



AGREEMENT BETWEEN Matlock Town Council AND GROUNDWORK FIVE COUNTIES



1st April 2026 – 31st March 2029 (3 Years)

Matlock Town Council has again committed to funding a Project Officer from Groundwork Five Counties to work 1 day a week (currently Thursdays) over a 3 year period from 1st April 2026. This is a further extension of a working partnership which began in November 2006.

The Council has approved £12,000 per annum towards Groundwork Five Counties Project Officer time, to deliver an annual Work Programme which will be agreed with Matlock Town Council and will include specific details of work required on each of Matlock Town Council's sites throughout Matlock. (eg pruning and tidy up on Wild Thyme garden, repairing allotment boundaries etc.)

Quarterly review of progress on the Work Programme with Matlock Town Council offer the opportunity to add or amend items on the Work Programme, for example, to add support for various restorative projects as they arise throughout the year.

The Project Officer will continue to work with schools and local groups as opportunities arise through additional sources of funding secured by either party. Groundwork Five Counties will provide additional support to the project officer to assist, where possible, with funding bids to add value to Matlock Town Council's funding to Groundwork Five Counties, such as was achieved through the Natural Neighbourhoods programme.

Receipts will be provided for minor revenue costs for Personal Protective Equipment of volunteers and their refreshments (tea/coffee/biscuits). These costs will continue to be paid direct by Matlock Town Council. These costs along with volunteer travel expenses are, wherever possible, written in to bids for external funding, so that Matlock Town Council is funded for such costs.

Capital costs of improvement works facilitated by the Project Officer will be agreed with Matlock Town Council and met, where appropriate, by Matlock Town Council or through external bids as above.

Since the partnership began in 2006, the focus of the work has been on volunteer involvement in Denefields to maintain and improve the site for people and wildlife, as well as work on several other sites for which Matlock Town Council is responsible, e.g. Bailey's Tump (Asker Lane), The Wild Thyme Community Garden (Wellington Street), The Allotments (Chesterfield Road, Matlock), Hillside (Diana Memorial) Garden and Megdale Orchard. The Project Officer has organised considerable involvement

from the wider community on Denefields and the Denefield Rangers Volunteer group is extremely well attended and well established now.

Within the scope of this agreement it is likely that Matlock Town Council will acquire land at the rear of Starkholmes village hall and other potential sites may be granted to the Town Council due to the Local Government Reorganisation. Any new area not mentioned here will be amended to a new SLA and resigned by both parties.

The detailed management report produced by Groundwork Five Counties in June 2019 for Denefields, continues to provide the basis for management development of the site. Matlock Town Council will work with the Project Officer to take forward these developments and to seek funding where it may be required.

Matlock Town Council and Groundwork Five Counties have a firm commitment to continue weekly sessions of Volunteer Rangers, including wider community involvement within the Council's area and it is anticipated that these will remain the main focus of the Project Officer's work.

Since declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency in June 2019, one of Matlock Town Council's priorities is sustainability and it is looking to develop its green spaces and planting to encourage wildlife and become more environmentally friendly. The Project Officer will continue to work with Matlock Town Council on this and provide advice and guidance on how this can be achieved, as well as helping with practical support.

The Project Officer will:

- Produce and distribute regular publicity about project activities for Matlock Town Council
- Produce quarterly progress reports for Matlock Town Council
- Be line managed by Groundwork Five Counties, with day to day liaison with Matlock Town Council Town Clerk (or deputies) on operational issues as necessary.
- Maintain lines of communication with the outdoor team from Matlock Town Council in order to plan non conflicting work

Signed:



On behalf of Matlock Town Council

Dated: 26th May 2026

Signed:



On behalf of Groundwork Five Counties

Dated: 22nd May 2026