



Better for everyone

Teesdale  
Area Action Partnership  
**Annual Report**

**2020/21**

# Introduction



Councillor Brian Stephens

The past twelve months have challenged us all in many ways. The Covid pandemic has changed how the council and Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) have had to work as many communities and local residents have struggled because of the restrictions that we have all had to follow.

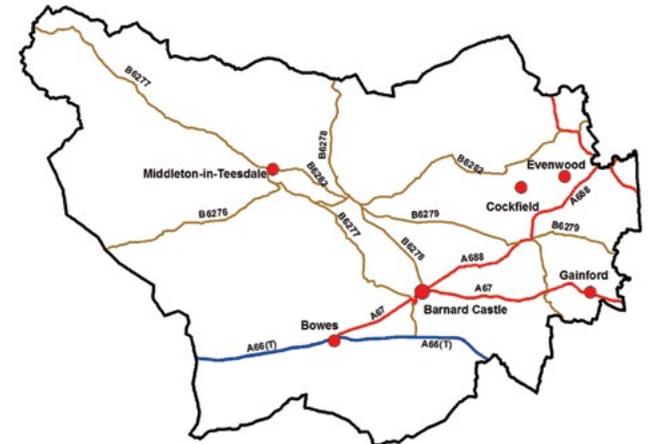
If there are positives we can take from this terrible situation it is that 'community' is alive and well in County Durham. Thousands of people have stepped forward and have taken action to ensure the most isolated and vulnerable have been looked after. The people of County Durham need to be applauded for their efforts.

Many of those organisations that have been helping out have been supported by the AAPs who have provided funding to numerous groups enabling them to do their vital work. Some of this funding has come directly through the AAPs whilst other resources have been allocated from the County Councillors Neighbourhood Budgets. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the AAP teams for their help and support in ensuring that our Neighbourhood Budgets have been making a real difference in local communities.

The next year will be no less challenging but I am delighted to say that the AAPs are being given extra resources to help communities recover from the pandemic. There is also new funding to support the County Council's Towns and Villages Programme and the AAPs will be playing a key role in ensuring this funding helps to improve communities across County Durham.

Finally I would like to thank all those involved with AAPs including the members of the public who regularly support their work. I am very proud to have been involved with the AAPs over the past twelve years and know that they will keep making a difference in County Durham.

**Councillor Brian Stephens, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships**



© Crown Copyright and database rights 2018.  
Ordnance Survey LA 100049055



## The AAP Area

The AAP covers the south western corner of County Durham incorporating the electoral divisions of Barnard Castle East, Barnard Castle West and Evenwood.

The Teesdale Action Partnership area takes in a number of local communities:

Barnard Castle	Gilmonby	Mickleton
Barningham	Greta Bridge	Middleton in
Bedburn	Hamsterley	Teesdale
Bolam	Harwood	Morley
Boldron	Headlam	Newbiggin
Bowes	Hilton	Ovington
Brignall	Holwick	Rokeby
Burnt Houses	Hunderthwaite	Romaldkirk
Butterknowle	Hutton Magna	Staindrop
Cleatlam	Ingleton	Stainton Grove
Cockfield	Kinnivie	Stainton Village
Copley	Lands	Startforth
Cotherstone	Langton	Toft Hill
Eggleston	Langdon Beck	Wackerfield
Etherley	Lartington	Westwick
Forest in Teesdale	Little Newsham	Whorlton
Evenwood	Lunedale	Winston
Gainford	Marwood	Woodland

# Teesdale Area Action Partnership 2020/21 **Key Information**

## FUNDING



**£163,190**

of AAP Funding allocated to 13 local projects

**£229,048**

of County Councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 50 local projects

**£204,301.50**

of Area Budget match funding generated



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**62,909**

engagements with the community through social media

**1,050**

Forum Members regularly receiving information

**12**

Countywide Consultations supported

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT



**20**

Local organisations received over £65,000 of COVID-19 Assistance Funding

**3**

Special community information editions of the Teesdale Mercury funded

**12**

Holiday Activity with Healthy Food initiatives supported

# Teesdale Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009 Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP) brings together local people and partners to act on local issues. TAP covers the south western corner of County Durham incorporating the electoral divisions of Barnard Castle East, Barnard Castle West and Evenwood.

