



Better for everyone

Teesdale
Area Action 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.

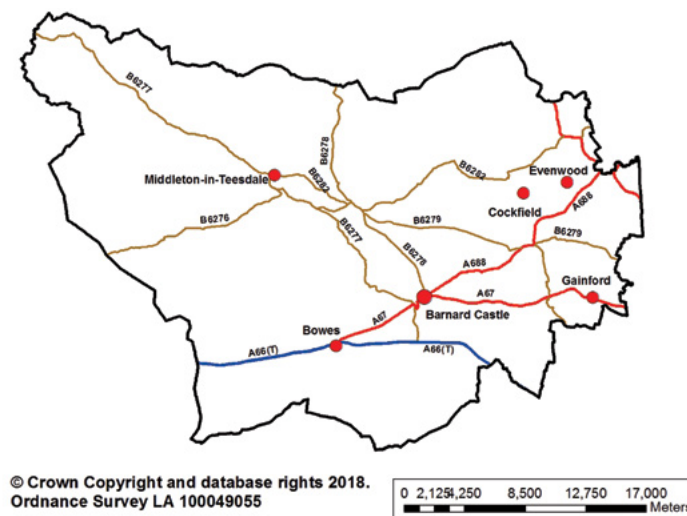
The AAPs also support myself and my fellow councillors in allocating our annual Neighbourhood Budget. The 126 County Councillors have allocated over £2.2m to over 820 local projects in County Durham over the past year, again supporting a wide range of local schemes.

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,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.



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. Population figures are in the region of 25,000. If you want to know if your town or village sits within the Area Action Partnership area please contact the AAP Team.

The Teesdale Action Partnership area takes in a number of local communities, towns, villages and parishes.

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

Teesdale Area Action Partnership 2022/23 Key Information



FUNDING

£142,378

of AAP Area Budget Funding allocated to 16 local projects

£139,695

of County Councillor Neighbourhood Budget, including small grants, was allocated to 55 local projects

£115,000

of Towns and Villages Funding allocated to 5 projects

£930,111.20

total investment including match funding for all Area Budget, Towns and Villages, and the Healthy Relationships fund



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

23,431

engagements with the community through social media

1,038

Forum Members regularly receiving information

19

Countywide Consultations supported



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

57

organisations have benefitted from funding

19

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.

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

Welcome from the Chair Inspector Ed Turner

It has been a huge privilege to have been the Chair of Teesdale Area Action Partnership (TAP) for the past year.

I have been part of TAP now for over 5 years and as a Board member, I have always been impressed with the dedication, support, and diversity that the various members of the partnership bring. This enables healthy discussions and ensures that as collective team we have been able to support and deliver on a huge range of new and diverse projects across the whole of Teesdale.

The support that TAP also provides to the locally elected County Councillors in allocating their budgets is a further example where Neighbourhood and Small Grants projects have also been delivered over the year.

TAP during this year has excelled in funding 77 projects which is both an indication of the need for support within the area and a testament to the real passion, hard work and dedication that local charities and community groups give to the local area.

AAP's are currently being reviewed and moving forward into 2023/24 we may see some changes to the format of how the AAP's work, allocate funds and engage with our communities- I'm confident and hopeful the great work that our AAP has delivered for the past 14 years will continue to contribute to making Teesdale a great place to live and work.

Finally, I would also like to give my personal thanks to the TAP staff team: Adam, Annalisa, and Emma who without their support and coordination we would not have achieved as much as we have.



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 Robert Potts

Cllr James Rowlandson

Cllr Richard Bell

Cllr James Cosslett

Cllr Ted Henderson

Wendy Greenfield - Town and Parish Council Representative

Rachel Tweddle

Elaine Laurie

Robin Brooks

Roger Peat

Christine Watters

Lynne Oxby

Susan Bainbridge

Linda Bird (Voluntary and Community Sector)

Jeff Garfoot / Alison Clarke (Durham County Council)

Peter Locke (Housing)

Tim Viggars (Business Representative)

David Hand (NHS - Durham Dales, Easington, and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group)

Insp Ed Turner (Durham Constabulary)

Craig Jewkes (County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service)

Co – opted

Bob Danby - UTASS

2022/23 Funding Allocation

Area Budget

The Area Budget is used to support projects that address local AAP priorities. During 2022/23 all AAPs focused on 'Community Recovery' as a Priority. The following projects were funded:

£5,060, Montalbo Nursery and Primary School - Montalbo Community Wellbeing Project – a programme of well-being activities including sports and arts activities to be enjoyed by pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community.

