



Better for everyone

Weardale
Action Partnership
Annual Report

2022/23



Councillor Elizabeth Scott

Introduction

Portfolio Holder Statement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Councillor Elizabeth Scott,

Cabinet portfolio holder for Economy and Partnerships.



Linda Pearson
Rural Advice Worker



Lisa Turnbull
Community Wellness Coordinator



Jubilee Fund (Cllr Savory) – Jubilee Afternoon Tea – Advance Learning Partnership – Wolsingham School

Weardale Action Partnership 2022/23 Key Information



FUNDING

£177,260

of AAP Area Budget funding allocated to 10 projects

£17,174

of Area Budget match funding generated

£54,098

County Councillor Neighbourhood Budget funding allocated to 15 local projects

20 Neighbourhood Budget Small Grants awarded to local groups receiving a total of

£5,150



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

As the Cost of Living Crisis developed, the WAP Team supported a number of local groups who set up 'Warm Spaces' in response to it. The WAP team approached partner organisations believe housing and Lakes and Dales Co-operative to obtain additional funding for these groups to help towards the costs incurred in providing a warm space



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

WAP Team assisted in the creation of five Community Resilience Planning Groups. The team ensured that participants had all the relevant information needed, helped to establish networks and organised training to ensure participants understood their roles, responsibilities and potential liabilities



COMMUNICATION

1,000

local residents regularly receiving information via e-bulletins

Weardale Area Action Partnership

Established in 2009, Weardale Action Partnership brings together local people and partners to take action on local issues. The area ranges from Edmundbyers at our most Northern point, over to Killhope in the west and follows the A689 through the Dale to Witton-le-Wear in the East covering a number of small towns and villages which make up our rural AAP area in Weardale.

Over the last year the key focus has been on the continued recovery of the area following the Covid pandemic. Over £256,000 has been allocated to local organisations through WAP and County Councillor budgets to help organisations deliver local projects and address local priorities.

Welcome from the Chair

Damian Pearson, believe housing



I have enjoyed my time as the chair of Weardale Area Action Partnership and am proud of the work it does to support the community and so many organisations making a positive difference in this area.

Over the past year, we have funded a wide range of projects which continue to benefit local people and communities. And, with many new projects in the pipeline, there are more fantastic initiatives to look forward to in the coming year.

So much of these projects' success is dependent on the work that goes on behind the scenes to develop and deliver them, so I'd like to pay tribute and say thanks to all those involved.

I'd like to thank the Weardale AAP team for their work bringing people together to address local issues, helping local communities, developing projects, supporting the board, and providing support to me as chair. I also thank the board members for the time, commitment, and expertise they give to the role.

We would like to pay tribute to Joan Warriner who passed away earlier this year. Joan had been a Public Representative on the Weardale Action Partnership Board since their creation in 2009. Joan was a stalwart of the local community and her knowledge and expertise helped to shape countless projects delivered over the last fourteen years. Her enthusiasm was infectious, and she will be sorely missed by both Board members and the Weardale Action Partnership Team alike.



Our People

Anyone who lives, works, studies or volunteers in the area can get involved with the Area Action Partnership. We currently have 1,000 people who are part of our wider Forum who receive regular updates and e-bulletins who are invited to get involved in the work of the AAP.

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

Damian Pearson (Believe Housing) (Chair)
Dan Wootton (Fire and Rescue Service)
Insp. Ed Turner (Durham Constabulary)
Julian Haynes (Voluntary and Community Sector)
Michael Kelleher (Durham County Council)
Jeff Bell (Business Representative)
Sarah Lee (Health)

Cllr Anita Savory
Cllr John Shuttleworth
Cllr Olive Wilson (Witton-le-Wear Parish Council)
Cllr David Sugden (Wolsingham Parish Council)
Cllr Helen Barrass (Muggleswick Parish Council)
Cllr Angela Hawkes (Stanhope Parish Council)
Vacancy

Richard Lawrie (Public Representative)
Kevin Roddam (Public Representative)
Adrian Holden (Public Representative)
Will Wearmouth (Public Representative)
Alison Humble (Public Representative)
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We would also like to thank former Board members:

Ian Hirst (Public Representative)
Trish Chapman (Hunstanworth Representative)
Lindsay Warren (Public Representative)
Geoff Paul (Durham County Council)
who stepped down from the Board during the year.

