



Annual Report 2009/10

The PROSPECTS Foundation Hyndburn's community-owned environmental charity

The PROSPECTS Foundation is an environmental charity, established by Hyndburn people in 1998, to help improve the quality of life for all Hyndburn communities and contribute local-level solutions to wider environmental problems. We achieve this through a supported network of groups and by working in innovative ways with a diverse range of organisations and partners for environmental, social and economic benefits.

Our Mission

To be the key movement in Hyndburn for environmental sustainability and to use our collective knowledge, skills, work and experience to secure this for current and future generations.

Our Values:

- We value our environment, both local and global, and respect its uniqueness and fragility.
- We are committed to the principle of environmental sustainability.
- We act as a catalyst for positive environmental change.
- We believe in working collaboratively for our environment.
- We believe that local people acting in their own right or collectively can reduce their carbon footprints by changing their behaviour and practices.
- We are a people based organisation which is rooted in local communities.
- We seek to work for the benefit of all communities both present and future.
- We believe everyone has a positive contribution to make and we are committed to equality of opportunity for all.
- We work ethically.

Our Five Themes of Sustainability

We focus on projects which meet our Five Themes of Sustainability. These themes take account of both the local and global environment, and contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

Biodiversity - Protecting and enhancing local wildlife and plant life

Energy - Home and community energy efficiency and use of renewables

Sustainable Transport - Encouraging cycling, walking and public transport

Waste and Recycling - Reducing, reusing and recycling our waste

Local Food - Growing more local, organic, healthy food, grown by the community for the community.

Chairman's Review



**Phil Barwood
(Chairman)**

This is our first annual report to cover the period right up to date rather than just the formal year which ends in October. It should make it a bit less historical and more relevant.

It is always interesting at this time to reflect on world events as well as our own work.

The world's climate change scientific establishment has suffered some bad press recently and there are some well organized and funded campaigns clearly aimed at discrediting the whole argument. The stakes are very high. Some surveys show a diminished public belief in the reality of climate change while energy security is to many people a theoretical notion. However some authorities forecast that the UK will start to experience regular power cuts as early as 2017.

Public perception is a fickle thing. At the time of writing "peak oil" seems to be the origin of things giving rise to public concerns. For "peak oil" read "dirty oil". The obvious topical event is the giant oil leak disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, causing colossal environmental damage and social and economic hardship. Another is tar sands extraction, described as the world's largest industrial capital project ever. In the vast pristine forests of western Canada an area the size of England has been devastated and the land polluted with highly toxic waste to get at this very low grade source of fossil fuel. There has been concerted campaigning against the companies responsible but the world is a fossil fuel addict. The technological challenges, however, of exploiting ever less economic oil, gas and coal reserves safely and cleanly are clearly beyond human endeavour. It seems to me that to continue down this route will result in greater and worse catastrophes.

So I make no apology for repeating the mantra "Think global, act local". Local food growing, recycling and re-use, energy efficiency, local renewable energy generation, habitat improvement, access to nature and community enterprise all contribute to wider solutions and strengthen the community. Without organisations similar to PROSPECTS much of this valuable work would not be done.

The last eighteen months has been a period of considerable change for PROSPECTS. The Cultivate local food growing programme has gone from strength to strength and our Community Response to Climate Change project started. Both have encouraged interest from many people new to PROSPECTS. The new Access to Nature funded Nature Walks in Hyndburn is now well under way with huge numbers of folk taking part. The Oswaldtwistle Moor Windfarm was granted planning permission in March this year and we should be able to launch the new Windfall community grant programme, using the associated funding, within 18 months from now. Our social enterprise initiative is close to setting up four new community businesses with the One Planet retail co-operative recently formed.

Prosperity Recycling Ltd, our community business, has survived a tough time over the past eighteen months. Now under new management, the company continues to strive to deliver the environmental and social benefits which are its great strength. Because Prosperity is now wholly owned by PROSPECTS, we are required for the first time to include Prosperity's accounts with the Charity's accounts. PROSPECTS also now supports Hyndburn Used Furniture Store, a charity that recycles household goods and helps people in need.