Over the last year the key focus has been COVID-19 Assistance. Over £450,000 has been allocated to local organisations through TAP and County Councillor budgets to help organisations deliver local projects.

If you want to know if your town or village sits within the Area Action Partnership area, please contact the AAP Team: Email – [tap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:tap@durham.gov.uk)

## Welcome from the Chair

### Linda Bird – TAP Chair 2020/21

Being chair of Teesdale Area Action Partnership in a time of Covid-19 has been a strange and rewarding experience. All our meetings have been online, nevertheless, the Board has worked well together, and we have made a significant contribution to Covid response initiatives working with partners across the whole of Teesdale.



This time last year none of us could have envisaged the impact of the pandemic on individuals, communities, and organisations. We have continued to support new initiatives, addressed local issues, and represented the views of our community. In addition, we have encouraged, supported, and worked with organisations that have needed to respond flexibly to community needs.

In 2020/21 the TAP Board and staff team have supported 45 local projects. TAP continues to support the local County Councillors in allocating their budgets, a further 50 Neighbourhood and Small Grants projects have also been delivered over the year.

TAP is not just about funding and as a Board we have represented the views of the local community on key issues such as the County Durham Plan, Leisure Services Review, and UK Government funding for better broadband.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board who give up their time to attend meetings and become involved in TAP. All of this has been achieved virtually this year and it has been a testament to the dedication and patience of Board and staff that we have achieved so much. This year we have said goodbye to David Kinch a longstanding member of the Board who has made an invaluable contribution to TAP; and former Board member Neville Turner who sadly passed away. Neville was a valued Board member and supporter of TAP who had a clear passion for Teesdale. TAP also said goodbye to Maggie Wilson who left her role as Community Development Project Officer. Maggie worked within the AAP for over 10 years, and on behalf of the Board I would like to wish her well for the future. I would also like to give my personal thanks to the TAP staff team: Emma and Adam.

## Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership.

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 George Richardson

Cllr Heather Smith

Cllr James Rowlandson

Cllr Richard Bell

Cllr Stephen Hugill

Cllr Ted Henderson

Town and Parish Council Representative - VACANT

Claire Jones

Ros Evans

Kelly Blissett

Dave Anderson

Linda Bird

Wendy Greenfield

Rachel Tweddle

Tracy Williams – Co-opted Representative

Bob Danby (Voluntary and Community Sector)

Jeff Garfoot (Durham County Council)

Peter Locke (Housing)

Tim Viggars (Business Representative)

Rebecca Rooney / David Hand (NHS - Durham Dales, Easington, and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group)

Insp Ed Turner (Durham Constabulary)

Dave Glendenning (County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service)

