

Greening Sheraton Park Action Plan 2019-2020

Our Purpose

To encourage action throughout Ustinov College and Sheraton Park that transforms our relationship to the earth.

Our 10-year vision

Sheraton Park / Ustinov will have indigenous trees growing in all suitable spaces, wildflower meadows attracting bees and insect life, a shared herb garden and a large and flourishing community allotment.

There will be shared bulk buying of organic / local produce and a shop/stall selling locally produced ethical consumer products.

Waste to landfill will have been reduced by recycling, composting, and changes in consumer behaviours. With 70% of waste recycled, kerbside collections could be on a monthly basis.

There will be no litter.

Every house will have solar panels.

The area will be serviced by an electric bus and a fleet of electric bikes. There will be a maximum of 20 cars on the estate, all non-petrol/ diesel. People will mostly walk, cycle or use public transport.

There will be a sheltered picnic area / pagoda for collective coming together outdoors.

There will be a regular repair café / community skills exchange.

People will care for the local area as 'stewards' of our environment.

Our Values / Guiding principles;

- Commitment
- Respect for all life
- Equity
- Diversity
- Tolerance and compassion
- Thoughtfulness
- Learning from what we do
- Openness
- Transparent participative decision-making
- Shared ownership and responsibility, scaling up impact through working together.
- Making use of evidence to steer our actions

Our Mission / What we will do

We will:

- Inspire
- Educate / raise awareness
- Organise events
- Lead / manage projects
- Pool intellectual capital / expertise
- Role model sustainable practice
- Facilitate (make easier) sustainable practice....


In 4 main areas (see the table below) :

- Energy use
- Transport
- Consuming less and re-using / recycling more
- Biodiversity




These areas have been selected because they are feasible first steps and will potentially impact on Climate Change and/or Biodiversity. The two aspects of harm are different, but often intertwined. Both offer a severe threat to the biosphere.

The table below includes a green tick in the first column if it is under way, an orange circle in the same place if it is planned for action during January to June. Measures of success relate to the period October 2019 to September 2020. During this period we hope to see some development work on the issues listed under the heading 'areas for potential future action'.

Action Plan

• Energy		
Purpose	Action	Measure of success
1.1 Support each household to assess its energy consumption using www.energysavingtrust.org.uk in order to encourage energy saving actions. 	We have applied to join the Energy Saving Trust as a Community Organisation. Next step is to assess whether the energy audit could be done once for each of the 3 Sheraton Park housing prototypes, regarding structural issues. Advertise and support householders to complete the energy audit. Apply to Parish Council for small grant to offer a reward or prize to householders taking part, or some of them. Durham University Environment and Sustainability Vision includes measuring its environmental footprint: what does this mean for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uptake of energy audit• Shared learning• Common solutions• Measurable energy use reductions.

	Ustinov College Residences (Neville House, Sheraton House, Brackenbury)? KB, AL, CH	
1.2 Encourage householders to install solar panels. ✓	All 188 houses in Sheraton Park are suitable for solar panels: currently 5 have them. Next steps: investigate advice available from Durham University Solar Power Network. All houses in Sheraton Park are suitable for solar panels. Next steps: check proportion with solar panels currently. Advertise a collective session about the process/costs of installation. Solar Power offer incentives totalling £7,500 if 6 people sign up for their scheme. However initial costs may be between £10K and £17K (one quote, Oct 2019). Investigate other providers and seek advice from Durham University Energy Institute. Sheraton House already has solar panels. AL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most cost-effective scheme identified, with incentives for several households installing. • Several installations completed.
1.3 Explore useful information, grants, etc. for Community Energy Schemes. ✓	SPRA monitors Community Energy newsletter for useful opportunities www.communityenergyengland.org AL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review value at end of the year and consider subscribing if useful.
• Recycling		
Purpose	Action	Measure of success
2.1 Recycling of 'hard to recycle' items through a terracycle collection point (see https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/) ✓	Assess popularity for specific categories of 'hard to recycle waste' (eg crisp packets, oral hygiene products, glue sticks etc) and identify a collection point for the terracycle boxes. Link with the Durham Parish Council scheme involving Primary Schools (eg St Margaret's collects sweet and crisp wrappers). If there are gaps possibly Ustinov reception could become a collection point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial testing using the same items as local primary schools identifies popular items • Collection points on Sheraton Park are used • Manufacturer response is monitored.

	AD, AL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim for 70% of waste to be recycled.
• Transport		
Purpose	Action	Measure of success
3.1 Encourage car-sharing to reduce the number of cars on the road 	Co-wheels Community Car Sharing Scheme has based a car in Sheraton Park, and Durham University will provide a parking space in due course. Details are under discussion. HM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of use? <i>To be discussed</i>
3.2 Share deliveries with housemates or among households to reduce food miles and increase access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organic produce (Broom House Farm), wholefoods, non-packaged herbs, spices, (SUMA or Infinity Foods), organic vegetables 	i. Pilot advertising of Broom House Farm via Facebook Post http://www.broomhousedurham.co.uk/ They can deliver most days through a staff member who lives close to Sheraton Park, so using their butchery for organic meat is a 'quick win'. ii. A resident has offered to share postage for orders from SUMA or Infinity Foods. iii. Abundant Earth has a locally grown vegetable box scheme. iv. Student allotment at The Observatory is planned. V Robinsons Fruit and Veg shop in North Road is accessible and uses paper bags. AL, FB, HM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of uptake .
• Biodiversity		
Purpose	Action	Measure of success
4.1 Plant more trees and expand wild areas eg meadows. 	Oasis North East is currently working with Planting up Neville's Cross. Possibilities for wilding areas and tree planting in Ustinov grounds are under investigation. Student allotment at the Observatory idea has been put forward for University approval. FB, AD, AW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees planted Wildlife areas Allotment is well maintained Allotment produces fresh vegetables
• Awareness		
Purpose	Action	Measure of success
5.1 Raise awareness of green issues (both climate change and	Facebook Posts to Sheraton Park Durham Facebook Group (473 members) on selected green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 posts appear on time Increase % of