£10,000, Copley Village Hall - Building works - building refurbishment works including loft insulation to improve energy efficiency and conversion of a former snooker room to provide a small space for social events. Purchase of some additional tables, chairs and kitchen equipment. This project will benefit 150 people.

£13,000, Play@Cotherstone – Playground Refurbishment – Replacement of the infant unit and added additional picnic tables to this well used park for the local community and visitors.

£14,000, TCR Hub - Youth Partnership - Youth service providers UTASS, TCR Hub and YMCA will provide training and work experience for 12 individuals to complete level 2 youth work qualifications.

£6,194, 1st Middleton in Tees Scout Group - Scouts COVID Kickstart - The scout's membership has declined during Covid and their activities have been curtailed. This project will provide funds to run a range of outdoor activities for existing members and undertake marketing activities to attract new members and adult volunteers.

£9,998, UTASS - Welfare Reform - Providing the people of the upper dale with support, information and advice services to tackle welfare related issues and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

£10,000, Durham County Council - Tees Railway Path - Improvements works to the Tees Railway Path at Cotherstone providing a ramped access, handrail and signage to the path at Cotherstone

£6,000, Cockfield Guides and Brownies - Cockfield Guides and Brownies Explore and Enjoy - Cockfield Guides and Brownies will learn new skills and gain confidence from more outdoor activities. The project will include trips and purchase camping equipment benefiting a total of 42 young people and adult volunteers.

£5,000, Middleton Wanderers Walking Football Club - Walking Football Club Development - Middleton Wanderers runs walking football sessions and has started a regular Saturday 5 kilometre's run. They will purchase a line marking machine and mobile goals to improve their pitch. This new equipment will also benefit the school and cricket club.

£12,500, Teesdale Day Clubs – Access and Engagement - Teesdale Day Clubs run nine lunch clubs across the dale. Many of the participants have limited mobility and are not able to travel independently. This project will support the Day Clubs to provide transport for 50 individuals.

£5,000, Blaize – Arts for the Brain - Blaize work with the volunteer group Making Memories to run singing sessions for dementia sufferers and their carers. Sessions run in Barnard Castle and Middleton in Teesdale, and a new group is planned for Evenwood/Cockfield. Training in dance will also be undertaken to extend the activities enjoyed by the groups benefitting 50 people.

£15,000, Barnard Castle Football Club – Pavilion Extension – The Club will extend their changing facilities to enable them to play in a higher league. The project will benefit 160 individuals and is the final phase of a major club development plan.

£12,503, Barnard Castle Wayfinding - Durham County Council - Additional wayfinding signs will be added to the town and the map and visitor attraction information updated on the existing signs. A new Town Council noticeboard in a central place will enable them to improve engagement with the community.

£5,966, Barnard Castle Guides HQ – Green Heating System - Air Source heat pumps will be installed at the Guide Hut to provide heating at a much-reduced cost and lower their carbon emissions over 180 people will benefit.

£5,000, Teesdale Development Company Ltd - Business Effectiveness and Efficiency - Teesdale Development Co will improve their energy efficiency at Enterprise House reducing their costs and benefitting 18 tenants. Local businesses will have the opportunity to attend networking and skills sessions as well as having additional meeting room facilities.

£7,157, Eggleston Parish Council – Eggleston Memorial Garden - Land adjacent to the old Wesleyan chapel in Eggleston will be transformed into a quiet and contemplative space for the villagers to meet and rest.

Healthy Relationships Fund

£10,000, TCR Hub – Healthy Relationships Project – Working with young people this project will take a multi-agency approach to delivering information to support young people in understanding and forming healthy relationships. TCR The Hub working with UTASS, and YMCA will produce a suite of printed materials for secondary school pupils. They will work with a panel of young people to produce the materials, utilise social media as well as attending school events.

Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Fund

The scheme aims to support local community groups and organisations, based in the Teesdale AAP area, to deliver enriching holiday activities with healthy food. To date the following projects has been supported:

Easter Holidays 2022

£3,680, TCR Hub - Easter Fun

£885, YMCA - Easter in Cockfield and Evenwood

£2,053, UTASS - UTASS Easter Entertainment

Summer Holidays 2022

£2,672, St Cuthberts Church - St Cuthberts Church Summer Holiday Fun and Food Programme

£4,088, TCR Hub - Summer Programme

£2,670, YMCA – Summer Activities

£7,416, UTASS - UTASS Super Summer

£2,890, Blaize - Cream Tees Summer Festival Programme

October Half Term 2022

£1,188, St Cuthberts Church - St Cuthberts Church October School Holidays

£2,490.55 - YMCA Cockfield and Evenwood Halloween

£1,142, UTASS - October Fun Times

Christmas Holidays 2022

£1,663, UTASS - UTASS Holly Jolly Holidays

£2,040, YMCA - Cockfield and Evenwood's Christmas Magic

£2,374, TCR Hub - Homemade Christmas of Kindness

£1,240, St Cuthberts Church - "Messy Christmas Holiday Extravaganza Party"

February Half Term 2023

£980, St Cuthberts Church Fun and Food – Fitness and Craft Activities February 2023 Half Term

