



Better for everyone

East Durham Rural Corridor
Area Action Partnership

Annual Report

2022/23



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

Introduction

Portfolio Holder Statement

As the Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships I am happy to say that the overview of the Area Action Partnerships falls under my remit.

Over the last 13 years AAPs have helped local community organisations to thrive through practical support and funding. 2022/23 has been no different. The 14 AAPs across County Durham have helped to fund over 230 projects through their Area Budgets allocating £2.6m to these good causes. This is making a massive difference when like the rest of us, local organisations are being adversely impacted by the continued long term impacts of the Covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

County Durham is a diverse place, and each AAP is led and directed by local people, councillors, and partners. This means they can adapt to local circumstances whether they be in Wingate or Westgate, Castleside or Coxhoe. This local engagement means AAPs are firmly rooted in, and valued by their communities.

Throughout County Durham AAP funding has supported a wide variety of projects including, youth work, mental health support, environmental projects, activities for older people, sports clubs, children's play, village halls and community centres, parish councils, community safety initiatives and employment schemes, just to name a few.

The AAPs also support myself and my fellow councillors in allocating our annual Neighbourhood Budget. The 126 County Councillors have allocated over £2.2m to over 820 local projects in County Durham over the past year, again supporting a wide range of local schemes.

As with any service, it is always good practice to consider if any improvements can be made. Having remained largely unchanged for the last 14 years, the need for an independent view as to how the service might be enhanced led to the recently completed community engagement review. While consultation is still ongoing on the proposals contained in the review, it comes as no surprise that the consultants found many strengths of the AAPs that we could build upon in the future.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of AAP Boards, fellow councillors, partner organisations, members of the public and the AAP staff. So, thank you one and all. The AAPs would not be the success they have been without your continued support.

Councillor Elizabeth Scott,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.



East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership 2022/23 Key Information



FUNDING

Area Budget, Youth Fund, Welfare Reform, Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund and Healthy Relationships Funding:

£213,779

allocated to 15 projects, which attracted £125,000 match funding

An additional **£43,115** was allocated through the AAPs, to Fun and Food projects during the 6 school holiday periods throughout 2022/23 to 21 projects.

£111,475

of Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 44 projects (including Small Grants) which supported 37 local groups/ communities



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

3,925

(Projected not actual for Area Budget and Neighbourhood Budget only)

HEALTH

Number of children and young people benefiting from schemes that aim to support them in achieving and maintaining optimum mental health and wellbeing:

592

(Projected not actual for Area Budget and Neighbourhood Budget only)



COMMUNICATION

18,858

engagements with the community through social media



Total Projected Beneficiaries:

Area Budget – **3,814**

Neighbourhood Budget – **5,246**

Fun & Food Easter 2022 – **354**

Fun & Food May Half Term 2022 – **90**

Fun & Food Summer 2022 – **402**

Fun & Food October Half Term 2022 – **117**

Christmas 2022 – **210**

Fun & Food Feb Half Term 2023 – **160**

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 Sedgfield, Bowburn, Cassop, Quarrington Hill, Kelloe, Coxhoe, Deaf Hill/Trimdon Station, Trimdon Colliery, Trimdon Grange, Trimdon Village, Fishburn, Bradbury and Mordon.

Welcome from the Chair Councillor Christine Varty

It has been a productive and busy year for East Durham Rural Corridor AAP. Staff have continued to provide support for the many groups in the AAP, while working with the Council to review our working practices.

I have had the pleasure of being Chair and seeing many projects come to fruition, particularly those that relate to young people in our community, and helping those who are struggling the most at this time due to the cost of living crisis.

I would like to thank Angela and Alan who have been excellent Vice Chairs, and also the members of the Board, Forum and associated Task Groups. None of this would be possible without the tireless work of our wonderful staff Jane, Claire and Marie.

