

# East Haven Together

## Coastal Village in Bloom



2024  
*Triumph over Adversity*



# Introduction

East Haven in Angus is a small coastal community on the east coast of Scotland between Carnoustie and Arbroath. It has a population of less than 100 residents and is the earliest recorded fishing community in Scotland dating back to 1214. Residents celebrated the occasion of the village octocentenary in 2014 by making huge improvements to the village which had become blighted by litter, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. The Beautiful Scotland three pillars of horticultural achievement, community participation and environmental responsibility provided a framework within which to progress the ambitions of residents.

East Haven Residents Association subsequently became East Haven Together (EHT) a registered charity in 2015. A sustainability strategy linking to local and national outcomes and global sustainable goals underpins all the work carried out by the charity.

In December 2023 further consultation was undertaken to update the strategy and identify new priorities. These are very much focused on the twin crises of Climate Change and Biodiversity loss. This now forms a Community Action Plan for 2024-2026. Everybody is encouraged to play their part and understand how their contribution helps to make a difference both locally and globally.



## East Haven Community Gardens Consultation 24

Wider consultation was also undertaken in April 2024 to elicit views on the community gardens. It is 10 years since Beechgrove supported the community to design and develop community gardens for East Haven 800. EHT had a high return rate to their questionnaire and group discussions took place with the wider community.

A total of 98% of respondents said that the gardens are important to East Haven. We have welcomed new volunteers and are now working slightly differently to accommodate different needs. Every action counts and is very much valued.



## Community Resilience

Living in a coastal community presents many challenges and East Haven developed its first Resilience Plan in 2017 when it became part of the Angus Resilience Forum. Like many communities across rural Angus, East Haven was significantly impacted over the winter of 23/24 by a number of storm related incidents. These have included flooding, damage to key infrastructure, a sink hole on the railway line and an estimated 10.5 tonnes of storm related marine litter. This Beautiful Scotland report highlights the many ways in which residents have triumphed over adversity. EHT has worked collaboratively with partners across multiple agencies and organisations providing reports, assisting with site visits, beach assessments and sharing key data. Locally and nationally.



Activities undertaken within the three pillars of Community, Environment and Horticulture evidence EHT's commitment to maintaining East Haven as a great place to live and visit.



# Environmental Responsibility



The storms of 2023/24 eroded 10m of dune leading to the loss of all the Kidney Vetch EHT had planted between 2015 and 2022. It is the sole food plant of the rare Small Blue Butterfly. Site meetings were held with Butterfly Conservation to raise awareness of the loss and help consider future habitats. We were delighted on 15th June 24 to realise a few plants had in fact survived.



Children from Ladyloan Primary school planting Lyme and Marram grasses grown from seed in January 2024.

EHT began measuring dunes from fixed points over 30 years ago on the advice of NatureScot and other partners. This data has enabled us to monitor the impact of natural conservation methods on erosion and accretion levels. The data has been shared with the Scottish Government Coastal Adaptation Team, Universities and other agencies.



More planting of native Lyme and Marram grasses in July 24. Large amounts of invasive Rosa Rugosa also removed.



Keeping the beach and cycle path clean and welcoming. Helps to influence public behaviours and sends a clear message of pride in place



# Environmental Responsibility



Unblocking the burn and clearing litter was relentless between October 2023 and April 2024



Typical large items above and millions of pieces of small plastics as below



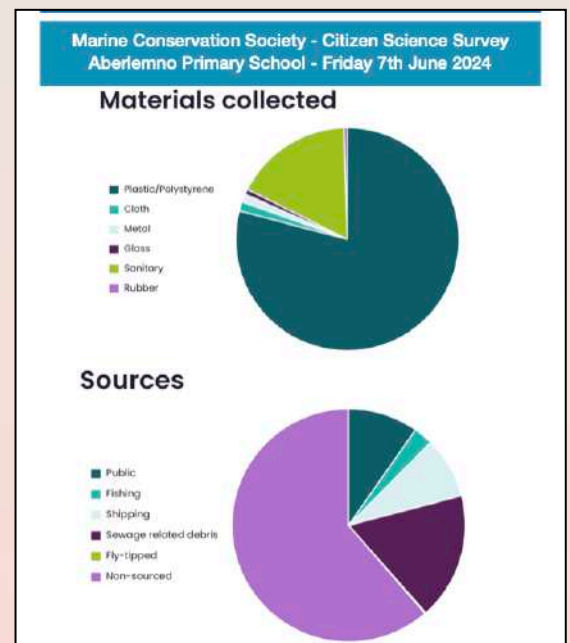
Schools, artists and Gardeners regularly take items for up-cycling and learning exercises.