Without our dedicated staff team and committed trustees none of this would of course be possible, so many many thanks to all. This year I want to say particular thanks also to Hyndburn Council who have been especially helpful in a variety of ways these past few months.

As usual, future funding will continue to be a priority in coming months and we have some crucial decisions to make. Also the new enterprises will need capable support and management, so we are always looking for new people able to become trustees.

I think the three key words that sum up PROSPECTS are environment, community and innovation. We are fortunate to be able to support such a willing band of volunteers in a whole variety of activities. Long may they prosper!

3 Chairman's Review

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Last year, we recorded 9,099 hours of **volunteer time** given by local people to Prospects projects, valued at £68,243 in kind contribution.

Our three-year **Community Outreach Programme** was completed in 2009. During the programme, we supported 1081 different volunteers, and worked with 65 local community groups on environmental projects. We successfully targeted hard-to-reach groups, including young people, people with a disability, ethnic minorities, older people, and people living in areas with very high levels of deprivation. 316 people benefited from training, improving their skills and self-confidence. 49 local environmental projects were delivered based on sustainability principles and improving the local area.

Our **Social Enterprise Development Initiative** identified 4 environmentally-based potential new social enterprises which will benefit people living in the most deprived areas of Hyndburn. These are now undergoing development.

Through our **Cultivate Community Food-Growing project**, 1316 local people benefited from involvement in food-growing activity, ranging from planting a few seeds in the classroom, to taking on an allotment for the first time. 94 people attended courses in organic food-growing. Improvements were made to several of Hyndburn's allotments, resulting in three times as many local people taking on an allotment since the project started, compared to the average for the previous four years.

We were successful in securing funding for two exciting new projects, both of which commenced recently, as follows....

- '**Community Response to Climate Change**' will support local people to develop their own low carbon projects, and to live more sustainable lifestyles;
- '**Nature Walks in Hyndburn**' will give people the opportunity to engage with nature and wildlife locally, through nature walks, conservation activities, and training.

Our proposed **Environmental Business Park** on land the charity owns at Coach Road Meadows was successful in getting planning permission. This demonstration project will deliver best practice in environmentally sustainable design, construction and operation.

The Charity has improved its position for future years by securing a highly beneficial agreement with **EnergieKontor**, who have obtained planning permission to build a wind-farm in Hyndburn. Once the turbines start to produce electricity late in 2011, the Prospects Foundation will receive a Community Fund, worth over £100,000 per year for 25 years, to support local community groups in the delivery of sustainability projects.

Our wholly owned social enterprise '**Prosperity Recycling Ltd.**' continued to manufacture and trade in recycled plastic products, to employ eleven staff, and to train unemployed adults who have a learning disability, in spite of the changing economic climate which has affected many manufacturing businesses.

An extensive **Evaluation** of our project work in 2009 led to some very positive feedback from volunteers, community groups and partners we work with. As one group put it: "The Prospects model is very effective in sowing the seeds and letting the wider community get on with it and learn and develop their own skills".

4 Recent Achievements

Rishton Prospects Panel

The Rishton Prospects Panel have as usual been very active in making environmental improvements in Rishton. They created a living willow bower and seat in Cut Wood Park, and worked with the “green team” from Norden School to plant oak trees and bulbs. New ‘dead hedging’ was created, and a previously planted wildflower meadow was maintained and the plants identified. For several years, local volunteers have worked to improve Rishton Railway Station which they ‘adopted’, and have created attractive plantings for ‘Rishton in Bloom’. The group also worked with PACT to involve local children in litter picking along the Ladybird Trail. The children were rewarded by an activity day at Bowley camp. Work with the ‘restorative justice’ team led to path improvements and maintenance at Cut Wood Park.