In parting, I would like to express my belief that our AAP is an example of partnership cooperation, working at its best for the benefit of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to be Chair this last year, and the opportunity to represent you all at committee and elsewhere, and a big good luck to Angela for her year.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 908 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;

Councillor Christine Varty (2022/ 2023 Chair)

Councillor Chris Lines

Councillor Jan Blakey

Councillor Gary Hutchinson

Councillor Maura McKeon

Councillor Sandra Dowson (Town and Parish Council representative)

Councillor David Brown

Allan Blakemore (Public representative)

George Storey (Public representative)

Kester Noble (Public representative)

Melvyn Carr (Public representative)

Christine Carter (Public representative)

Stuart Dunn (Public representative)

Tim Dredge (Public representative)

Malcolm Gray (Housing representative - Livin)

Angela Stobbart (Business representative and Believe Housing)

Neighbourhood Inspector Sarah Honeyman (Police representative)

Tony Cutmore (Voluntary and Community Sector representative)

Dave Tempest (Fire and Rescue Service representative)

Clair White (Health representative)

Mark Readman (Durham County Council representative)

2022/23 Funding Allocation

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| <p>Area Budget, Youth Fund, Welfare Reform, Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund and Healthy Relationships Funding</p> | <p>£27,250, Coxhoe Primary School, Coxhoe Community Hub and Gardens – Phase 2: Provision of shed, tools and consumables for the community allotment garden, and an adventure trail and safety surface within the community sensory and play garden. Vision to provide opportunities for different community groups to connect, e.g. children with additional needs, families, vulnerable and elderly members of the wider community.</p> | <p>£20,000 Durham County Council, Stobart Terrace Park Upgrade in Fishburn: Replacement of old out of date equipment with new modern design equipment, taking into account inclusivity and accessibility.</p> |
| <p>£19,382, The Cornforth Partnership, Feeding the Community: Provision of hot meals, delivered to older vulnerable residents living in food poverty, within Coxhoe, Kelloe, Cassop and Quarrington Hill, at affordable prices two days per week. Welfare checks to identify any support needs, and lunch get together opportunities, utilising community venues to tackle social isolation also provided.</p> | <p>£24,000, Durham County Council, East Park Path Improvements: Improvement, widening and surfacing of an access path in East Park, Sedgefield. The path connects the underpass at Hardwick Park to Station Road in Sedgefield Village. The aim is to enhance access for people on foot, wheelchair users and those with disabilities, cyclists and horse riders.</p> | <p>£22,864, OASES, Forest Bathing Nature Therapy: Delivery of nature therapy sessions, using Forest Bathing practices, to students in Sedgefield, Kelloe, Bowburn, Coxhoe, Bluebell Meadow and Cassop Primary Schools. These sessions will provide an early intervention, and preventative support mechanism, that will enable children to develop coping mechanisms to enhance their wellbeing.</p> |
| <p>£9,620, Rose Cottage Community Hub CIC, The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage: Programme of educational arts and crafts activities, for people over the age of 50 from the Trimdons, Fishburn, Sedgefield, Coxhoe, Quarrington Hill and Kelloe areas. Sessions included mosaic upcycling, ceramics, silk painting, floristry and mixed media art; with the aim of improving mental health and wellbeing, reducing social isolation, reconnecting and rebuilding the community, whilst allowing the opportunity for people to form new friendships following COVID.</p> | <p>£9,600, Walk and Talk Trust, East Durham Rural Heritage Walks: Working with local communities and schools, the creation and development of fully signposted circular walking routes, at Coxhoe, Trimdon, and Cassop, Kelloe and Quarrington Hill. Utilising public rights of way, they will be 5 to 6 miles long, and will take around 2 to 3 hours to complete. Each will have a Community Launch, led by local volunteers. The community volunteers will adopt the route, and will continue to organise regular walks along the route after the project is complete. Links with GPs and Social Prescribers will also be made.</p> | <p>£13,675, Rose Cottage Community Hub CIC, The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage: Continuation of The Wellbeing Project already mentioned.</p> |