A beach clean with Aberlemno Primary School on 7th June 2024. All data uploaded to MCS



EHT was very grateful for volunteer support to move all the heavy waste fishing gear from the car park to a waiting skip in the village square. It was an awful day but people worked really hard to complete the job.





# Environmental Responsibility



Children from Ladyloan Primary School making bird seed cake and tying it to trees in January 24

iRecord		
Count of	Total	Verified
Records	2573	
Species	597	

Species Data uploaded to irecord every month (Data as of 4 July 2024)

Sustrans  
Bumble  
Butterfly  
Transect  
2018 -2024  
Data  
uploaded to  
UKBMS



Dog Share stations

### East Haven Bug Hunt and Butterfly walk

**Saturday 15th June - 10am - 12ish Meet by red boat**  
 Approx 1km walk celebrating 25 years of Tayside Biodiversity Partnership.  
 All species records will be uploaded to national database.  
 Children welcome for a fun activity  
 Refreshments provided - supported by the Co-op

Bug Hunt and Butterfly Walk attracted families with young children.  
All species data uploaded to irecord



Water recycling system.  
Water Butts drain into a bespoke tap ready to fill watering cans.



With the help of many volunteers from across Scotland EHT managed to bring the beach and surrounding amenity back to a standard which secured a community-led Beach Award for the tenth consecutive year. 2024 also marks the 32 years of beach cleaning in East Haven.

WaterButt  
Planter  
Harvests  
19,200L  
of  
rainwater  
per year





# Horticultural Achievement



Following the appearance of a sink hole on the railway line contractors for Network Rail took possession of one side of the community gardens to secure plant and equipment. Ten years of hard work has been destroyed as a result. The Thursday morning gardening group have done everything possible to maintain areas they still have access to and to remain hopeful and positive. Every Action Count and Makes a Difference!



Spring brought a welcome splash of colour between the showers. Volunteers were busy in their greenhouses propagating plants for the gardens and growing on plug plants for containers and baskets



# Horticultural Achievement



Bedding plants grown from seed such as Petunias and Evening Primrose.



Volunteers removed a number of trees affected by Ash Dieback in December 23



Planting around the notice board and Defibrillator



Heathers displayed at the Dunhill Cup were up cycled and replanted in East Haven. Oct 2023



Sustainable Coastal Planting. Sea Holly (Eryngium)



Rambling Rose Seagull and Rambling Rose Rector in full bloom July 2024



# Horticultural Achievement



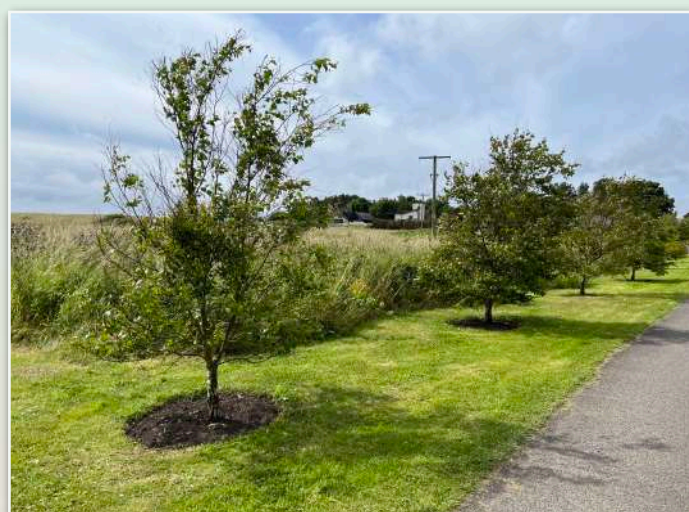
Some of the Thursday morning group Edging, Hoeing and weeding. Other volunteers participate in a mowing rota.



