

Area Council and Ward Alliance

# Annual Report

2021 - 2022

*Our communities are united by a shared sense of pride in our borough where we look after and support each other*



V0.1 21-22

Photograph taken by Leyla Nayeri



**BARNSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# How we do what we do?

**We enable Barnsley residents to be healthy, safe and socially active, and live within thriving, vibrant and diverse communities.**

The Area Councils are made up of the elected members who come together to determine the priorities for their area and they make decisions on the services they are going to commission which meet the needs of their communities. Through this approach, the Area Councils help residents, families, businesses and communities to bring about social change and improve the quality of life in their local area.



## ABCD

Our approach builds on an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model. ABCD builds on the assets found in the community and mobilises individuals, associations and institutions to come together to realise and develop their strengths. When applying ABCD principles, communities are not considered complex masses of needs and problems but rather diverse and capable webs of gifts and assets. The key is beginning to use what is already in the community and to work together to build on these assets. (Nurture Development, ABCD approaches).

## Our skills

- Elected members know their local communities and share their local knowledge and intelligence within the Area Councils and Ward Alliances.
- We have embedded the '21st Century Councillor Approach' in Barnsley, and there is an excellent member development programme for all elected members to access.
- We work in an Asset Based model where we problem-solve and find solutions with our communities.
- We are great advocates for our communities and are often the channel between them, other community services, and the statutory sector partners in that area.
- We have built excellent relationships with all of the people in our communities.



# What we do

**We enable Barnsley residents to be healthy, safe, and socially active and live within thriving, vibrant and diverse communities.**

Area Councils and Ward Alliances support micro commissioning in their local communities.



## **Area Councils and Ward Alliances...**

Support:

- Communities to deliver the Barnsley 2030 priorities and help bring them to life.
- Communities to run, plan, and hold events like Sloppy Slippers, Healthy Holidays Youth Groups, and litter picks.
- Volunteering and social action in local communities. Facilitating local communities, organisations and individuals to assist in delivering local services and solutions.
- Funding opportunities through the Area Councils, Ward Alliances and other grant funding streams.
- Early intervention and prevention by using social isolation projects, children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing services, welfare advice services, and environmental projects.
- Identify needs in communities utilising local knowledge and a robust evidence base to respond to those needs.
- Build relationships with the public, community groups, professionals and other organisations to coordinate a local response.
- Co-produce services alongside different people and partners.
- Deliver messages from the council into communities. We have played an integral role in both the response to the pandemic and the rollout of the testing and vaccination programmes and advised on the best way to deliver these messages to achieve a successful outcome for our communities.
- Connect communities, regularly linking up different people and organisations to make sure the communities we work within get the best outcomes.
- Understand our communities well and the people within them.

# 2021

in figures

North Area Council

North East Area Council

Central Area Council

Dearne Area Council

Penistone Area Council

South Area Council

**11,422**  
target 8,000

Volunteering Opportunities Supported



**794**

Community Groups supported



Which led to cashable hours worth

**£745,880**  
target £500,000



Of which were new

**179**

**2,324**

Socially Isolated people supported



**2,828**

People supporting the Environment



Emotional wellbeing support for Young People

**1,372**



People helped into Employment

**130**

**£2,062,451**

Amount of unclaimed benefits brought into the Borough



Ward Alliance Funding totalling

**£278,255**



People supported with Welfare claims

**4,716**

**272**

community projects supported via Ward Alliances





# 2021-22 Short Case Studies

A quick look  
at each Area

**Central**  
**Dearne**  
**North**  
**North East**  
**Penistone**  
**South**

## Earth Day Worsborough Ward and Highstone Allotments

### Who

Worsborough Environmental Group, Worsborough Tidy Group, Twiggs, volunteers, Central Area Team, Neighbourhood Services, Worsborough Ward Alliance, Kingstone Ward Alliance.

### How

The aims were to:

- Reinstate the program of social action in the area of Worsborough
- Raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage others to take action and have pride in the community.
- This led to a community litter-pick on World Earth Day. An area of Worsborough was identified as needing to be cleared of fly-tipping for the benefit and safety of allotment holders and local school children who access the site. A collaborative approach was necessary due to the size of the issue.

### Results

On the Earth Day in April:

- The identified area was cleared of litter, and Fly-tipping was removed from the allotments.
- The allotment groups worked together.
- Relationships were strengthened with volunteers, Worsborough Environmental Group, the Area Team, elected members and other services.
- The Ward Alliance connected with the community and shared how they could work together.
- Engagement and working together led to positive mental health and wellbeing.

Plans were made to:

- Engage more with school children in the allotments.
- Thoroughly remove the final fly-tipping.
- Engagement of the allotment groups with other activities.
- Install 'drop-posts' to prevent entry to fly-tipping sites.



### Priorities

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their communities
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people enjoy

## Dearne Valley Park Monkey Trail

### Who

Community Development Officer (CDO) – Central Area, three Primary Schools, youth provision services, community groups, Ward Alliance members and Barnsley Council Printing team.

### How

To create outdoor trails during the six-week holidays for children and their families to enjoy. The CDO created and distributed leaflets to three local Primary Schools. These advertised the trails and showed a map to follow. Pictures were then placed around the trails for the children to find. As well as directly leafletting schools, the event was promoted on the Central Area Team's Facebook to encourage wider participation.



### Results

The CDO set planned, promoted and installed the trails. Throughout the six-weeks holiday the trail was in place.

Feedback was positive, with people mentioning an increase in the use of the Dearne Valley Park, family enjoyment and being able to enjoy the outdoors in an easy way.



"My girls really enjoyed the trail, and it was great for us to get outdoors on a summer's day and get some fresh air. We also got to see a new place, as we had never been to Dearne Valley Park before and will be going back."

**Laura**

Mum of three

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people enjoy

### At a glance



**16,545**  
Post Reach



**907**  
Post Clicks



**395**  
likes, comments and shares

# Introducing our team

## Working with Area Councils and Ward Alliances

Area Councils and Ward Alliances are led by the 63 elected members in Barnsley and they are supported by the Stronger Communities Team. This is done through the six Area Councils and Ward Alliances in each area. The Council devolves a £2.1 million budget to the six Area Councils and 21 Ward Alliances. The Ward Alliances are made of three elected members, community representatives, and the Community Development Officer. The Ward Alliances have a budget that small groups and organisations can apply for to deliver projects and events in that local area.

## Who we are

The Stronger Communities Team was established to work alongside all 63 elected members throughout the borough to understand the communities they serve and provide relevant services to meet their needs.

## Where we work

We are based in the six areas across Barnsley:



A map showing Barnsley Areas

## Stepping Stones – Micro-volunteering

### Who

Central Community Development Officer (CDO), One Step Closer, Barnsley Museums, Friends of Locke Park, National Trust, Lavender Court, Incredible Edible, Together Housing, GPs.

### How

Working with various partners and providers, the Central Team has developed a project to encourage people to become volunteers following Covid-19 restrictions.

