



Combined Worker Report 23 November 2021

Barbara Slasor Community Development Lead

Susan Graydon Partnership Support and Volunteer Broker



SG has taken a week's annual leave in this period. We have been hybrid working in line with the Covid 19 Government Guidelines and in line with current risk assessments.

Online platforms such as Zoom and Teams are still widely being used during COVID – 19 and many organisations including Local Trust has advocated the ongoing use as a preferred choice for several organisations to gain the widest reach across partnerships to remain flexible. The introduction of hybrid meetings has been introduced to allow for further reach and wider capacity building.

Gaunless Gateway Big Locals Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=gaunless%20gateway%20big%20local>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=gaunless%20gateway%20big%20local%20volunteering>

Community Development Lead

Good news stories

Wear Valley Community Action Group (WVCAG)



Gaunless Gateway Big local supported volunteers of WVCAG with worker support to organise, promote and deliver a Halloween party event at Henknowle Community centre on Tuesday 26 October. Event plans and risk assessments were carried out as part of the planning process. Approximately 200 Children young people and adults attended 90 minutes of fun and friendship, enjoying food, refreshments, fancy dress competition and event gift box given for each child. So much positive feedback was received after the event asking for more activities at Henknowle for local children, they have decided to run a festive party on * Saturday 4 December 1-2.30 pm for only £2 per ticket following the same format including a visit from Santa!. One parent commented “my child is autistic and even if he had only stayed for half an hour, it was well worth it given all that was on offer.” One Henknowle resident (adult) commented that they often felt uncomfortable at these events ,but she was made so welcome she was willing to volunteer to help out in the future.

+++They will also be holding a FREE to enter Festive Fayre Saturday 11 December at Henknowle 10am-1pm

For information

Survey Monkey - GGBL £300 annual subscription to Survey Monkey has been cancelled now that the legacy plan has been submitted. Google forms provide a free alternative for future partnership consultation and more details on how to utilise this will be made available.

Towns and Revitalisation fund task group -Community Development Lead is now part of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP facilitated Towns and Revitalisation fund task group and will feedback on local developments. This fits into her workplan with minimal time commitment as this links into the work being carried out in West Auckland alongside the Parish Council.

South Durham Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Local Action Group (LAG)

The South Durham CLLD programme is delivered in the Bishop Auckland, Coundon, Leeholme, Shildon, Spennymoor, St Helen Auckland and West Auckland areas. Funding is available from European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development fund (ERDF) .A position has become vacant on the board. It has been recommended that the Community Development Lead apply. <https://www.durham.gov.uk/southdurhamclld>

Zoom Platform

For discussion, recommendation and decision

During COVID 19 restrictions, **Zoom Pro** account has been paid for by Local Trust. The Community Development Lead has had access to login details which will be withdrawn by Local Trust imminently.

It is up to each Big Local to decide if they find value to setting up their own paid account (rather than the free version which is more restrictive). The partnership Volunteer Broker is a Zoom Champion and has to date, supported 90 adults to become better connected using Zoom.

Recommendation As hybrid working has become a great way of people attending meetings, discussion and debate having their voice heard, I would recommend investing into an annual paid subscription to Zoom to enable us to offer an alternative to physical meetings and the wider benefits to offering a choice. £11.99 per month or £119.90 billed annually there is currently 25% annual discount **Decision after discussion.**

Group and organisational support

- Monitoring and evaluation support to Healthy Heartbeat group
- Event planning and risk assessment support to Wear Valley Community Action Group
- Business planning contribution in advisory role contributed to Auckland Youth and Community Centre and Changing Relations CIC
- Research survey support to Henknowle Community Association
- Promotion of TAP resources from Park Head Hotel and Inspiral Cycle made available, via GGBL networks

Partnership support and Volunteer Broker

Good news stories

Daisy Arts have supported the partnership by contributing to Heston West Big Local, 'Our Barn and One World Strong '24-Hour Community Podcast Show. They have produced an inspiring narrated video entry to be played at the event. Daisy Arts team collaborated at no charge as a valued partnership organisation.

