



Better for everyone

East Durham Rural Corridor
Area Action Partnership
Annual Report

2021/22

Introduction



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

Portfolio Holder Statement

The local elections in May 2021 brought in some major changes to the leadership of Durham County Council, a change that has given me the opportunity to get more involved in the work of the AAPs through my role as the Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.

As our communities emerge from the massive changes the Covid pandemic imposed on us all, the AAPs have been playing a key role in helping local people and organisations react to what for many is a new environment. Many of the hundreds of projects supported by the AAPs Area Budget this year have focused on supporting people's well-being and numerous initiatives providing youth work or older people's activities have been helped with funding, along with those that provide life-saving help to people living with mental health issues.

This year the AAPs and local councillors have received some significant additional funding, linked to the Council's 'Towns and Villages Programme'. This investment of nearly £4 million is helping local communities improve their environment and revitalise areas that may have become run-down.

As I have been a County Councillor for several years, I was already aware of the work being done by the AAPs to support local members in allocating their Neighbourhood Budgets. Over the past 12 months Councillors from all over County Durham have allocated over £840,000 that has in turn benefitted over 400 different community based projects.

Moving into 2022/23 we will be taking the opportunity to review the council's approach to community engagement and this will include looking at how our area based services run. We are seeking external support to undertake the review and will be looking at best practise and the opportunities that exist to improve our services. We will want to involve staff, Board members, residents, businesses and the community and voluntary sector in discussions over the coming months.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who is involved in AAPs. The staff, fellow councillors, partner organisations and members of the public. The AAPs would not be what they are without your involvement and support!

Councillor Elizabeth Scott,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.



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East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership 2021/22 Key Information



FUNDING

Area Budget including Youth Fund and Welfare Reform, Community Recovery funding and Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund

£182,047

allocated to 14 projects, which attracted

£127,633 match funding.

Additional Fun and Food projects were also funded for the school holiday periods

£41,544

of Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 24 projects including Small Grants, which supported 19 local groups/ communities



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Number of people accessing new and improved community buildings and facilities:

220

(projected not actual for Neighbourhood Budget only)

Total Projected Beneficiaries:

Area Budget – **4,502**

Neighbourhood Budget – **10,145**

Fun and Food Easter 2021 – **812**

Fun and Food May Half Term 2021 – **175**

Fun and Food Summer 2021 – **430**

Fun and Food October half-term 2021 – **324**

Christmas 2021 - **102**

Fun and Food Feb half-term 2022 – **403**



HEALTH

No of people involved in initiatives aimed at improving mental health/ wellbeing:

70

(projected for Neighbourhood Budget only)



COMMUNICATION

34,140

engagements with the community through social media

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 East Durham Rural Corridor AAP brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Areas covered include Sedgefield, Bowburn, Cassop, Quarrington Hill, Kelloe, Coxhoe, Deaf Hill/ Trimdon Station, Trimdon Colliery, Trimdon Grange, Trimdon Village, Fishburn, Bradbury and Mordon.

Welcome from the Chair

Allan Blakemore

I think we have had a most unusual year, in that, we have managed to continue delivering on a great number of projects whilst working remotely.



Whilst the pandemic has brought a number of problems that we are still dealing with, the way that inflation and rising fuel costs are going, puts us at the onset of even greater problems. Area Action Partnerships around the County have alleviated problems for a great number of people and there is no doubt this need will only become worse. During the course of the year, I have had the opportunity to work with other chairs to distribute County wide funding and that has been an extremely successful project. Moneys left over from the Covid relief were released and distributed for a number of County wide projects which are coming on line now. These schemes have been devised in order to ensure that all AAP areas benefit, tackling youth deprivation problems, mental health services and antisocial behaviour.

Within our own AAP, staff have worked tirelessly in order to ensure that projects new and old have been followed through to their conclusion. It has to be said that this has not been easy and new ways of working have had to be found. However, the work has gone on and the projects have gone ahead, and I think all of the members of staff need to be congratulated for the way that the work has continued.