# 2020/21 Funding Allocation

Area Budget	COVID-19 Assistance Fund	
<p>The Area Budget is used to support projects that address local AAP priorities. During 2021/21 all AAPs focused on 'COVID Recovery' as a Priority.</p>	<p>Funds were made available through AAP Area budgets to aid organisations across County Durham, at a local level. Funds were targeted towards supporting local organisations through COVID-19.</p>	<p>£4,931, Bowes Museum - Inspired by Bouts. Art creativity packs and online workshops.</p>
<p>£25,000, Bishop Auckland College - Employability Project. Funding to help Teesdale residents into employment and training.</p>	<p>£1,000, Gainford &amp; Langton Parish Council – Gainford &amp; Langton Covid Response. Purchase of PPE equipment/ volunteer costs to support food parcel/prescription deliveries.</p>	<p>£2,283, Durham Wildlife Trust - Family Wildlife Activities. Provision of wildlife activity sessions.</p>
<p>£15,060, UTASS - Youth Engagement. The project will deliver high quality, accessible youth engagement opportunities in Upper Teesdale.</p>	<p>£5,460.50, YMCA (Teesdale) - Teesdale Through Covid 19. Building running costs and funding to support meal deliveries to older residents.</p>	<p>£4,215.02, YMCA (Teesdale) - YMCA Teesdale Recovery. Generic organisational running costs as a result of lost income from fundraising.</p>
<p>£20,000, Durham County Council - Wi-Fi and Smart Footfall Monitor. Introduction of free public internet and analytics solution throughout Barnard Castle town centre.</p>	<p>£1,800, Gainford CofE Primary School - Family Support COVID-19. The project provided children, of key workers, with breakfast, snacks, and activities.</p>	<p>£1,620, Pathway Methodist Church - The Pathway Home Club. Activity packs and weekly recipe/ingredient packs for young people living in Middleton &amp; Tees area.</p>
<p>£10,444, UTASS - Social Isolation Year 3. Delivery of a wide range of activities to mitigate social isolation amongst residents aged 50+ living in the Upper Dales.</p>	<p>£2,580, Wetheriggs Animal Rescue and Conservation Centre. Funding to support day to day running costs.</p>	<p>£2,879.82, Brightwood Forest School - Beyond the Woodland. Organisation running costs and outreach engagement activities.</p>
<p>£14,555, Assoc of Teesdale Day Clubs – Social Isolation Year 3. Operational Staff Salary &amp; Capacity Building. Funding to support organisational salary costs.</p>	<p>£3,690, TCR HUB - Teesdale Care Packages. Delivery of care packages to over 70 households in the Teesdale area.</p>	<p><b>Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Fund 2020 (HAHF)</b></p>
<p>£18,341, YMCA Teesdale - Youth &amp; Community "Covid Recovery". Targeted youth and social isolation work in Barnard Castle, Cockfield and Evenwood.</p>	<p>£3,000, Teesdale Mercury – Teesdale Mercury Community Information. Publication of x2 pull outs to provide information on support organisations/local services.</p>	<p>The scheme aims to support local community groups and organisations, based in the Teesdale AAP area, to deliver enriching holiday activities with healthy food.</p>
<p>£6,000, Durham Constabulary - Community Speedwatch. Purchase of a specific multipurpose vehicle. The vehicle will host ANPR equipment and double up as a mobile police station.</p>	<p>£500, Winston Parish Council - Support Services. Purchase of PPE equipment and volunteer costs to assist with food parcel &amp; prescription deliveries</p>	<p><b>May Half Term 2020</b></p>
<p>£26,000, TCR HUB - Teesdale Care Packages and Food Provision. Funding support towards salary costs associated with the Teesdale Care Packages project.</p>	<p>£3,642.51, Barnard Castle Cricket Club - Covid-19 Survival Project. Generic running costs as a result of lost income.</p>	<p>£389, UTASS – UTASS 2020 May Holiday Activities</p>
<p>£7,491, Bright Woods Forest School CIC - Woodland Wellbeing. Weekly nature wellbeing sessions for adults experiencing mental health problems.</p>	<p>£3,840, TCR HUB - Teesdale Care Packages. Salary costs to support the co-ordination of the project.</p>	<p><b>Summer Holidays 2020</b></p>
<p>£5,076, Middleton-in-Teesdale Primary School - Wellbeing Sessions. Funding to support a school holiday club throughout the year.</p>	<p>£500, Cotherstone Community Park - Funding towards park maintenance costs as a result of lost income from fundraising.</p>	<p>£2,100, TCR Hub - Teesdale Care Packages.</p>
<p>£8,250, North Pennines AONB Partnership - Engaged Access. The project will engage visitors, to the area and encourage responsible behaviour in the countryside.</p>	<p>£4,512, UTASS - In it Together Teesdale. Various aspects of community support, funding towards salary costs and equipment. This was a joint project with Weardale Action Partnership.</p>	<p>£2,456, Durham Wildlife Trust – Family Wildlife Activities.</p>
<p>£4,073, M@HoT - Getting in Tunes Project. Support for the re-introduction of weekly youth music workshops.</p>	<p>£9,701, Assoc Teesdale Day Clubs. Salary support and PPE equipment.</p>	<p>£2,500, The Bowes Museum – Picnics and Art in the Park.</p>
<p>£2,900, Teesdale Sailing &amp; Watersports Club - Replacement of Junior dinghies. Purchase of six age specific 'SailQube' sailing dinghies.</p>	<p>£5,583, Barnard Castle Golf Club - Barnard Castle Golf Club. Support with running costs as a result of lost income.</p>	<p>£1,858, YMCA – Summer in Teesdale.</p>
	<p>£762.25, Winston Playing Field Assoc. Contribution towards maintenance costs as a result of lost income from fundraising.</p>	<p>£860, UTASS - UTASS Summer 2020 Holiday Activities with Science.</p>
	<p>£3,430, Music at the Heart of Teesdale / Blaize - Lockdown Music Lessons. Tutor salary costs to deliver online sessions.</p>	<p><b>October 2020</b></p>
		<p>£795, TCR Hub – Teesdale Care Packages.</p>
		<p>£912, YMCA – Halloween Boredom Activities.</p>
		<p>£735.28, UTASS - Fun and Food.</p>
		<p><b>February Half Term 2021</b></p>
		<p>£992, UTASS - February Half Term Activities.</p>
		<p>£792, YMCA - February Half Term Boredom Packs</p>
		<p>£576, TCR Hub – Teesdale Care Packages</p>