One of our younger volunteers. Always keen and enthusiastic.



Cutting back and strimming along the road verges to make it safer for vehicles and pedestrians at the cycle path corner.



A number of Downy Birch '*Betula pubescens*' have been planted over the last few years. Native to east coast of Scotland





# Community Participation



Glasgow College of Art Students spent two days in East Haven carrying out a project on coastal festival gardens and talking to residents  
<https://readymag.website/u4074933783/4746512/>



Ecologists and wildlife experts sharing their skill, knowledge and expertise



The outdoor learning classroom on the croft.



EHT has worked with three primary schools during the last year. Sadly, funding was withdrawn for school transport in April because of cuts to Local Authority expenditure.

We have also worked with other community groups to provide learning and development opportunities. These have included New Scots, a Nursery school, Ecologists and Young Carers.

We have welcomed visitors and held story walks in the village for interested community groups.

EHT is an active member of the Coastal Communities Network and represents communities on the Marine Litter Strategy Steering group.



# Community Participation



East Haven is one of the Co-op's Community Groups in 2024. In store events held to raise awareness about our work.



East Haven at the Angus Tourism Exhibition in May 24. The importance of volunteers and pride in place.



April 2024 - Welcome to New Scots living in Dundee and Angus. Learning about Scottish heritage, nature and environment.



EHT has delivered presentations about coasts and sustainable communities to seven organisations.



## History and Heritage

Our much loved fisherman's statue during the northern lights display in May 24



EHT supported a number of events in celebration of 25 years of the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership.



# Community Participation



## History and Heritage

East Haven hosts the only WW1 Monument to the Airedale Terrier. EHT welcomes people from far and wide twice a year to commemorate these brave dogs of war.

### Welcome to East Haven Public Toilets

Cleaned and Managed by Local Residents for Your Convenience

All donations go back into making the village clean green and welcoming. Thank you

Chartered by Angus Council

This unit has been created to provide an easy access gender neutral toilet.

Scan, Pay, Go

Yell

www.easthavenangus.com

BTA  
EHT is a Member of the British Toilet Association



Volunteers continue to clean and manage the public toilets for the benefit of visitors. Paintings and flowers are valued and appreciated by the public who are very supportive of EHTs efforts. Regular donations are made which support wider activities.

## Friends and Supporters of East Haven

Keep Scotland Beautiful

RHS

NatureScot

Angus Tourism  
Co-operative

Butterfly Conservation  
Scotland

Beautiful Scotland

Veolia

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Airedale  
Terrier Club  
of Scotland

MCS

Recorders

Tayside Biodiversity  
Partnership

SSN

Veolia

## Partnerships

Schools

SeaGreen

The Haven

Angus  
Council

Co-op

VAA

For Carnoustie

Sustrans

Universities

Coastal  
Communities  
Network

## Triumph Over Adversity

Everybody in East Haven is extremely grateful to all those who have supported the community to overcome the many challenges we have faced since October 2023.

EHT has developed strong partnerships with businesses and organisations both locally and nationally. This enables the community to secure grant funding for various projects and to achieve on sustainable goals.

The BeautifulScotland three pillar framework and EHT Community Action Plan will continue to inform and drive forward future plans and development.



## Appendix 1



Everybody should have access to clean toilets.

### ***What We Do***

Manage and maintain public toilets.  
Septic tank management.

End Scotland's contribution to climate change and secure the well-being of people and the planet for generations to come.

### ***What We Do***

Encourage walking and cycling.  
Energy saving initiatives.  
Grow & share food.  
Conserve and recycle water.  
Reduce waste.  
Promote healthy seas.

East Haven is a good place to live. Inclusive, Strong, Resilient and Safe. Everyone is respected and there are opportunities for people to contribute and achieve success. We are open and connected. We make a positive contribution locally nationally and Internationally.

### ***What We Do***

Promote good environmental practice.  
Robust resilience planning.  
Build strong partnerships.