With regard to the future there are a couple of things I would like to say. Durham County Council are about to begin some research into the work carried out by the AAPs. Hopefully they will conclude that the work undertaken is worthwhile and value for money. If there is to be change, hopefully, it will be only minor or cosmetic. Also, I volunteered to be our representative to do some work with travelling communities and I look forward to starting that in the near future.

It has been an enjoyable and informative year and I wish the next chair all the best and a very successful term of office.

Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 936 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and who are invited to get involved in the work of the AAP.

Our Board is the decision-making body of the AAP. It is made up of local people, elected councillors and representatives from partner organisations. Our current board members are;

Cllr David Brown

Cllr Jan Blakey

Cllr Maura McKeon

Cllr Gary Hutchinson

Cllr Christine Varty

Cllr Chris Lines

Parish Cllr VACANT

Allan Blakemore (2021 – 22 Chair) (Public representative)

Malcolm Gray (Iivin)

Angela Stobbart (Business Rep and Believe Housing)

Neighbourhood Inspector Sarah Honeyman (Police)

Tony Cutmore (Voluntary and Community Sector)

Peter Maddison (Fire and Rescue Service)

Clair White (DDES CCG)

Maureen Dixon-Berne (Durham County Council)

George Storey (Public representative)

Kester Noble (Public representative)

Melvyn Carr (Public representative)

Christine Carter (Public representative)

Stuart Dunn (Public representative)

VACANT (Public representative)