<p>biodiversity) among all the residents (Ustinov and householders) of Sheraton Park.</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>themes.with a 'do this first on the first of every month' line. Material from a variety of sources including 'Climate change: simple things you can do' (Green Books). For 2019-20 the priority is climate change, covering the following topics in order: heating (N); food (D); recycling (J); travel (F); hot water (M); cooking (A); water supply (M); keeping cool (J); dish washing (J); clothes washing (A); electrical appliances (S); lighting (O).</p> <p>Parallel posts may be made through the Global Citizenship Programme, and Ustinov pages where relevant.</p> <p>Place articles in Neville's Cross Quarterly, Palatinate and Ustinov publications, and feed information into College Updates.</p> <p>AL, AW, CH, FB, AD</p>	<p>householders signed up to Sheraton Park Facebook Page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor response to posts • Monitor take-up of events/actions advertised where possible to assess • Leaflet is delivered to all households to let people know about Greening Sheraton Park, offering an alternative to Facebook for communication purposes.
<p>5.2 Stimulate activity, widen engagement and invite new ideas</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Organise a number of different types of event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical/ what to do (eg recycling); • inspiring (eg how other communities have got involved...Sally Lansley?); • informative/ research-based through the Global Citizenship Programme (scientific, economic and social aspects of combatting climate change) <p>AL, AD, CH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 of each type of event is organised by September 2020 • Evaluate attendance, reactions, ideas generated, and recruits to the Task Group.
<p>5.3 Promote uptake of Parish Council scheme for teachers to undertake on line learning on UN-accredited climate change course EduCCate Global</p>	<p>Task Group members are eligible to take the course (15-20 hours) www.educcateglobal.org</p> <p>Advertise the availability of teacher cover in Durham Parish (and encourage DCC to extend this to the rest of the County).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take-up and feedback

Areas for potential future action

A whole system approach may help maximise the impact of our work and engage decision-makers at all levels. Consideration of the One Planet Living Toolkit might help us to see whether this approach would suit us, with appropriate engagement at all levels.

Initial assessment of the following proposed actions suggests that they are longer term projects which should be further investigated for 2020-21, unless an advocate steps forward sooner:

Section 2 Recycling

- a. Promote garden composting and use of DCC garden bins on Sheraton Park
- b. Collect food waste to convert to compost
- c. Set up or support schemes for the donation/exchange of surplus food near its use by date etc. (NB Publicise the Food Bank run at St John's, OLIO in Gilesgate and RefUse in Chester-le-St. Food donation system has already been developed in Brackenbury (CH): could this happen in Sheraton and Neville House?)

Section 5 Biodiversity

- a. Encourage use of less polluting household products through shared orders (www.ethicalsuperstore.com)
- b. Change the management style operating across Sheraton Park - e.g. stop using leaf blowers; leave grass clippings in situ to improve the soil; investigate minimum-harm herbicides for verges and brick-paved areas. Currently one operative carries out most of the maintenance. This might be easier if the Kingston Park Land Management agreement were transferred to the SPRA. This would require 2 residents to come onto the Board as Directors (CHECK).
- c. Support zero waste shop in Langley Moor if it starts operation following initial market research.

Enquiries about Greening Ustinov and Sheraton Park are currently handled by Alyson Learmonth
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Greening Ustinov and Sheraton Park: Development process in 2019

13th June AL attends Footprint Event at Town Hall, gathers information

17th July AL attends Expo Event at DCC, gathers information

AL does reading etc (Climate change: simple things you can do to make a difference, New Internationalist 'How to avoid Climate Breakdown' May-June 2019)

AL approaches one of the Chairs of Sheraton Park Residents Association (SPRA) for advice about local activity

5th September 1st Sheraton Park Facebook Page (SPFP) post asking for interest in collective green action generated 44 comments, all positive

17th September 'Greening Sheraton Park' v2 sent out on SPFP generated 7 comments 10 likes

23rd September AL talks to Ian McDonald Community Operations Manager, Ustinov

8th October 'Greening Sheraton Park' v4 discussed at SPRA AGM, there was some discussion of priorities, the idea was accepted with regular updates to SPRA, ten people took part, mainly SPRA committee members plus one person ranked the priorities on paper and sent it in as requested.

October-November AL talks separately to people identified from the Facebook Posts, SPRA, and student nominees (Eco Rep from the Graduate Common Room, and Global Citizenship student) and adapts the proposed action plan based on feedback

Greening Sheraton Park Task Group meets on 13th November, and 27th November and develops both actions and the action plan.

Greening Sheraton Park Task Group meets on 11th December to formulate purpose, vision, mission and values. Name is changed to Greening Ustinov and Sheraton Park.