



Combined Worker Report September and October 2021

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BS and **SG** both took annual leave in this reporting period.

Online platforms such as Zoom and Teams are still widely being used and many organisations including Local Trust has advocated the ongoing use as a preferred choice to gain the widest reach across partnerships to remain flexible, we intend to introduction hybrid meetings for further reach and wider capacity building in the near future.

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



West Auckland in Bloom achieves Gold!

West Auckland's in bloom group started little more than three years ago and previously performed well in the Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood category which forms part of the annual competition.

While hopeful after pulling out all the stops ahead of judging in July, volunteers were not expecting much for their first entry into the main large village category. The results of the competition were announced where

West Auckland was named as one of only three large villages in the North East to earn the top gold award. Audrey Beck, of the West Auckland group, said: "It absolutely blew us away – we never expected to come away with gold."

Another fantastic achievement has been through their own fundraising efforts where villagers attended an afternoon tea and organisations have supported by hosting an event at West Auckland Working Man's Club raising a further £911

Trades4Care



Trades4Care CIC have been awarded the title of Unsung Hero(es) by Dehenna Davison MP after receiving countless nominations from local residents and members of the public the students have helped. The project, dedicated to bridging the trade and maintenance gaps for health care, social care, the education sector, local community projects, charities and trusts, has become a well-known and respected group in the community. Recognised previously for their work to refurbish the Raff Yardhouse at Raby

Castle, re-decorate the lounge, dining room and corridors at West Lodge care home, as well as work at Butterwick hospice in BA, Stainton Village Hall, Henknowle community centre, and Auckland Youth and Community centre, the project has been working flat out since its creation to support the elderly, community and help students gain skills to help them into employment.

GGBL submit the costed 5 -year legacy plan -the partnership has submitted their final plan to Local Trust, their funder, taking them up until March 2026. The next stage will be for the plan to be assessed before being approved. They will continue to be supported via their Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO) South Durham Enterprise Agency and AYCC Ltd who provide employment services for their staff team.

All documents relating to the plan and draft copy can be accessed here

<https://sites.google.com/view/ggbl-plan-2021-26/home?authuser=0>

Henknowle Estate support

Henknowle Community Association – supported the charity with fundraising for core costs resulting in securing £5,000 from the newly formed partnership between Ikea and the Lottery Community Fund

Henknowle residents – supported two local residents to become members of the local bread and butter thing(TBBT) operating from St.Andrews Primary School <https://www.breadandbutterthing.org/members>

TBBT makes life more affordable for people on a low income, builds stronger communities and reduces food waste using an innovative and self-sustaining approach to the redistribution of surplus food and non-food items.

Henknowle working group - invited to attend monthly online TEAM meetings between DCC Environmental Team, Believe Housing, elected members and local MP to discuss ongoing estate concerns and receive updates. There has been progress around identifying ownership and responsibility of 'grey' areas relating to maintenance of land on the estate.

Voluntary and community sector committee meetings – continue to attend Woodhouse Close Community Centre and Tindale Crescent Residents Association as an advisor to their committees

Action and Business Planning – supporting Changing Relations CIC with specific development actions and AYCC LTD with organisational planning including the Big Purple Play bus

Towns and Village Revitalisation task group – invited to sit as part of the task group facilitated via Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP and will provide appropriate updates moving forward.

Group development- and capacity building- supporting Wear Valley Community Action group with event planning and risk assessments

Funded Project updates

Trades4Care – continue to grow as a community business and have taken on their first apprentice with another young person being supported by T4C associate tradesperson. T4C continue to regularly updates us all with their good news stories covered in local press and our monthly good news story above demonstrates their continued growth..

West Auckland Youth Initiative – 4 young people signed up to join after schools and 8 for the youth club session at West Auckland Working Men's Club .Regular weekly sessions for 8-10 yrs will take place Tuesdays 3.30-5pm and 11-17yrs from 6-8pm from November. Community Development Lead is supporting sessions alongside the AYCC delivery team.

Bishop FM has purchased sound and video equipment for community use across the Gaunless Gateway Big Local area. Training opportunities will be made available on use of the equipment which will record high quality audio and visuals utilising free editing software enabling groups to produce their own content and showcase their work.

Partnership support and Volunteer Broker - Good News Stories



Deacon Star attended Bishop Auckland Bowls Club where dedicated volunteer Eileen Atkinson awarded individual awards to members of Dream Catchers for their individual performances, there were smiles all round from the proud recipients. The Bowls Club have received ongoing partnership and volunteer support and we look forward to building their capacity next year and exploring support for the new season.



