



Better for everyone

3 Towns Partnership **Annual Report**

2022/23

Introduction



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

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,



Better for everyone

3 Towns Partnership 2022/23 Key Information



FUNDING

£159,204.39

Area Budget funding allocated to local projects

£10,000

Healthier Relationships funding

£147,300

Towns and Villages funding allocated

£171,319

Neighbourhood Budget funding allocated

£46,622.85

Fun and Food funding

£344,996.85

Match funding



COMMUNICATION

16 E-Bulletins sent out to our electronic forum members, keeping the community in touch with essential messaging

119,091

engagements with the community through social media



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

16 Voluntary and Community groups supported

170 new users of community buildings/facilities/services

80 volunteers involved in project delivery

896 children and young people benefitting from schemes that aim to support them in achieving and maintaining optimum mental health and wellbeing

335 adults involved in initiatives aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing

1,394 adults and children benefitting from activities and food support during the school holidays

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

94 Projects supported including:

11 Area Budget projects

2 Healthy Relationship Fund projects

25 Neighbourhood Budget projects

29 Neighbourhood Budget Small Grant projects

27 Fun and Food Projects



3 Towns Partnership

3 Towns Partnership brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. The partnership area includes 3 Towns and 20 villages and settlements. Over the last year, the key focus has been on Covid Recovery. Over £169,000 from Area Budget and Healthier Relationships Funding has been allocated to local organisations to help them take action on local issues. The AAPs have also been involved in consulting local people on issues such as the Police, Poverty Action Plan, Durham County Council Budget consultation, and the Fire Service's Community Risk Management Plan.

Welcome from the Chair

Mary Hall, Public Representative

It is a pleasure to introduce the 3 Towns Partnership Annual Report 2022/23 highlighting the work of the 3 Towns AAP as we all recover after COVID and begin to move forward to address the needs of our community. The partnership has been at the forefront of supporting the communities not only by looking at funding to support community groups but also by looking at priorities of the area at a locality level. The 3 Towns Partnership has worked hard this year to look at the needs of the villages as well as the three towns in our area. Staff have continued to go out into the community and ask what people's priorities are especially linked to the Towns and Villages funds. The value of the Partnership continues to be shown in the community, and it has been particularly pleasing to see the high level of interest shown by local groups in our funding call outs as well as the interest from the community in taking up places on the board and again we had more candidates than spaces on the Board and need a selection panel. We have also been able to re-invigorate our Youth Panel this year which enables young people to have a say in their community and directly respond to the needs of young people. There is more to be done but young people are our future and I hope they will continue to work together with the AAP to make a difference for everyone in the 3 Towns.

I would like to thank everyone who has spent time working to deliver positive changes within our local community whether that is at task groups, on the Forum or at panels and other meetings. The strength of our AAPs is that whether we are Councillors, Partner organisations, Voluntary Sector groups or community representatives we share one goal, to make the lives of the community better by the work that we do. I would also like to thank those members of the Public that attend the AAPs boards and spread the word out in the community but also raise issues at the board so that together we can look at ways to address them together. As chair I would especially like to thank our dedicated staff who work tirelessly to support voluntary groups, ask communities what their needs are and support wider work across the County especially during the cost-of-living crisis. The year has ended with a consultation about the way that community engagement is undertaken in the future. This has led to a lot of discussion about the value of the AAPs and whilst there are always things we can build on and improve but we can be proud of the work set out in this report and the support it has given to the community.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 1283 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and who are invited to get involved in the work of the AAPs.

Our Board is the decision-making body of the AAPs. It is made up of local people, elected councillors and representatives for partner organisations. Our current Board members are:

Jay Conlon
Allan Coleman
David Dixon
Chris Ebdon
Mary Hall (Chair)
Fiona Nicol
Robbie Rodiss
Cllr Mike Currah
Cllr Margaret Elgie (Greater Willington Town Council)
Cllr Olwyn Gunn (Vice Chair)
Cllr Patricia Jopling
Cllr Richard Manchester
Cllr Anne Reed
Cllr Fraser Tinsley
Cllr Paul Stokes (Tow Law Town Council) Co-opted
Liz Bradley - Housing
Jonathan Holmes - Fire
Gordon Elliott - DCC
Jill Matthewson - CCG
Graham Tomaszko- Business
Insp Ed Turner / Sgt Grant Cockerill - Police
Helen Ward - VCS

We would also like to thank former Fire Service representative Paul Cummings who stepped down from the Board this year.

