



Better for everyone

Great Aycliffe & Middridge
Partnership
Annual Report

2020/21



Councillor Brian Stephens

Introduction

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Brian Stephens, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships



Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership 2020/21 Key Information

FUNDING



£180,310

AAP funding allocated to 32 projects

£203,484

of match funding generated

£296,571

of Councillor Neighbourhood Budget allocated to 31 local projects, with £641,904 in match funding

46

community groups and organisations supported with an AAP grant

1,100+

local Forum members, regularly receiving updates on the work of the AAP



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

130,000+

engagements with the community through social media



COMMUNICATION

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



COVID EMERGENCY RESPONSE

3,000+

GAMP residents supported through local projects at the start of the pandemic

COVID RECOVERY

17 projects and **15** local groups supported

Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership

Established in 2009, Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. Areas covered include the whole of Great Aycliffe, Middridge and the villages of Woodham, Aycliffe Village and School Aycliffe.

Over the last year, the key focus has been on an overarching 'COVID Recovery' priority. Over £475,000 has been allocated to local organisations to help tackle local issues.

Welcome from the Chair

Inspector Sarah Honeyman (Statutory Partner - Police)



As outgoing Chair, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2020-21 Annual Report. It has been my privilege to have fulfilled the role of Chair this year; and to have witnessed the vital role that GAMP has played in supporting local groups throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In 2020-21 the Board has recognised the importance of providing funding for projects linked to the key COVID Response and Recovery Priorities, to support our local community during this difficult period providing in excess of £476,000 to 63 local community projects.

From March 2020 we found ourselves in an unprecedented situation, with the impact of COVID-19; this had a significant effect on the work of GAMP and led to a long-term delay in delivery of the projects we supported during 2019-20 & 2020-21. We must look to the future, and to positive outcomes from this extraordinary situation.

As Chair I would like to thank my fellow Board members, partners and Task & Finish Groups for their hard work and commitment in supporting the aims and Priorities of GAMP. Special thanks also to the community volunteers and groups who have delivered the vital projects that have so greatly benefited the GAMP area during the pandemic. My thanks go to the GAMP team for their efficiency, dedication and hard work in ensuring that public money is well spent on worthwhile projects.

This coming year we would hope to see a return to some form of normality and GAMP will be here, continuing to support local groups and residents in their recovery following this difficult year. I am looking forward to remaining GAMP Chair for the coming year as we continue to develop the work of the Partnership to enhance our area and support our communities.

Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 1,300+ people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and 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 Eddy Adam

Cllr James Atkinson – Vice Chair

Cllr John Clare

Cllr Scott Durham

Cllr Brian Hall (Town Council Rep)

Cllr Kate Hopper

Cllr Paul Howell

Sean Barnett (public representative)

Sue Cooke (public representative) – Vice Chair

Chris Hutchinson (public representative)

Alan Jordan (public representative)

Carl Robinson (public representative)

David Sutton-Lloyd (public representative)

Natalie Whitworth (public representative)

Daniel Blagdon (health representative)

Andy Coulthard (housing representative)

Carol Gaskarth (voluntary & community sector representative)

Inspector Sarah Honeyman (Police) – Chair

Sharon Hutchinson (business representative)

Oliver Sherratt / Richard Crane (Durham County Council)

Malcolm Woodward (Fire Service)

