community within each local Council district of every country should draw up a plan of action to improve quality of life in the 21st Century through sustainable development. This booklet sets out a vision for the Harrogate District and focuses in on several key issues which are relevant to all of the district's community.
- 1.2 The Government is supporting this process nationally in its own sustainable development plan entitled "**A better quality of life**", in which it sets out its task as meeting the following objectives at the same time.
- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
 - effective protection of the environment
 - prudent use of natural resources
 - maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

The government also reviews national progress annually in its report '**achieving a better quality of life**'.

2.0 WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

- 2.1 **Sustainable development** (or *sustainability*) is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come. A widely used international definition is 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (*The Brundtland Report*). It means each of us doing things differently in our day to day lives, at home, school and work to improve the quality of life for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.
We all have a part to play.
- 2.2 Sustainable development covers a whole range of environmental, social and economic issues seeking to protect and enhance the environment, meeting social needs and promoting economic success. It is about things we can all relate to – like giving children safe areas to play, having access to healthy food, ensuring that everyone can breathe unpolluted air and have clean water to drink. The characteristics of a sustainable society, listed in Box 1 and the sustainability check list for local organisations and businesses at Annex A (*page 24*) provide a useful reminder of the key elements of sustainability which should be considered when reviewing activities, proposed development or services.
- 2.3 The Harrogate District, like every community needs its own vision of how we would like things to be - our Agenda for the 21st Century (*hence Agenda 21*). If we do not have a view of where we want to get in the longer term, then we run the risk of going in the wrong direction or staying just the way we are. We need to try and develop a more sustainable approach to life so that the way we live today doesn't damage the future of our environment.



Box 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

A sustainable society seeks to:-

protect and enhance the environment

- use energy, water and other natural resources efficiently and with care
- minimise waste, then re-use or recover it through recycling, composting or energy recovery, and finally sustainably dispose of what is left
- limit pollution to levels which do not damage natural systems
- value and protect the diversity of nature

meet social needs

- create or enhance places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look well
- make settlements 'human' in scale and form
- value and protect diversity and local distinctiveness and strengthen local community and cultural identity
- protect human health and amenity through safe, clean, pleasant environments
- emphasise health service preventative action as well as care
- ensure access to good food, water, housing and fuel at reasonable cost
- meet local needs locally wherever possible
- maximise everyone's access to the skills and knowledge needed to play a full part in society
- empower all sections of the community to participate in decision-making and consider the social and community impacts of decisions

promote economic success

- create a vibrant local economy that gives access to satisfying and rewarding work without damaging the local, national or global environment
- value unpaid work
- encourage necessary access to facilities, services, goods and other people in ways which make less use of the car and minimise impacts on the environment
- make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation ready available to all

(adapted from LGMB(1994) The Sustainability Indicators Research Project: Indicators and LA21 – A summary)

Sustainability is about changing the way we do things to improve the quality of life in our communities. It is about addressing local community needs and concerns by working together.

...everyone needs to be involved.



3.0 THE STORY SO FAR

3.1 A Conference was held in November 1998 which launched Agenda 21 to the people of the Harrogate District and since then we have been working hard to find out the views of the District's residents. However, trying to reach 60,000 households spread across 500 sq. miles of both urban & rural areas is an immense task and trying to seek the views of all those people is practically impossible. Therefore a **Harrogate District Agenda 21 Steering Group**, made up of representatives from local businesses, community groups and statutory agencies, was set up to look at what should be included within the vision and plan of action for the Harrogate District (see Box 2). This group has now merged with the Harrogate District Environmental Forum to form **Action for the Environment** group who meet regularly to develop and encourage action on key environmental issues and hold an open meeting once a year for a wider audience.

3.2 **Actions Speak Louder Than Words!**

ACTION is important because talking is never enough. No amount of planning will make our lives better and more sustainable, unless it leads to action. Action can take many forms. It can be personal, involving changes in your lifestyle or it can be done as part of a group. The aim of the **Action for the Environment** group is to stimulate new projects and promote environmental issues particularly focusing on waste and recycling, energy efficiency, water conservation, transport and our local surroundings.

3.3 For some people, making things better can often be difficult to achieve on your own but if each one of us begins to make small changes, the total impact is much greater.



PERSONAL....LOCAL....GLOBAL!



However, we need to start locally and begin by taking responsibility for our actions with respect to our households, communities and neighbourhoods. In time, that responsibility will expand quite naturally to our workplaces, our country, and ultimately our planet.

3.4 The first draft of the Harrogate District Agenda 21 Plan was agreed at Harrogate Borough Council's Policy & Resources Committee in November 1999 and subsequently developed and discussed at the Harrogate District Agenda 21 Steering Group and the Council's Local Agenda 21 Corporate Group.

The draft plan incorporated a vision for the Harrogate District, which is described overleaf:

Box 2 - The Harrogate District Agenda 21 Steering Group, now merged with the Harrogate District Environmental Forum to form **Action for the Environment group** (*supported by Harrogate Borough Council*) helps to co-ordinate action as part of the Agenda 21 process. Harrogate Borough Council's role is to facilitate the Agenda 21 process rather than run it. This means that Harrogate Borough Council is helping others to think through what they want and to organise themselves to achieve it. Pilot projects will help to raise awareness and play an important part in encouraging others to have a go. It is also hoped that a self help network of volunteers can help get new projects off the ground. The Local Agenda 21 Officer can be contacted on **01423 556801** (Email jane.money@harrogate.gov.uk) or via Council's website www.harrogate.gov.uk/la21 or the Action for Environment groups website www.action4environment.com.