2022/23 Funding Allocation

<div> Area Budget </div> <div> <p>£12,531 – Stanhope Market Place Installation of Infrastructure & Lights – Light Up The Dale</p> <p>£13,500 – Killhope Tales – Durham County Council</p> <p>£10,000 – Small Grants Fund - Durham County Council</p> <p>£9,500 – Family Walk Interpretation Panels and Noticeboard - Wolsingham Parish Council / Wolsingham Wayfarers</p> <p>£9,635 – Accessible Advice in Weardale - Citizens Advice County Durham</p> <p>£21,703 – Wraparound Care - Stanhope Barrington CofE Primary School</p> <p>£1,619 – Community Wellness Coordinator - Weardale Community Partnership</p> <p>£9,500 – Killhope Wheel - Durham County Council</p> <p>£24,844 – Weardale Play Area Refurbishment Phase 1 - Durham County Council</p> <p>£9,652 Weardale Play Area Refurbishment Phase 2 - Durham County Council</p> </div> <div> Welfare Reform </div> <div> <p>£10,000 – Accessible Advice in Weardale - Citizens Advice County Durham</p> </div> <div> Youth Fund </div> <div> <p>£9,788 – Witton-le-Wear Youth Club - Deaf Hill Ward Regeneration Partnership</p> </div> <div> Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund </div> <div> <p>£25,000 – Community Wellness Coordinator - Weardale Community Partnership</p> </div> <div> Young People’s Healthy Relationships </div> <div> <p>£9,998 – Healthy Relationships – Advance Learning Partnership, Wolsingham School</p> </div>	<div> Neighbourhood Budget </div> <div> Cllr Anita Savory </div> <div> <p>£2,870 – Winter Warmers – Advance Learning Partnership – Wolsingham School</p> <p>£1,514 – Christmas Market / Festival – WRECASS</p> <p>£1,270 – Coronation Medals - Advance Learning Partnership – Wolsingham School</p> <p>£1,444 – Banners and Flags – Weardale Agricultural Society</p> <p>£14,000 – Wolsingham Marketplace Christmas Lighting and Infrastructure – Wolsingham Parish Council</p> </div> <div> Platinum Jubilee Fund </div> <div> <p>£300 – Jubilee Afternoon Tea – Advance Learning Partnership – Wolsingham School</p> </div> <div> Small Grants Fund </div> <div> <p>£160 – Nursery Castle – Wolsingham Primary School</p> <p>£250 – Printer – Eastgate Village Hall</p> <p>£250 – Tea Towels – Weardale Community Hospital</p> <p>£250 – Newby Hall Horticultural Event – Weardale Flower & Garden Club</p> <p>£140 – New Age Kurling Competition – Blindlife</p> <p>£200 – Pantomime – Wolsingham Womens Institute</p> <p>£100 – Wreath making – Weardale Flower & Garden Club</p> <p>£200 – Play Equipment – Wolsingham Toddler Group</p> </div> <div> Towns and Villages </div> <div> <p>Allocated in 2021/22</p> </div> <div> Cllr John Shuttleworth </div> <div> <p>£1,000 – Digital Equipment – Stanhope Photographic Society</p> <p>£1,000 – Room hire, speakers & resources – High Pennine Horticultural Society</p> <p>£2,000 – Weardale Show – Weardale Agricultural Society</p> <p>£1,000 – Bash the Balsam – Wear Rivers Trust</p> <p>£1,250 – Updates to Electricals – Rookhope Village Hall</p> <p>£4,000 – Uniforms & Activities for 200th Anniversary – Stanhope Silver Band</p> </div>	<div> <p>£5,000 – Wolsingham Show Storage Facility – Wolsingham Show</p> <p>£5,500 – Stanhope Agricultural Society Improvement Plan – Stanhope Agricultural Society</p> <p>£2,500 – Boiler – Rookhope Village Hall</p> <p>£7,750 – St John’s Chapel Play Area - Durham County Council</p> <p>£1,000 – Coronation Medals - Advance Learning Partnership – Wolsingham School</p> <p>£1,000 – Windows – Upper Weardale Town Hall</p> </div> <div> Platinum Jubilee Fund </div> <div> <p>£100 – Hall hire & materials – Edmundbyers Village Hall</p> <p>£100 – Decorations & Bunting – Ireshopeburn Literary Institute</p> <p>£100 – Jubilee Celebrations – Norman Wright Pavilion</p> </div> <div> Small Grants Fund </div> <div> <p>£200 – Leek Show – Rookhope Village Hall</p> <p>£200 – Leek Club – Cowshill Village Hall</p> <p>£500 – Karting – Wolsingham Football Academy</p> <p>£750 – Recreation Ground Insurance and Repairs – St John’s Chapel Recreation Ground</p> <p>£200 – Warm Hub in Stanhope – Weardale Together CIC</p> <p>£500 – Stanhope Football Club – Stanhope Town Sports & Social Club</p> <p>£250 – Christmas Event for the Elderly – Barrington Bites</p> <p>£400 – Flowers – Rookhope Village Hall</p> </div> <div> Towns and Villages </div> <div> <p>£10,000 – St John’s Chapel Play Area - Durham County Council</p> </div> <div> <p>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 AAP team. Councillors received an additional £10,000 of Towns and Villages Funding in 2021/22 to allocate within their communities during the next three financial years. They also received an additional £300 to give to community events taking place to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.</p> </div>
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The Difference We Have Made



Wraparound Care Stanhope Barrington Cof E Primary School

Stanhope Barrington CofE Primary School developed a project to provide 'Wraparound Care' from 7.30am till 5:00pm to allow local families who travel to work to access childcare provision at a reasonable cost. The school also aimed to use the provision to offer free childcare to families who are vulnerable or in crisis.