2020/21 Funding Allocation

Emergency Covid Response Budget (total allocation £100,000)	Covid Recovery Budget (total allocation £144,902)	
<p>£2,000: Family Support Packs (Newton Aycliffe Play Café); provision of essential food & toiletries support packs.</p>	<p>£25,000: Employability Skills Fund (Bishop Auckland College); provision of an employability skills fund for unemployed residents, supporting training and upskilling costs.</p>	<p>£9,111: Food Rescue (Junction 7); funding to support running costs of recently purchased refrigerated van, which will allow safe transportation of perishable foods in support of the food bank service.</p>
<p>£1,189: Support with Running Costs (Neville Community Centre); assistance with essential building running costs.</p>	<p>£6,858: Electric Bikes (Newton Aycliffe Police); funding to provide 2 x electric bikes for use in the GAMP area, supporting police to respond quickly to incidents, and access varied terrain.</p>	<p>£9,638: Community Support & Rebuild (Lifeline Community Action); funding for provision of support packages for local families including household/baby items. Also, delivery of activities which help address social and economic isolation, including arts/crafts-based activities and basic cooking courses.</p>
<p>£4,810: Food Bank Support (Junction 7); provision of local food bank support for families in need.</p>	<p>£6,253: COVID-19 Recovery Plan (Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre); support towards essential running costs, e.g. utility bills etc, to sustain the future of this valuable community building.</p>	<p>£10,000: Organisational Sustainability (Scout Supporters Association); support with ongoing running costs to help secure the future sustainability of this popular community venue.</p>
<p>£1,453: Patient Transport (Aycliffe Cancer Support Group); support for patient transport service for cancer sufferers.</p>	<p>£5,426: Training Equipment (Team Warrior Taekwondo); funding for new taekwondo equipment, promoting fitness and enabling progression for members of the club.</p>	<p>£5,000: Sustaining Girl Guiding after COVID (Newton Aycliffe Girlguiding Division); funding to help with local running costs, and to ensure all girls can retain their membership irrespective of their ability to pay.</p>
<p>£1,000: COVID-19 Response (ROC Solid); provision of support packages of household essentials for local families.</p>	<p>£6,969: Take Home Challenges (Go Well); provision of activity packs for primary school children, to help keep them physically active whilst having fun and keeping fit.</p>	<p>£5,212: Water Polo Club COVID Recovery Plan (Sedgefield Water Polo Club); funding for new starter sessions to help encourage new members into the club. Funding for training a new coach will also be provided, to help support the sessions.</p>
<p>£750: Special COVID Edition of Newton News (Newton Press); funding for one-off 'COVID' related edition of Newton News, signposting to local support and service providers.</p>	<p>£19,350: Sensory Room (St Mary's Primary School); funding towards provision of a sensory room, creating a safe, enriched learning environment which will help the emotional wellbeing of families and their children.</p>	<p>£7,540: Encouraging & Developing Local Talent (Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club); funding to help preserve and continue offering an opportunity for local children in the GAMP area to attend a locally based swimming club for young, budding swimmers. With increased pool hire costs and limited member numbers due to COVID restrictions, help is needed to recover after the restrictions ease.</p>
<p>£2,740: Cleaning/Baby Packs (Lifeline Community Action); provision of support packages of household cleaning/baby items.</p>	<p>£6,173: Supporting Youth Athletics (Aycliffe Running Club); funding for coaching training and additional equipment to support the development of junior athletics, providing a fun and safe place for children to grow, trained by qualified professionals.</p>	<p>£7,970: Repairs/Replacement of Roof & Boiler (St Clare's Church); funding to support repairs on the roof to the front of the building which is currently leaking. Funding will also support replacement of the current heating boiler which is in need of repair.</p>
<p>£2,255: COVID Security Improvements (Newton Aycliffe Working Men's Club); work to improve security to the rear access of the centre and loading doors.</p>	<p>£5,328: Crime Prevention Project (Newton Aycliffe Police); funding for a range of target hardening equipment for GAMP residents, e.g. door, shed & window alarms, light timers & TV simulators - providing reassurance to residents who may have previously been the victim of a crime, anti-social behaviour or something similar.</p>	<p>£3,806: Future Musicians (Greenfield Community College); funding for audio/recording equipment to allow an offer of Music Technology at GCSE; providing students with the opportunity to explore music creation and production in a more modern setting, leading to better outcomes for non-traditional music students as well as giving a platform for interest into production and technology that might have otherwise never happened.</p>
<p>£2,800: Community Organisations Support (Rotary Newton Aycliffe); supporting families in need with essential household goods.</p>	<p>£5,268: Flexible Spaces (Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre); funding for moveable/stackable desks and chairs, allowing for more flexible meeting/activity spaces within the Centre, and making more efficient use of limited storage space.</p>	<p>£3,806: Future Musicians (Greenfield Community College); funding for audio/recording equipment to allow an offer of Music Technology at GCSE; providing students with the opportunity to explore music creation and production in a more modern setting, leading to better outcomes for non-traditional music students as well as giving a platform for interest into production and technology that might have otherwise never happened.</p>
<p>£3,000: Food Bank Support Phase 2 (Junction 7); funding extension to continue local food bank provision.</p>		<p>£3,806: Future Musicians (Greenfield Community College); funding for audio/recording equipment to allow an offer of Music Technology at GCSE; providing students with the opportunity to explore music creation and production in a more modern setting, leading to better outcomes for non-traditional music students as well as giving a platform for interest into production and technology that might have otherwise never happened.</p>
<p>£2,000: Acle's Stay at Home Activities (Acle Scout Group); funding for provision of children's 'at home' activity packs.</p>		
<p>£2,690: Older People's Activity Packs (Pioneering Care Partnership); funding for provision of 'at home' activity packs for older, isolated residents.</p>		
<p>£3,725: Family Support Packs Phase 2 (Newton Aycliffe Play Café); funding extension for food & toiletries family support packages.</p>		
<p>£2,996: Cleaning/Baby Packs Phase 2 (Lifeline Community Action); funding extension for household cleaning/baby items support packages.</p>		
<p>£2,000: Work & Training Grant Fund (Livin Housing); support towards an employability grant fund for items such as training, DBS checks, support with interview costs etc.</p>		