4.0 A VISION FOR THE HARROGATE DISTRICT

- 4.1 The vision for Harrogate District for the Year 2020 was initially drawn up by a cross section of Harrogate Borough Council Managers and Councillors as a result of a training course held in 1998 on addressing Agenda 21. These themes encompass the issues and actions raised by a host of individuals and organisations who are committed to improving the quality of life for everyone now and for generations to come.
- 4.2 The Harrogate District Agenda 21 process seeks to achieve the following:-
- an improved and integrated **transport** system with greater use of walking, cycling and public transport, with less dependency on cars;
 - better **resource management**, in order to reduce consumption and pollution and to encourage the reuse or recycling of materials wherever possible;
 - less fear of crime and improved **community safety**;
 - local control with greater **community involvement**;
 - greater understanding and implementation of the **conservation** of the local landscape and the environment
 - a thriving **local economy** with more basic needs met locally and more opportunities to work in a diverse local economy;
 - a healthy and safe environment supported by **preventative public health** policies and the “*polluter pays*” principle;
 - quality **housing** available to everyone (*see below*)
 - more **leisure facilities** with local accessibility;
 - more widespread **education** on local and global sustainability issues.

Since 1999 it was recognised that no specific reference was included to accommodate housing need although it was being addressed under the other key headings e.g. preventative public health issue. Therefore this issue has now been added as a specific part of the vision.

Although a wide range of organisations, groups and individuals have taken, and continue to take, action on specific areas relating to the vision, such a large agenda is difficult to develop, monitor and update. This document therefore has focused on the **key environmental action areas** of:

- **energy efficiency**
- **waste & recycling**
- **water conservation**
- **the local surroundings/biodiversity**
- **transport**
- **getting the message across**



5.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 ACTION

- HOW IT WORKS

5.1 Who Is Involved?

Local Agenda 21 (*sustainable development*) needs to engage everyone, but most people will become involved as part of an identifiable group e.g. school children, business managers, and community groups. In the context of Local Agenda 21, these groups are called 'stakeholders' - people who are affected and who therefore have a role to play.

There are four main groupings of stakeholders in Local Agenda 21:

- **Local authorities** have responsibility with respect to sustainability as they act as community leaders and service providers, being the level of government closest to local people. They have wide ranging relevant responsibilities including energy management, environmental health, housing, education, control of new development, social welfare and waste management and are also large local employers.
- **Community groups** involve people at the grass-roots level coming together as a result of common interests. Such groups may be locally based in a geographical community such as a cul-de-sac or village. They may come together as a result of hobbies or past times, like allotment associations or Women Institutes. They may be related to people's age such as, parents, school children, or older people. They may already be committed to environmental action like Wildlife Trusts, Transport 2000 or Friends of the Earth.
- **The Voluntary sector** incorporates a wide range of services which are vital to the quality of life of many minority sectors of our community. Their role is critical in Agenda 21 as they can reach and represent the views of those people who due to different circumstances are not always best able to represent themselves. Many organisations are committed to action which addresses social difficulties experienced by a large number of our population.
- **Other locally involved organisations** including, for example, businesses, Chambers of Trade and Commerce, health authorities, schools, other educational establishments and environmental agencies and farming community. Each needs to be concerned primarily with how their own practices can benefit the economic development of the area and in doing so must consider the environment and society at large.

5.2 Resourcing Arrangements

Harrogate Borough Council facilitates the development of the Harrogate District Agenda 21 process by setting up meetings, providing venues and secretarial support to **Action for the Environment group** (*previously known as the Harrogate District Agenda 21 Steering Group*) and other related activities. Each organisation involved develops its proposals for Agenda 21, which is limited by the resources it has available to it. The Agenda 21 Plan includes a broad vision which, to fully address would have major resource consequences especially for the Borough Council, an obvious example is the development of an integrated transport policy. The only resources the Council has available are within existing programmes and budgets and therefore the progress which could reasonably be expected in many areas, even in the medium term, is limited. This fact is reflected in the actions set out in Section 6 and these are therefore included subject to the financial constraints within which each involved organisation operates.





5.3 Consultation Process

The consultation process on the Plan will be as follows:

- Full document to be distributed to consultees listed on pages 23 with structured questionnaire as shown on page 21. Additional groups and individuals can be added to the list on request.
- The consultation period will be between April and June 2003.
- The Harrogate District Community Engagement Panel has already been consulted on two occasions in relation to levels of awareness and engagement in environmentally friendly activities, and the importance of monitoring environmental issues. In addition, two focus groups have been held on key issues which need to be addressed in the Harrogate District and these views have been accommodated in the vision and action areas.
- The LA21 Services Section will also be looking into the possibility of including a road show approach by utilising the mobile library services and providing display material and leaflets at a variety of venues and public meetings.