It was to help those with low levels of English, disabilities (learning or physical), Mental ill-health and low confidence.

The Activities included gardening, leafleting, litter-picking, library tidying at Lavender Court, Christmas decorations and Christmas cards to those who may feel isolated.

Coffee and Cake and bus fares were provided.

### Results

Six out of ten people completed, others dropped out due to mental/physical health or addiction, but two hope to rejoin the following program.

The New Volunteers had:

#### Challenges:

- Getting motivated in the morning
- Fear of dogs
- Crossing bridges and climbing stairs in a tower
- Talking to others

#### Benefits:

- Confidence in social interaction
- Doing new activities
- Visiting new places
- Awareness of physical abilities

Their onward journey:

Three residents progressed to the Coffee, Cake and Confidence course and worked with One Step Closer for help with gaining employment.

One resident was supported with applying for and gaining a new job as a Learning Support Worker.

Learning for the team:

- The sessions worked better with a smaller group of people – new programmes will involve a maximum of eight people.
- Ideally, three leaders should be attached to the project.
- Contacts for the volunteering opportunities were flexible and happy to be used in future events.

Planning for the future:

- The aim is for the project to be community-led and sustainable.

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people enjoy



*'It helped me to find out what I could and couldn't do.... I was very isolated and it kick-started me into action'*

**Teresa**



*"I would recommend the programme to other people"*

**Lee**



## Uplift Halloween

### Who

Central Team, Creative Recovery, Volunteers, Forest Academy, Ward Alliance members.

### How

The aim was to encourage 'socially distanced' community involvement around Halloween following a long Covid-19 restriction period. Some families who would usually go out to 'trick or treat' would not feel able to do so and some government restrictions were still in place.

The 'Uplift' idea had already successfully been used in the Kendray area. The Community Development Officer (CDO) helped to promote the event on social media.

Activity packs were given out (or delivered) by the Ward Alliance, volunteers, community groups, and local schools. Resources were sourced and ordered by the CDO.

The packs included:

- Halloween-coloured tissue paper.
- Black sugar paper.
- Decoration instruction leaflet.

### Results

This initiative brought the community together and created conversations and positive communication on Facebook. The Team built on the success of a previous project. Although it was a short and simple project, it had great rewards.

- Packs delivered to families self-isolating or unable to collect.
- Positive links with the CDO and new families, the Ward Alliance, Forest Academy, and Starbucks.
- Extensive 'reach' on social media for the Stairfoot Ward Alliance and an increase in 'followers'.

### Priorities

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their communities
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people enjoy



#### At a glance

**220**

packs handed out to over 120 families across the Stairfoot ward



**5**

New Ward Alliance Volunteers



## Community Pantry

From November 2020 ongoing

### Who

CDO for Central Team, FoodBank Partnership, Good Food Barnsley, Worsbrough Ward Alliance, Church Action on Poverty, Berneslai Homes, CentrePoint, FareShare Yorkshire, Age UK, Barnsley Council, Barnsley Families.

### How

The Pantry opened, during the pandemic, in November 2020 to help those within the ward suffering financial hardship.

Funding has been successfully granted from the Ward Alliance, National Emergency Trust, and a Local Support Grant.

In May 2021, 'FareShare' membership was granted, which allowed weekly deliveries of fresh, ambient, and at a later date, frozen goods.

The CDO:

- Mapped existing provisions and identified needs by collaborating with existing providers.
- Helped update the group's training, health and safety practices, and terms and conditions.
- Developed volunteer criteria for applications.
- Recruited volunteers.
- Identified training and development.
- Created promotional materials.
- Organised an open day.

The CVS:

- Reviewed Church policies and procedures.
- Advertised volunteering roles.



### Results

The Community Pantry has increased steadily in membership over the weeks it has been in place. It has helped families with financial pressures, especially those on low incomes, and it gives a long-term solution to food poverty.

- 838 Number of visits (over 68 weeks).
- Families retain dignity in food choices.
- Reduces food waste.
- Links in with local schools.
- Reduces loneliness and isolation.
- It helps link the Ward Alliance with the Pantry members in a meaningful way by creating opportunities to listen to and understand issues in the area.

The Future:

The Community Pantry is an ongoing provision.

Volunteers at the Community Church are growing in confidence and knowledge. Training for volunteers is to start in June 2022.

It's anticipated that the Community Pantry will continue to be a vital resource in Worsbrough, as many families who have been significantly impacted due to the pandemic, also face increases in energy prices this year.

### Our partners



### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their communities



"It is really friendly and a nice place to come and have a chat with other users and the volunteers. I am always made to feel welcome and listened to. Its great value for money and helps my money go further each week"

**Kaeti M**  
Pantry user



"We are really pleased to be able to reach out to the community in which we are based and offer support to those that need it the most. As well as offering access to affordable food there is also opportunity for users to volunteer and develop their skills and confidence. Its great to see the journey from pantry user to volunteer"

**Tracey, Linda and Colin**  
Trustees

At a glance - weekly numbers

 **20**  
Volunteers

 **12**  
Families and residents supported (average)

## Neighbourhood Engagement officer role

### Covid Compliance and safety.

#### Who

Neighbourhood Engagement Officer (NEO), businesses, Public Health

#### How

To provide a consistent approach to Covid-19 safety and operations. To make sure that community and voluntary groups continue to be supported and have access to crucial funding. Provide timely and accurate Covid information and advice to the community and businesses through positive relationships and interactions.

Checking on Covid-19 compliance, supporting with PPE and risk assessments.

#### Results

Relationships have strengthened with businesses, councillors, ward alliances and MPs across the Dearne, and relationships with the NEO have created a link to the wider council.

- 53 businesses were visited.
- New community groups were created.
- Increase in vaccination uptake.
- Seven groups were supported with PPE and risk assessments.
- Hickleton Bowling ran an event on Sunday, 27 June, with Covid-19 measures in place.
- Venues flagged up as needing Covid-19 support have been visited.
- 24 hairdressers/barbers were encouraged to display public health posters.

Ideas to be continued with include:

- Helping businesses to look at being trans-friendly in their communities.
- Discount book/card to support local businesses.
- Project 14, one of our community groups, took the lead on adopting eight benches in the Dearne and turning them into mental health talking benches.

#### Priorities

##### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

##### Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early support and help

##### Growing Barnsley

- Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities

##### Enabling Barnsley

- Our underlying priority to make sure that our council is a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing

## Mental Health and Wellbeing summer sessions for all

#### Who

Community Development Officer (CDO), Stefy Bulls Fitness and Circuit Training, Hickleton Bowling Green in Thurnscoe

#### How

To combat the pandemic's effects on the community's confidence, helping residents get involved in sporting activities.

The Dearne Area Team provided opportunities and looked for funding for three boxing sessions and Crown Green Bowling for families.

#### Results

Thurnscoe Bowling;

- Provided training to the families.
- Received funding for refreshments.
- Were helped to plan for those with disabilities.
- Continued engaging with the community after the six-week event.