£799, YMCA - February Half Term Fun

£1,000, The Hub - TCR Hub February Fun

£1,000, UTASS - Fun in February

2022/23 Funding Allocation

<p>Towns and Villages</p> <p>The funding aims to support local regeneration through a range of targeted local investments that will further support the overall Council Towns and Village Investment Plan. TAP has been awarded £220,000 to invest in local initiatives over the next 3 years. During 2021/22 we allocated £65,000. This financial year, to date, the following projects have been supported to a total of £115,000</p> <p>£40,000, The Cotherstone Old Chapel Project Limited - The Cotherstone Old Chapel Project – Purchase and renovation of the old Methodist Chapel to form community café, shop and heritage centre.</p> <p>£35,000, Hamsterley Parish Council - Hamsterley Community Sports Ground MUGA - Clearance of the old tennis court and installation of new Multi-Use Games Area and fencing.</p> <p>£20,000, The Witham Hall Ltd - Enhancing the Appeal of The Witham – Improving the appeal and quality of experience at The Witham with the installation of acoustic curtaining to the Main Hall and an external architectural lighting scheme to the front façade.</p> <p>£10,000, Durham County Council - Ramshaw Play Area Under 8s Area - Under 8 School Children and Villagers from Ramshaw will have play equipment installed to replace the dilapidated equipment.</p> <p>£10,000, Durham County Council -Three Village Safety Initiative – Traffic calming measures in three villages; Ingleton, Staindrop and Whorlton including additional road markings and village gateways.</p> <p>Councillors Towns and Villages</p> <p>In addition, each of the 6 elected members have been allocated a one off additional £10,000 to their Neighbourhood Budget to focus on 'Towns and Villages' projects. Funding needs to be committed over the next 3 years. To date the following project has been supported:</p> <p>£10,000, - Durham County Council - Three Villages Traffic Calming – Installation of a VAR Sign in Staindrop.</p> <p>£10,000, The Witham Hall Ltd – Enhancing the Appeal of the Witham - Installation of acoustic curtaining, lighting and purchase of stage and sound equipment for the Witham Room. New coffee machine for the café.</p>	<p>£10,000, Hamsterley Parish Council – Multi Use Games Area - Clearance of the old tennis court and installation of new Multi-Use Games Area and fencing.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Budget</p> <p>Neighbourhood Budget is an allocation of £19,400 that each County Councillor receives each year to spend on community projects.</p> <p>The process is supported by the AAP team.</p> <p>The projects listed have been supported by County Councillors Richard Bell, George Richardson, James Rowlandson, Ted Henderson, James Cosslett, and Roberts Potts.</p> <p>£3,000, Etherley Parish Council – Jubilee Celebrations - Helping the community organisations in Etherley to celebrate the jubilee with events, including children's disco, family sports day and Jubilee Lunch.</p> <p>£2,177, YMCA Cockfield Community Café – Café upgrade - Improvements to the Cockfield Community café including new kitchen equipment, a non-slip floor and improved Wifi access.</p> <p>£1,800, Barnard Castle Scouts - Building repairs - Repairs to the Scout building to complete a programme of refurbishment following Covid.</p> <p>£3,400, Cornerstone Community Church – Building repairs - Improvement works to the Cornerstone Sensory Garden including the installation of a Summer House to extend use by older community members.</p> <p>£3,760, Eggleston Agricultural Society – Eggleston Show - Additional equipment for the Show organisers including signs, hurdles for the animal pens and trestles and tabletops for the competition tents.</p> <p>£1,124, Eggleston Parish Council – New Noticeboard - Replacement of the wooden Parish Noticeboard with new metal cased noticeboard.</p> <p>£5,084, Middleton and Teesdale Silver Band – Youth Band Development - Additional tuition and instruments for the school pupils who have joined the Junior band.</p> <p>£1,494, Romalldkirk Parish Council – Protecting Village Greens - Signage to allow residents safe access and usage and prevent parking on the village greens</p> <p>£5,000, Woodland Village Hall – Building Repairs - Phase 2 of improvement works, roof replacement works to bring the old snooker room into use as a small social space with bar and tuckshop.</p>	<p>£4,068, Copley Village Hall – Building Repairs - Phase 2 of improvement works, alterations to the former snooker room to provide small social space and purchase of additional equipment for the kitchen and hall.</p> <p>£4,000, Barnard Castle Methodist Church – Building Repairs - Decorating of the Church Hall and Meeting room will benefit the 100 regular users each week, the annual large events such as the Meet and Lights Switch on as well as potential new users.</p> <p>£3,750, Middleton and Teesdale Silver Band – Youth Development Programme Extension - A further 10 pupils will benefit from 30 weeks of tuition and involvement with the Junior Band</p> <p>£2,000, Durham County Council – Barnard Castle Wayfinding - Additional signs will be added to the town's wayfinding system and the map and visitor attraction information updated on the existing signs. A new Town Council noticeboard in a central place will enable them to improve engagement with the community.</p> <p>£3,325, Durham County Council – Evenwood Primary Road Safety - Additional Road markings and a gateway feature on the approach road to the village of Evenwood will alleviate parents and teachers concerns re road safety.</p> <p>£1,408, Etherley Parish Council – Parish Council Communications - A new noticeboard to keep residents up to date with parish matters and local events. £1,408, Etherley Parish Council – Parish Council Communications - A new noticeboard to keep residents up to date with parish matters and local events.</p> <p>£7,171, Durham County Council – Playground Improvements - Under 8 School Children and Villagers from Ramshaw will have play equipment installed to replace the dilapidated equipment.</p> <p>£2,000, Bishop Auckland Rugby Club – Grounds Improvements - Works to improve the driveway, parking and hard standing areas at the Club ground benefitting over 600 members and spectators.</p> <p>£1,980, UTASS – Youth Area Upgrade - UTASS's youth drop in area is used by over 140 young people and workers and it will be revamped with new equipment, storage, screens and decoration.</p>
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2022/23 Funding Allocation