Scotland's nature is protected and restored with flourishing biodiversity, clean air, water, seas and soils.

### ***What We Do***

Beach cleaning.  
Prevent marine Pollution.  
Protect marine eco system.  
Protect wildlife.  
KSB Beach Award.  
Coastal adaptation.  
Great East Coast Beach Cleans.

Enhance and protect the natural and built environment.

### ***What We Do***

Dune management.  
Protect biodiversity and natural habitats.  
Community gardens.  
Litter picking and litter share stations.  
Wildlife ID recording  
Care for heritage and street furniture.  
Avoid adverse impacts on land and sea.  
Education and behaviour change.

This integrated plan

Local and National Strategies and Plans



This plan sets out the actions East Haven is taking to work with other organisations and citizens in the UK and across the world to improve and sustain life on earth. Acting locally and thinking globally.

Environment

Coastal  
Adaptation

Biodiversity

Climate  
Action

Community

Resilience

Sustainability

Actions Taken in East Haven	Why	Priorities/Actions 2024-26
<b>Active Travel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Haven contributed £40,000 towards the development of NCN1 in 2012 which was subsequently extended up the coast. EHT supports Sustrans and Angus Council in keeping the path clear of litter and by providing a welcome point at both entries to the village.</li> <li>• EHT cleans and manages the public toilets to support health and well being. Maintaining public toilets also encourages more people to walk and cycle rather than visit by car.</li> <li>• EHT provides cycle racks to enable people to store bikes safely whilst using the amenity.</li> <li>• EHT works to maintain the bus service in East Haven and also car share where possible.</li> </ul>	<p>Active travel reduces carbon emissions. Reduces the volume of cars in the village. Improves Health and Well Being. Provides a welcome to tourists and visitors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and evaluate impact of new demand led bus services in Angus. 24</li> <li>• Continue to support Sustrans in maintaining coastal path (NCN1) 24-26</li> <li>• Maintain Art Roots sculpture. 24-26</li> </ul>
<b>Renewable Energy Sources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of average monthly solar radiance and corresponding energy for ascending systems undertaken in 2022.</li> <li>• Solar powered lamp posts installed by residents 2022/23</li> <li>• Public toilet roof structure needs assessed to evaluate solar panel weight bearing</li> </ul>	<p>Reduce reliance on grid energy and help achieve Scotland's target of zero emissions by 2045</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate installing electric charging point in car park 25/26</li> <li>• Structural analysis of weight bearing load of public toilets. 24</li> <li>• Repair solar lights</li> </ul>
<b>Terrestrial Litter</b> <p>East Haven Together has worked to reduce litter and encourage behaviour change since 2015. Many citizen science projects and data surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter summit held in 2017 and established Angus Clean Environments to extend work beyond East Haven and work with all sections of the wider Angus community to clean and green the environment. Adopt-A-Street. Scottish Resources Award Best Litter Initiative 2017.</li> <li>• Residents out almost everyday to keep the beach and coastal path clear of litter.</li> <li>• Litter Prevention action plan in place. Reports uploaded to 'clean up' page on East Haven web-site. Raise awareness, inform, educate and measure impacts.</li> </ul>	<p>Litter harms the environment, threatens wildlife, spreads toxins and contributes to global warming.</p> <p>Also 'broken window effect' Maintaining a litter free environment encourages respect at all levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work at local and national level to influence policy and legislative changes to reduce litter. 24-26</li> <li>• Maintain partnerships with MCS, KSB, SEPA, ZWS, Marine Directorate. 24-26</li> <li>• Survey, Report and Upload data 24-26</li> </ul>



