

PENISTONE AREA COUNCIL

Working together for a brighter
future, a better Barnsley.



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Our Vision

Barnsley Council is working together for a brighter future, a better Barnsley. We will realise this vision by driving change and improvements to achieve the following positive outcomes, including:

- A brighter future where people achieve their potential
- A better Barnsley where our residents think and feel we are making a difference together
- Working together with our partners and communities

Our three priorities to help us reach our vision are:

- Growing the economy
- Improving people's potential and achievement
- Changing the relationship between the council and community

The strength of every community in Barnsley lies in the commitment of the people who live there to make it a special place of which everyone can feel proud and of which everyone is a part of. Our aim is to unlock the capacity in our communities and optimise one of the resources still in great supply: the willingness of people to help each other. We aim to mobilise citizens more effectively around locally agreed priorities and to achieve measurable impact through volunteering.

Our Area Governance arrangements are the framework to enable this to happen at a community level. Our structure incorporates:

- Six Area Councils – our councillors responding to strategic priorities on an area basis and commissioning services with a strong social value ethos to meet these challenges.
- Ward Alliances – our councillors working alongside community representatives to mobilise and enable community responses to local challenges.
- Neighbourhood Networks – support to the 'virtual' networks that exist in our communities – the community organisations, committed individuals, businesses, faith groups, residents associations and all the other representatives that make our communities thrive.
- Our 'Love Where You Live' campaign to inspire people to get involved in volunteering locally to make in difference in their community.

This update document lets you know what we have been doing in the Penistone Area. We hope you enjoy reading about our progress and if you would like to know more on how you can get involved you'll find our contact details at the back of this document.

Penistone Area Council



The rural area of Penistone makes up geographically over 50 percent of the Barnsley borough, but with less than 10 per cent of its population. The area has 12 parish councils and one town council.

The area has a long history of self-reliance and independence. Through the community asset mapping exercise, the area team have identified over 150 community groups or organisations active across the wards of Penistone East and Penistone West. The majority of groups are delivered entirely by volunteers. This reflects the many assets that exist in the local area, which can be mobilised to help address local priorities.

The Penistone Area Council is made up of 6 elected members (from the Penistone East and Penistone West wards). It is Chaired by Councillor Robert Barnard and supported by the Penistone Area

Council Manager and a Barnsley Council senior link officer.

Recently Penistone town council undertook a consultation exercise and produced a 'Community Led Plan' the results of which together with the information provided by individual parish councils were used as a basis for 'The Penistone Area Plan'.

Over the last 18 months, we have implemented the new area arrangements through establishing the Penistone Area Council and the Penistone Ward Alliance. We have also appointed our Neighbourhood Network Host, 'Penistone FM' a volunteer supported local radio station broadcasting from the centre of Penistone.

Penistone Area Council priorities

Progress and commissioning update

To identify the priorities that matter to local residents, Penistone Area Council looked at the Penistone Community Led Parish Plan (commissioned by the town council) and information provided by council services and other partner organisations (such as the police, fire and rescue). At workshops held in early autumn 2013 the Penistone Area Council identified the following priorities:

- The environment
- The local economy
- Roads and transport – including road safety
- Access to healthcare services
- Activities and support for young people

During the autumn/winter of 2013 the Area Manager, Senior Support Worker and elected members attended all of the 13 Parish Council meetings in the Penistone East and Penistone West wards. They also made contact with other community led groups and organisations to promote the work of the Area Council, Ward Alliance and Neighbourhood Network. It also provided an opportunity to inform the community of the priorities against which we would be targeting the Ward Alliance, Devolved Ward Budget and Area Council funding. A secondary outcome of this activity is that Penistone East and Penistone West Ward Alliance currently has several representatives from the parish councils as well as local community organisations and businesses. This work also demonstrates how we are working towards 'changing the relationship' between the council and the community and continuing to build strong and resilient communities.