Dispel Art took up an opportunity to apply for a commissioned piece of work that would put them on a national map as part of Big Local Connects. Working in partnership, facilitated by artist Alison Curry from Dispel Arts (a delivery partner of Gaunless Gateway Big Local;) event participants were supported to find ways to honour experiences of loss, in a relaxed creative writing and collage workshop workshop as part of a series of creative sessions for The Long-Lost Year

Project, a collaboration between Local Trust, The Loss Project and RIOT SOUP.

North East and Cumbria Big Local Cluster on-line forum Partnership support to this well attended session from a wide range of big local attendees, Alison Curry – Dispel Art gave an overarching view of Gaunless Gateway's Creative Collective aspirations for the 2021 – 2026 plan and legacy of the partnership.

Connects 2021 exciting times ahead as we have 3 first time partnership members and 1 returning decision maker heading to Nottingham for this year's event. They will have time capture new ideas and share what we have achieved and still have to come in our future plan ,while networking with other Big Locals at this annual event.

The Solan Connor Fawcett Family Cancer Trust partnership support was given to enable them to break down barriers with their funding applications.

Policy and Advocacy Panel partnership support given to Local Trust's Policy Team with a report to the government,; this work has been built upon the groups' input from interviews done with the Sheila McKechnie Foundation and feedback.

Changing Relations stakeholder volunteer signup to strengthen the core group.

Healthy Heart Beat Group a workshop given on "Keeping safe online and Cyber Crime"

National Institute of Health Research additional signup for covid response research initially with the view to building a broader skill and knowledge base of the requirements available. This is a partner to our research and volunteer DR Vicki McGowan's work from Communities in Control.

Big Local, Our Barn and One World Strong 24-Hour Community Podcast Show collaboration has continued between SG and the team at Heston West Big Local, Jane Crawford from Daisy Arts is taking the lead to deliver a montage of artists to showcase the Gaunless Gateway Big Local's Creative Collective Arts vision for the next 5 years and how this will be demonstrated throughout the next fully costed plan.

Feeding Families partnership support and volunteer engagement update to discuss the options fo further support over the festive season.

The Poppy Appeal capacity building and volunteer support given to this annual appeal.

Meetings attended minutes produced and circulated

Plan 2021 –2026 email ratification decision information circulated and responses collated and recorded for record.

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

Combined Work and Collaboration

Wear Valley Community Action Group have kindly donated sound and recording equipment to GGBL to be made available on a loan scheme, this will be a huge asset to the community and have been received with many thanks.

Policy and Advocacy Panel we joined (via Zoom) Just **Ideas** who assisted **Local Trust** to carry out research to help and understand relationships between Big Local areas and different public agencies. We all know lots of areas work with agencies, but they wanted to learn more about the different ways they work together, the outcomes from these relationships, how effective the relationships were, and how communities and public agencies can work better together now and in the future. The research is due to end later this year, we will share the final report.

The Relationship Project -opportunities for individuals and organisations to come together in local venues, facilitated by Neil Denton using resources developed alongside Imogen Robinson

<https://relationshipsproject.org/>

'Connected communities do better' Covid has shown us the importance of connection and collaboration, it has also exposed the fragility of our social fabric. Discussions that are defined in terms of "us" and "them" have increased. Debates about identity and fairness have become more fractious. As "social distancing" requirements reduce, how do we find our way back to each other?

In collaboration; Neil Denton (Professor In Practice - Communities, Conflict Transformation and Integration - Durham Uni) and the Relationships Project, have produced [The Bridge Builder's Handbook](#), a step-by-step guide for people wanting to cross divides in their community, and build bridges of understanding and collaboration. The session will be an opportunity to discuss what we are seeing and hearing in our communities, how that relates to theories of disaster recovery and peacebuilding, and an introduction to the Handbook."

Community learning and training opportunities- met with both the Carnforth Partnership and Workers Education Association (WEA) to explore networking and delivery opportunities for their current funded work across Bishop Auckland and Durham.

Newcastle Building Society an initial meeting took place with both members of staff around the ways of working together.SG has had another meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Town Council Clark, Local and County Councillors New Town Clerk explained her role and remit of town councillors.. Workers are gaining traction as new relationships develop and existing relationships strengthen further.

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
Local Trust	Routes to Power in the Planning System follow up!	Attended	BS & SG
Streetgames	Regional Event	Attended	BS