6.0 MAKING IT HAPPEN

6.1 • The **key environmental action areas** are:

- **energy efficiency**
- **water conservation**
- **transport**
- **waste and recycling**
- **the local surroundings**
- **getting the message across**

6.2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Climate change is widely recognised as one of the biggest environmental threats facing the world today. Worldwide countries have acknowledged the need to reduce greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, which are produced from burning fossil fuels like coal, gas, oil and petrol. Increased emissions of greenhouse gases are thought to be responsible for global warming.

More than three quarters of carbon dioxide emissions are due to household energy use, transport and industry (*each of the three sectors being responsible for similar emission quantities*).

Energy efficiency is relevant to everyone, whether at work, at home or at school and being more energy efficient not only cuts down carbon dioxide emissions, **it also saves money**.

The following sections identify some local targets and offer you tips and advice.

Energy Efficiency Targets

E1 Harrogate Borough Council will continue to implement a Home Energy Conservation Strategy with the aim of improving energy efficiency by 30% by 2011 (*using 1996 as the base figure*) by:-

- offering advice and information to the district's residents
- undertaking awareness raising activities with at least 800 residents per year (*currently offering energy efficiency bingo sessions*)
- raising the energy efficiency of the Council's own housing to achieve an average energy rating (*SAP rating*) of 60 by 2006
- working in partnership with others to encourage the uptake of energy efficiency measures

E2 Harrogate Borough Council will reduce energy use in the main administrative Council buildings by 10% over a five year period from April 2003.

E3 Action for the Environment group will work with businesses, the voluntary sector, community groups and individuals to promote energy efficiency in the Harrogate district.





Doing Your Bit..

Save Energy, Save Money

- Remember to switch off lights and other electrical appliances when not in use
- Ensure your home is well insulated to avoid losing heat
- Invest in some energy efficient light bulbs, they not only use less energy but last longer and cost you less money to run
- If buying new appliances such as fridges and washing machines, look out for their energy efficiency ratings (*A is the most efficient rating*)
- Turn your central heating down by just 1°C, this can reduce your energy bills by 10%

Did you know....

- A photocopier left switched on overnight wastes enough energy to make 5,300 copies.
- A computer monitor left switched on overnight wastes enough energy to laser print 800 A4 pages.
- Recycling aluminium cans can save up to 95% of energy used and cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 95%.
- Energy efficient light bulbs last 8 times longer and use a quarter of the energy of ordinary light bulbs.
- We could save the amount of energy produced by Sizewell B power station if every home in the UK replaced one 100 Watt bulb with an energy efficient (20 w) bulb.

Source: Energy Savings Trust



To find out more..

About saving energy

Harrogate Borough Council's **Home Energy Conservation Officer** can give information on available grants and special offers for increasing energy efficiency. Tel: [01423 556802](tel:01423556802) or e-mail jane.robson@harrogate.gov.uk or andrew.ellis@harrogate.gov.uk or visit the website www.harrogate.gov.uk/la21/energy.html

The **York and North Yorkshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre** also offer advice to households and small businesses Tel: [0800 512012](tel:0800512012) or visit the website www.energypartnership.org.uk.



6.3 WASTE AND RECYCLING

Historically the UK has relied on landfill as its main method for disposal for household waste i.e. filling up holes in the ground with rubbish and covering them over with topsoil. As space available for new landfills is becoming limited and the environmental impacts of land filling waste have been recognised, there is a need reduce, re-use and recycle the amount of waste we produce.

Every year in the Harrogate District, the refuse collection rounds collect around 45,000 tonnes of household waste, which is sent to local landfill sites for disposal. Additionally, over 3,000 tonnes is sent to landfill via waste collected by the Street Cleansing service.

Approximately 3,500 tonnes per annum is collected by Harrogate Borough Council for recycling (*via the designated recycling crew servicing the Mini Recycling Centres or through private companies with whom Harrogate Borough Council work in partnership*). This means that currently, the Harrogate District has a recycling rate of almost 7%.

Waste and Recycling Targets

- R1 Harrogate Borough Council will increase household waste recycling rate to 14% by April 2004 and to 21% by April 2006 (*in accordance with government Best Value Recycling and Compost Performance Standards*).
- R2 Harrogate Borough Council will implement trial house-to-house recycling schemes by 31 March 2003.
- R3 Harrogate Borough Council will undertake a internal waste audit with a view to developing targets for reducing its own internal waste. Purchasing will subsequently be reviewed to assess potential reduction of purchase of non recycled goods or potential to increase the percentage of recycled goods.
- R4 Action for the Environment group will work with organisations to increase local recycling levels, through promotion of the 3 R's (*Reduce, Re-use & Recycle*).



Doing Your Bit..

Watch your Waste

- **Reduce** the amount of packaging you buy and avoid buying disposable items
- **Re-use** carrier bags when shopping, and refill bottles or containers
- **Repair** products such as domestic appliances
- **Recycle;** take your newspapers, cans, and glass bottles to mini recycling centres around the district
- **Compost** your kitchen and garden waste at home. Garden waste can also be composted at the civic amenity sites at Harrogate and Ripon
- **Buy Recycled** products, for example recycled paper, recycled kitchen rolls.





Did you know....

- In one day there would be enough household waste produced in the UK to fill Trafalgar Square up to the top of Nelson's Column.
- In the UK we use enough steel cans to stretch to the moon three times when placed end to end! That's 13 billion steel cans.
- Each tonne of paper recycled saves 5 average sized trees, as well as the surrounding habitat and wildlife.
- Up to 90% of new glass can be made from reclaimed scrap glass, which saves energy and raw materials.