Church Prospects Panel

The Church panel put an enormous amount of volunteer time into the Gatty Park community food-growing project. Their efforts were recognised this year in two ways. They were featured on the BBC Spring Watch programme, filmed at the India Street Back Yard Project. They also entered their first ever show at the Baxenden Allotment & Garden Society, and came away with 5 firsts, and 2 second prizes. As well as growing organic veg, distributing excess in the community, and growing seedlings for other projects, the ‘Gatty Gang’ have been tidying up the Donkey Back Picnic Site next to the canal, and have developed the Poppy Project, which will produce brilliant poppy displays next year to commemorate the Accrington Pals.



Huncoat Community Forum

The Huncoat Community Forum are the Prospects Panel in Huncoat. They have been busy creating the Huncoat Peace Garden, with seating, planting, and stone carvings. For another year, they have brightened up the village by contributing to Huncoat in Bloom. The new native tree plantation they created alongside Spouthouse Woodland has been managed by the group, as has the Bog Garden and Outdoor Classroom created with Huncoat School. Progress has been made with the planned adoption of Huncoat Railway Station, and a survey has been made of the footpaths along the Huncoat Trail ready for some improvement work. Other recent projects include pond creation at Huncoat Brickworks, and local landscaping at Whitewell Road.



Baxenden Community Forum

Volunteers from the Baxenden panel have been working with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust in forwarding the designation of Woodnook Vale as a Local Nature Reserve. They carried out a bird survey and library display, greenway access improvements, 'balsam bashing' and tree pruning, and continue woodland management in Hollins Woodland. The group maintain their four willow weaving sculptures along the Greenway, and have plans to further develop the living sculpture trail. The Baxenden Jubilee Walk was created by the panel, and they carried out their annual tidy-up and public walk along the trail. Local families were invited to Haworth Gallery to make bird boxes, which were then put up along the Greenway. Students from Hollins Technology College made Jubilee Walk waymarkers, and took part in an environmental art workshop.



Oswaldtwistle Prospects Panel

The Ossy panel are based at our Tinker Brook tree nursery, which is used by the PCT as a training centre for their clients. The group have been involved in balsam clearance, woodland management and wall maintenance at Coach Road Meadows, and oak tree planting with Green Concern at Foxhill Bank Nature Reserve. We continue to support Ossy's St Mary's Eco School with their outdoor classroom and installed seating made from woodland thinnings.



Great Harwood Prospects Panel

The Great Harwood panel have carried out woodland maintenance at Edge End Wood, including dead hedging, creating a woven willow hedge, and tree planting. They maintain the Great Harwood Nature Trail, and a public walk was recently led along it. They have also commenced access and habitat improvements in Harwood Bar Wood.



Clayton-le-Moors with Altham Prospects Panel

Volunteers from Clayton-le-Moors have been carrying out maintenance work at the Millennium Baby Woodland, and held a family open day. They are now looking at extending the woodland for a new generation. The Moorfield Colliery Memorial plantings have been maintained by them, oak trees have been planted at Mercer Park, and the Mount Pleasant Primary School have been supported with a willow wigwam and seats for their wildlife area.



CULTIVATE ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

It's been a busy and successful year for the Cultivate project.



The Cultivate Project is transforming the allotments of Hyndburn into a vibrant resource for local food growing with health and well-being benefits for local people. Other community food growing opportunities are also being cultivated.

The overall aim is to promote better health (physical, mental and social) in our communities by improving access to good food, encouraging more active lifestyles and offering opportunities for social interaction.

Training

94 people benefitted from training and learning new skills. Many of these attended a series of six-week food-growing training courses delivered by a qualified tutor in a venue local to their homes at the beginning of this year's growing season.

Volunteering

55 adults volunteered their time to help develop food growing activities in the project doing such things as:

-  Setting up a new food growing project at Manchester Road Well Being Centre.
-  Maundy Relief reinstating a neglected growing area.
-  Bangladeshi Welfare Association preparing a back yard for food growing.
-  Students from Accrington College helping with improvements on Meadoway.
-  A Milnshaw resident helping secure resources for three other groups.
-  New food growers on Meadoway attending meetings to start up an allotment tenants group for the site.
-  People from Meadoway allotments and a special needs group planting bushes alongside a special needs group.