Meeting Penistone Area Council Priorities

Procuring services and contracts awarded

Since January 2014 and in response to its identified priorities, the Penistone Area Council has focussed its' efforts on the procurement

of a range of services to address these priorities. Table one provides an overview of the procurements undertaken to date and the resulting contracts awarded.

Table one

Priority	Tender	Contractor Appointed	Value	Status
Environment, Young People and Local Economy	Countryside skills training course	Grow Forest	£100,000 (1 years)	Contract Live
Transport and Local Economy	Subsidised rural bus project	tbc	£15,000	Under review

Penistone Area Council members have been involved throughout the procurement process for each of the contracts. This has included leading and attending workshop groups to develop the specification of requirements and being part of the evaluation panels for each procurement exercise. Service specialists from the council, and community representatives from Ward Alliances, have also been part of these processes.

The importance of social value has been highlighted as part of each procurement and all successful organisations have effectively demonstrated how they will create local jobs, use local supply chains, ensure local spend, use volunteers, and create new volunteering and work experience opportunities. Social value indicators and targets have been agreed for each contract and will be reported into Penistone Area Council as part of the agreed contract and performance management arrangements.

Countryside skills training course

Activities and support for young people

Environment

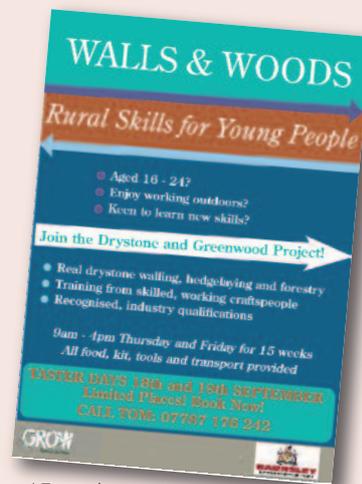
Local economy

In recognition that not every young person follows the traditional academic route, it was agreed to commission a 'practical' training course in countryside skills. The course would look at skills such as stonemasonry and hedge laying to help maintain/improve the local environment and introduce young people to the idea of self-employment and social enterprise. The project was supported by the Penistone East and Penistone West Ward Alliance.

As part of the procurement process, the tender was evaluated by the Chair of Dunford Parish Council on behalf of the ward alliance and the council's local Youth Worker (as the technical expert) – who also holds qualifications in countryside skills and is a qualified stone wall builder.

The successful contract was awarded to Growforest in September 2014 who are currently recruiting young people (age 16 – 24 years) for the three 15 week courses starting in October 2014 and running over a nine month period.

Feedback from two taster days held in September 2014 will be presented to the Penistone Area Council by the proprietor of Growforest Tom Handley at the Penistone Area Council Meeting on 9 October 2014. It has also been agreed that some of the future reports on the progress of the project will be given in video format to the Area Council by the young people attending the courses who will relate their experiences of the course.



Subsidised Rural Bus Project

Roads and transport

Access to healthcare services

Local economy

In response to concerns by elected members that local people in the outlying parishes did not have a satisfactory and regular bus service to Penistone Town, the Penistone Area Council has agreed to fund a pilot project to provide a subsidised bus service. The service into the town will run on the popular market day, Thursdays, initially for a period of six months.

A specification and procurement strategy was produced by the Area Manager and NPS and put out on Yortender in mid May 2014. There were no responses but at least one company said that if they had

the necessary Health and Safety pre-qualification requirement they would have put in a tender. In response the Penistone Area Council asked that Area Manager and NPS put the specification back out for a second time. There were no responses.

The Penistone Area Council is presently considering a raft of ideas for future commissioning including town centre improvements, parking/litter enforcement, and protecting/enhancing the local environment.

Overview of Ward Alliances within the Penistone Area Council

Activities and support for young people

Environment

Local economy

Access to healthcare services

Roads, transport and road safety

Early on in the process the elected members of Penistone East and West agreed to have just one Ward Alliance for the Penistone area. The Ward Alliance today is 18 members strong and its membership is wide ranging including representatives from community groups and the outlying Parish Councils.



