

Coalfield Area Committee - Area Place board- Environmental Improvement and Education Summaries

1. Improving Our Community, Herrington Burn YMCA (HBYMCA)

(April 2014 to March 2015) £4,371

HBYMCA would work on site and within the community to establish 5 raised beds, working with community volunteers and young people. 2 at the front of the building and 3 on site, which would include a range of fruit and vegetables. 6 community workshops would be delivered for local residents and young people, to make their own hanging baskets/ planters and young people would deliver those. Fruit and vegetables grown on site would be used within the healthy eating project and be available for community groups free of charge through the HBYMCA community programme. HBYMCA would work with Durham Wildlife Trust, Groundwork, with youth and community service users, and community partners Gentoo and Age UK. HBYMCA will begin a hedgerow project which would work alongside this proposed project to improve the overall site for young people and community visitors. £2,383.53 will be allocated from HBYMCA to support project delivery.

Place Board recommends approval of the project

(with a condition that the raised beds at the front of the building are within the boundary of Herrington Burn YMCA and do not encroach on to the highway)

2. A Clean Sweep, Easington Lane Community Access Point (ELCAP)

(June 2014 to May 2015) £5,000

ELCAP will work with schools, community groups and residents throughout the Coalfield Area using a creative approach to raising awareness of the importance of taking care of the local environment. Working in partnership with local community artists they aim to work with groups to produce large willow sweeping brushes which the groups will pledge to use to promote environmental responsibility. To add a competitive edge they will award specially created ceramic dustpans to groups who 'win' regular competitive tasks. £1,500 would be allocated from ELCAP to support project delivery.

Place Board recommends approval of the project

3. Looking Good in the Coalfield, Sunderland North Community Business (SNCBC)

(April 2014 to March 2015) £4,988

SNCBC aim to offer a volunteering and work placement scheme to local residents carrying out physical improvements to the local environment. This could include such things as clearing overgrown land, maintenance of local play & sport facilities and removal of graffiti. Participants will gain skills and experience that can lead onto further training and employment opportunities. Target groups will be unemployed residents, parents & children and young people. Overall outcome will be an improvement in local and environmental assets within the Coalfield Area and raised awareness within the community of the impact of negative activity and behaviour. £600 would be allocated from SNCBC to support project delivery.

Place Board recommends approval of the project

4. Flatts Allotment, Sunderland North Community Business (SNCBC)

(April 2014 to March 2015) £2,285

SNCBC propose to develop a community allotment and garden on waste ground adjacent to the Flatts youth project. The aim will be to engage young people and residents in the development of the allotment where they can gain new skills and understanding of growing fresh fruit and vegetables. Young people will lead the project liaising with older residents to

tap into their skills and experiences of tending allotments. In addition they will also be able to participate in cooking classes in the main building utilising the home grown produce and a recipe book will be developed focusing in on cooking healthy food on a budget. £900 would be allocated from SNCBC to support project delivery.

Place Board recommends approval of the project

(with a condition that the waste ground in question is included as part of the lease for the Flatts building)

5. Naturally in your Neighbourhood, Hetton Greenwatch

(April 2014 to October 2014) £2,500

Hetton Greenwatch aim to raise awareness of the local natural environment within the Hetton community. They aim to work with local schools on projects that highlight the negative impact of litter on wildlife and the environment as well as providing outdoor classroom sessions that allow children to experience first-hand the beauty and complexities of the natural environment. The project will end with an event in the Hetton Centre promoting opportunities to get involved in environmental projects as well as general information about what is available locally to see and do out in the natural environment.

Place Board recommends approval of the project

(with a condition that a targeted approach is taken with regard to local field trips and also to ensure that any educational information is delivered by volunteers/staff with relevant qualifications)

6. Spring into Action Groundwork North East

(May 2014 to November 2014) £4,352

Groundwork aim to engage local residents in transforming a green space near Hetton Lyons Primary that is used as a drop off parking spot into an attractive community asset. This will be achieved by consulting with the school, parents & residents and encouraging them to take part in a family planting session. The aim is to create a physical barrier by planting bulbs and installing planters around the space. Groundwork will pro-actively engage with the people parking on this area and encourage them to be part of the solution. In partnership with Gentoo they will encourage local people to be involved in the maintenance of the space and work with the school to prevent future issues.

Place Board recommends approval of the project

(with a condition that an agreed maintenance programme is in place prior to commencement of the scheme)

7. Poo Watch Groundwork North East

(May 2014 to November 2014) £4,892

Groundwork is proposing an innovative and creative approach to tackling the issue of dog fouling in areas of the Coalfields. The aim is to work with 7 classes from local schools in Penshaw, Shiney Row, Newbottle, Fencehouses and Burnside as well as 2 local youth groups on an anti-dog fouling campaign. This will include creating information materials, spray painting dog poo in particular areas to highlight the problem and actively engaging with dog walkers to spread the message of how this affects the environment. The project will run over 6 month period and the sites will be revisited a number of times to continue the dialogue as well as gauging its success. £870 would be allocated from Groundwork to support project delivery.

Place Board recommends approval of the project

(with a condition that the project is not focused on any areas subject to a Dog Control Order)