Source: Going for Green



To find out more

About reducing your waste

Harrogate Borough Council's **Recycling and Waste Management Officer** can tell you where your nearest recycling centre is located and about other waste and recycling initiatives in the district. Tel: 01423 556852, email noel.scanlon@harrogate.gov.uk or visit the website at www.harrogate.gov.uk/claro

A **Schools Waste Action Club** has been established in North Yorkshire, please contact Katie Harvey Tel: 01609 761818 or email katie.harvey1@virgin.net

6.4 WATER CONSERVATION

Water is essential for all forms of life and it is becoming increasingly a precious natural resource. Over recent years we have seen more unpredictable rainfall patterns, with milder, wetter winters, and drier hotter summers. We are all using much more water in our homes, around 153 litres (*34 gallons*) each per day – 70% more than we did 30 years ago.

The environment cannot sustain an unlimited increase in demand for water. Low rainfall and overuse places pressure on existing supplies in vulnerable parts of the country which reduces availability and affects wildlife. Purification for drinking water is also energy intensive. We need to use water wisely and not waste it.

Water Conservation Targets

- W1 Harrogate Borough Council will review its water consumption with an aim of identifying further water saving measures.
- W2 Action for the Environment group will work with organisations to promote water conservation issues in the district.



Doing your Bit

Be Water Wise

- Put a water saving device such as a hippo bag, bog hog or a plastic bottle filled with water, into your toilet cistern to reduce the amount of water used each flush.
- Turn the taps off when brushing teeth and mend washers on leaking taps.
- Take a shower rather than a bath and use 2-3 times less water.
- Make sure you have full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher before switching them on or use the half load button on washing machines where appropriate.
- Collect rainwater in a water butt for watering for the garden and washing the car.



Did you know

- If everyone in the UK turned off the tap whilst brushing their teeth, they would collectively save as much water in a week as it would take to fill the Millennium Dome.
(Source: Going for Green)
- A third of an average family's water use is flushed down the toilet.
(Source: Save-a-flush)
- The average family uses the equivalent of two baths of water per day when flushing the toilet.
(Source: Save-a-flush)
- In half an hour, a garden sprinkler uses as much water as a family of four in a day.
(source: DETR)
- Using a hose to wash your car wastes up to 300 litres or 33 buckets full of water.
(Source: Southern Water Website)



To find out more

About saving water

To find out how to save water and avoid pollution in your home and garden, call The Environment Agency Tel: 0113 2440191.

If you see a leak in the street, report it free to Yorkshire Water: 0800 573553

For a free 'bog hog' and information pack please contact Yorkshire Water Tel: 0845 1242425.

6.5 OUR LOCAL SURROUNDINGS

The local surroundings support a wide variety of plants, animals and habitats (*where plants and animals live*). Collectively this is known as biodiversity. In rural areas, towns and cities, the wildlife habitats make an important contribution to quality of life.

Biodiversity encompasses the environment, habitats and species that provide the support systems which sustain human existence. It provides many of the essential needs in life including our oxygen, food, clothing, health (*from medicines*) and relaxation. The world, however, is losing its biodiversity at an increasing rate. Many species are lost as a result of human activity. During the last century the UK lost over 100 species, and many more species and habitats are in danger of disappearing.



For example, in the UK, 98% of wild flower meadows, 448,000 kilometres of hedgerows and over two million Skylarks have been lost in less than a lifetime. We need to halt the decline and put back, where we can, what has been lost, not just in protected areas or nature reserves but in the wider local environment too.

The Government has committed itself to a UK Biodiversity Action Plan to maintain and enhance our environment by identifying species and habitats that have declined significantly over recent decades and identifying species and habitats of international importance. It also advocates local action through Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

North Yorkshire County Council's Biodiversity Officer, working in conjunction with Harrogate Borough Council, has established a **Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Steering Group**. The Harrogate District BAP group are currently working on developing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan by auditing the wildlife and reviewing information on habitats and species. Ultimately the audit will identify priority habitats and species and determine action plans for each. The action plan also seeks to involve residents to improve their local quality of life to manage their gardens and/or community space for the benefit of wildlife.

Biodiversity/Local Surroundings Targets

- B1 The Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan (*BAP*) Steering Group will undertake an audit on the local wildlife, habitats and species and develop a draft action plan for consultation and implementation in 2003/2004.
- B2 The Action for the Environment Group will work with the Harrogate District BAP Steering Group to promote nature conservation and participation in preserving and enhancing the local environment.



Doing Your Bit

Conserve the Natural Environment

You can help the Harrogate district's wildlife at home and at work -

- Encourage wildlife into your garden, put up bird tables and bat boxes.
- Use alternatives such as beer traps rather than slug pellets. (*To benefit the Song Thrush population which is currently in decline*).
- In the spring help migrating toads to cross roads on wet nights. (*Reduce mortality of common toads and increase numbers spawning*).
- Leave wild flowers to set seed and be enjoyed by all, rather than picking them. (*Conserve wild flowers*).
- Make a pond. (*Increase this scarce habitat*).
- Leave a patch of grass to grow wild and tussocky. (*Provides a nesting place for bumble bees that will pay you back by pollinating crops and flowers*).
- Keep dogs on a lead during the breeding season (*April to June*) when walking close to nature reserves, rivers and lakes. (*Protect breeding birds and other animals when they are vulnerable to disturbance and may abandon breeding attempts*).
- Avoid cutting hedges in the breeding season (*April to June*). (*Conserve nesting birds*).
- Choose plants, which are native to this country or scatter a wild flower mix at the back of your garden.
- Don't use peat. Help save our peat bogs by buying alternatives to peat, now widely available from garden centres.
- Try organic gardening methods – replace chemicals with natural alternatives.
- Buy organic produce grown locally where possible. (*To stop the destruction of habitats through use of pesticides and herbicides*).