In addition to this and not counted here there has been a great deal of volunteer time given by parents and children to assist food growing projects in schools and children centres throughout Hyndburn. Overall, 1316 have so far benefitted in food growing-related ways from the project.



First Harvest at St Christopher's School



Hollins Technology College plot being cleared by Community Payback



Food growing training at Heys allotment Cultivate funded polytunnel



Meadowway open day as part of Pennine Lancashire Food Festival



Cultivate funded rotovator being used by Milnshaw Residents Association



Sandy Lane food growing project - support by Cultivate with equipment, plants and training

There has also been sustained support from Cultivate in partnership with Hyndburn Borough Council, Bootstrap Enterprises and the NHS in the allotment regeneration programme – helping to identify underused plots and giving practical help [compost, tools, training, linking up projects] to groups of food growers.

Social Enterprise Development Initiative (SEDI)

The aim of the PROSPECTS SEDI is to identify, assess, develop and establish four new social enterprises in Hyndburn.

The programme is funded by the Big Lottery's Fairshare fund and is based around the priority wards of Barnfield, Church, Central, Peel and Spring Hill in Accrington.



Hyndburn Used Furniture Store, an existing social enterprise

Through consultation the programme identified 16 potential social enterprises for further development. With the help of an 'Assessment Panel' made up of representatives from the local charity, voluntary and business sector four ideas were selected to be set up as new enterprises.

These were; One Planet (Accrington) Limited; A Community Benefit Wind Turbine, a Woodland Management enterprise and a Local Food production enterprise. In addition it was agreed to continue our support of Hyndburn Used Furniture Store, an existing social enterprise based in central Accrington.

One Planet (Accrington) Limited

In May 2010, One Planet was incorporated as an Industrial & Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community. The shop will sell local, ethical, Fairtrade, Natural Wellbeing, Innovative and Sustainable products. It will be based in central Accrington and will be funded through a 'Community Share Offer'.



The One Planet website
www.oneplanet.coop



Glebelands City Growers, Manchester.
Supplying local food stores.

Local Food Production

This enterprise will grow local fruit and vegetables with the aim of providing produce that can then be sold as close as possible to its source. The enterprise will work towards organic principles and will offer employment, training and volunteering opportunities within the community.



A volunteer with bags of charcoal made from timber thinned from a council owned woodland in Clayton-le-Moors.

Woodland Management Enterprise

This woodland enterprise would look to work with Hyndburn Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and other landowners, to provide a woodland management service. The enterprise would make products from the thinned timber that would then be sold through local outlets. The products would include charcoal, firewood, allotment products, furniture, fencing etc.

Community Benefit Wind Turbine

This enterprise will provide renewable energy from wind that will then be sold back to the 'grid'. Any profits made through 'Feed in Tariffs' will be ploughed back into the community. The initial idea is to look at a larger turbine with the option of additional smaller wind turbines in appropriate places.



An 11kW wind turbine in Haslingden



One Planet volunteers visit the Green Valley Grocer in Slaithwaite near Huddersfield.

Volunteers

Over the second year of the programme (Feb 2009 to Jan 2010) 78 individuals were involved in developing the 16 social enterprise ideas.

SEDI is funded and supported by:

The PROSPECTS Social Enterprise Development Programme is funded by the Big Lottery Fund through its Fair Share Trust fund. This is administered, on behalf of the Big Lottery, by the Community Foundation for Merseyside.



Community Response to Climate change

Energy Saving / Renewable Energy:

Two talks have been held at Accrington Library, setting out ways to save energy in the home and create sustainable power. Andrew Hunt showed everyone the technology he's installed into his terrace house in Bury; and Tim Barwood (Energy Saving Trust) outlined savings, incentives and payback times of sustainable energy. Around 40 people attended each talk with many inspired to make changes.

St Christopher's School Eco Group used the thermal imaging camera around their school. They presented their finding in an assembly, and suggested improvements to cut heat loss in the new school entrance.