| <p>£13,152, Coxhoe Village Hall Association, Coxhoe and Area Community Pantry and Foodbank: 'Pay as you Feel' model to enhance dignity, using food destined for landfill. People can choose what they would like; usually from fruit, vegetables, bread and other baked goods and treats. Provision of basics for people who are struggling; often from donated stock, giving enough to make meals and snacks to keep families fed for a few days. Referrals into advice and support services also included.</p> | <p>£6,000, Sedgefield Methodist Church, Sedgefield Methodist Church Halls Boiler: Replacement of old and inefficient gas boiler, which heats the halls that are used for several community activities for people of all ages. As one of the activities taking place in the premises is a warm place initiative, and it is also used by a baby and toddler group, heating is essential.</p> | <p>£1,523, Loft to Loved Workshops, Craft Club: Provision of intergenerational craft sessions, which offers a space to tackle social isolation and loneliness, and improve mental health and wellbeing.</p> |
| <p>£9,472, Trimdon Grange Community Association, Recovering from COVID-19: Help and support to adult residents with problems of mental health and wellbeing, social isolation, low self-esteem and lack of confidence. Tutor led and self-guided sessions, including a variety of arts and crafts for an existing group, and a mens group. A tutor led session for menopause awareness, and bus trips.</p> | <p>£17,541, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, Community Events Coordinator: Salary for Community Events Coordinator, as part of the community centres next step towards sustainability. The Coordinator will be responsible for all event enquiries, bookings and delivery; for example birthday, christening and wedding celebrations. Meetings with potential hirers, and being present at events to ensure smooth running will also be part of the role; as well as stock taking, cleaning and staffing.</p> | <p>£10,000, The Cornforth Partnership, Girl Empowerment: Creation of a unique and inspiring learning programme for young females, focusing on years 8, 9 and 10 studying at Sedgefield Community College. The project will look to provide education and learning to the most vulnerable girls in the school; providing learning opportunities around prominent issues including sex and relationships, intimate violence in a relationship, the power to say no, peer pressure and substance misuse. It will look to inspire young girls, and provide them with the skills and confidence to make healthier decisions, and reduce their engagement in risk taking behaviour.</p> |
| <p>£9,700, Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership, Trimdon Station Youth: Activities for children and young people, via sessions including arts and crafts, games and informal exercise. Provision of peer mentoring for the children aged over 11, and all sessions offer an opportunity for children of all ages and their parents/ carers to be supported in relation to mental wellbeing.</p> | | <p>Neighbourhood Budget Projects 2022/ 2023 (£1,000+)</p> <p>£4,000 Nave North Roof, St. Helen's Church, Kelloe – Cllrs Jan Blakey and Gary Hutchinson.</p> <p>£10,800 Speed humps in Coxhoe, Durham County Council Traffic – Cllrs Jan Blakey and Gary Hutchinson.</p> <p>£10,000 Outdoor Community Garden, Coxhoe Primary School – Cllrs Jan Blakey, Gary Hutchinson and Maura McKeon.</p> <p>£2,100 LED Lighting, DJ Evans Youth Club – Cllrs Jan Blakey and Gary Hutchinson.</p> |