Did You Know.....

- On average populations of common breeding birds have declined by around 5 percent since the mid 1970s, but woodland and farmland birds have declined by much more – by 20 percent and 40 percent over the same period. The latest figures for 1999 show an increase in populations but this probably reflects the mild winter weather of 1998/99.
Source: Achieving a Better Quality of Life DETR (2001)
- 11,000 hectares of countryside a year are lost to urban development
(*an area the size of Bristol*). *Source: The Lost Land, CPRE (1992)*

- 20% of England will be urbanised by 2050 if current rates of development continue.
Source: The Lost Land, CPRE (1992)
- The area of orchards in the UK fell by over 50% - from 62,000 hectares to 30,000 – between 1970 and 1994.
Source: MAFF June Census, 1994
- From 1970 to 1990, the population of Skylarks fell by 54%, that of Corn Buntings fell by 75% and the population of Song Thrushes by 64%.
Source: British Trust for Ornithology Common Bird Census, 1994
- An area of land twice the size of Birmingham (590 sq km) is taken up by roads.
Source: Parking Mad, CPRE (1995)



To find out more

About the natural environment

- North Yorkshire County Council Biodiversity Officer can offer information on biodiversity and nature conservation in the district. Tel: 01609 780780 or e-mail: graham.megson@northyorks.gov.uk
- The Harrogate District Naturalists' Society can be contacted through Joan McClean, Hon General Secretary. Tel: 01423 879095 or e-mail: joan.mcclean@hotmail.com
- Paul Burgess, Nidderdale AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Project Officer can give information about volunteering in the AONB and for the Nidderdale Conservation Volunteer Program. Tel: 01423 712950 or e-mail: paul.burgess@harrogate.gov.uk



6.6 TRANSPORT

Road congestion in towns is a major problem causing driver frustration, environmental pollution, longer journey times and demands for more roads that reduce the enjoyment and biodiversity of the countryside. Car dependency can also affect peoples health through lack of exercise, road rage and increased risk of health effects of pollutants.

In the UK approximately 25% of carbon dioxide emissions are due to transport. Between 1970 and 1999 carbon dioxide emissions from transport rose by 83% and the proportion of total emissions attributed to road transport more than doubled to 24% by 1999. Transport is the fastest growing producer of carbon dioxide emissions, the main greenhouse gas which contributes to global warming.



Car ownership is predicted to increase by 93% between 1996 and 2031 in the UK (*1997 DETR National Road Traffic Forecasts*) leading to more congestion and pollution. In order to protect the environment everyone needs to reduce their car use by using healthier alternatives where ever possible or share the journey with someone else.

Transport Targets

- T1 Harrogate Borough Council will encourage more people to make use of public transport and encourage more walking and cycling. In 2002/2003 it will:
- Work with others to complete the new Harrogate bus station
 - Implement the Harrogate & Knaresborough cycling strategy
 - Undertake promotional work which will assist, facilitate and promote 'Greener transport choices'.
- T2 Harrogate Borough Council will phase in the use of cleaner fuels in Council vehicles. LPG vehicles are currently being introduced as vehicles are replaced.
- T3 The Action for the Environment group will work with organisations and individuals in the business, community & voluntary sectors to facilitate an increase in Greener Transport choices through promotional events and collaborative schemes.



Doing Your Bit

Think Before You Travel

- Cycle or walk for shorter journeys if you are able, this will also help keep you fit.
- Try using the bus, train, or park and ride schemes or share car journeys to work or school with friends and relatives.
- Use local shops and buy local food, support your local farmers' markets, held at Ripon and Harrogate. This reduces the distance food has to travel.
- Keep your car well maintained and drive sensibly to save fuel and improve road safety.

Did You Know....

- Road traffic is forecast to increase by up to 50% by 2026 from the current levels of 21 million cars.
(Source: DETR National Road Traffic Forecasts)
- 71% of road trips by motor vehicles are under 5 miles and 46% are less than 2 miles.
(Source: Going for Green)
- Emissions from road transport now constitute over 70% of all emissions of Carbon Monoxide (CO). Emissions of CO from road transport rose in the 1970's and 1980's, but since 1990 they have begun to fall, mainly because of the introduction of catalytic converters on petrol-fuelled cars.
(Source: NETCEN – DETR The Environment in your Pocket 1998)
- Transport is the fastest growing contributor to Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) the main greenhouse gas contributing to climate change.
(Source: DEFRA – The Environment in your Pocket 2001)
- A 10% increase in the number of people cycling regularly would lead to a 4% reduction in the number of people with heart disease, saving the NHS £200 million a year.
(Source: Going for Green)
- Cycling or walking briskly, for half an hour a day can halve the risk of heart disease.
(Source: Health Education Authority)
- Over the last 20 years, the distances cycled and walked have both fallen by a quarter.
(Source: NTS)
- 90% of badly polluting vehicles can be re-tuned within 15 minutes.
(Source: DETR)
- Traffic delays cost the country around £15 billion a year.
(Source: CBI)
- In heavy traffic jams, the air quality can be poorer inside the car than out. Car users regularly suffer up to 3 times as much pollution as pedestrians.
(Source: Environmental Transport Association 1997)