Actions Taken in East Haven	Why	Priorities/Actions 2024-26
<p><b>Habitat Recovery and Dune Restoration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to measure the dunes from the fixed points agreed in 1993 with NatureScot and maintain accurate data records to measure change.</li> <li>• Native grasses have been grown from seed and planted on eroded dunes to strengthen the dune structure. The dunes play an important role in increasing the resilience of the dunes by reducing and absorbing wave energy.</li> <li>• Marram and Lyme grasses have also been translocated from nearby areas.</li> <li>• Non-native invasive species are removed from wild and vulnerable areas.</li> <li>• Raise public awareness of the importance of dune management. Scotlands Outdoor Access Code. Visitor Management Strategy in place.</li> <li>• Action to educate public about wildfires and mitigate against risks.</li> </ul>	<p>Rising sea levels and more frequent storm surges cause erosion.</p> <p>Protect SSSI</p> <p>Of principal importance for biodiversity conservation. Sandunes on Scottish Biodiversity List.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in research and policy related work to coastal erosion and adaptation. 24</li> <li>• Remove invasive Rosa Rugosa from coastal dunes. 24</li> <li>• Grow and Plant native coastal grasses. 24</li> <li>• Further exercise to be undertaken with emergency services. 24</li> <li>• Install board walk to nudge people down single path 24-25</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Gardening - Sustainability</b></p> <p>East Haven Together works within the Beautiful Scotland/RHS 3 Pillar framework of Horticulture, Environment and Community to develop Pride in Place and a sustainable approach to managing the amenity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal plants and plants for pollinators have been planted extensively throughout the community gardens.</li> <li>• Use of Angus Council's recycled soil enhancer (Meets PAS 100 standards)</li> <li>• Peat free compost and use of natural fertilisers such as biosolids</li> <li>• Hand weeding and raking. No pesticide, herbicide or fungicide use.</li> <li>• Conserve and manage native trees and shrubs</li> </ul>	<p>Increase biodiversity</p> <p>Support pollinators</p> <p>Protect habitats</p> <p>Measure impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sisters boat in the main community gardens requires assessment and a plan to remove and replace. 24-26</li> <li>• Mowing rota to be developed following review of mowing equipment. 24.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Extreme Weather Events - Coastal incidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EHT is a member of the Angus Community Resilience Forum and has a Community Resilience plan in place to mitigate against the impact of the challenges faced by our coastal community.</li> <li>• EHT has a comprehensive resilience plan (21points) and works in partnership with local and national organisations</li> <li>• EHT are named drivers through the SCORDS system for the emergency services.</li> </ul>	<p>Communities must adapt and mitigate against the impact of changing weather patterns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find solutions in partnership with other agencies to East Haven's flood problems.</li> <li>• Maintain robust resilience plan</li> <li>• Continue coastal adaptation plans</li> <li>• Purchase Flood gate - Long Row</li> <li>• Purchase new Trailer for ATV. Also strong lights for working in dark. Need for other resilience equipment includes water pump and cordless grinder</li> </ul>



Actions Taken in East Haven	Why	Priorities/Actions 2024-26
<b>Sustainable Food Sources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage people to shop local, support local food producers and buy from organic farmers where possible.</li> <li>• Grow and share food within the village. Eliminate food waste.</li> </ul>	Food security - reduced food miles. Organic food production reduces environmental impacts and methane production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow/share fruit, veg and herbs.</li> <li>• Work with school children. 24</li> <li>• Further consult on community food composting facility. 24</li> </ul>
<b>Water Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and reduce the use of mains water in the community gardens.</li> <li>• Increase capacity of poor sandy soil to retain moisture and nutrients. e.g soil enhancer, leaf mold.</li> <li>• Comprehensive rainwater collection system installed at the Bothy and Resilience shed. Water drains into three butts which have taps for filling watering cans. Water reused in other areas.</li> <li>• Reduce mowing patterns to allow the grass to grow longer and provide more moisture. One person takes responsibility for grass management and advising frequency of cuts to others on the rota. Electric mower used in main gardens.</li> <li>• Future plant choices include: coastal plants which do well in drought conditions e.g Echinacea, Sedum, Catmint, Lavender, Salvia, Hebe, Veronica, Loosestrife.</li> </ul>	Waste less fresh water  Adapt and use more sustainable practices  Restore Nature and end Scotland's contribution to climate change by 2045	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replant new Water Butt Planter at the Heritage Point. 24</li> </ul>
<b>Protecting the Marine Environment</b> <p>East Haven Together is a member of the Coastal Communities Network (CCN) and a representative on Scotlands Marine Litter Strategy Steering Group and Marine Plastics forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beach cleaning activities carried out almost everyday. ATV purchased in 2019 to enable EHT to uplift heavy marine litter from an extended area of the Angus coast.</li> <li>• EHT leads on the Great East Coast Beach Clean (formerly, The Great East Coast Beach Clean)</li> <li>• Community Led Beach Award from Keep Scotland Beautiful achieved every year since 2015</li> <li>• Marine Conservation Society Surveys carried out and the data uploaded to the MCS portal. Terrestrial litter surveys also undertaken along with a biomass survey of seaweed in 2016 and participation in co-coast surveys.</li> <li>• EHT is working closely with Marine Scotland, Angus Council and fishermen to try and reduce the amount of end of life fishing gear going to landfill.</li> <li>• Investigations carried out by EHT in response to pollution incidents such as; Dowrie Works, Nato War ships and Construction work on NCN1.</li> <li>• EHT works to change policy and legislation if this is required to reduce pollution and better protect the marine environment.</li> </ul>	<p>The following are Scotland's strategic approach to environmental policy</p> <p>Ensure that preventative action is taken to avoid environmental damage.</p> <p>Environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source</p> <p>Ensure that polluters bear the cost of pollution control and remediation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in any community led water testing technology projects if they become available and are financially viable. 24-26</li> <li>• Work with partners and volunteers to ensure the removal of fishing gear waste</li> </ul>