Hands on Huncoat Station:

Huncoat Community Forum was asked to take care of Huncoat Railway Station to create a brighter, better cared for station to encourage people to use the trains more, following the example set by Rishton Panel.

The sub-group called 'Hands on Huncoat Station' have already tamed the overgrown shrubs and repainted the concrete signs that announce the station's name. Other improvements, including tubs of colourful flowers, will welcome travellers.

PROSPECTS is looking forward to the opening of the new Accrington Eco-Station and hope to set up an adoption group there too.



Volunteers at Huncoat Railway Station

Rocket Composter:

Accross College will soon be making use of the Rocket Composter that Church PROSPECTS Panel secured the funding for. It will process food and garden waste at the college and prevent it going to landfill. Horticultural students will use the compost.

Staff from the college visited *Off Shoots* to see similar composters in operation and The Avon School (Rugby) have assured that a Rocket Composter works very well in a school setting.

Community Orchard:

St Christopher's High School was keen to plant a community orchard on their field. Lancashire County Council's Trees and Woodlands Grant Scheme provided funding, and LCC assigned Steve Edwards (expert fruit tree advisor) to help with the project.

Steve selected 12 small, modern fruit trees suitable for East Lancashire weather and they were planted at the school's Eco Fair. The school community dedicated each tree to friends and family members and got their hands dirty planting their trees.

The project demonstrates that it is possible to grow fruit in Accrington, and will highlight that fruit is seasonal. The community will benefit from free fruit without the CO₂ contributions of imported produce.

The orchard will be expanded in the future is hopefully the first of several Community Orchards in Hyndburn.



Woodnook Vale Willow Trail:

Funding bids are being submitted to create a Willow Sculpture Trail along Woodnook Vale. The project will introduce new sculptures along the full length into Woodnook. Students at Hollins College and St John's and Woodnook Primary Schools will work with professional willow weavers to create sculptures, some of which will be of living willow.

The community will enhance the route linking Accrington town to the countryside and encourage the use of this green corridor by walkers and cyclists. The finished trail will be celebrated with a lantern parade.

Millennium Baby Woodland Extension:

Ten years on we are negotiating to use the adjacent land to extend the Millennium Baby Woodland through the Woodland from Waste Scheme. Other sites are also being sourced to fully benefit from the scheme which provides trees for free. More trees means less CO₂ in the atmosphere and helps to address the effects of climate change.

Nature Walks in Hyndburn

The Nature Walks in Hyndburn project is being funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. The project started in January 2010 and will run for three years.

The aim of the project is to get local people out and about in Hyndburn's green spaces and countryside. It's all about learning and experiencing nature, whether it's coming along to a bat walk, planting a tree, developing a walk leaflet or taking ownership of a natural area.

We'll be working with local groups and individuals to identify how access can be improved - this might be creating a new route, improving signage, upgrading a path or community management.

Potential Projects

- ~ interpretation at Bullogh Park
- ~ installing gates to replace stiles at Spout House Woodland, Huncoat
- ~ Installation of wildlife interpretation at Spout House Woodland
- ~ Creation of a willow sculpture trail along Woodnook Vale
- ~ Food foraging walks/information about food foraging in Hyndburn
- ~ Extension of the Millennium Baby Woodland
- ~ Access improvements on Laund Clough
- ~ Creation of nature area at Holt St Rec. Rishton
- ~ Community management of Biological Heritage Sites.



Lancashire Wildlife Trust

The Trust have been delivering events and carrying out survey work on our behalf on sites with community interest. A mini-conservation plan is being written for the Millennium Baby Woodland, wildlife surveys with volunteers have been carried out at Spout House Woodland, Leeds and Liverpool Canal and Woodnook Vale.

Tree Warden Scheme

We are working in partnership with Hyndburn Borough Council to relaunch the tree warden scheme in Hyndburn, and involve new volunteers in learning woodland maintenance.



Peel Park REMADE

Delivery of a programme of nature walks and nature conservation tasks in partnership with Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Events so far have included pond dipping, bat walk, walk in the woods and Rhododendron management. 350 native trees were also planted at Peel Park by Cub Scouts and PROSPECTS volunteers.