To find out more

About alternative ways to travel

- Harrogate Borough Council's **Cycling Officer** can give advice on cycling issues. Tel: 01423 556967 or visit the website www.harrogate.gov.uk/transport/cycling/cycling.htm
- Harrogate Borough Council's **Road Safety and TravelWise Manager**, Fiona Ansell offers information and advice. Tel: 01423 556613 or email: fiona.ancell@harrogate.gov.uk
- **Public transport information**
Traveline - public transport information in Yorkshire Tel: 0870 6082608. National Rail enquiries Tel: 08457 484950.
- **Local operators**
Buses – Harrogate and District Tel: 01423 566061 Rail Operator Arriva Tel: 0870 6023322 Harrogate District Community Transport – for those who are unable to use public transport Tel: 01423 526655.

About related issues

Harrogate Borough Council's Estates Division provides information on **Farmers' Markets** in the district where local produce is sold. Tel: 01423 556044.

6.7 GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

In 1999 Harrogate Borough Council consulted the district panel of 1000 residents on levels of awareness and activity which showed that only 17% of people had heard of Agenda 21. The survey also showed the following involvement in environmental issues

- 67% regularly recycled
- 85% purchased recycled products
- 57% used energy saving light bulbs
- 38% conserved water for gardening
- 40% bought some organic food
- 43% regularly used public transport
- 6% regularly cycled



but a great deal more could be done.

A second consultation in 2000 indicated that residents thought that it was important that the Council monitored a range of environmental, social and economic factors including waste & recycling levels, air pollution, water quality, traffic levels, crime, unemployment, wildlife populations and brownfield developments .

Raising awareness of environmental issues and sustainability both inside and outside the Council is vital for change. For the last three years the Council and the Action for the Environment group (*previously the Harrogate District Agenda 21 Steering Group and Environmental Forum*) have been trying to spread the word through a variety of means such as talks, workshops, campaigns and publications. In the last two years the Steering Group with Harrogate Borough Council has engaged over 50,000 residents and visitors in environmentally friendly activities, for example Farmers' Markets, School competitions, Cycle week, Energy Efficiency Bingo and workshops on recycling, energy and transport. These activities have also engaged 5 voluntary sector organisations and 84 local businesses. In addition the York and North Yorkshire Business Environmental Forum has been established to help businesses be more cost effective through good environmental business practices.

The Action for the Environment Group also developed a website to promote its activities to a wider audience and to respond to enquires for more information (*visit the website www.action4environment.com*) This site also offers links to the sites of partner organisations and other related subjects. Harrogate Borough Council's website www.harrogate.gov.uk/la21 provides information on Agenda 21 activity and includes a link to action4environment.com.

Friends of the Earth have produced a Harrogate District Green Guide (*available from The Greenhouse, 5 Station Parade, Harrogate, HG1 1UF*) on products and services available to the Harrogate District residents.

Targets for Getting The Message Across

- M1 Harrogate Borough Council will provide sustainability training appropriate to meet the needs of the Councillors and Officers by the end of 2004.
- M2 Harrogate Borough Council will engage at least 7,000 local residents in Local Agenda 21 related activities during 2002/2003.
- M3 Action for the Environment Group will review and regularly update the website www.Action4Environment.com with information events and activities, in order to stimulate and support new projects and promote environmental issues.



Doing Your Bit

Take action for a better environment...

- At home and at work return any unwanted mail or publications and ask to be deleted from company mailing lists.
- Introduce some 'environmentally friendly' changes at home, school or work e.g. car journey sharing, purchasing products which have been recycled (*in preference to none recycled ones*).
- Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to '*Do Their Bit*' by letting them know what you do or passing on the 'Doing Your Bit' tips mentioned throughout section 6.



To find out more

About getting the message across

Harrogate Borough Council's Local Agenda 21 Officer can help you to promote environmental issues through the Action for the Environment Group and its related activities. Tel: 01423 556801 Email jane.money@harrogate.gov.uk or visit the website at www.harrogate.gov.uk/la21 or the Action for the Environment Group website at www.action4environment.com

7.0 LINKING IN WITH BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

7.1 Best Value

Every year Harrogate Borough Council makes hundreds of decisions, many of which have implications for sustainable development. These could be as simple as deciding which paper to buy, or more complex, such as letting a contract, or providing new leisure facilities. Sustainability implications are seen as an integral part of the Council's decision making process, in the same way that financial issues and equal opportunities are currently viewed. As a result of this, each report to Councillors, Cabinet and Council has a Sustainability Assessment Implications Matrix. In addition, the Council's services are reviewed as part of the Best Value Programme and a more detailed sustainability assessment is undertaken in conjunction with each review. These assessments result in actions which lead to improvement in the sustainability of the services.