The boxing club;

- Received promotion and engaged with new potential members.

The Dearne Team;

- Gained stronger relationships with the bowling green, helping them reopen and their members safely return.
- Sourced premises and funding for groups.
- Supported with Covid-19 regulations.



"My son has Autism and is not sociable in society, but these past three weeks have given him something to look forward to, meeting the members of this club; he felt comfortable talking to them and having a competitive streak I didn't know he had – they've been brilliant, and I can't thank them enough."

**Pam** Local resident

#### Priorities

##### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health

##### Learning Barnsley

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships

##### Growing Barnsley

- People have a welcoming safe and enjoyable town centre and physical towns as destinations for work, shopping leisure and culture

#### At a glance



**30**

Number of children attended the boxing session



**26**

Children tried boxing for the first time



**70**

People played Bowling

## Litter Campaign

### Who

The local community, litter picking groups, Ward Alliance members and Councillor, The Dearne Team.

Participants: Twiggs, Dearne Kids, Station House, Heathergarth Primary School, The Hill School, Astrea Dearne,

Contributors: Salvation Army Goldthorpe, Fishfellas, Gravity Trampoline Parks, Discover Dearne,

### How

Following the Area Council's Community Listening event and Elected Members' concerns, the Area Team felt more education was needed around littering and fly-tipping in the Dearne Wards.

Both issues had been exacerbated during Covid-19 due to reduced workers, which led to an increase in general litter.

The aim was to educate the community and reduce the amount of litter in the area by:

- involving children and young people by running 'design a poster' sessions to encourage using a rubbish bin.
- providing information on community boards and to groups to explain the rates of decomposition of rubbish

### Results

There were 41 entries in the competition from children, young people and adults.

All entries received a goody bag at the Autumn Fair.

#### Benefits:

- increased relationships with local schools, community and voluntary groups.
- Positive impact on mental health.
- Positive feedback from parents.
- Children and an adult participated in the competition.

#### The future:

That continued education around littering will help reduce environmental crime



### Priorities

#### Learning Barnsley

- Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their communities
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people enjoy

## Dearne Autumnal Fair

### Who

The residents and businesses, Ward Alliances, Councillors and the local MP.

Sheffield University 'Live Projects', Dearne Area Team, Dearne Family Centre, Dearne Kids, TADS Wellbeing, Goldthorpe Towns Fund Board, Discover Dearne, Salvation Army Goldthorpe, Snapton Community Hub, Dearne Community Arts Festival, Goldthorpe Pentecostal Church

### How

Shopping habits changed during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the aim was to help promote local businesses at an Autumnal Fair.

The 32 stalls at the Fair included approximately 21 local businesses, health and well-being information, activities, and children and young people's consultation.

The Area Team helped to organise, promote and inform all those involved. Completed essential risk assessment and action plan, and reviewed and monitored the event.

### Results

This was a well-attended event with around 800 people, local businesses, Councillors and MPs. It was profitable for all stallholders and they said it was a great success.

The Dearne Area Team had two stalls which they used to recruit for the Ward Alliance and consultation for business support and give out 200 5-a-day bags of fruit, veg and recipe cards.

#### The future:

- On the Dearne Area Team's social media page local businesses and what they bring to the local area are showcased each Friday.
- Planned Spring Fair.

### Priorities

#### Growing Barnsley

- Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities



350

Families took part in pumpkin carving



200

Residents contributed to the consultation by Sheffield University Live Projects



115

individuals consulted with about business support

## Barnsley Gymnastics Club- Road to Success

### Background

Barnsley Gymnastics has been around since 2006 and has done some great work in the area, including helping to train some now Olympic qualified athletes.

Over the pandemic, the Gymnastics Club were forced to close. As a result, their rent still accrued, and because of the vast size of their premises, they gathered a large backlog of rent. They came to the Area Team to help with this and to find ways to maximise the clubs use.

### How

The North Area arranged a meeting with the St. Helens Councillors to look at options to help use the space. They encouraged the group to apply for Ward Alliance Funding to help renovate a meeting space in the building for community use. Also, the Area Team liaised with the SY Funding Adviser to look into new funding opportunities to help cut the deficit.

### Results

The Gymnastics Club now have an enhanced business strategy to maximise opportunities. This, in turn, will mean increased funding and activities for the group and the resident of the borough



### At a glance



**£16,800**

COVID relief funding recieved

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough.

#### Learning Barnsley

- Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment

#### Growing Barnsley

- Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all.
- People have a welcoming, safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure and culture.

## Retirement Fellowship

### Who

The Retirement Fellowship

### How

- The Retirement Fellowship collaborated with the North Area Council to pull together an event to bring people together in their local community.
- They agreed where they would hold the event, the date and who would be involved in the planning and organised what things they would like to promote at the event.
- A planning group was established and a successful event was delivered.



### At a glance



**£250**

Raised for the Yorkshire Air Amulance

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

### Results

The Retirement Fellowship group raised £250 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance at the event.

Greater awareness of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance's work was raised.

Collaboration between agencies:

- Yorkshire Air Ambulance
- The Retirement Fellowship
- North Area Council
- Old Town Ward Alliance

## Darton Fun Day

### What

A local business (Les Cadeaux), Darton Church Vicar (Rev Tim Stevens) and a local community group (Mother Runners) reminisced about how they had missed having events/activities for the village.

### How

A Fun Day committee was developed consisting of - Les Cadeaux, a representative from the Mother Runners, Rev Stevens, a representative from Voice for Darton and Kexborough and the North Area Team. This committee developed, organised and delivered the fun day. The fun day aimed to have a traditional village gala feel - there were stalls from local businesses, traditional games such as welly wanging, a chilli off and a duck race.

### Results



**35**

Number of volunteers that contributed to the event



**£3,000**

Amount raised for Darton Church



### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe

#### Enabling Barnsley

- To ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing

## Winter Warmer Event

### Who

Darton East Ward Alliance Members set up a winter warmer event that aimed to tackle the excess winter deaths that occur in the ward.

### How

- They came together to agree a date, a venue and agree the partners they wished to have at the event to promote support for older people in the ward.
- The local partners were contacted to ask them to come along to the event to share what their organisation does and how older people can get involved.



### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

### Results



**200**

Number of people who attended the event



**60**

Number of good bags distributed

## Easter activity packs and Easter bonnet competition

### Who

Father Blair, Outwood Littlewood Grange, Monk Bretton Ward Alliance, Youth Association and Sue Fox who is the Burton Grange Community Centre Manager.

### How

Parents and schools were contacted to identify families in need and provide Easter activity packs. These contained: colouring, quiz and cooking sheets, a knitting pattern for an Easter chick, a toy, sweets and an Easter Card from the Ward Alliance. An Easter bonnet was also in the pack to encourage families to enter a competition. These were mainly aimed at young children, but alternative teenager packs were also given out.

### Results

Families collected the following from Burton Community Centre:

Easter Bonnet competition:  
Ten children shared their bonnet creations for the competition.