Our Partnership Support and Volunteer Broker has had a steep learning curve linking our Big Local with another in the South, closing that North South divide) Their chair is keen to approach Local trust in the new year to discuss an idea to support other an exchange program, with the potential to visit partnerships. This will further strengthen relations and build on shared experiences. Click the link to watch the video: <https://youtu.be/JkCzmF00QH8>



Local Fundraising

Congratulations to Cllr Katie Elliot, Bishop Auckland Town Mayor, who hosted and starred in a fantastic Charity "Stars in their Eyes & Disco" night in aid of the CDDFT Charity at Bishop Auckland General Hospital, attended with other supporters, directly affected by Dementia. Volunteer Broker attended in support of volunteering. And fundraising.

Local Trust (Fiona Cowley) has commissioned a new piece of research looking at volunteering outside of Big Local partnerships. It has been agreed that GGBL Volunteer Broker takes part in the current research. via Zoom to share her experience and knowledge to date.

Durham Community Action – Volunteer Forum – Volunteer Business Support identified and signposted to a charity directly from being a member of this valuable network, providing information and a source of date guidance and support.

Local Trust Connects 2021 partnership support given to partnership members (Ann, Maxine, Chris and Alison) to ensure the trip which involved numerous trains and a sleepover in Nottingham was a success, it enabled those attending to meet other Big Local partnership members and take part in inspiring workshops. Click the link watch some examples: [Big Local Connects: 2021](#)



West Auckland Village Green Group are building their online presence and promoting the Neighbourhood Watch & Facebook group while continuing with their commitment to strengthening community capacity building and engaging with other partners and individuals.

Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre volunteer driver sourced and further leads being followed up for this essential role supporting the collection of essential food items from Asda and Morrisons.

King James WI Partnership Support given with pre covid transition back to in person meeting support.

Smurtiff Kappa engaged with potential to support with the litter picking initiative in West Auckland and St Helens

Networking and information sharing we have had requests to share information across our networks either by social media, email or via passing on contact details this is something that shows we are seen as a positive connector, please continue to use our network.

Meetings attended minutes and minutes taken / support given

West Auckland Village Green Group

Project proposals for discussion and decision / recommendation – N/A

Combined Work and Collaboration

Good News Story update My Chance My Future Bishop Auckland College this project has supported 23 participants who have completed the course, 47% have gained employment and 32% have gone into further training or education and has now been extended until December 2022. During the programme, individuals gain essential skills whilst exploring their local heritage, planning their own visit, and updating their cv and cover letters.



Matt Leach - CEO of Local Trust (our funder) visited our area Friday 12 November alongside roving reporter Harriet, to meet decision makers, LTO staff and partnership delivery partners to find out more about GGBL five- year legacy plan. The event also provided networking opportunities for delivery partners to share their aspirations and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Paul Bragman Plan Assessor – an interview was conducted with both workers about their understanding of the partnership plan process, how their work supports and contributes to five-year plan delivery on behalf of the partnership.

WEA (Workers' Educational Association) we met with WEA, a long running charity that brings high-quality, professional education into the heart of communities. Discussions took place around the potential to link in with new plan delivery. For further information click on link <https://www.wea.org.uk/about-us>

Bishop Auckland Poppy Appeal



We manned the stall including distributing the merchandise this year and supported the hardworking coordinators Ann and Valerie. The Volunteer Brokerage scheme added new volunteers to the established team of dedicated volunteers with College students who supported the event..

Believe Housing BS & SG had a meeting with a member of the team around volunteer opportunities for a small team of Believe Housing corporate staff from across the north east who are keen to fulfil their social and civic responsibilities and give something back. We each gave an introduction of our roles and we offered some potential options that can now be cascaded to the Believe team for consideration.

AYCC combined support with GGBL workers to identify the best source for DBS for volunteers and the identified body to access the required resource.

Online Training / workshops this is not an exhaustive list and does not list all individual meetings relevant to our job roles, just a snapshot of topics covered and some positive outcomes from attendance

Delivery body	Training / Workshop	Status	Initials
Create North	Developing Volunteering Opportunities in the Creative Sector	Attended	SG & BS
Good Things Foundation	Supporting People Get Online	Attended	SG & BS
The Cabinet Office & the UK Health Security Agency	Keeping communities safe during winter webinar	Attended	SG & BS
Collaborative Future – Local Trust	Power and Belonging for Big Local Areas – Navigating Difference and Disagreement	Attended	SG & BS