2022/23 Funding Allocation

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| <p>Neighbourhood Budget Projects 2022/ 2023 (£1,000+) <i>continued</i></p> | <p>Towns and Villages Funding Projects</p> | |
| <p>£9,000 LED Lighting, Bowburn Community Centre – Cllrs Jan Blakey and Gary Hutchinson.</p> | <p>Towns and Villages Neighbourhood Budget Projects 2022/ 2023 £10,000 per elected member</p> | <p>Review of Customer Access Points.</p> <p>Review of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Dog Ownership 2023.</p> |
| <p>£3,007 Boiler Replacement, St. Andrew's Church, Coxhoe – Cllrs Jan Blakey and Gary Hutchinson.</p> | <p>£10,000 East Park Path Improvements Sedgfield, Hardwick Park – Cllrs David Brown and Chris Lines.</p> | <p>Review of Traffic Sensitive Streets.</p> |
| <p>£4,282 Parkhill Festive Lights, Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council – Cllr Maura McKeon.</p> | <p>Towns and Villages Funding (£210,000 per AAP Area)</p> | <p>Development of a New Play Area at Hardwick Park , Sedgfield.</p> |
| <p>£4,676 Trimdon Colliery Recreation Ground Fencing, Trimdon Parish Council – Cllrs Lucy Hovvels, Jake Miller and Chris Varty.</p> | <p>£36,510, Durham County Council, Cassop Toddler Play Area Refurbishment: Replacement of old, out of date equipment. A new layout and design have made this more inclusive and accessible for the toddler area.</p> | <p>Consultation on Changes to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.</p> |
| <p>£3,000 Armed Forces Day Event, Trimdon Grange Community Association – Cllrs Lucy Hovvels, Jake Miller and Chris Varty.</p> | <p>£40,000, Fishburn Youth and Community Centre, Extension: Extension of the building, which will increase capacity for the centre, and installation of new kitchen facilities and decoration.</p> | <p>New Active Travel Route in Newton Aycliffe.</p> |
| <p>£3,495 Perimeter Fencing, Trimdon Community College Association – Cllrs Lucy Hovvels, Jake Miller and Chris Varty.</p> | <p>£11,760, Fishburn Parish Council, Cemetery Phase Four Improvements: The path and road around the cemetery are currently gravel and not accessible for everyone wanting to visit. The project is to tarmac the current footprint; this will enhance all of the other work completed within the cemetery.</p> | <p>Oral Health Promotion Strategy.</p> |
| <p>£1,398 Community Defibrillator at Trimdon Station, Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership – Cllrs Lucy Hovvels, Jake Miller and Chris Varty.</p> | <p>£10,000, Sedgfield Town Council, Active Travel - Sedgfield Bike Racks: The Town Council wanted to encourage more people who live locally to be more active, and travel more sustainability into the village centre. The new bike racks will be installed on the main green, with enhancements to the bus shelter and the village green also taking place.</p> | <p>Home to School Transport.</p> |
| <p>£3,499 Replacement CCTV Cameras, Trimdon Grange Community Association – Cllrs Lucy Hovvels, Jake Miller and Chris Varty.</p> | <p>£20,000, Durham County Council, Stobart Terrace Park Upgrade, Fishburn Replacement of old, out of date equipment. A new layout and design have made this more inclusive and accessible for all users.</p> | <p>Leisure Transformation Phase 2.</p> |
| <p>£1,721 Openreach Detailed Estimate in Trimdon Village, Durham County Council Highways – Cllrs Lucy Hovvels, Jake Miller and Chris Varty.</p> | <p>Consultations carried out during 2022/ 2023</p> | <p>Moving Together - County Durhams Physical Activity Strategy.</p> |
| <p>£1,500 Activities for Older People, DIDO 'Days In, Days Out' – Cllrs David Brown and Chris Lines.</p> | <p>Development of a new Children, Young People & Families Strategy – Growing up in County Durham.</p> | <p>North East Devolution.</p> |
| <p>£2,000 Scoreboard, Sedgfield Rugby Club – Cllrs David Brown and Chris Lines.</p> | <p>10-Year Mental Health & Wellbeing Plan.</p> | <p>Planning Documents.</p> |
| <p>£2,000 Activities at Sedgfield Library, Durham County Council – Cllrs David Brown and Chris Lines.</p> | <p>Digital Strategy.</p> | <p>Poverty Action Plan – Engagement Plan.</p> |
| <p>£10,000 Building Extension, Fishburn Youth & Community Centre – Cllrs David Brown and Chris Lines.</p> | <p>Former DLI Museum and Art Gallery.</p> | <p>Community Engagement Review of AAPs: ERS Research and Consultancy Approach.</p> |
| <p>£3,210 Forest Schools for Young People, Durham County Council – Cllrs David Brown and Chris Lines.</p> | | <p>Durham County Council Budget Consultation.</p> |
| <p>£10,000 Stobart Terrace Park Upgrade in Fishburn, Durham County Council – Cllrs David Brown and Chris Lines.</p> | | |
| <p>£4,063 Community Workshops, Loft to Loved Workshops CIC – Cllr David Brown and Chris Lines</p> | | |

The Difference We Have Made



The Cornforth Partnership Feeding the Communities Project

A project description can be found on page 3 of the report.

“ *The meals are very nice, good value for money and I look forward to them every week* ”
Dora from Coxhoe

Bowburn Youth Club Fun & Food

A project description can be found on page 3 of the report.

“ *Rio has absolutely loved it and can't wait till the next holiday club!* ”
Parent

Sedgefield Town Council Active Travel

Enhancements to main green bus shelter.

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