Woodnook Vale

Community activities have been organised in partnership by PROSPECTS and Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Events have included woodland management, wildlife surveys, wildflower seed sowing and bird box installation. The events have been helping towards development of Local Nature Reserve status for the site. 2010 will hopefully see the development of a willow sculpture trail along the old railway line.



Community Projects 2009

Tree Planting

2008 was the official 10th anniversary of the PROSPECTS Panels and to celebrate this, each panel was given 10 oak trees. Trees were planted in Mercer Park, Huncoat Greenway, King Georges Playing Fields, Edge End Wood, Foxhill Bank LNR and Cut Wood Park.



Altham Oak and Carpentry donated money to purchase the celebration trees and 100 more oak trees which were planted by Woodnook Primary School in Oak Hill Park, Accrington West Scouts at Bowley Scout Camp, St Marys Eco Group in their outdoor classroom and service users at Rough Lee House.

Ladybird Trail

Over 60 walkers attended the relaunch of the Ladybird Trail in September 2009. Lancashire County Council replaced stiles with kissing gates. New waymarkers were put up by Lancashire County Council volunteer rangers and a brand new leaflet designed and compiled with the help of PROSPECTS Panels was produced. The project was funded by Lancashire Environmental Fund, PCT Stepping Out Project and Awards for All.



Peel Park REMADE (May to December)

PROSPECTS has been involved in delivering a programme of community activities with the Lancashire Wildlife to raise awareness of the valuable wildlife and habitats found in the Peel Park area. The work has been funded through the REMADE scheme which is making improvements to Peel Park.

Events have included pond dipping, bat walk, meadow management, woodland management training, tree planting, wildflower and archaeology walks.

A programme of activities for 2010 has also been organised as part of the Nature Walks in Hyndburn project.

Woodnook Vale (September to December)

A 6 month programme of community activities was delivered by PROSPECTS and Lancashire Wildlife Trust to help promote Woodnook Vale's development towards Local Nature Reserve status. Local residents, St Paul's Scouts, Baxenden Community Forum and PROSPECTS volunteers took part in woodland management training, bird box making and a guided bat walk.





Prosperity Recycling is our award-winning social enterprise established in 2003. Prosperity manufactures products from recycled waste plastics, and diverts 750 tonnes of waste from landfill each year. The enterprise also provides training and employment for people who are excluded from the labour market, including people with a learning disability and young unemployed people.

Recently, Prosperity has specialised in customised playground equipment, including water and sand play, and children at several local schools now enjoy using our sustainably-produced play equipment. We also produce benches, seating, shelters, fencing and planters. The training section of Prosperity uses recycled timber and shredded cardboard to produce a range of saleable products.

Manufacturing industries in general have had a difficult time recently, and Prosperity has had more than its share of challenges. It is to the credit of the staff and directors that Prosperity has survived these difficult times and is now increasing its product range into new markets.



Our proposed Environmental Business Park obtained planning permission this year. This will be a demonstration project for innovation and best practice in environmentally sustainable design, construction and operation. To our knowledge, it will be the first carbon- neutral business park in the North West. Construction works will use low energy and recycled materials and buildings will meet the highest standard of energy performance. The site will be self-sufficient in energy through renewables such as wind, solar and biomass, and will include rainwater harvesting and on-site waste conversion. Existing natural habitat will be retained alongside landscaping improvements, and public access will be encouraged.

We have already secured land for the Environmental Business Park at Coach Road Meadows in Oswaldtwistle and carried out extensive feasibility work. We are now ready to employ a Project Officer who will start to develop the site.

Evaluation of Our Work

17 Evaluation

Last year, we carried out an Evaluation of our work over the previous three years. We employed an independent consultant from Bootstrap Enterprises, who conducted one-to-one or group interviews with beneficiaries, partners, funders and trustees. In addition, Volunteers from the seven Prospects Panels carried out their own evaluation process.