2022/23 Funding Allocation

Area Budget
Durham Police – Mini Police project provides an interactive volunteering opportunity for 9–11 year olds, which supports police force and national priorities.
Jack Drum Arts – Regular Activities at Jack Drum Arts
Hunwick Community, Social and Environmental group – monthly afternoon social event providing an activity session with food for older residents in the village.
Foundry Fields Allotments – Community garden provides a community garden for the benefit of the whole community, based within the allotment site.
Crook and Weardale Ramblers – 50th Anniversary year will fund 4 events throughout the 50th anniversary year of the Ramblers group.
Friends Together – Friends Together 1 and 2- provides twice weekly social sessions for socially isolated older people.
Willington Open Door Church – Our Confident Community enables the group to continue to develop the work with the community, listening and responding to local residents and partner agencies
Sunniside Community Association – Sunniside Community Association- supporting the core salary costs for the project lead.
Durham Police – ANPR cameras provided the replacement of 4 more modern ANPR cameras and the purchase of one mobile ANPR camera
Durham police – Drone and Section 59 signage – will provide a Drone as alternative air support in a variety of situations and signage which will enable more effective enforcement against anti-social off-road bike nuisance.
3 Towns Partnership – 3 Towns Community Events Fund * - will be available for 3 Towns organisations to apply for funding towards events in their communities.
Healthy Relationships Funding
Willington Primary School- Healthier Relationships - interventions to help build children's confidence and resilience giving them a voice in a safe place.
Stoke the Flame CIC- Relate! - a co-creative venture in partnership with young people to create a zine aimed at supporting KS3 students in developing healthy relationships as they go through the transition from primary to secondary education environments.

Neighbourhood Budget
Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor gets each year to spend on Community Projects. The process is supported by the AAPs team. The projects listed below have been supported by County Councillors; Mike Currah, Olwyn Gunn, Patricia Jopling, Richard Manchester, Anne Reed, Fraser Tinsley.
Main Grant
Noticeboards – Hunwick Community Social & Environment Group – OG FT
TA287 Unc Wolsingham Road, Brancepeth- Durham County Council – OG FT
BRASS – Durham County Council – OG FT
Notting Hill Gala Cultural Exchange – Durham Miners Association Brass Band – OG
Fence – Hunwick Cricket Club – OG FT
Permanent Christmas Tree in Hunwick – Durham County Council – OG FT
Nordostinos Stage 1, Jack Drum Arts – OG FT
PA System - Tow Law AFC – RM
Refurbishment of centre – Sunniside Community Association - RM
Kings Coronation event – Billy Row Community Association – RM
Crook Cenotaph Lighting- Durham County Council – MC, PJ, AR
BRASS in Crook - Durham County Council - MC, PJ, AR
Works at Foundry Fields – Durham County Council – MC, PJ
Garden Place Carriageway Reconstruction Phase 3 - Durham County Council – MC, PJ
Crook Winter Light Parade – Jack Drum Arts - MC, AR
Fir Tree Play area - Durham County Council - MC, PJ, AR
Crook Winter Light Parade 2023 - Jack Drum Arts - MC
Holocaust Memorial Refurbishment - Durham County Council - MC, PJ
Kitchen Refurbishment - St Catherine's Church -PJ
Coal Tub in Crook - The People's Workshop-AR
Festive Lights Instalment - Durham County Council - AR
PA/Smart TV - Howden Le Wear Village Hall - AR
Community Garden Project - Foundry Fields Allotments - AR

Dropped Kerbs- Bladeside – Durham County Council - AR
Compost Toilet -Foundry Fields Allotments - AR
Small Grants
Coach Trips- Crook and Weardale Ramblers - FT, OG, MC, PJ, AR
Growing Health Project- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust – FT, OG,
Tournament Medals and Trophies – Willington Town Youth AFC - FT, OG
Flower Boxes - Brancepeth Parish Council - FT, OG
Pantomime – Greater Willington Town Council - FT, OG
Halloween – Greater Willington Town Council - FT, OG
Trees – Greater Willington Town Council - FT, OG
Bluebell Bulbs- Hunwick Primary School - FT, OG
Trip To Redcar – Stanley Crook Village Hall - RM
Freezer For Food Bank - Tow Law Community Association -RM
Youth Club – Stanley Crook Village Hall-RM
Youth Club XBOX – Stanley Crook Village Hall -RM
Tow Law Community Stain Glass Group-Tow Law Community Centre - RM
Social Club Christmas Lunch - Stanley Crook Village Hall - RM
Pantomime Trip - Tow Law Millennium Primary School -RM
Christmas Tree - Billy Row Community Association- RM
Incredible Eggs - Peases West Primary School - RM
Summer Fete - Fir Tree Residents Association - MC, PJ
Running Costs - Crook Art Group - MC, PJ,
Winter Plants – Howden Le Wear Village Hall - MC, PJ
Crook October Half Term Holiday Club -Groundwork -MC, PJ
Membership Event - Garden Place and Church Hill Residents Association - PJ
Skip Hire - Church Hill Allotment Association - PJ
Coronation event - Garden Place and Churchill Residents Association - PJ
Coronation event - Fir Tree Residents Association - PJ
Running Costs - Howden Australian Football Team - AR
Running Cost - Parkinson's UK - AR
Under 8s Tracksuits - Crook Town Youth- AR
Crook Fest - Crook Town AFC - AR

