

Protos is a destination for energy, innovation and industry. Welcome to the latest edition of our community newsletter where you can find out what's been happening at the site and what we have coming up.



### AT A GLANCE

Construction of the building for the new energy recovery facility at Protos will commence this month following site preparation works which have been ongoing since December.

Enviroo's PET recycling facility has been granted planning approval, and Powerhouse Energy's waste plastic to hydrogen facility is on track.

Last year we made £40,000 available for local causes. Find out who the Protos Community Benefit fund helped on the last page.

With summer on its way, and more people able to get out and enjoy Goldfinch Meadows, it is as important as ever that you, your friends and family only stay in areas which are safe and open to the public.

The map above highlights the permitted and safe areas to walk, some areas are not open to the public due to operational and construction activities. Don't forget the yellow route on the map, also forms part of National Cycle route 5 if you are looking for a longer adventure.

Keep an eye out for the new life emerging in Spring.

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## PROTOS AT THE HEART OF THE GREEN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Late last year the Prime Minister set out his Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. This sets out how the government plans to create 250,000 green jobs as part of the post-COVID economic recovery and levelling up agenda. At Peel L&P we're doing our bit and recently reaffirmed our commitment to this green recovery with the launch of a new division -Peel NRE.

## PLASTIC PARK MASTERPLAN

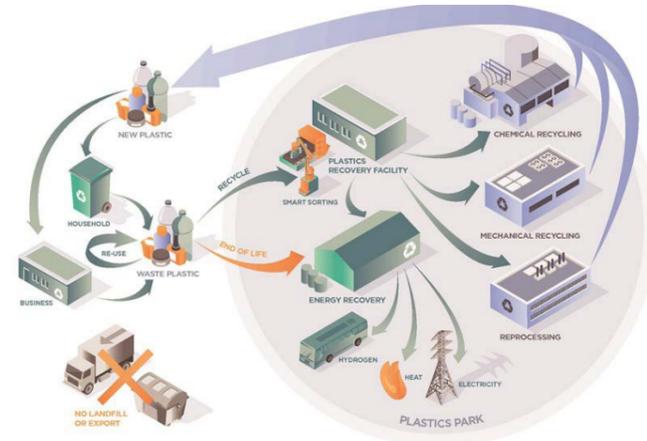
We have revealed the masterplan for the 30-acre Plastic Park at Protos. It could see over £165m invested at Protos and will cluster together a variety of plastic recycling and treatment technologies, each designed to get the most value from plastic waste.

Currently, 4.9m tonnes of plastic waste is generated each year in the UK with too much of this exported overseas. In the Plastic Park, what can be recycled will be removed, and any non-recyclable plastic will be used to create electricity, hydrogen or other products which can be used in the production of new plastics.

This could be the first of many planned throughout the UK. Our hope is that these Plastic Parks will change the way plastic waste is handled across the country. Enhanced infrastructure will contribute to the circular

This brings together the skills of the Peel Energy, Peel Environmental and Peel Water teams to help drive the nation's clean growth agenda, support a circular economy and help achieve regional climate emergency targets.

Click [here](#) to find out more



economy, increasing recycling rates, while reducing landfill and export of waste.

We'll be consulting on a planning application for the Plastic Park later this year.

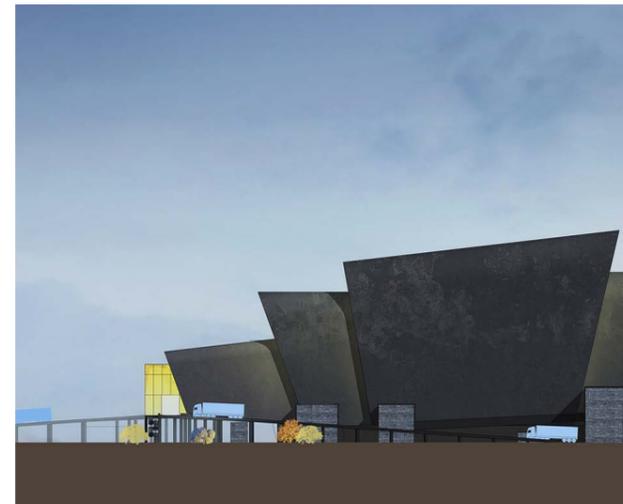
## APPROVAL FOR PLASTIC RECYCLING PLANT

Specialist PET (polyethylene terephthalate) recyclers, Enviroo, has been given approval for a new recycling facility at the Plastic Park. Approval was granted by Cheshire West & Chester Council at the beginning of this month. PET – the main material used for food and drinks packaging such as plastic bottles and certain food packaging – will be converted into the raw material for new food-grade packaging. Providing this PET will become more important from April 2022 when a new law will see packaging taxed if it has less than 30% PET. For the local community, this recycling facility could mean up to 50 new jobs, and an investment of around £20m.



## CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY

Groundworks have started for a new 49MW energy recovery facility at Protos. Construction on the building will begin this month. The project is being developed by Covanta, Biffa and Green Investment Group to provide 400,000 tonnes of annual treatment capacity for non-recyclable waste, reducing the need to landfill. In processing non-recyclable (residual) waste, the Protos Energy Recovery Facility will generate up to 49 MW of electricity – enough to power 90,000 UK homes. For up-to-date information on the project visit [info.covanta.com/protos](http://info.covanta.com/protos)



## SECOND PHASE STARTED

We recently started the second phase of infrastructure works at Protos. The £10m works will provide road access for the new 49MW energy recovery facility, and the next phase of plots at the strategic energy and resource hub.

The works include:

- New access roads
- Three further new nature areas to create habitats for wading birds and water voles
- Two new bridges providing ditch crossings
- Upgrading the existing canal berth onto the Manchester Ship Canal
- Water supply to phase 2 plots
- New services infrastructure

The works are programmed to complete in early 2022.



## POWERHOUSE ENERGY AT PROTOS

In March last year plans for a waste plastic to hydrogen facility at Protos were approved by Cheshire West & Chester Council. Since then, Powerhouse Energy has completed a study looking at the design and engineering aspects of the proposed facility and site clearance has been undertaken. The facility, which will be located within the Plastic Park at Protos, will produce hydrogen from waste plastic which could be used as a clean fuel for cars, buses and HGVs. The Government has highlighted the central role that hydrogen could play in tackling climate change and this project is just one of many happening across the North West. To find out more about hydrogen projects in the region visit [nwhydrogenalliance.co.uk](http://nwhydrogenalliance.co.uk).

## NATURE AT PROTOS

The nature areas at Protos really come to life in the Spring. You can access Goldfinch Meadows using the yellow route shown on the map on the front page. There are plenty of walkways to explore, and our information boards will tell you about the local wildlife. Large constructed ponds and scrapes with wetland fringes give the perfect environment for water dwelling wildlife.

## COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND



Last year, we made **£40,000** available for local causes through the Protos Community Benefit Fund. Most recently, the fund paid for new fencing at Harmer's Wood, making it safe for local residents, dog walkers and community groups. This fencing was recently completed.

*"The fencing around the wood was in desperate need of replacement because it is surrounded by steep quarries in places. We would like to thank the Protos Community Benefit Fund for supporting the replacement of this fencing. The wood is a much loved local amenity which is now safe. It means we can now invite local schools, brownies and cubs to take advantage of the area."*

*Terry Summers,  
Chair of the Friends of Harmers Wood*

Updates on some of the other local groups to receive money from the Protos Community Benefit Fund:

**Ince village** – renovation is ongoing of the village lamp, a 19th century Grade II Listed lamp post

**Elton Village Events Committee** – work has completed on the Youth Hub

**Helsby Sports Club** – the Fund will shortly be purchasing equipment for bowling green maintenance

**Runcorn Rowing Club** – works on waste water treatment plant will commence in the new year

**Ince Village Hall** – the refurbishment has finished

**Elton Gardeners' Association** – the allotment works are nearly complete

**Peel NRE has contributed a further £50,000 to local initiatives in 2021, an increase of £10,000 on last year.**

To apply for funding, visit:  
[protos.co.uk/how-to-apply/](https://protos.co.uk/how-to-apply/)

**Protos is Peel NRE's flagship project where we're developing a cluster of low carbon energy generation to help local industry meet their decarbonisation targets alongside innovative technologies to manage our waste and resources more sustainably.**

# PROTOS

 **Peel NRE**  
PART OF PEEL L&P

**Get in touch for more information on Peel NRE**

**Visit:** [protos.co.uk](https://protos.co.uk)

**Email:** [community@protos.co.uk](mailto:community@protos.co.uk)

**Call:** Freephone 0800 689 1095 (During office hours Mon-Fri).

**You can also follow us on Twitter** @ThisIsProtos **LinkedIn** Protos