14 Community Groups whom we had supported with their projects (these included 6 groups for young people; 3 groups for disabled people; 1 ethnic minority group; one residents association and 2 'friends of' groups from deprived areas) were asked a series of questions by the Consultant. Of the 14 community groups interviewed, 8 rated their experience of working with Prospects as "very good" (the highest category), and 5 as "good". The remaining group was a group of people with a learning disability, who were unable to answer questions about Prospects as an organisation. Asked whether staff were helpful and effective, 10 groups rated us as "very good" and 3 as "good". Some of their comments include:

- "our project was fun with positive outcomes for young people, who saw something tangible being produced and displayed"
- "PROSPECTS always listens to (us) and then helps us to put our ideas into practice by offering practical help and advice on the best way to do things"
- "really appropriate way of working with our group...helped us achieve our outcomes which were the group's and not imposed by other bodies"
- an Asian women's project "increased confidence and opportunities to share new activities with children and other family members"

16 partner organisations from the statutory and voluntary sectors were also consulted. Asked to rate their working relationship with Prospects, 9 partners gave us the highest rating "very good", and 6 rated us as "good". All 16 partner organisations stated they would want to work with us again. Some of their comments include:

- "The PROSPECTS model is very effective in sowing the seeds and letting the wider community get on with it and learn and develop their own skills"
- "PROSPECTS have significantly contributed and moved the scheme along very quickly and effectively ... their contacts have significantly helped the project ... they are in tune with and know how to engage with the public"
- "good source of specialist support, always enthusiastic and willing to help"

All 4 project funders rated their relationship with Prospects as 'good' and our monitoring and reporting as 'satisfactory'. Some funders would like to have received more (unsolicited) feedback: there is clearly a lesson for us here in needing to communicate better and more frequently with our funders. Some comments include:

- "It is very much people focused ... I think there is real empowerment and putting the ownership on residents in the area"
- "project ideas seem to come from a local level...not all not for profit organisations have been directly engaged with the community in the way PROSPECTS is"
- "we wish we had more projects coming from PROSPECTS, always delivers"

27 volunteers from the Prospects Panels provided a wealth of feedback. All volunteers had a positive experience of volunteering on the project (11 "very good", 13 "good", 3 "OK", no "poor" or "very poor"). The main reasons for volunteering were: wanting to help their community, help the environment, or caring about their local area. The amount of volunteer time individuals gave varied from 1-2 hours per month (6 people) to 20-50 hours per month (4 people), with 6 hours per month being the average.

The personal benefits of volunteering most mentioned were making new friends (23) and learning new skills (14), with 6 people reporting that the skills they had learned had improved their employability, and 2 saying it had directly helped them get a job. Other benefits reported were a healthier lifestyle, more outdoor activities, a sense of belonging and being involved, and a sense of achievement. Two-thirds of respondents reported having made changes to their lifestyle towards more sustainable living as a result of their involvement.

Charity Information

The PROSPECTS Foundation is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1076541

GUARANTEE COMPANY NUMBER: 03686719

TRUSTEES:

Philip Vincent-Barwood (Chairperson)

Ian Plested (Vice-Chair and Company Secretary)

Nicholas Cort (Treasurer)

Cllr John Broadley (Church PROSPECTS Panel)

Colin Cooper (Rishton PROSPECTS Panel)

Cllr Paul Gott (Huncoat Forum)

Stephen Hemmingway (Individual Member)

Catherine Holmes (Clayton with Altham PROSPECTS Panel)

William Matthews (Baxenden Community Forum)

Cllr Miles Parkinson (Lancashire County Council)

Gwyn Robinson (Oswaldtwistle PROSPECTS Panel)

Margaret Worden (Individual Member)

to be announced (Hyndburn Borough Council)

vacancy (Great Harwood PROSPECTS Panel)

vacancy (Accrington PROSPECTS Panel)

OFFICERS

Climate Change & Charity Development Manager: Elizabeth Taylor / Lesley Cryer

Social Enterprise Development Officer: Mike Stapleford

Nature Walks Project Officer: Gemma Tomlinson

Community Food Growing Co-ordinator: Ian Hodgson

BANKERS

Triodos Bank, Brunel House, 11 The Promenade, Bristol, BS8 3NN

SOLICITORS

Forbes Solicitors, Rutherford House, 4 Wellington Street (St Johns), Blackburn BB1 8DD

AUDITORS

KM Accountants, 4-6 Grimshaw Street, Burnley, Lancashire

INVESTMENT ADVISORS

Wrigleys Solicitors, 19 Cookridge Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS2 3AG

RELATED PARTIES

Prosperity Recycling Ltd.