The Penistone Ward Alliance is operating effectively with priorities for each ward agreed and action plans for delivery developed. The priorities mirror the Penistone Area Council priorities and Community Plan. With support from the Penistone Area Team, a significant number of successful events and projects addressing the identified priorities of the Ward Alliances, have been effectively delivered over the past six months with many more projects currently being developed.

The focus for Penistone Ward Alliance in developing projects and events has been on ensuring that sustainability is built into the planning and delivery. There has also been an emphasis on developing volunteering, social action and building community resilience as part of these projects.

This focus has paid off with the establishment of new community groups across the area, investment in existing groups to strengthen capacity and more and more projects being developed, led and delivered by local volunteers, with minimal support from the Area Team.

Penistone FM are operating as the host for the Penistone Neighbourhood Network ensuring that people are kept informed of developments and are supported to get involved in local decision making and social action.

Ward Alliances have been actively involved in informing the local development and delivery of the Penistone Area Council procured services and promoting these services to the wider community. Ward Alliances and their members have provided an invaluable contribution to the localised planning and delivery of Penistone Council procured services.



Some of the successes of the Ward Alliance to date are:

Grand Départ The area team supported Langsett Parish Council and their Tour de France sub-group to develop cultural activities in the 100 day run up to the event. They also gave information on the event and its impact upon the area to businesses and the local community and the Ward Alliance contributed funding.



Tour de France information Hub The hub located at Penistone Town Hall in the run up to the event was run by 10 volunteers from the local community and gave information on the event, road closures, car parking, spectator points etc. to local residents and visitors to the area. The hub received accolades across the region with features on radio and publications across Yorkshire. Ten local volunteers were recruited to support the operation of the information hub and distribute the information provided by Barnsley Council, Visit Yorkshire and the Tour Organisers. They built on their extensive local knowledge to include all aspects of information relating to the Tour de France and the Visitor Centre turned into a 'slick' hub of information for the Barnsley area and beyond.

Tourism Hub

following the success of the information hub it was agreed that it should continue throughout the summer period. The tourism hub retained the



support of the volunteers and has amassed an impressive collection of information brochures on activities and attractions in and around Barnsley and the wider Yorkshire. The hub has recently supported the Penistone Show promoting the event with information leaflet and advanced ticket sales.

Volunteers have sustained their involvement in managing the tourism hub reflecting a significant social action contribution to the Penistone economy. The average amount of time each volunteer has contributed is outlined below.



- 200 hours in total / 10 active volunteers = 20 hours per volunteer
- The hub was open for a total of 194 hours (taking into account the full week of opening during race week) over 10 weeks which equals an average of 19.4 hours per week.
- This means that each volunteer contributed on average over one full week of the hub being open to the public.

The monetary value for the volunteers' contribution in the lead up to the Grand Depart works out at:

A weekly average of £221.80
A total monetary average of £2,218.00 (total financial contribution by all volunteers throughout duration)

Since the Grand Depart the Tourism Hub has attracted over 300 visitors and sold £753 Penistone Show tickets and volunteers gave out information.

Improving health and wellbeing through social action – Grow Penistone

Springvale Community Garden, is made up of an active group of 26 volunteers who volunteer on a weekly basis contributing on average eight hours each a week of social action. The organisation is in the process of registering as a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation), managing a four acre site off Sheffield Road in Penistone. This is a fantastic project reflecting many of the aspirations of the Let's Grow initiative to develop community growing schemes across the borough to support residents health and wellbeing and contribute to the local economy. Springvale are actively working with other community growing schemes such as the Dearne Allotment Group to share best practice and learning.