* project not yet approved

2022/23 Funding Allocation

Fun and Food

Easter

Tow Law Community Association – Easter Holiday Family Fun with Food
 Jack Drum Arts – Carnival Club
 SLAM CDT – Easter Funtime
 Willington Open Door Church – Our Confident Community
 ATOMS CIC – An Easter Extravaganza

Summer

Jack Drum Arts – Jack Drum Arts Summer School
 Spectrum – Summer Fun 22@Spectrum
 Open Door Church – Our Confident Community
 Durham County Council Libraries – Summer Holidays
 ATOMS CIC – ATOMS Super Summer Project
 Tow Law Community Centre – Summer Fun and Food, Tow Law
 Durham Wildlife Trust - Green Defenders Summer School

October Half Term

Jack Drum Arts – Circus Skills with Circ Motif
 Our Confident Community – Willington Open Door Church
 Crook Library – October Half Term
 ATOMS CIC – Half Term Spooktacular
 Greater Willington Town Council – Halloween 2022

Christmas

ATOMS CIC – ATOMS Christmas Family Fun
 Tow Law Community Association - Christmas Fun and Food, Tow law
 Jack Drum Arts – Crook Winter Light Parade Lantern Making Workshops
 Willington Open Door Church - Our Confident Community
 Sunnyside Community Association – Sunnyside Pantomime Outing

February Half Term

Hunwick Community Social & Environment Group – Environment workshops alongside Jack Drum Arts
 Jack Drum Arts – Puppet Masters
 Crook Library – February Half Term Children's Event
 Willington Open Door Church – Our Confident Community
 ATOMS CIC – Fascinating February Fun

Towns and Villages

As part of the Towns and Villages programme, consultation and engagement with local groups and residents has taken place to inform a task group that has worked to develop projects to address priorities across the area. The projects have been agreed, applications will be processed and the projects delivered over the next year.



Sunnyside Community Cafe



3 Towns Youth Panel



Fun and Food - Jack Drum Arts



Friends Together

The Difference We Have Made



Foundry Fields Allotments Association Community Garden

A community garden has been constructed on the allotment site and will be delivering gardening programs to schools. The community garden will also be accessible to the elderly to take part in the activities. It has clean paved floor with several raised beds. All of these activities are good for health and wellbeing of all who take part in them. It will also help develop a sense of community spirit around our local area.



Durham Police Mini Police Programme

Mini Police is an interactive volunteering opportunity. The programme introduces children to a positive experience of policing and gets them involved in the local community. It runs over 6 weeks and is delivered directly in schools and the community. 210 children across the 3 Towns area will benefit from this project and will also receive a goodie bag with enrichment activities and uniforms.



Hunwick Community, Social, Environment Group Monthly Social Afternoon

Hunwick Community, Social, Environment Group have created a monthly afternoon social for the older residents of Hunwick which includes a meal, drink and an activity such as bingo or a quiz. This will help to residents who live alone and are socially isolated. Transport is also offered if required.

The Difference We Have Made



Crook and Weardale Ramblers 50th Year Anniversary

Crook and Weardale Ramblers are celebrating their 50-year anniversary. There will be a 50th anniversary celebration and slideshow event with food and refreshments, 5 monthly coach trips across the summer to recognised tourist towns and cities, A celebratory Christmas lunch in December 2023 and design and printing of 4 quarterly walking programs to be distributed amongst members, town halls, social prescribing and post offices.



Durham Police Community Safety Projects

Durham Police are adding a drone, section 59 ASB signs and ANPR cameras to their supplies to help with policing in the 3 Towns area. The drone will help with investigations and intelligence with an 'eye in the sky' perspective. The section 59 signs will allow immediate seizure of anti-social off-road biking that poses a danger to the community. The ANPR cameras are a reliable intelligence source and a valuable reactive and proactive investigative tool which can be used to disrupt, deter and detect criminal activity as well as being used to locate vulnerable people thereby improving performance and providing community reassurance.



Tow Law Community Association Fun and Food

Tow Law Community Association have provided several opportunities for children to be entertained during the school holidays. Sessions included a visit to an animal sanctuary, making bird boxes, feeders and hedgehog houses, disco, face painting, bouncy castle and many more activities. They also provided food and drink for the attendees.

Contact Details

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