Prospects Plastics Ltd.

8 PROSPECTS Panels

Our thanks to everyone who has worked with us:

Accrington & Rossendale College
Accrington Police Station
Age Concern Hyndburn
Alex Trust
All Saints Primary School
Altham Oak & Carpentry
Area Councils
Bangladeshi Welfare Association
Baxenden Community Forum
Big Lottery
Bootstrap Enterprises
British Waterways
BTCV
Carr-Gomm
Cartridge World
Chaigley Trust
Church PROSPECTS Panel
Church Youth Group
Clayton-le-Moors with Altham
PROSPECTS Panel
Clayton-le-Moors Youth Group
Community Foundation for
Lancashire
Co-operative Foundation
Copperhouse Childrens Centre
Creative Support
Cycling Projects
Earl Transport Ltd
East Lancashire Bat Group
East Lancashire Primary Care Trust
Eaves Brook Housing Association
Elevate Housing Market Renewal
ENTRUST
Environappies
Environment Agency
Fern Gore Residents Association
Friends of Arden Hall
Friends of Foxhill Bank
Friends of Haworth Park
Friends of Meadoway Allotments
Friends of Memorial Park
Global Renewables Ltd
Great Harwood Co-operative Society
Great Harwood PROSPECTS Panel
Green Concern
Groundwork Pennine Lancashire
Harwood Bar Residents
Harvest Housing
Hilden Manufacturing Ltd
Hill Street residents
Hollins Technology College
Huncoat Forum
Huncoat Residents Association
Huncoat School
Huncoat Youth Project
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley CVS
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley Friends of
the Earth

Hyndburn Borough Council
Hyndburn Community Network
Hyndburn Cultural Association
Hyndburn Energy Forum
Hyndburn Fairtrade Group
Hyndburn Homewise
Hyndburn Leisure
Hyndburn Resource Centre
Hyndburn Used Furniture Store
Hyndburn Youth Council
Lancashire County Council
Lancashire County Developments
Ltd
Lancashire Economic Partnership
Lancashire Energy Efficiency Advice
Centre
Lancashire Environmental Fund
LEDA (Leeds Environmental Design
Associates)
Lupin Road Community Centre
Manchester Road Wellbeing Centre
Maundy Relief
Mersey Basin Campaign
Milnshaw Residents Association
Moorhead Sports College
Mount Pleasant Children Centre
Mount Pleasant Primary School
Neighbourhood Management
North West Development Agency
Offshoots Permaculture Project
One Planet Shop group
Oswaldtwistle PROSPECTS Panel
Our Lady & St Huberts Primary
School
Portland Street Community Centre
Rishton PROSPECTS Panel
Rishton Action Group
Rishton Older People's Centre
Saheli Connections
Sandy Lane food-growing group
Springhill Ladies Asian Sewing
Group
Springhill Youth Action
St Christophers High School
St Johns Primary School
St Mary's School Eco-Committee
St Mary Magdelene Primary School
St Pauls Beavers and Cubs
Step 2 It
Surestart Hyndburn
The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire,
Merseyside & Manchester
Trampers
Tree Council
V for Volunteering
West Accrington Scouts Group
Woodnook Residents Association
Young Carers

19 Acknowledgements



The PROSPECTS Foundation
c/o 20 Cannon Street
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 1NJ
T. 01254 380675
F. 01254 389599
info@prospectsfoundation.org.uk
www.prospectsfoundation.org.uk

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Registered Office: 20 Cannon Street, Accrington, Lancashire, BB5 1NJ.