The group's aims are:

- To provide a space that is welcoming, peaceful and beautiful for the people of Penistone and surrounding areas.
- To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by: cultivating food, herbs and flowers without the use of artificial or harmful chemicals.
- Educating the public to appreciate healthy growing, living and eating and in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
- To further or benefit the physical and mental wellbeing of the public by providing a community garden for their recreation – training – education – artistic and creative expression.

The group particularly want to welcome vulnerable groups and provide a safe and healing space for them to enjoy i.e. we are in process of becoming a 'dementia friendly facility'.



The Area Team has worked with the group to crystallize its priorities to develop the site further and help them secure funding from Public Health and the Ward Alliance as well as helping the group connect to the wider Penistone area network.

Love Where you Live - Don Street Clean Up A group of residents and volunteers from Springvale Community Garden gave up their Saturday morning during national Volunteers Week and as part of the Love Where You Live campaign to clear a green space bordering the river Don. The group worked hard and were able to clear a circular path around the nature area making it passable by clearing weeds and brambles. This project has obvious improving physical and mental health related benefits contributing to positive outcomes for local volunteers. It is growing from strength to strength and resulting in a sustainability community asset being brought back into use through community action.

*Grow
Penistone*
sustainable food growing community

Utilising local assets and improving health and wellbeing through pedal power

Cycle Penistone is a local social enterprise hiring and repairing cycles, located next to the Trans Pennine Trail and growing from strength to strength. The organisation is working with VAB and members of the Penistone the Area Team to establish themselves as a registered charity. Over the coming months the project will be delivering sessions to primary schools in the Penistone area giving tuition around Bike Maintenance, Cycling Games and Safety Instruction this element of the project is funded by Penistone East and West Ward Alliance.

The project is an excellent example of a local voluntary organisation that has grown significantly through maximising the use of local assets including the fantastic local landscape through providing 'guide led rides' on the Trans Pennine Trail and countryside alongside, utilising local volunteers to run the organisation.



Since the project began it has clocked up over 10,000 hours in volunteer time and in the last month a total of 334 hours alone. A great example of a community led enterprise promoting health and active lifestyles for the whole community alongside providing valuable work experience for young people.

A couple of testimonies from volunteers at Cycle Penistone are outlined below

I've been able to see the charity grow from humble beginnings into a thriving tourist attraction and I feel really proud to have had a role in its development. It's great being an active and helpful part of a charity like Cycle Penistone.

There are always new challenges and I've learnt a lot about office and charity work. Working in such a friendly and motivated atmosphere has been fun and I'll definitely be continuing to volunteer here for as long as I can.

Case Study – David Matheson

After leaving university with hardly any work experience, I decided to put myself forward for volunteer work. After struggling to find nearby companies who offered volunteer placements, I came across Cycle Penistone. The first thing that

appealed to me was the fact that it is a charity business. After speaking with the Project Manager about my interests I decided to help out in the workshop, where I would be able to pick up the skills involved with bike maintenance and work alongside a qualified bike mechanic. I have now been volunteering with Cycle Penistone for around 3 months, and have gained invaluable experience. The skills I have acquired include: Customer service and cash handling, problem solving skills, bike maintenance training, as well as gaining a CTC qualification in fleet maintenance.

This opportunity has given me a sense of achievement and has provided me with essential work experience skills. I have enjoyed meeting new people and have benefited from a boost in self-confidence. I look forward to continuing my volunteering and being involved with the development of the business.

Delivering Local Services through Social Enterprise

Sporting Penistone, Following closure in May 2011 a group of local people began to work together to try to save the facility and Penistone Leisure Centre reopened as a community-run project in September 2012.

So far, the Centre has been run entirely by unpaid volunteers. They became an independent charity in July 2013.

Penistone Ward Alliance has supported the project in the purchase of new Gym equipment and elected members gave a contribution from the Devolved Ward Budget towards a new heating system.

The centre now delivers a wide range of volunteer led activities with a gym membership of 300.