7.2 Community Planning

In 2000, the Government issued new legislation (*Local Government Act 2000*) which requires local authorities to prepare Community Plans (*or Strategies*). The plans aim to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of each area and its inhabitants. In order to develop this plan for the Harrogate District, a Local Strategic Partnership is being established. The Local Strategic Partnership is made up of representative organisations such as the Police and North Yorkshire County Council, but also includes representatives of environmental groups, social groups and economic groups. Representatives are nominated from within the Action for the Environment Group. The Action for the Environment Group together with the Council's Local Agenda 21 Officer are responsible for drawing together the key issues for the Harrogate District in relation to the environment in the form of the Local Agenda 21 Plan and updating local people on the progress made. The Action for the Environment Group also engages a wide range of organisations in collaborative development work and promotional activity which is targeted to improve the environmental well being of the Harrogate district. This activity will feed into and support the development of the Harrogate District Community Strategy.

8.0 KEEPING IT ALL ON TRACK

This document has set out a Harrogate District Agenda 21 Plan by identifying a vision for the Harrogate District and key environmental action areas which Harrogate Borough Council and the Action for the Environment Group will tackle.

Every Council Officer and Councillor has a responsibility for implementing the Strategy. For example: all staff have a part to play in helping to cut carbon dioxide emissions and in order to check that this is happening, Harrogate Borough Council's Cabinet will receive regular progress reports. In addition, Harrogate Borough Council's Corporate Working Group will meet to progress environmental improvements in the Council's own in house policies and practices.

In order to check on progress throughout the district, quality of life indicators can be used for both the Local Agenda 21 Plan and the Community Strategy. Quality of life indicators are tools for measuring progress and they help people to understand the issues more clearly if they are meaningful and credible. They are used to communicate the key issues and can be compared year on year to identify trends which relate to the quality of life for the district's inhabitants.

Below a number of quality of life indicators are proposed. These indicators will be considered further by the Local Strategic Partnership, in the preparation of the Community Plan.

- Average household energy use
- Average domestic water use per person
- Kilograms of household waste collected per head
- % of total tonnage of household waste arising recycled
- Air pollution figures
- River Quality
- Changes in habitats
- Changes in population of selected species
- Mortality by cause
- Qualifications of young people % of pupils obtaining 5 or more GSCE at grade C or above
- No. of enrolments on adult education courses
- Homes judged unfit to live in
- Homeless acceptances
- Access to key services
- Travel to work method
- Travel to school
- Overall traffic volumes *(also option to include road casualties)*
- New homes built on previously developed land
- Recorded crime per 1000 population
- Fear of crime
- Social participation
- Community well being
- Tenant satisfaction
- Employment as % of working age of population
- Long term unemployed as a % of total employment
- Benefit recipients - % of households receiving Council Tax Benefit
- Business start-ups & closures – net VAT registrations
- Companies with Environmental Management Systems
- Social and community enterprises
- Parks and green spaces – hectares per capita
- Participation in sport
- Participation in cultural activity



CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE HARROGATE DISTRICT AGENDA 21 PLAN

Please tick boxes and comment as appropriate.

1. Does this Local Agenda 21 Plan cover all the key issues? Yes No
If no, what is missing? _____

2. Do you agree with the vision for the Harrogate district? Yes No
If no, how should it be changed? (*see section 4*) _____

3. Which sections were of most interest to you? _____

4. Did you find the layout of this document easy to follow and the information clear?
Yes No
If no, why? _____

5. Any other comments Please give any feedback not covered by the above questions.

Name _____ Date completed _____

Organisation (if appropriate) _____

Address * for correspondence _____

* Your views will be treated in complete confidence and assembled along with other respondents comments for analysis. Filling in you name and address will enable us to keep you informed of the progress with the Harrogate District Agenda 21 work. Thank you for taking the time to help us.

Please return the completed form to Jane Money, Local Agenda 21 Officer, Harrogate Borough Council, Department of Health & Housing, Springfield House, Kings Road, Harrogate, HG1 5NX Tel: 01423 556801 Fax: 01423 556860 Email: jane.money@harrogate.gov.uk Website www.harrogate.gov.uk/la21