Collaboration with community groups, a local school, church and donations from Youth Association and Tesco. Close working links with the North East Area Team and the Monk Bretton Ward Alliance.

### Priorities

#### Learning Barnsley

- Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment



131

Packs handed out to children and young people



25

Extra colouring packs



## Storrs Mill Lane litter picking event

### Who

Janet Mason - an active volunteer, residents, volunteer litter-pickers, Councillors and the Ward Alliance, North East Area Team, Neighbourhood Services, BCB (Barnsley Community Build), Highways, Lambda Medical.

### How

Janet Mason who is an active volunteer and the residents around Storrs Mill Lane, were concerned about ongoing littering on a two-mile stretch of road between Cudworth and Darfield. The aim was to clear litter and fly-tipping.

Highways and Lambda Medical:

- Road closures were required and first aid support was booked over the period.

The North East Area Team:

- Liaised with Janet and other services
- Provided litter-picking equipment and safety-wear
- Set up and manned zones on the day



BCB and Neighbourhood Services:

- Cleared back overgrown areas to make them safe
- Collected purple bags of litter
- Removed fly-tipping

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their communities
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people enjoy



74

volunteers took part in the events



5 tonnes

of waste removed



350

purple sacks of litter filled



### Results

Along with Janet and the residents, other people came along to litter-pick at the event.

These included adults, children, Local Councillors, local MPs, litter pickers from all around the borough, North East Area Team and many services within the council.

Due to the size of the event, advice was given by Events and Logistics, Corporate Health, Safety and Emergency Resilience, and Civil Contingencies.

As there is an ongoing littering issue, the Area Council will be looking at more preventative steps when tackling litter.

## The Dell Project

### Who

The Dell Steering Group, Sheffield University 'Live Projects', CDO for North East Ward, North East Area Council, Jolly Good Communities, Grimethorpe Resident's Group, Parks Team, Rights of Way Team.

### How

The aim was to develop The Dell in Grimethorpe to a usable outdoor space which was sensitive to the environment.

The Area Team have worked with residents to form a new steering group. University students have engaged with the public to develop ideas for the use of the space and building.

Further consultation events have taken place to share concepts.



### Results

This is an ongoing project which is still in its planning stage.

#### The Future:

The Area Council and The Dell Steering Group aims to formalise plans for the space using the findings from the consultation and work with other services to:

- Develop spaces for the youth in Grimethorpe
- Increase access and security on the site
- Encourage wildlife areas to thrive
- Develop a team of volunteers who can manage the site.

### Priorities

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their communities
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people enjoy

#### Enabling Barnsley

- Our underlying priority to ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing

 **230**  
people engaged

 **65**  
young people

 **32**  
new volunteers

## Slipper swap event

### Who

Neighbourhood Engagement Officer for the North East Area Team, Oakwood Grange Care Home.

#### Providers and Services:

Grafters Warehouse, Wynsors World of Shoes, Age UK Barnsley, Neighbourhood Watch, Green Doctors, Public Health, South Yorkshire Police, Berneslai Homes, Stop Smoking Services.

### How

The aim was to enable older people to stay safe and avoid trips and falls by swapping their slippers for a new fitted, sturdy pair.

This was part of a pilot scheme to work with Nursing Homes in the community.



#### The Community Development Officer:

- Invited other service providers to attend
- Organised dates and venues
- Promoted the events
- Supported the day-to-day running
- Provided information and advice on the day about the North East Area Team and Ward Alliance.

### Results

Over the two events in Royston:

#### Those who attended:

- Were encouraged to chat face-to-face with services targeted at older people, health and wellbeing, and crime prevention.
- Received new slippers.
- Met with other residents combatting social isolation.

There were other events in North East Area Wards, and all were enjoyed by those who attended. The events gave the providers and services a chance to network. A local business from Royston was used to supply the slippers.

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

#### Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early support and help

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People are supported to have safe, warm sustainable homes

 **90**  
pairs of slippers given out

 **2 events**

 **1**  
local business

## Cawthorne baby and toddler group

### Who

Cawthorne Baby & Toddler Group and Penistone Ward Alliance

### How

To support groups to continue to function and meet in person.

Over the last year, due to Covid-19, sessions have taken place digitally to continue to bring young families together and build relationships.

The group applied to the Ward Alliance successfully a second time to help offset the financial risks of restarting the group in person with a much smaller capacity.



### Results

The Baby and Toddler groups have started meeting again in person with reduced numbers.

New families are encouraged to take part and join in

There is a growing community of new families within the group.

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

#### Learning Barnsley

- Children and young people achieve the best outcomes through improved educational achievement and attainment

#### Enabling Barnsley

- Our underlying priority to ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing

## Funding advice appointments

### Who

Community Development Officer, South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau (SYFAB) Funding Advisor and various volunteer groups and Barnsley CVS.

### How

Throughout the pandemic, sessions were carried out digitally or by telephone. Some groups had lost funding and were struggling to continue to provide a service.

The aim was to offer opportunities for groups to seek advice for potential funding in a face-to-face environment.

The sessions were with SYFAB's Barnsley Funding Advisor.

- Appointment only.
- Face-to-face chat.
- Groups to share ideas and seek funding opportunities.

The Area Team:

The CDO and NEO attended to:

- Communicate their role.
- Rekindle existing relationships.
- Establish where the community is following Covid-19 restrictions and how the team can help.

### Results

Eight groups booked appointments  
Three groups were new to SYFAB and have now registered

Advice given:

- Funding streams.
- Structure development.
- Community banking.
- Group constitutions.

Six small-scale funding sought  
Two large-scale funding sought  
Two referrals to Barnsley CVS

Ongoing support

- Ongoing advice.
- Helped to complete two funding applications.

CALLING ALL PENISTONE COMMUNITY GROUPS!

## FUNDING ADVICE APPOINTMENTS

Lorna from South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau is able to offer advice & guidance on a wide range of funding providers

**TUESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER  
3PM-7PM  
PENISTONE TOWN HALL**

MEET THE PENISTONE AREA TEAM, BARNSELY CVS AND FIND OUT WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL GROUPS

To book an appointment slot, please contact Tanya on 01226 775016 or email tanyadickinson@barnsley.gov.uk

Penistone Area Council  
Penistone East, Penistone West

BARNSELY SYFAB

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

#### Learning Barnsley

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships

#### Growing Barnsley

- Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their communities

#### Enabling Barnsley

- Our underlying priority to ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing

## Thurgoland sports field improvements

### Who

Volunteer group, Thurgoland Welfare, Twiggs.

### How

The project aimed to clear some ground and repurpose it for seating for spectators and families. This was alongside replanting to enhance the park and environment.

Thurgoland Welfare, volunteers and Twiggs collaborated on a plan for the site. They then secured Ward Alliance funding to fund the project.

The Team supported the group with the Ward Alliance application process.

### Results

Volunteers have cleared the space of shrubs and the accumulated litter enhancing the sports field.