2020/21 Funding Allocation

Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Funding
Funding to help ensure that as many children & young people as possible have access to food, alongside enriching activities, in particular considering those children and young people who would normally receive a Free School Meal during Term Time.
Holiday periods covered: Easter 2020 / May 2020 / Summer 2020 / October 2020 / February 2021
£988: Easter Holiday Enrichment Programme (Groundwork North East)
£500: Western Estate Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Easter (Junction 7)
£500: Aycliffe Town Easter Event (Newton Aycliffe Police)
£556: Western Estate Holiday Activities with Healthy Food May 20 (Junction 7)
£2,500: Summer Holiday Enrichment Programme (Groundwork North East)
£1,974: Summer Western Estate Holiday Activities with Healthy Food (Junction 7)
£936: October Holiday Enrichment Programme (Groundwork North East)
£972: February 2021 Holiday Enrichment Programme (Groundwork North East)
£840: Western Estate Holiday Activities with Healthy Food May 21 (Junction 7)
Neighbourhood Budget
£12,000: St Mary's Primary – Sensory Room Project
£2,538: DCC Highways – Travellers Green Disabled Access Ramps
£11,929: DCC Highways – Greathead Crescent Highways Improvements
£2,000: Aycliffe Village Primary – Gardening & Music Project
£1,200: Acle Scouts – COVID Ready
£1,500: Neville Community Centre – Stage Curtains & Sound System
£25,000: Bishop Auckland College – Employability Skills Fund
£30,298: DCC Highways – Alston Crescent Layby

£2,384: DCC Highways – Greenfield/Meadowfield Way Traffic Calming
£13,935: DCC Highways – Tindale Green Car Parking
£3,105: DCC Highways – Fewston/Kimblesworth Lighting
£3,600: DCC Highways – Beechfield Disabled Access Ramps
£5,100: DCC Highways – Marshall Road Disabled Access Ramps
£2,617: DCC Highways – Gilpin Road Fencing
£2,810: Stephenson Way Academy & Nursery School – Breakfast Club
£2,000: Hub of Wishes – Garden Renovation
£10,220: Newton Aycliffe Working Men's Club – Community Garden
£3,324: DCC Highways – Newburn Court Disabled Access Ramps
£2,540: DCC Highways – Westfields Disabled Access Ramps
£14,206: DCC Highways – Malham Crescent Footway
£15,363: DCC Highways – Stocks Green Highways Improvements
£19,000: Woodham Community Centre – Heating System
£2,000: Middridge Parish Council – Middridge Neighbourhood Plan
£12,578: Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre – LED Lighting Project
£24,600: Great Aycliffe Town Council – Aycliffe Village Play Area Footpath
£10,000: Great Aycliffe Town Council – Horndale Wildlife Corridor
£16,448: Newton Aycliffe Football Club – Floodlight Modernisation
£1,600: Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society – Facility Repaint
£34,676: Pioneering Care Partnership – Hydrotherapy Pool Project
£2,000: Friends of Byerley Park – Adventure Forest Footpath*
£6,000: Middridge Parish Council – Middridge Community Road Watch

Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 to each County Councillor, to spend on community-led projects. The process is supported by the AAP team.

