



### **Integration of SDGs in**

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

### **Focus on**

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

## *SDG Accord Reporting 2021 CASE STUDY*

### **The Waterside Development**

Since the University's relocation to our new campus, Waterside, we have worked hard to integrate the site with the local community and improve the pedestrian and cyclist connectivity.

The Waterside development included: clearing the overgrown public footpath to Delapre Abbey, installing accessible footway and creating a new bridge over the Nene providing a more accessible route for the community from the town to this historical place of interest, the campus itself and surrounding residential areas.

In addition, the University improved the lighting and CCTV in the surrounding area in response to safety concerns by staff, students and residents. The University worked in partnership with the Local Authority and Northamptonshire Police to designate a 'Safer Route Home' for pedestrians coming from the town, including a Security Team chaperone service.

Moreover, Waterside was built to best practise guidelines, Manual for Streets, and includes vast open, green, social spaces, shared pedestrian/cyclist routes, wayfinding, a circuit joggers trail, designated bins (including dog waste) and is a no-through site to vehicles other than the bus service.

Waterside also prompted the restoration of two listed railway buildings on site which the community can now visit and enjoy. The conversion of the derelict railway engine shed built in the 1800's into the home of the Students' Union at the University of Northampton has won an Architects Journal Retrofit Award. The panel of expert judges were particularly impressed that the restoration had been certified as "Bream Excellent" with one judge commenting "From ruins to BREEAM Excellent is laudable".

Amy Moore, Sustainable Travel Officer "Waterside is a place for the whole community to enjoy, it has set an exemplar for the town in prioritising the pedestrian over the motorist. Additionally, alongside the infrastructure we have worked hard to deliver a set of soft measures to encourage walking and cycling for all that visit us and a move away from the car."

### **BENEFITS**

1. Increases walking and cycling by: improving the walking & cycling environment, creating new journeys, improving connectivity.
2. Ensures the campus is both accessible and an asset to the community.
3. Prioritises pedestrians and not motorists.

### **BARRIERS**

1. Safety concerns about walking through Becket's Park in dark nights/mornings – we worked in collaboration with the Local Authority and Police service to improve the safety via lighting, CCTV, clearing shrubbery and providing a new open and well-lit route via the University bridge.
2. Motorists were concerned about not being able to drive through the campus as this would provide a quicker route. We consulted with stakeholders at all stages and were transparent about the aims of Waterside to prioritise sustainable modes of travel.

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### **CONCLUSIONS**

Under normal circumstances, Waterside is a hub of activity utilised by all our stakeholders for work, study, leisure, socialising and travel.

Waterside has provided a new place to enjoy, restored heritage and improved the town's connectivity. The ethos of travel around the site is an exemplar for the town to follow in its new development plans. Prioritising the pedestrian over the motorist has set the tone for the town.

Since our relocation to Waterside we have created a new Environment and Sustainability Team who are working to achieve impact across all areas of the SDGs, Net Zero carbon and subsequent reporting and pledges.

Our next steps for our pedestrians and cyclists are: improving the cycling infrastructure (including secure bike compound and improved showers), introducing bikes to our fleet, extending our new student cycle loan scheme, adding additional wayfinding signage, improving the bio-diversity of the campus and going for Hedgehog friendly campus gold award.