A new family space has been created for the community to use and enjoy.

A planting scheme has been agreed and when completed will make the environment more attractive.



### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

#### Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early support and help

#### Growing Barnsley

- Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all
- People have a welcoming, safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure and culture

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy

## Cawthorne Cricket Club

### Who

Cawthorne Cricket Club, Penistone Ward Alliance.

### How

Although Healthy Holiday schemes were running in the area, many families were not eligible to attend them and requested other activities.

The aim was to use designated funds from the Ward Alliance, 'School's Out fund' to deliver a 3-day cricket club for young people in the Penistone area during February half term.

The sessions focused on:

- Wellbeing.
- Attitude to the game.
- Teamwork.
- Respect.
- Diet and hydration.
- Cricket skills.

The Area Team:

- The CDO and the Ward Alliance promoted the event.
- Provided support with the application process.



### Results

A total of 49 children aged between 7 and 13 attended the sessions from the villages of Cawthorne, Hoylandswaine, Silkstone and Penistone.

The sessions had a positive effect on local families and increased the children's confidence and skills.

Four children were new to the sport, and three of the four enquired about joining the club's junior section.

“ My son has thoroughly enjoyed the week and his confidence about the game has improved enormously. He's come home every day with a huge smile on his face and very much looking forward to the next days session. Also, his knowledge, understanding and technique has improved significantly. ”

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People live independently with good physical and mental health
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income across the borough

#### Learning Barnsley

- People have the opportunities for lifelong learning and developing new skills including access to apprenticeships

#### Growing Barnsley

- Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their communities

#### Enabling Barnsley

- Our underlying priority to ensure that our council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high performing

## Local hanging basket sponsorship schemes

### Who

Local businesses, community groups, residents, South Area Team, Ward Alliances, basket supplier, Maintenance contractor.

### How

The aim was to encourage people to shop locally and support local businesses by adding colourful hanging baskets with sponsored plaques. The Ward Alliances funded start-up costs in the first year, but the scheme now depends on receiving sponsorship from residents, groups and businesses. This money would fund the hanging basket and plaque, which was in place from June to October.

### Results

Hoyland Milton and Rockingham ward:

- 7 volunteers provided coordination, promoted events, organised application forms, planned sittings, and organised a raffle.
- The cost to the Ward Alliance was £2,800.
- Income created in Match funding and sponsorship fees was £13,192.

Wombwell ward:

- 16 hanging baskets were sponsored.
- 2 new business reps became WA members.
- The cost to the Wombwell Ward Alliance was £1,000.
- Income created in sponsorship fees was £960.

Darfield ward:

- 20 hanging baskets.
- 1 new volunteer and a possible new Ward Alliance member.
- Cost to the Darfield Ward Alliance: £2478
- Income created in sponsorship fees £1100

The scheme relied on partnership working with Council services, local groups, volunteers and the wider community. There is an expectation that the scheme will become more self-sustainable year on year.



### Priorities

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their communities
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people enjoy



*"Can I start by saying how lovely all the baskets are but I'm extremely pleased with the location of mine, it made me so happy when I saw it with its sign this morning. It'll definitely be an annual sponsor from me"*

**Darfield resident**



*"The hanging baskets are lovely, my mum loved going down the High St and was well known in Wombwell, it is lovely to see her name up on a plaque".*

**Wombwell residents**

## Putting the brakes on illegal off-road biking

**Commencement: 7th September 2021**

### Who

Elected Members, South Area Ward Alliance, -South Area Team. Partnered with Barnsley Council Community Safety Team, South Yorkshire Police, Parks, Berneslai Homes, - Targeted Youth Support, Barnsley Council Communication Team.

### How

The aim was to tackle illegal off-road biking in the South Area of Barnsley. Following reports from residents regarding illegal off-road biking, elected members and the Ward Alliance collaborated with the South Area Team and partners to address the issue.

A three-pronged approach was taken to monitor hotspots, improve intelligence, and increase the number of off-road bike seizures across the area.

The South Area Team coordinated meetings with a range of partners and funded the purchase of a wide lens long-range camera, The Police funded signage in hotspot areas, and all partners encouraged the public to report illegal activity and fed back with any seizures as a deterrent.

### Results

This is an ongoing pilot scheme.

- Police and the Community Safety Officer continue to monitor hotspots for illegal activity using the camera purchased.
- Good partnership working.
- Monitoring ongoing.



*"It's really important that residents can feel safe in their own communities. In cracking down on illegal off-road biking, we're taking action against the nuisance and danger these incidents cause."*

**Cllr Jenny Platts**

Cabinet Spokesperson for Adults and Communities

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people enjoy

## Establishment of the first red squirrel society in South Yorkshire



### Who

Local family, Darfield CDO, Parks Team, Environment Team, Twiggs.

### How

The aim was to set up the first red squirrel society in South Yorkshire.

This would need:

- A surveillance period of a least two years without sightings of grey squirrels.
- Land repurposing encourages red squirrels to use it as their habitat.
- Support the family who owns the land in registration and submitting a business case.

The South Area Team supported the family with relevant paperwork and brought together services to collaborate on the initiative.

### Results

This initiative is in its infancy and is an ongoing project that will be dependent on the approval of a business case.

It would go some way to Barnsley Council's commitment to plant 10,000 trees by 2023 and create another site where red squirrels as a native species can thrive.

### Priorities

#### Growing Barnsley

- Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities

#### Sustainable Barnsley

- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy

## Winter wellbeing events (slips, trips and falls)

Two events, Hoyland - December 2021 and Birdwell - March 2022

### Who

Community Development Officer (CDO) for the Hoyland Milton and Rockingham, South Area Team, councillors.

Providers; Age UK Barnsley, Umbrella Mental Health, BPL Your Space, Berneslai Homes, Private Sector Housing Officer, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.

### How

The project delivered two events in 2021 and 2022 to help people, over 50 years old, live independently at home for longer and make connections with services for health and well-being. Introducing them to other local residents, volunteers, Ward Alliance members and councillors.

The CDO helped with the Ward Alliance application, organised the events, ordered and put together items for wellbeing packs, liaised with partners and services, aided with the logistics on the days and attended to engage with those who attended.

### Results

Residents:

- Gained information and advice in both one-to-one conversations and in leaflet form from a variety of services.
- Received wellbeing packs (slippers and a hot-water bottle included)
- Gained an understanding of who and where to go for help.

Were able to refer themselves to internal departments such as:

- Smoking Cessation.
- Equipment and Adaptations.
- Digital Champions.
- Warmer Homes.
- Alcohol Team.
- Slips Trips and Falls.

The Providers who attended were also able to network and meet in person, allowing them to have conversations, and gain knowledge and understanding of how to help their community more effectively.