LIST OF CONSULTEES

- Ackrills Group
- Action for Environment Group
- Age Concern
- Ainsty Conservation Society
- ASDA Stores Ltd
- Betty's & Taylors of Harrogate
- Bilton Conservation Society
- Body Shop
- Boots the Chemist
- British Holiday & Home Parks Association
- BTCV (North Yorkshire)
- Business Links
- Churches Together (Harrogate)
- Council for the Protection of Rural England
- Cyclists' Touring Club
- Community Education Group
- Countryside Agency
- Craven, Harrogate & Rural District Primary Care Trust
- Dalesmade
- Danby Foods, Masham
- Economic Development Forum
- English Heritage
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Government Office for Yorkshire & the Humber
- Harrogate Chamber of Trade & Commerce
- Harrogate College
- Harrogate Council for Voluntary Services
- Harrogate Civic Society
- Harrogate & District Christian Ecology Link
- Harrogate & District Naturalists Society
- Harrogate & District Travel
- Harrogate & Knaresborough Cycle Group
- Harrogate District Action for Environment Group
- Harrogate District Access Group
- Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group
- Harrogate District Community Transport Ltd
- Harrogate District Transport Forum
- Harrogate Friends of the Earth
- Harrogate Health Care Trust
- Henshaws College
- Hookstone and Crimple Wood Protection Group
- Kirkby Malzeard Crackpots
- Knaresborough Chamber of Trade & Commerce
- Knaresborough Regeneration Partnership
- Knaresborough Civic Society
- Lifecycling
- Marks & Spencer
- Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food
- Morrisons
- National Trust
- National Farmers Union
- Nidderdale AONB Joint Advisory Committee
- Nidderdale Chamber of Trade & Commerce
- North Yorkshire Health Authority
- North Yorkshire Health Promotion Service
- North Yorkshire County Council
- North Yorkshire Training & Enterprise Council
- Northern Spirit
- Parish & Town Councils
- Ramblers Association
- Ripon Council for Voluntary Services
- Ripon Civic Society
- Ripon Improvement Trust
- Ripon Town Centre Manager
- Royal Mail
- Safeway
- Sainsburys
- Transport 2000
- Voluntary Sector Forum
- Women's Food & Farming Union
- Women's Institute (North Yorkshire West Federation)
- World Wide Fund for Nature
- York & North Yorkshire Business Environmental Forum
- Yorkshire Agricultural Society
- Yorkshire & Humberside Tourist Board
- Yorkshire Pantry
- Yorkshire Water
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- Young Ornithologists Club

Annex A

SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS & BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

(adopted from Harrogate Borough Council 's Best Value Sustainability Checklist)

		Yes/No	Significantly? (Yes or No)	More info needed	Comments/ Mitigating Action
1.	<p>TRANSPORT</p> <p>Does the activity, proposed development or service impact on road congestion or provide access to transport, which does not rely on the car?</p> <p>Does the activity necessitate the use of transport for the delivery of people or goods and services?</p> <p>Could more be done to reduce journeys or encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport or use of freight transfer by rail or water, or improve environmental performance of vehicles?</p>				
2.	<p>RESOURCES</p> <p>Non-renewable or renewable fuels, non-renewable mined materials. Does the activity, proposed development or service impact upon waste or offer opportunities to preserve non-renewable or protect non-renewable or natural resources such as soil fertility, forestry?</p>				
2.a.					
2.b.	<p>Waste minimisation and recycling. Does the activity, proposed development or service impact upon waste or offer opportunities to reduce waste and increase the amount of recycling (including composting)?</p> <p>Are any of the wastes hazardous or do they have health and safety implications?</p>				
2.c.	<p>Emissions and discharges. Does the activity, proposed development or service impact upon emissions and discharges to air, land, water or other and is there an opportunity to reduce this?</p>				
2.d.	<p>Paper use. Does the activity, proposed development or service impact upon paper waste and is there an opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of this?</p>				
2.f.	<p>Energy consumption. Does the activity, proposed development or service impact on energy management either through the buildings involved in the service or the buildings of others within the scope or control of the service? Is there an opportunity to reduce the impact?</p>				
2.g.	<p>Water consumption. Does the activity, proposed development or service impact on water consumption levels either through the buildings or equipment involved in the service or the buildings or equipment within the scope or control of the service?</p>				

		Yes/No	Significantly? (Yes or No)	More info needed	Comments/ Mitigating Action
2.h.	Resources Other. Does the activity, proposed development or service impact specifically on any other resource management issue not mentioned above?				
3.	CRIME AND DISORDER (includes fear of crime either personal or to property). Does the activity, proposed development or service impact upon quality of life in terms of crime prevention or reduction of fear of crime or increase in risks in respect of personal safety and property security?				
4.	COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT In terms of quality of life and sustainability, does the activity or proposal allow the community to be involved in the service or related activity or permit involvement in decision-making?				
5.	CONSERVATION Does the activity, proposed development or service protect or enhance irreplaceable assets, landscapes, open spaces, buildings, monuments, streetscapes, countryside character and town/city character? Does the activity, proposed development or service promote features which express the District, its unique culture, heritage and landscape or value the environment and protect or enhance biodiversity?				
6.	LOCAL ECONOMY AND ABILITY TO MEET LOCAL NEEDS LOCALLY Does the activity, proposed development or service impact upon the local economy creating diversity or allowing or promoting local needs being met locally through local supply chains? Does the activity, proposed development or service provide local employment opportunities, community based business and/or promote ethical purchasing of goods or services?				
7.	PUBLIC HEALTH Does the activity, proposed development or service impact upon health issues (either mental, physical or social well-being)? Consider access to health services and reduction in causes of ill health.				
8.	HOUSING Does the activity, proposed development or service make quality housing available to people in need or improve quality of existing housing? (consider energy efficiency, sustainable design, safety & security and reducing unfit housing).				

		Yes/No	Significantly? (Yes or No)	More info needed	Comments/ Mitigating Action
9.	AVAILABILITY OF LEISURE FACILITIES Does the activity, proposed development or service impact upon local availability of leisure, culture, and recreational facilities and participation in such activities?				
10.	EDUCATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE Does the activity, proposed development or service provide educational or information, which relates to sustainability and sustainable choices?				
11.	EQUITY Does the activity, proposed development or service have an impact on disadvantaged or minority groups? Consider access for all, the barriers and inequalities which might exist.				



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