Building Strong and Resilient Community Involvement in Penistone East and West – Partnership Working

Thurstone's New War Memorial A group of local residents (Thurstone Community Group) has over the last few years been planning the installation of a new War Memorial.

The community group has raised funds, sought sponsorship and support for each element of the project. Local Artists have given their time and expertise to the project for free, local businesses have donated materials and the local community has totally embraced the project. Probation service has supported the project cleaning and painting the metal railings around the site supported by ward

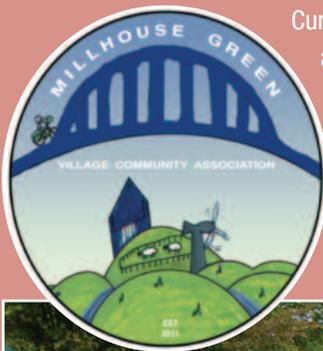
councillors and the area team. BMBC's Highways department and Neighbourhood Pride Services have supported the project supplying resources and advice. The volunteers have provided many hours of work and to the project which still continues.

The Area Team has helped the group facilitate partnership working and the Ward Alliance has provided some of the funding.



Residents and community groups working together to improve the area

Millhouse Green Community Association is a group of active volunteers committed to their community who formed in 2011 to help to develop the community, improve the village, and to tackle the issues that are important to the residents of Millhouse Green.



Currently the group want to make a difference to the local community and surrounding area but more importantly, to have fun. To date the group has organised village galas, installation of a

boundary stone, installed Christmas lights and raised funds to bring disused tennis courts back into use with the support of a grant from the Ward Alliance and Devolved Ward Budget. This is an excellent example of a community asset being brought back into use for the local community through community action, helping to improve health and wellbeing through sport.

In the lead up to groups recent AGM they were aware that numbers of active members had depleted and with the help of the Local Support Officer undertook a recruitment drive, sending information leaflets out and publicising the work of the group. At the AGM five new members of the group were recruited, with one person offering to work on the new website.



The above is just a flavour of activity undertaken by community groups. There are many other groups across Penistone East and West who have been supported by the new arrangements to deliver a difference in their community, and build strong and resilient communities.

The Area Team has also worked with elected members in their role as Community Champions and supported the work of Parish Councils in delivering the local priorities which are included within our Penistone Area Plan, drawn from the Penistone Community Led Plan and Local Parish Council priorities.

The work undertaken by the Area Team and Penistone Elected members in promoting the new arrangements with the 13 local parishes led to a number of applications coming forward to the Ward Alliance and Devolved Ward Budget and provides good examples of local people working towards improving their own environment with help from the Area Council/Ward Alliance.

Ingbirchworth & Gunthwaite Parish Council, Improving footpaths within the Parish.

Hunshelf Parish Council, improvements and safeguarding of roadside verges and additional grit bins.

Thurgoland Parish Council, relocate the safety camera on Halifax Road.

Oxspring Parish Council, Roughbirchworth Lane, parking restrictions along Roughbirchworth Lane to restrict parking outside the school.

Penistone Square-about, investigate issues with Penistone Town Centre square-about and options available to improve pedestrian safety.

Tankersley Parish Council, upgrading of the children's play area at Pilley Pocket Park.

Penistone Town Council, the recruitment of a town centre caretaker to maintain the street scene in Penistone Town Centre.

Stainborough Parish Council, the installation of roadside grit bins in preparation for winter.

Number of volunteers

832



Volunteer hours

6,801



Economic value

£74,811



Changing the relationship with the community and building strong and resilient communities through partnership working

**Bob Blythe –
Chair of Thurgoland Parish
Council/Ward Alliance Member**

I see the Ward Alliance as a bridge between the Cllrs and the public and it is much needed tool as it (BMBC) feels remote from people in this rural community. I appreciate the opportunity of involvement in taking decisions with more people's input. The grant giving element of the alliance is an asset and gives a leg up for smaller groups of people who are working hard for their communities. Communication within the parishes is historically poor and it is going to take time but it is a good start. We need to promote the work of the Ward Alliance on Parish Council's Websites and gain more feedback from the ones who are not actually on the Alliance.