# 2020/21 Funding Allocation

<b>Neighbourhood Budget</b>
Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor receives each year to spend on community projects. The process is supported by the AAP team. The projects listed below have been supported by County Councillors Heather Smith, Richard Bell, George Richardson, James Rowlandson, Stephen Hugill and Ted Henderson. Neighbourhood Budget (Small Grants Spend) is also listed. Information on the projects that individual Councillors have supported can be found on the Durham County Council website; <a href="http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex">democracy.durham.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex</a>
£12,000, Health Express - Crisis Food Support.
£1,000, Beyond Limits - Covid 19 Emergency Aid Response.
£6,650, Green Lane Primary - Woodland Themed Learning Environment.
£1,994, Raby Castle Cricket Club – Junior Section Equipment.
£1,800, Teesdale Development Company Ltd - Community Defibrillator.
£5,884, Stainton and Streatlam Village Hall - Kitchen Refurbishment.
£1,250, Whorlton & Westwick Parish Council – Community Defibrillator.
£1,720, North Star Housing Group – Evenwood Community House.
£14,000, YMCA North Tyneside (Teesdale) – Youth Work Provision.
£4,969, Barnard Castle Cricket Club - Fence Repair Project.
£10,731, Teesdale Gun Club – Club House Solar Panels.
£1,938, Lands Village - Environmental Improvements (Phase 1).
£10,000, Staindrop School - AstroTurf Sports Area.
£3,000, Trees for Teesdale. Tree Planting Across Teesdale.
£10,800, Etherley Parish Council - Road Safety Improvements.
£2,900, Teesdale Sailing Club - Replacement Junior Dinghies.
£1,868, DCC Highways - A68 Hummerbeck Improvements.
£2,750, TCR HUB – Kitchen Improvements.
£1,980, Cotherstone Community Park – Replacement of Two Springy Rockers.
£2,943, Barningham Village Hall – Electrical Repairs.

£4,856, Barnard Castle Cricket Club – Rainwater Reclamation Project.
£16,000, Durham Constabulary - Rural Community Speedwatch.
£7,768, UTASS – Building Improvements.
£2,041, Barnard Castle Rugby Club – Kitchen Improvements.
£26,260, DCC Highways - Hamsterley Highway and Gateway Improvements.
£8,000, Winston Playing Fields Association - Play Ground Improvements.
£5,114, Gainford C E Primary and Pre School - Community Garden/Mud Kitchen.
£1,800, Gainford Art & Design Society (GADS) - Art Studio Improvements.
£6,159, Copley Village Hall – Roof Improvements.
£10,000, Middleton in Teesdale School - Enhancing breakfast and after school club provision.
£8,143, Barnard Castle Town Council - Wheelchair Swing - Dawson Road Play Area.
£1,000, Holy Trinity Church (Startforth) – Roof Repairs.
£19,796, St Mary's Church (Middleton-in-Teesdale) – Floor Works.
£1,815, The Witham – Outside Performance Area.
£1,836, Evenwood Cricket Club - Club Pitch Maintenance Machines.
<b>Neighbourhood Budget (Small Grants)</b>
The Small Grants Fund is a fast track, light touch funding scheme which is part of the Neighbourhood Budget. Each County Councillor can spend up to £2,000 of their Neighbourhood Budget in any financial year on initiatives that will enhance the wellbeing of their local area.
£840, Bowes CE VA Primary School – Seats and Disabled Access Improvements.
£350, Cotherstone Primary School – Plants and Notice Board for the School Garden.
£500, Rotary Satellite e-Club of Barnard Castle (Teesdale) – Digital Access Across Teesdale Project.
£595, Eggleston Parish Council - 'Christmas Tea Boxes' for Older Residents.
£500, Etherley Parish Council - PPE Equipment and Community Newsletter.