Actions Taken in East Haven	Why?	Priorities/Actions 2024-26
<p><b>Protecting and conserving habitats and species recording</b> EHT works in partnership with local wildlife recorders to identify species and upload records to irecord, Bumblebee Conservation Trust and UK Butterfly Measurement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Birds</b> Habitat conservation is crucial as East Haven is home to vulnerable protected waders many of which are on the red list of species most at risk. The Ringed Plover normally nests on the beach between EH and Arbroath but no nests were seen at all in 2022. The Curlew, Wheatear and Corn Bunting are also declining and need support to conserve their habitats.</li> <li>• <b>Butterflies, Moths and Bees</b> Monthly walks along designated transect to ID Butterflies and Bees (1st March to end of October). All species data uploaded.</li> </ul> <p><b>Species On The Edge (5.5 year project)</b> EHT has undertaken a lot of work to help create a food corridor of kidney vetch along the Angus coast for the Small Blue Butterfly. Kidney Vetch surveys are carried out in East Haven and survey work carried out along the coast. (Nature of Scotland Award award 2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seals</b> Support British Marine Dive Rescue by storing a rescue crate for vulnerable seal pups.</li> <li>• <b>Supporting Wildlife</b> - Maintaining habitats - monitor impacts - upload species data</li> </ul>	<p>Reduce biodiversity loss across all species.</p> <p>Many Coastal Birds are on the red list of species at Risk of extinction</p> <p>The Small Blue is an endangered species and at risk of extinction. It is thriving at a site in Glamis and in a couple of locations along the Angus coast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Small Blue Habitats in light of coastal erosion and impacts from 23/24 storms. 24</li> <li>• Plant native Mayweed and marigold seeds. 24</li> <li>• Continue to survey the Butterfly and Bee Transect uploading data to UK Butterfly and also BumbleBee Conservation Trust. 24-26</li> </ul>
<p><b>East Haven is a Good Place to live - Inclusive - Strong and Safe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents included and consulted. Fishing and natural heritage of the area communicated. Involvement in KSB/RHS to increase awareness, pride in place and respect for the natural environment.</li> <li>• Village Emergency Telephone Scheme. Defibrillator. CPR Training. Community Resilience Plan. Visitor Management Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Maintaining strong connections and valuing everybody's contributions develops a sense of pride and of living in safe supportive communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue and conclude work to establish Network Rail crossing. 2024</li> <li>• Further consultation with residents about recycling glass and village hall. 24</li> <li>• Continue to maintain all areas incl street furniture. Continue to keep area free of litter. 24- 26</li> <li>• Consult further on potential tool library. 24</li> <li>• Beach Wheelchairs would make each more accessible</li> </ul>