Future plans:

- To limit the timescale of the events
- To invite care homes and sheltered housing as a provider
- Yearly event planned

### Priorities

#### Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe
- People live independently with good physical and mental health

#### Learning Barnsley

- People have access to early support and help

### At a glance

100+

Attendees at Hoyland event

82

Attendees at Birdwell event



## Community Listening

“

We really enjoyed getting back out there listening and speaking to people about what matters to them. It was encouraging to find out that many value the things we focus on including community involvement, our local environment and that in general people have a lot of pride in Barnsley and their neighbours.”

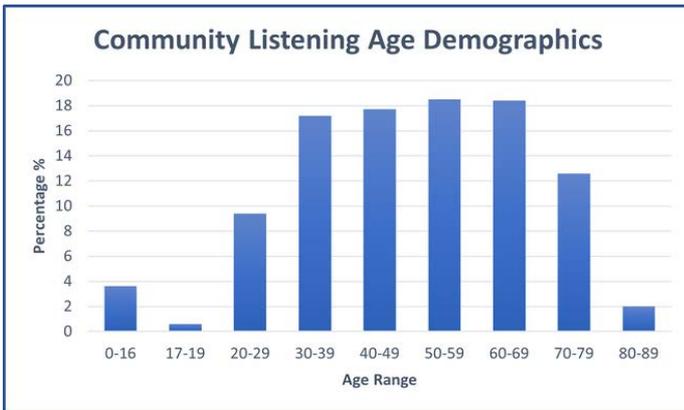
**Rachel Payling**  
Head of Stronger Communities

”



Over the summer, the six Area Team held Community Listening sessions. These sessions helped to get a conversation going about people's feelings and the challenges they face because of the pandemic. Sessions were held across the borough from June to October, with an online survey promoted through social media.

Over a thousand people took part resulting in 4,168 responses, with some going into great detail about their community and how they would like it to look in the future.



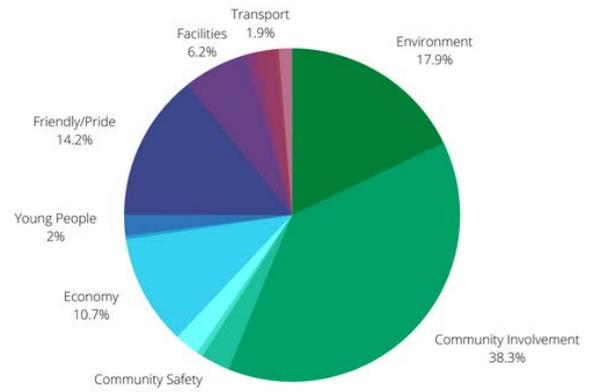
**Using the data**

The results will help focus Stronger Communities work supporting neighbourhoods, volunteers, groups and wider Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector groups. It will also help us when working with Barnsley Council colleagues and other partners around issues such as highways, health, development, employment and anti-social behaviour.

**The Answers**

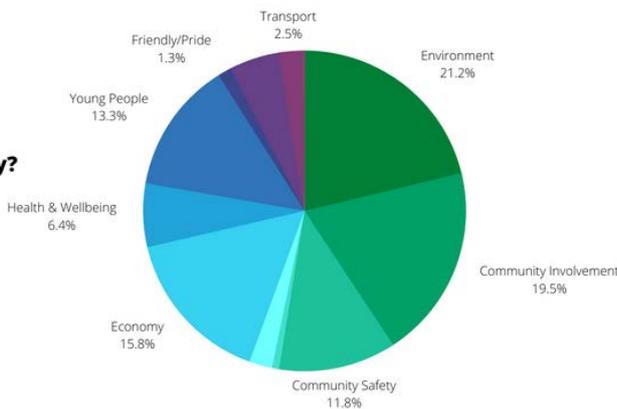
The answers revealed that the environment, the people, community and the sense of togetherness are the main things that individuals like about their area.

**Q1  
What do you love about your community?**



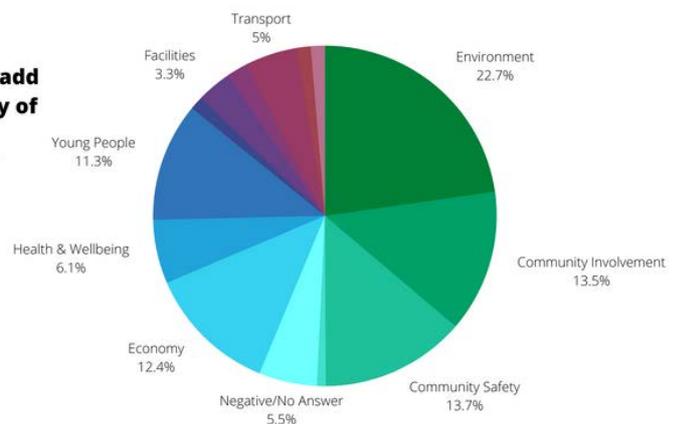
There was a broad range of things that people think are needed to improve the community.

**Q2  
What is needed now and in the future in your community?**



Responses suggested that residents most value their environment as well as their involvement in their community, investment in the economy including transport links and more things for young people to do.

**Q3  
What would add to the quality of life in your community?**





**Project  
plan  
for  
2022/23**

### Physical health and safety:

- Defibrillators in Barnsley – Improve the de-fib network across the area working with the locality to identify gaps in provision. Fund the purchase, installation, registration of devices, and delivery of first Aid and Defib training across communities.
- Safer roads – Working with local volunteer groups to improve road safety around local schools.
- Supporting young women by providing feminine hygiene and sanitary products to young people. Including information, advice and support through services in schools.
- Healthy Holidays provision for families and young people across the areas working in partnership with existing groups and organisations.
- Encouraging walking - develop walking maps and heritage trails to encourage walking in the borough in green corridors and heritage sites. Aiming to identify accessible routes for all.

### Mental Health:

- Coffee, Cake and Confidence: developing confidence and tackling social isolation for people who struggle to get out due to anxiety or other issues.
- Support of organisations/ groups working with those with health issues, e.g. mental health: supporting with sustainability, funding and creation of 'community hubs' within some of the services (funding dependent)
- Mental Health & Well-being resource packs – continue to work with partners to distribute resources on mental health services for all ages across Barnsley.
- Christmas activities aimed at supporting and improving people's mental and physical health working in partnership with existing community groups.

### Older People:

- Encouraging interaction in group environments by making high streets aware of the needs of those with dementia.
- Organising and funding get-togethers and providing specialist events for older people with information and support around staying safe and well.

### Family:

- Six-week holiday health and wellbeing sessions – Crown Green bowling, family fun run, walk and talk sessions, family games day, traditional board games with food and drink.
- Community Cinema – pictures in the park (to either drive-in or sit down)

### Healthy eating and provision:

- Foodbanks, Community Kitchens and Pantries: To help support and develop volunteer-led groups and provide help with infrastructure. Help them to become sustainable and link with those who have food needs by providing affordable access to good quality food, utilising surplus food and creating food-based activities to build knowledge of healthy eating.
- Training for community organisations in food hygiene.
- Foods of the world – develop multicultural events linking varieties of foods from other countries, for example, local dishes from other origins. Promote events in different languages.