2021/22 Funding Allocation

<p>Area Budget including Youth Fund and Welfare Reform, Community Recovery Funding, and Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund</p>	<p>£6,102, Sedgefield Primary School PTFA, Mental Health and Wellbeing Project: Delivery of student counselling sessions, providing a supportive relationship and a safe environment where they can improve social skills, self-awareness and learning capacity, and enhancement of their overall emotional health and mental wellbeing. Also delivery of a 7 wonders of wellness physical exercise/ wellbeing course, covering feelings, anxiety, loneliness and change, teamwork, balance, sleep promotion and happiness for wellbeing.</p>	<p>£6,890, Trimdon Parish Council, Trimdon Grange Rec: Development of Trimdon Grange Rec into a small country park with a full-size football pitch, fully line marked with full size goal posts, areas of wildflower meadow, and a picnic area with sympathetic seating and tables, surrounding by woodland. Also, recruitment of an Apprentice Grounds Person through East Durham College, with the intention of making the position permanent once qualified.</p>
<p>£13,500, Cassop Community Centre: Refurbished, updated and extended the ladies toilets, and built new gents toilet at the back of the centre using part of a storage cupboard. A new entrance to the storage area was also built.</p>	<p>£17,395.84, The Cornforth Partnership, Youth Links: Training and accreditation of 12 adults from the AAP area in Level 2 Youth and Community Work, to create a pool of qualified and trained staff for local organisations to utilise to pilot Youth Work in local centres.</p>	<p>Main Neighbourhood Budget Projects 2021-2022 (£1,000+)</p>
<p>£9,004, Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership, Community Support: Employment of a part-time worker to support current activities, such as supporting volunteers and mental health projects to combat social isolation and bring in new business since COVID.</p>	<p>£6,080, Trimdon Village Hall Association, Trimdon Village Hall COVID Recovery Scheme: Multi-pronged project to help the local community recover from the effects of the COVID pandemic, improve the mental health and wellbeing of local residents, and help with the sustainability of the Hall. The 3 strands of the project are employment of a part-time Coordinator, hall hire costs so that existing activities such as 'Craft and Chat' and 'Kurling' can get back on their feet and continue to operate, as well as new groups, and food provision via a Luncheon Club which also combats social isolation.</p>	<p>£15,000 Making Coxhoe Village Hall Accessible – Lift Installation, Coxhoe Village Hall Association – Cllrs Jan Blakey, Gary Hutchinson and Maura McKeon.</p>
<p>£25,447, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, Community Centre Staff Salaries: Cleaner for a 12 - month period to ensure the safety of Centre users by minimising the spread of COVID. Also the Community Centre Manager for a 12 – month period who's role includes fundraising, development, evaluation, project delivery, bookings, marketing, advertising, management of staff and volunteers, and is the link between the local community and committee.</p>	<p>£20,264, Coxhoe Village Hall Association, Making Coxhoe Village Hall Accessible: Purchase and installation of lift to make the first floor rooms accessible to all.</p>	<p>£4,000 Cassop Boiler, Pipes and Radiator Replacement, Cassop Community Centre – Cllrs Jan Blakey and Gary Hutchinson.</p>
<p>£18,000, Bowburn Community Association, New Chairs: 300 new chairs that are wipeable leather and easy to clean, ensuring that the Centre is COVID safe due to the Centre being used by many members of the community/ community groups, and also as a COVID vaccination centre.</p>	<p>£10,272, Rose Cottage Community Hub CIC, The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage: Tutors/ Facilitators, tables and other costs associated with running sessions to help improve peoples mental health and wellbeing, reduce social isolation, reconnect and rebuild the community, as well as forming new friendships with the surrounding villages following the impact of COVID restrictions.</p>	<p>£5,000 Programme of Events, Trimdon Grange Community Centre – Cllrs Lucy Hovvels, Jake Miller and Chris Varty.</p>
<p>£6,572, DJ Evans Youth Club, Bowburn Fitness Project: Family fitness sessions consisting of circuit training, HIIT, pilates and spin, with the aim of improving mental and physical health and wellbeing and increasing access to sports and fitness.</p>	<p>£17,520, SportWorks, Head, Heart, Health: Provision of training to communities to co-design health initiatives and build capacity to deliver community-based activities. Target groups are young people with mental health challenges, adults disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and older people (55+) including those who have experienced social isolation, loneliness or economic challenge as a result of COVID.</p>	<p>£200 Plastica Botanica, Lumiere 2021, Artichoke Trust – Cllr Chris Varty. Multiple AAP project. Total NB contribution £2,400.</p>
<p>£5,000, Trimdon Grange Community Association, Centre Developing: Continuation of employment of centre Manager for 15 hours per week, to assist with keeping the centre accessible for all and open regularly for people to access help and socialise.</p>		<p>£1,000 Christmas Tree Festival, The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of the Upper Skerne – Cllrs David Brown and Chris Lines.</p>
<p>£20,000, Future Leisure in Coxhoe, Active Life Entrance and Gym Improvements: Installation of a partition wall with windows, on the balcony between the gym and the main hall, to combat issues with noise and changes that have been made due to COVID.</p>		<p>£5,000 Christmas Tree Lights, Sedgefield Town Council – Cllrs David Brown and Chris Lines.</p>
		<p>Consultations carried out during 2021-22</p>
		<p>Durham County Council Budget.</p>
		<p>Durham County Council Leisure Transformation.</p>
		<p>Custody Briefing by Office of the Durham Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner.</p>
		<p>Community Risk Management Plan 2021 – 24 by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.</p>

The Difference We Have Made



Making Coxhoe Village Hall Accessible project

Coxhoe Village Hall Association

Mary Egglestone, who served as Secretary of the Village Hall Trustees from the 1980s-2000s became the first official passenger in the new lift after installation work was completed. Mary said that she was honoured to be asked to be the first to use the lift and that she was very impressed with all the works that had been done. At the time, there was a little more work to be done before the lift would be available for general use.

The carpet was fitted around the entrance way and the lift handed over.



Fun & Food

Fishburn Youth and Community Centre (FYCC)

“On behalf of the FYCC youth workers, all of the young members and myself I would like to express our gratitude for the funding awarded. I cannot even begin to explain the difference it has, and continues to make to our community. The food hampers we have been able to distribute and the social and sporting opportunities the children have had the chance to do have been amazing!!”

Lynne Watson, Centre Manager



Head, Heart, Health

Bowburn Community Centre led by SportWorks

“The sessions have been brilliant for my mental and physical health, I’m starting to feel more confident on my feet and a lot more flexible in my day to day movements, this on top of meeting new friends! Tuesdays stretch and flex are now part of my weekly routine!”

June 53

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