*Bob Blythe –
Thurgoland*

The new area arrangements provided by the Area Councils and Ward Alliances is one of the best ideas BMBC have come up with because it brings decision making to a local level rather than being looked at on a Barnsley wide basis. It also doesn't feel politically motivated. More decision making is actually done by the community. I also think having the Area Team based locally in Penistone Town hall makes them much more accessible than being based somewhere in an office in Barnsley.

**Allen Pestell –
Chair of Dunford Parish Council**

The Ward Alliance initially felt a little 'parochial' with the interests of various parishes coming forward from Penistone East and Penistone West but over time it has become Penistone as a whole area. My initial thoughts about the group were that we were just here to be 'giving money out' to the local groups so I challenged that at one of the meetings. However when we started looking at the Penistone Community Led Town Plan and working with the priorities of the Area Plan – Action Planning I started to enjoy it more as it was much more related to my interests and to what I wanted to be involved in. As a local Rambler I am very interested in maintaining and improving the local countryside environment and this is one of the priorities of Penistone Area Council.



*Allen Pestell –
Chair of Dunford
Parish Council*

I was also put forward by the Ward Alliance to sit on the evaluation panel for the Countryside Skills Training Project commission which I also enjoyed as again it relates to what I believe in for our outdoors areas. I want to monitor the Walls and Woods project progress and attended the Area Council today to meet the person who will be delivering the training courses. I think the area arrangements have definitely started to change the relationship with the Council in a positive way.

Partnership working

The main thrust of partnership working in the Penistone East and West area has been with the Parish Councils, including Penistone Town Council as referred to above. However other close working relationships have been built which will provide a foundation for future joint working opportunities.

East Peak Innovation Project – Joint work between the Area Team and EPIP officers on establishing and supporting the Tour de France Information Hub in the run up to race was very successful and has continued with joint support of the 10 local volunteers who presently run the Tourism Information Hub at Penistone Town Hall. EPIP is also liaising with Growforest who are delivering the 'Walls and Woods' commission for Penistone Area Council as there are strong links to farming and forestry which are priorities of EPIP's new delivery plan.

Penistone FM – As well as being the Neighbourhood Network Host Penistone FM has provided an additional 'on air' platform for the Area Chair and members of the Area Team to update local people and promote the work of the Area Council and Ward Alliance.

Penistone Youth Hub – Activities to Support Young People is one of the main priorities for Penistone Area Council. Successful joint working with Penistone Youth Hub has seen financial contributions towards a Youth Arts and clean-up project from the Devolved Ward Budget at the local Skate Park, and the establishment of a Community Wildlife Garden by local young people.

In addition to the Youth Hub receiving funding the local Scout Group have benefited from funding towards the provision of new facilities and a local primary school Springvale received funding towards putting on a play about bravery 'Hoffman's Medal' at the Lamproom Theatre.

Going forward

Penistone Area Council will continue to commission projects which meet the priorities of the local community of Penistone East and West as well as working with local groups and organisations to grow and support community resilience within the areas local communities.



For more information about Penistone Area Council
Visit: www.barnsley.gov.uk/penistoneareacouncil
Email: penistoneteam@barnsley.gov.uk
Call: 01226 773012

Alternatively, follow the Penistone Area Team on Facebook.

Nëse j'u nevojitet ndihmë për të kuptuar këtë dokument, j'u lutemi n'a kontaktoni.

若您需要幫助來理解本檔，請與我們聯繫。

यदि आप को इस दस्तावेज़ को समझने के लिए सहायता की आवश्यकता है तो कृपया हम से संपर्क करें

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Обратитесь к нам, если для того, чтобы понять этот документ, вам нужна помощь

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