The projects listed above have been supported by County Councillors Eddy Adam, James Atkinson, John Clare, Scott Durham, Kate Hopper, Paul Howell and Sarah Iveson.

Further information on Councillor-funded projects is available on the Durham County Council website

www.durham.gov.uk

(*project not signed off)

The Difference We Have Made



Food Bank Support Junction 7

Junction 7 were successful in applying for and securing two grants through the GAMP Covid-19 Emergency Response fund, which enabled them to successfully support families across the Newton Aycliffe area during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The organisation saw a huge increase in demand for their food package service during the outbreak, receiving more referrals each week. The funding received enabled them to support those additional families who found themselves in need during a difficult time.

The project was also supported by numerous volunteers who gave their time each week to help support the scheme, without this support the project would have struggled to cope with the demand.

Since the beginning of the pandemic Junction 7 have operated a referral system for food packages out of their base in The ARK at Silverdale Place in Newton Aycliffe, where a team of volunteers put packs together and organise their safe distribution and collection. Junction 7 continue to support the community and offer a number of services for residents.



LCA COVID Response Lifeline Community Action

Lifeline Community Action secured two grants through the GAMP Covid-19 Emergency Response fund, to help them provide much-needed essentials and support packages to families across Newton Aycliffe.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic LCA have been providing cleaning packs and baby packs to individuals and families experiencing financial difficulties and struggling to purchase the cleaning and personal products they needed to keep themselves, their belongings and their homes virus free.

The project initially concentrated efforts on helping those working in care homes but the need for support proved much wider so the project was extended to both schools and the general community. The project successfully supported a total of 231 people with the funding, which exceeded all expectations. The project continues to support residents when required and requested to do so.



Family Support COVID-19 Newton Aycliffe Play Café

The Newton Aycliffe Play Café project provided much-needed food and household essential parcels to families across Newton Aycliffe.

The organisation was faced with an increase in demand for their service during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, receiving more referrals week on week. The funding received helped greatly in supporting the additional families.

The Play Café received fantastic support from Newton Aycliffe Working Men's Club who provided use of their concert room where all packs were prepared safely in adherence with government guidelines.

The Play Café have provided an essential service to the community throughout the pandemic and continue to operate their service to those who require support.

The Difference We Have Made



Police Ebikes Newton Aycliffe Police

Newton Aycliffe Police successfully applied for grant funding to purchase two electric bikes ('ebikes') and associated kit, to support their work in the GAMP area. These bikes remove the drawbacks of a conventional bike whilst providing all of the benefits.

The Policing team in Newton Aycliffe cover a mix of urban, semi-rural and rural areas, with varied terrain including, woodland, open areas, cycle and bridleways, villages, housing estates, parks, sports grounds, and road networks. Many areas are inaccessible by vehicle and require officers on foot patrol; this limits the frequency and amount of time which can be spent in these locations.

The ebikes provide officers with an excellent resource and tactical option to help respond to a range of issues and areas, helping officers cover ground much quicker and access often hard to reach places.

The project also funded purchase of a defibrillator to be carried by one of the bikes, which can be deployed quickly and in remote areas should it be needed.

Older Persons Activity Packs Pioneering Care Partnership

The Pioneering Care Centre were successful in securing GAMP COVID Emergency Response funding in order to provide activity packs to older residents within Newton Aycliffe.

Each pack contained arts/crafts and baking activities, in line with PCP's mission of Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All, along with a letter with good wishes from the Pioneering Care Partnership, local company PPG Industries who kindly donated funding to the project, and GAMP. The aim of the packs was to promote resilience and to increase mental wellbeing, whilst also providing diversionary activities for older people who might be isolated or feeling lonely during this unusual time of social distancing.

Doorstep delivery of the packs was carried out by PCP staff, volunteers and the GAMP team, who all ensured safety precautions were in place. In total 250 bags were delivered and greatly received, benefitting 258 local residents.

Contact Details

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