<p>£4,000, YMCA and Evenwood Community Action -Events Programme - YMCA will support Evenwood Community Action to organise two family trips, purchase some additional equipment and carry out a consultation to plan out further family activities at the Community House benefitting over 100 people.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Budget (Small Grants)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>£400, Teesdale Operatic Society – Summer School - Support for the running costs of the Society's Junior Summer School.</p>
<p>£3,000, The Bowes Museum – Small World Festival - The Bowes Museum will work with two local artists to provide an online art workshop to the primary and secondary schools in Teesdale. Artwork will be displayed at TCR Hub as part of the Small World Festival. Over 500 pupils are expected to take part.</p>	<p>£800, Evenwood Community Action – Events Kit - Equipment for the Community House to hold regular coffee mornings and events for families.</p>	<p>£300, Teesdale Cancer Research – Turn Barney Pink - Workshop to produce decorations for Turn Barney Pink Week 2023.</p>
<p>£8,000, Ingleton School – Playground Improvements - The school will redevelop their early years and out of school club play area. They have a toddler club weekly and 15 pupils per day at the club.</p>	<p>£400, Marwood Parish Council – Planters - Planters and plants at the parish gateways to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.</p>	<p>£900, The Witham Hall Ltd – Dance Activities - One terms fees for the Best Foot Forward Dance classes for over 50s.</p>
<p>£6,490, Staindrop Primary – Pitch Improvements and Out of School Sports Clubs - Installation of barriers to the Astro turf pitch and additional out of school sports clubs playing Rugby and Cricket benefitting 161 pupils.</p>	<p>£475, Gainford Village Hall – Gainford Carnival - Support for the annual carnival to hire equipment.</p>	<p>£547, Etherley Parish Council – Road Markings - Additional road markings to improve road safety.</p>
<p>£5,870, Barnard Castle Cricket Club – Practice Nets - Refurbishment of practice nets at the club benefitting 157 existing and potentially new club members.</p>	<p>£400, Etherley & District Welfare Association – Tea Hut Equipment – Purchase of equipment for the Cricket Club Tea Hut.</p>	<p>£400, Hutton Magna Village Hall – Hall Improvements - Purchase and installation of a handrail to steps to garden area.</p>
<p>£2,908, Etherley Parish Council – Event - Big Band Day at Etherley will celebrate the coronation and bring the community together to hear three local bands, enjoy children's entertainment and ice cream with around 200 people benefitting.</p>	<p>£760, 1st Butterknowle Sea Scout Group – Summer Trip - A trip to the seaside including travel and refreshments.</p>	<p>£559, Teesdale Operatic Society – Equipment - Speaker and microphone for rehearsals.</p>
<p>£3,490, The Meet – Annual Spring Bank Festival - Funding to enable the 2023 event to take place including running costs and equipment hire.</p>	<p>£200, Hutton Magna Parochial Church Council – Jubilee Celebrations - Afternoon tea Jubilee celebrations.</p>	<p>£836, DCC Regeneration – Visitor Information Guide - One page advert in the Durham Pocket Guide to promote Teesdale visitor attractions.</p>
<p>£20,000, Cotherstone Old Chapel – Old Chapel Refurbishment - Purchase and renovation of the old Methodist church to form a community café, shop and heritage centre.</p>	<p>£545, Play@Cotherstone – Bench repairs - Refurbishment of two Victorian benches in the play park.</p>	<p>£681, North East Learning Trust – Sports Kit - Equipment to run a "Fun time Lunchtime" sports clubs.</p>
<p>£7,171, Durham County Council – Ramshaw Play Area - Refurbishment of the Under 8s area for use by the village and local school.</p>	<p>£300, Butterknowle Village Hall – Jubilee Celebrations - Art and craft materials for events to celebrate the Jubilee.</p>	<p>£221, Barnard Castle Library – After School Activities – Games and jigsaws to run a new after school activities club in the library.</p>
<p>£9,985, Durham County Council – Three Villages Traffic Calming scheme - Including gateways and road markings for the Villages of Staindrop, Ingleton and Whorlton.</p>	<p>£200, UTASS – Jubilee Celebrations - Contribution to Jubilee celebration events including garden party, family sports and games and entertainment.</p>	<p>£300, Winston Parish Council – Coronation Celebrations - Events for King Charles III's coronation including entertainment, village photo and plaques for planters.</p>
	<p>£850, Randolph Community Centre Foundation Trust – Jubilee celebrations - Jubilee events in Evenwood Village.</p>	<p>£200, Hutton Magna Parochial Church Council – Coronation Celebrations - refreshments for Coronation afternoon tea.</p>
	<p>£100, South Bedburn Parish Council – Jubilee Celebrations - Commemorative mugs for the Jubilee celebrations.</p>	<p>£500, Witham Hall Ltd – Defibrillator - Purchase of portable defibrillator.</p>
	<p>£266, High Etherley Children's Home – Bike Shed - Purchase and installation of new bike shed.</p>	<p>Platinum Jubilee Grants</p>
	<p>£200, Pathway Church Middleton in Teesdale – Summer Holiday Programme - One week summer activity programme.</p>	<p>To mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee each of the six ward councillors were allocated £300. Grants were made to support village and community celebrations.</p>
	<p>£600, Evenwood Community Action – Summer Event - Travel and refreshments for summer holidays family days out</p>	<p>£100, Barnard Town Council</p>
	<p>£300, Beyond Limits – Catering Equipment - Equipment for events to support local families and the wider community.</p>	<p>£100, Butterknowle Village Hall</p>
		<p>£100, Cockfield Church</p>
		<p>£100, Copley Village Hall</p>
		<p>£100, Cotherstone Parish Council</p>
		<p>£100, Eggleston Parish Council</p>
		<p>£100, Evenwood Randolph Centre</p>
		<p>£100, Gainford & Langton Parish Council</p>
		<p>£100, Hamsterley Parish Council</p>
		<p>£100, Hutton Magna Church</p>
		<p>£200, UTASS Middleton in Teesdale</p>
		<p>£100, Romalldkirk Parish Council</p>
		<p>£200, Staindrop Scarth Hall</p>
		<p>£100, Stainton and Streatlam Parish Council</p>
		<p>£100, Startforth Parish Council</p>
		<p>£100, Woodland Village Hall</p>