Children who access this Wraparound Care benefit from a variety of activities which are not easy to access in such a rural and sometimes isolated community. A sports coach delivers a physical activity session twice a week which has a positive impact on the mental health and well-being of pupils as well as affecting their readiness to learn. There are also a range of activities on offer including Taekwondo, Archaeology, different Arts & Crafts, Computing Club, Science Club, Drama etc.

The school identified a need for this provision following consultation with parents and pupils. Providing Wraparound Care enables parents to travel to work – often outside of the Dale – without the additional stress of worrying about childcare. It also provides the school with a mechanism to help support extremely vulnerable children.



Lonely Tower Film and Media

Killhope Tales

Work has started on the creation of three films which will tell the stories of those who worked in the lead mine. Funding of £13,500 from the Area Budget will allow Killhope to tell their stories – depicting their working lives, the hazards they faced and what it meant to be a part of the community of the lead mining workforce.

Currently, two of the three films have been completed and the third will be completed once the weather improves. 'Last Night at the Lodging Shop', 'Face to Face' and 'The Ballad of the Washer Boys' incorporate archive material and oral history stories from Killhope. These films will create conversational pieces designed to communicate the social history of Victorian Weardale and its families.

These films will be available both on site at Killhope and online. The funding will also be used to purchase new technical equipment to facilitate this as well as a high-quality projector which will create an immersive indoor experience on site.



St Philip & St James Church, Witton-le-Wear

Small Grants Fund

The Small Grants Fund was launched once again with the aim of helping local community and voluntary groups to continue their valuable work in Weardale. This year, £10,000 was available and the Board decided to offer grants of £500 with an emphasis on supporting new groups as well as groups who had struggled to get back on their feet following the global pandemic.

So far, grants have been awarded to eleven local groups which provide a variety of different activities to people of all ages in Weardale. Funding has helped:

- To provide free music lessons with Stanhope Silver Band
- Cubs and Beavers to experience an adventurous activity day,
- To keep the heritage craft of proggy mat making alive
- To bring two community choirs together to stage two live events
- To install a defibrillator at Stanhope Railway Station
- To provide equipment to Wolsingham Football Academy, Weardale Whippets and Wolsingham Toddler Group
- To help with the cost of demonstrations and travel costs for members of Weardale Flower Club
- To try to ensure sustainability for St Johns Chapel Bowling Club which had seen membership decrease following the pandemic

The Difference We Have Made



Towns and Villages Ashcroft MUGA and St Johns Chapel Play Area

Through the Countywide AAP Towns & Villages Fund we have secured resources to improve some of our outdoor leisure facilities for children, young people and families.

Stanhope Parish Council is in the process of upgrading the multi-use games area (MUGA) which serves the Ashcroft area of the Town. The project responds to resident concerns about the playing surface, which has naturally deteriorated over time.

The surface of the MUGA will be renewed, including provision of line markings for several sports, and the current traditional floodlights will be replaced with modern LED lamps. Work will be completed during early Summer 2023.

The village play area at St Johns Chapel is being refurbished, as existing play equipment is old and in deteriorating condition.

The play area will be fully refreshed, to include modern play equipment items, new safety surfacing, access gate and seating/furniture. Site works will commence in the Autumn 2023.



Fun & Food

Weardale Action Partnership has supported schemes that have provided children and young people with fun activities and food during each school holiday. With funding of £20,000 from Public Health and the Department of Education, projects were primarily designed to provide a service to children who are in receipt of free school meals or who face other struggles.

Witton-le-Wear Youth Club received funding in each school holiday (except Christmas) to provide children with activities in the village – including sport, craft and circus skills – as well as taking children out of the area to experience activities that are not available in Weardale such as Jump 360.

Other organisations who have benefitted from Fun & Food funding include Harehope Quarry, Rookhope Village Hall, Weardale Adventure Centre, ATOMS, Durham Wildlife Trust and Hamsterley Forest.

Feedback from these events is always positive and the Weardale Action Partnership team would welcome working with any groups who would like to provide activities in the future.



Visit County Durham

Killhope Wheel Refurbishment

The iconic Killhope waterwheel will soon be refurbished thanks to £9,500 of Area Budget funding from the Weardale Action Partnership. The waterwheel and inter-connected drive systems into and within the Jigger House have not operated since August 2019 and it is hoped that through this repair and restoration, the Armstrong Waterwheel will be safeguarded for generations to come.

Once operational again, the Killhope waterwheel will add to the cultural offering of not just Weardale but County Durham as well. It is a visible reminder that County Durham's mining past is not exclusive to coal.

Killhope anticipates that the restoration of the waterwheel will draw in hundreds of new visitors and will enhance the activities and exhibits they can offer.

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