NATURE PROJECT

We are joining with a number of other nearby villages in Holmedale (Newsham, Dalton, Gayles, Kirby Hill, Ravensworth and Whashton) to start up a new nature project, for which there is substantial funding available from Highways England.  The funding is available as compensation for the works on the A66.

The first step is to get your views on what you would like included in the project!  Please follow the link below to complete our 5-minute survey.  There are comment boxes at the end of each question to give you the opportunity to share your thoughts, positive and negative.

Link:  <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NXDDKGD>

Alternatively, I can drop off a paper copy of the survey if you prefer.

The survey will run from 1st-15th May 2023.  Only one response per household please!

Please see the below for additional background information.  I am the local contact for Barningham, so please feel free to get in touch with any queries.

Martha McBarron

Barningham Net Zero Community Interest Company

[www.barninghamnetzero.com](http://www.barninghamnetzero.com/)

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Who are we?

We are a group of local representatives (there are a few of us from each Parish) who

have expressed an interest in exploring what we can do for nature and more specifically biodiversity and the community locally.

What do we mean by biodiversity?

Biodiversity (short for biological diversity) is a term that describes the variety of plant,

bacteria and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat or area. A higher level of

biodiversity (i.e., a wider range of animals, plants, bacteria etc.) is usually considered to be important and desirable, because it can be seen as a measure of the health of

nature. The UK is one of the most biodiversity depleted countries in Europe. This is not a good thing for us as humans as it impacts the food we grow, the quality of water, the natural environment and other resources. There is also strong evidence that connecting with nature is good for our health and wellbeing.

How did this start?

Sally Zaranko had the idea to set up a biodiversity project for Whashton but decided Whashton would be too small but that maybe a Holmedale project would be considered big enough. There was an initial open meeting in February that was attended by about 40 people from the parishes. At the meeting there

were lots of great ideas for nature and also for the community. At a further meeting with National Highways it became clear that there was funding for all sorts of projects. The spending deadline for National Highways is April 2025.

However, we could look to apply for funding from other organisations depending on

what the project becomes about and timeframes.

I would love to do a biodiversity project that will benefit nature and increase biodiversity with the knock-on benefits for us as residents, landowners, farmers

and businesses in Holmedale. But that’s just my view, what matters to you about where we live and work?

This is a community project so what we would like to know is what is important to you and if you would like Holmedale to have a project and what you would like the project to be.

Kind regards,

Martha