Further information on the projects that individual Councillors have supported can be found by contacting TAP.

The Difference We Have Made



Montalbo Primary School Community Wellbeing Project

Montalbo Primary School are developing a project which aims to raise awareness, remove stigma and promote wellbeing, equipping children and adults with strategies to improve mental health. This project will be delivered through several activities that will involve pupils, staff and the wider school community. They will offer Taekwondo activities provided by a local instructor and activities outdoors with Brightwood's Forest School. Parents will be targeted through activities that involve their own children, such as drama performances. These events will be held during school time and in the local area, which will further help to reduce barriers such as childcare and transport. Staff will be given opportunities to participate in wellbeing events during time usually allocated to staff meetings so as to alleviate any potential increase in workload or issues around childcare.



Durham County Council Access Improvement Tees Railway Path

This project is part of a larger scheme to improve the access from the B6277 onto the Tees Railway Path. This route heads roughly south east towards Barnard Castle and links with sections of the Public Rights of Way network to create an off-road route linking Cotherstone and Barnard Castle. The current access has steep wooden steps that are in a very poor condition, making it very difficult for those with ambulatory issues. The scheme will look to improve access by using funds to commission contractors to remove trees, add new timber steps, a handrail, boundary fencing and signage.



Photo: Teesdale Mercury

Blaize Arts for the Brain

Blaize have been running fortnightly singing sessions in Barnard Castle and Middleton in Teesdale for over 8 years. Both Barnard Castle and Middleton in Teesdale sessions are targeted for dementia sufferers and their carers and this funding will also support a further session in Cockfield/Evenwood. Sessions are about an hour long with a short interval. Refreshments are served. The group's leader and volunteers will also work with Dr Richard Coaten, a registered Dance Movement Psychotherapist to learn how to use dance as well as singing in the group sessions. A total of 50 people will benefit, and we hope to increase this to about 80.

The Difference We Have Made



Middleton Wanderers Walking Football Club Equipment

Middleton Wanderers Walking Football Club have purchased a pair of 12ft x 6ft portable stadium goals and a line marking machine. The goals have 360-degree wheels which make them easy to manoeuvre and provides flexibility as the sports field is used by other clubs. The goals will be used by the primary school for their after school training session on a Monday and for games arranged by the School.

Middleton Wanderers Senior Football Club would also use them for their training sessions and for the village galas/fun days that run from this site. The line marking machine will be used for marking out both senior and walking football pitches, the cricket outfield and for their 5k fun run which takes place each Saturday morning.

As a partnership we have continued to support local 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 complete a funding application. We also engage with our community through 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. As a partnership we will undoubtedly face challenges over the coming months, however, I'm confident that the TAP Board and partners will overcome these and build upon the many initiatives that we have delivered. Finally, I would like to thank the Board, staff and everyone who has worked with TAP during 2022/23.



Adam White
TAP Co-ordinator

Contact Details

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