### Information advice and guidance

- Funding Advice Workshops – Continue to offer localised funding advice appointments with SYFAB for volunteer groups.
- Community events for older people - providing health advice and lifestyle opportunities.
- Resolute – Women's Support Group. Helping to establish and develop a peer-led group supporting women who have experienced domestic violence and substance misuse.
- Utilising Networks: support, help and act as a liaison between groups and organisations to make connections and use our existing networks to promote the provision.
- Micro-volunteering projects for those with extra support needs, for example, mental ill-health or long-term health conditions to build confidence and skills.

### Community Support

- Talking benches and taking a seat – to audit and use existing and new benches to encourage talking.
- Wellbeing Cafes: initial stages.
- The Pen Pal Project aims to connect around 50 isolated and vulnerable people with primary school pupils.
- Helping to establish new sewing groups to reduce social isolation.

### Winter

- Health / Winter Fair – Information about staying safe, well and warm during the cold months.
- Cold weather volunteers – continue to support colleagues in Public Health to roll out this pilot scheme borough-wide.
- Fuel poverty event – Information about staying safe, well and warm.

• Everyone is able to enjoy a life in good physical and mental health.

• Fewer people live in poverty, and everyone has the resources they need to look after themselves and their families.

• People can access the right support, at the right time and place and are able to tackle problems early.

• Our diverse communities are welcoming, supportive and resilient.

## Children and young people:

Various grants, commissions and Ward Alliance Funding to deliver activities for children and young people.

- Sculpture and workshops series, devising a series of workshops and trails in conjunction with Barnsley Museums and other local partners.
- Delivery of school holiday activities available freely to local families.
- Celebrating academic and non-academic achievements of young people from primary schools.
- Involving children and young people in shaping their community through competitions linking to the environment and climate change.
- Helping young people to be part of peer events by setting up provisions to hire affordable prom attire.

## Wider social connections:

- Communications to the communities through "What's On" guides, online social media and noticeboards. To enhance and improve communication channels across our work to better promote what we do.
- Printed literature that will show all the activities and groups in the area encourage people to join them and provide helpful information, such as energy advice and COVID-19 guidance.
- Social Media campaigns to promote community activity and events. Link the community with the services we commission
- Provide information on learning opportunities within the local community, including events in the area.

## Helping the community help themselves:

- Training for community organisations and volunteers – train 16 leaders in Mental Health First Aid, General First Aid, Safeguarding, Food Hygiene, event planning and management, social media and communications, Defib training, and Youth Work Qualifications.

## Pathways to further education and work:

- Job Clubs in community settings for people to access to learn skills related to job applications.
- Sharing the pathways to opportunities for learning. Working closely with our adult skills and learning team to encourage participation by developing people's practical and transferable skills and developing individual confidence and key skills to manage their lives.
- Working with parent support workers within local primary schools and adult community learning and libraries to encourage parents and carers to take up key skills courses. To demonstrate the need and demand for key skill courses to be delivered in the local community.

## Enjoy cultural activities:

- Collaboration with various history and creative services and groups to encourage local people to engage with history, arts and crafts, such as; murals, sewing and knitting groups, craft activities. Residents can learn about and celebrate the rich industrial heritage in Barnsley.
- Supporting local sports providers, such as football clubs, cricket clubs, bowling, majorettes, boxing gyms and others.
- Celebrating the achievements and successes of both volunteers and teams during Covid-19.
- Supporting groups to take an interest in their local environment and develop an interest in reviving and rejuvenating industrial and landscaped areas.



• Children and young people aim high and achieve their full potential with improved educational achievement and attainment.

• Everyone has the opportunity to create wider social connections and enjoy cultural experiences.

• Lifelong learning is promoted and encouraged, with an increase in opportunities that will enable people get into, progress at and stay in work.

• Everyone fulfils their learning potential, with more people completing higher-level skills studies than ever before.

### Businesses are supported to grow:

- Feature Friday – continue to feature a different Dearne business on social media every Friday; that showcases what they bring to the local area and economy and showcases growing their business.
- Supporting Businesses- continue to support social enterprises and community groups of a certain size to be sustained and developed to support the community they serve. The teams look at ways/opportunities to build good communication channels with local businesses and how our work can help promote the local high streets.
- Community pop up markets – to support our local smaller businesses in raising awareness of their businesses whilst promoting the high streets to encourage footfall and more visitors across to the area.
- Encouraging the Barnsley pound – actively encouraging local businesses to participate in community events and buy local produce and services where possible, for example, local shoe shops providing all the slippers for the recent events. A local bakery and other businesses regularly support and encourage community events, providing free cakes for volunteers.



### Contributing to the economy:

- Supporting local business partners, through groups Business and Community Together, that help to improve our local areas and make our high streets more desirable places to visit.
- Christmas lights and hanging baskets sponsorship - sponsored by local businesses, encouraging the promotion of local businesses and footfall on the high streets.
- Easter/Spring and Summer Fairs – these collaborate with local businesses, and voluntary groups giving them an opportunity to fundraise whilst providing enriching activities for children and families.
- Supporting our high streets – working with the Business Groups to deliver events to encourage footfall on High Streets throughout the year, including the Jubilee Street parties.



- Children and young people aim high and achieve their full potential with improved educational achievement and attainment.

- Everyone has the opportunity to create wider social connections and enjoy cultural experiences.

- Lifelong learning is promoted and encouraged, with an increase in opportunities that will enable people get into, progress at and stay in work.

- Everyone fulfils their learning potential, with more people completing higher-level skills studies than ever before.

### Renewables, sustainability and wasting less:

- Community reduce, reuse, recycle events - to raise awareness of littering and general recycling of our household items by holding a community car boot for anyone to come along and sell their unwanted items. Then encourage follow-up action in communities.
- Sustainable Projects – Working with local groups to create sustainable projects including sensory parks and food forests.
- Food provision - further development of community herb gardens, cafes and food box schemes. Raise awareness of provision locally and encourage local residents to take ownership.

### Green spaces and looking after local environment:

- Green spaces projects - continue to support existing environmental volunteer groups to engage with partners, plan environmental action, maintain and take ownership for these areas and to utilise these assets for community events and activities.
- Youth engagement event – working with partners, deliver a young people's engagement event in parks and skateparks to encourage ownership as well as better and appropriate use of the facilities.
- Supporting existing environmental projects to grow and thrive, including community allotments, nature reserves, parks, wildlife areas, green spaces and facilities. These improvements will encourage more people to visit.



### Pride in our area:

Keeping it clean:

- Cemetery clean-up – continue to work with commissioned services, environment services, bereavement services and local volunteers to clean local cemeteries regularly.
- Litter picking volunteers - regular litter picking activities in the local communities. Litter picking packs are provided, and regular support is offered to volunteers by the CDOs to discuss other volunteering opportunities.
- Great British Spring Clean – a week of action from 28 March to 3 June. This event will encourage volunteers to participate in the #BigBagChallenge and complete a different task each day, with a supporting tick chart provided by the team. For example, on day one, 'talk to someone new on today's litter pick'.
- Sponsored hanging baskets - across Barnsley, we are working with providers to allow residents and businesses to sponsor their hanging baskets. This is done sustainably to be as low cost to the council as possible but also gives people a tremendous sense of pride and that they've committed to something that makes their area more pleasant.