£600, Evenwood Cricket Club – Grass Cutter Repairs.
£240, Evenwood, Ramshaw and District History Club – Recording 2020 Project.
£287.36, DCC Highways – Fell View, Cockfield – Salt Bin and Refill.
£602, High Etherley Childrens Home – Workshop Project.
£999, Middleton In Bloom – Purchase of Bulbs, Planters and Signs.
£283, Middleton & Teesdale Silver Band - Bell Covers and Spit Valves for Brass Instruments.
£600, Cotherstone Village Park – Running Costs.
£999, Teesdale Mercury – Community Information Edition.
£600, UTASS - Middleton's Doorstep Christmas Switch On.
£287.83, DCC Highways – Willow Court, Toft Hill, Salt Bin and Refill.



**Adam White**  
**TAP Co-ordinator**

Being Coordinator of TAP during this unprecedented time has challenged the AAP Board and its partners. As a partnership we have continued to support a number of initiatives that provide wide ranging benefits to our community. Although a lot of time is spent on the core areas of work such as Area and Neighbourhood Budgets, task and finish groups, Board meetings, and consultations there are many other areas of work that TAP gets involved with, for example, providing wider support to local groups. Sometimes this is simple signposting whilst at other times it can be direct support, for example, helping a community organisation fill out a funding application. We also circulate regular newsletters, emails to Forum Members and post regularly on Facebook. Part of our work is responding to local concerns, raised by residents, and we seek to address these with partners, including Durham County Council. Finally, I would like to thank the Board, staff and everyone who has worked with TAP during 2020/21.

# The Difference We Have Made



## Free Wi-Fi and Smart Footfall Monitor

A £20,000 Teesdale Action Partnership-funded scheme to bring free Wi-Fi to Barnard Castle town centre. The project is part of Durham County Council's Digital High Street initiative which aims to help businesses and communities across the county recover from the Covid-19 crisis. As well as enabling visitors and residents to log on to the Internet for free, the system will monitor and track where visitors come from and provide information on the most popular spots.

## TCR Hub Teesdale Care Packages

A service which has helped hundreds of Teesdale residents in need is set to continue for another year, thanks to funding from Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP). TAP has allocated £26,000 to the Teesdale care packages project which is run by staff and volunteers based at the TCR Hub in Barnard Castle. The project was established during the first lockdown and continues to deliver, weekly care packages to more than 100 households across Teesdale, along with a wide range of other support. TAP funding will enable TCR Hub to maintain the existing project and develop the service further, based on the need of local residents.

## YMCA Youth & Community - Recovering from Covid

TAP has allocated £18,341 to the YMCA to further support targeted youth work and senior lunch club activities in Barnard Castle, Cockfield and Evenwood areas. Targeted youth work will focus on engagement work with young girls and address risk taking behaviours. In addition, the project will also focus on community wide employment support and advice.

# The Difference We Have Made



## UTASS

### Young People at the Heart of Teesdale

£15,060 of funding from Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP) has been awarded to UTASS to continue their youth programmes. The project will see the continued provision of 6 hours of youth engagement activity per week through different delivery formats. The project will build on the ONLINE science fairs, activity packs delivered to households and the Cook Your Own Tea project that has already been delivered during the pandemic.



## Durham Constabulary

### Rural Community Speedwatch Vans

£6,000 of funding from TAP along with additional Neighbourhood Budget funds from both TAP and Weardale Action Partnership will see the purchase of two Speedwatch Vans to be deployed across both AAP areas. The vehicles will enable the rural teams/neighbourhood officers and Community Speedwatch Volunteers to deploy in all weathers either with an officer or independently. They will be high-profile vehicles and a visible deterrent, targeting speeding complaints and associated issues across the Dales. The vans will also double up as mobile Police Stations at community events.



## Teesdale Sailing and Watersports Club

### New Dinghies

£2,900 grant from TAP to support the purchase of six 'SailQube' sailing dinghies to replace existing ageing boats. The new dinghies will be used by club juniors and the wider community.

Thanks to the Teesdale Mercury for providing many of the photographs.

## Contact Details

Teesdale Action Partnership  
Durham County Council  
2 Hall Street  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham DL12 8JB

Tel: 03000 260 818  
Email: [tap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:tap@durham.gov.uk)  
[www.durham.gov.uk/teesdaleaap](http://www.durham.gov.uk/teesdaleaap)