### Jubilee activities and events:

- Bunting workshops and souvenir brochures - the teams will encourage residents and existing groups to come together and create vibrant themed bunting, which will be displayed in and around the main areas of the wards, and encourage people to share their stories of communities' past and present at celebration events.
- Jubilee small grants – encouraging and supporting grassroots community events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will encourage new volunteers post-Covid-19 to become actively involved again within their local communities.

• People live in sustainable communities with reduced carbon emissions and increased access to affordable and sustainable energy sources.

• People can get around in Barnsley easier than ever, with an increase in cycle routes and better connections across the borough.

• Barnsley has increased the amount of renewable energy that is generated within the borough.

• People are proud of and look after their local environment.



## Funding and Commissions

Distributed through:

- Ward Alliances
- Grants
- Barnsley Better Bonds

# Funding



The Ward Alliances have continued to support their communities throughout the pandemic, and the team has been supporting the voluntary and community sector to access external funding opportunities in Barnsley.

## Issues due to the pandemic:

Restrictions have meant that the voluntary and community sectors have been unable to function and fundraise as they did before; this has meant that organisations that usually depend on this funding source have had to adapt to survive. Many have struggled financially and required support in the form of grants to remain sustainable.

## Grant funding:

In total Barnsley Council distributed over £600,000 in grants to the voluntary and community sector in the second year of the pandemic. Alongside this Barnsley Better Bonds awarded over £30,000 of funding to the voluntary sector, and Barnsley Council funded £250,000 worth of Covid-19 resilience funds in the second year of the pandemic. The CCG also provided funding for grants to the Sector which were distributed by Barnsley Council:

- Business Planning and Sustainability funding £22,000
- Mental Health – Crisis Alternative funding £50,000
- Respiratory Support funding £30,000
- Mental Health – Health Inequalities funding £45,000 (supported by SWYFT).

The different funding opportunities that have been distributed by the Council through a grants panel are below:



**£250,000**

COVID Resilience Funding



**£22,000**

Sustainability & Business  
Planning Funding



**£50,000**

Mental Health Funding  
Crisis Alternative



**£30,000**

Respiratory and Children's  
Funding



**£45,000**

Health Inequalities and  
Mental Health Funding



**£30,000**

Barnsley Better Bonds  
Funding

# Funding

Priorities

## Ward Alliance funding:

The Ward Alliances have a budget that voluntary groups can apply for, and each of the Ward Alliances has supported many projects throughout this last year.

The Ward Alliance reviews applications at regular meetings, and if these meet the ward's priorities, the group can receive funding for their project or event. The groups then provide information and feedback to the Area Team, who can monitor the impact and success, which helps plan for like-minded future initiatives. The projects awarded funding are varied across each area of Barnsley and support initiatives that assist that local community.

A variety of examples of Ward Alliance funded projects can be seen in the case studies section of this report.

## Micro-commissioning:

Through the Area Councils' budgets, the Elected Members decide how to allocate the funding of commissioned services in each area.

This is done based on the evidence of need in that area, utilising a range of different sources. Each area is different in its approach and tailors the services to the needs of that community. Through this approach, we commission local providers who help residents, families, businesses and whole communities to bring about social change and improve the quality of life in that local area.

The Elected Members in that area, alongside the team, act as the link between communities and a range of other partners along with voluntary sector providers to bring about social change and growth in communities.





# Our Priorities

Photograph taken by Leyla Nayeri

# Our priorities and Barnsley 2030



## How we link with 2030 - Barnsley - the place of possibilities

Barnsley has developed the 2030 priorities, and these are owned across the partnership. This has allowed a consistent approach to the priorities for the Borough and has helped the Area Councils and Ward Alliances to align itself to these priorities.

### Healthy Barnsley

All the emotional health, well-being, and environmental work that the Area Councils and Ward Alliances support help to achieve this overall priority. It is not just the services we commission and fund but also how we approach communities to work with us which makes what we do a success. We understand how our communities operate and the barriers they face. It's our job to influence the key partners who work alongside us and often ask us to be involved in sharing that success with them.

### Learning Barnsley

All the work of the Area Councils and Ward Alliances is centred around early intervention and prevention and supporting the resilience and learning in our communities. The services we commission through the Area Councils and the support we give through the Ward Alliances are about reducing health inequalities and preventing people from needing statutory sector services.

### Growing Barnsley

In every area, we are connecting our communities to the opportunities that are on offer across Barnsley, whether that is supporting entrepreneurs or supporting our communities to engage with the Principal Towns agenda. We're making sure that people have their say and are supporting our local businesses to have an awareness of the opportunities that are on offer to them.

### Sustainable Barnsley

Across the Area Councils and Ward Alliances, the environment is a key part of our delivery, supporting communities to look after their local area with a bit of support from the council. All the work commissioned through the Area Councils contributes to this priority. Early intervention and prevention are key, making sure that communities are connected and influencing the partnership around the barriers that some communities face when trying to be connected and play a part. Some of these barriers are due to how we communicate (whether that is in a language that is too corporate or in a language that isn't understood by all), or it could be due to things our communities are experiencing like poor emotional health and wellbeing, financial hardship, transport issues or digital inclusion. All of which we, as a team, can influence and advocate on behalf of our communities.

### Enabling Barnsley

In all that we do through the area governance approach, it is about us enabling communities to be as successful as they can possibly be.

## 2030 Critical Success Factors

**Number of volunteers we have worked with as a team**

**CO1** Number of times people have taken up volunteering opportunities linked to the work of Area Councils and Ward Alliances.

**CO2** 'Love Where You Live' - cashable value of volunteer hours.



# Our priorities

## Area Council priorities

### How do our priorities fit into the Council Plan 2021 – 2024:

All the work of the Area Teams is centred around early intervention and prevention and supporting resilience in our communities.

The services we provide through the Area Council and the support we give through the Ward Alliances are about reducing health inequalities and preventing people from needing statutory sector services.



### Area Council commissions and grants based on our priorities:

All six Area Councils commission services to meet the needs of their communities – all of which respond a little bit different but all provide an offer to their communities in each of the areas. The Area Teams also support a number of grant programmes which allow for more than one provider to work with us to support the delivery of our priorities.

### Bouncing back in 2022-2023

The team continues to support the communities in Barnsley to bounce back following some difficult times.

There are still many uncertainties about the true extent the pandemic has impacted our communities, and there are some considerable challenges facing them in the coming months and possibly years.

Some of these challenges are the following:

- The increasing cost of living.
- Impact on emotional health and wellbeing.
- Impact on the economy as some communities are still anxious and concerned about returning to 'normal'.

