

Coalfield Area Committee: **PLACE BOARD** Work Plan 2017/18

Area Priority	Actions	Progress/Updates
Supporting environmental improvements to local shopping centres	Engage traders in 'Love Where you Shop' type activity. Encourage local retailers to improve their own shop and shopping area by delivering small scale physical environmental projects	Various events and activities have taken place with traders and the local community to improve shopping areas. This work will be progressed further by the SIB funded My Place, Our Space project.
	Continue the development of a promotional mural in Market Street, Hetton	Work is now complete on the mural designed and installed by Frank Styles, Sunderland Street Artist.
	Continue parking improvement scheme at Barnwell, Penshaw	The Civil works are now complete. Traffic Regulation Orders to restrict parking times are under development by Highways. Signage and lines will be installed in the coming weeks.
	Continue to support development of a Town Centre Review in Houghton le Spring (with Network Management)	Colleagues in Highways continue to work with Councillors and traders to develop a proposal. Public consultation was completed with traders and residents during November/December 2017. Results of the consultation will inform the final proposal for implementation.
	Explore feasibility of installing a 'gateway' sign at Shiney Row	The sign was completed and installed in December 2017 in time for the Shiney Christmas event. Positive feedback has been received.
Supporting and developing traders groups and initiatives to increase footfall in local shopping centres.	Continue to support Traders groups in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row by identifying IT mentoring and training support for local retailers	The SIB Retail Support Programme, delivered by the BIC (Business and Innovation Centre), has provided support on a wide range of subjects to 72 businesses to date. The Coalfield Digital Network will also provide support to traders who require it.
	Contact traders in Barnwell via the SIB Retail Support project to explore potential development of a trader forum	This will be explored by the Retail Support Programme. Penshaw CA has developed a positive relationship with traders who are keen to be involved in future community events.
	Explore further market events in Houghton and Shiney Row	With the support of the SIB funded Retail Support Programme, traders in Shiney Row are now facilitating themed market days. The feasibility of holding seasonal markets in Houghton is being explored.
	Re-launch the 'Shop Local' campaign	The Shop Local campaign is being further explored by each Traders' Group in Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row. Lamp post banners were installed at Shiney Row in December 2017. This work is being supported by the SIB Retail Support project.
Deliver the environmental improvement and education project to encourage communities to get involved in, and take pride in, their local area.	Develop and monitor the SIB 'My Place, Our Space' project	My Place, Our Space is a two year project which will support a number of smaller groups and develop an Environmental Steering Group to encourage joint working and reduce duplication. The project will work with all 15 primary, and 2 secondary schools, traders and shoppers, residents, Friends

		groups, community organisations and key partners to deliver an education and environmental improvement programme. To date 10 primary and 1 secondary schools are signed up to the programme.
	Work with Coalfield Environmental Steering Group to identify issues, local concerns and solutions as part of the project development.	Three meetings of the Coalfield Environmental Steering Group have now taken place. Andrea Baxter, Groundwork North East will take over the organisation and running of the Group and begin to develop a programme of work for projects and volunteers
	Support 'Friends of' groups to encourage local residents to get more involved in their local environment	<p>The Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park were awarded funding to purchase equipment and a gazebo for community involvement/activity/events.</p> <p>The Friends of Herrington Country Park were awarded funding to purchase equipment for educational environmental activities, and also attend the VCS Network meetings.</p> <p>The My Place, Our Space project will work with Friends groups across the area to support the valuable work they are delivering.</p>
	Make better use of land and greenspace by encouraging local groups and schools to use green spaces within their own community	Easington Lane Primary School has developed a Forest School on site and is working towards a Gold Eco School Award. Children and adults are engaged in environmental projects.
	Identify a process or protocol with Place Management Services regarding community and volunteer involvement and ensure effective communication mechanisms are in place to ensure recognition for action	Colleagues from Place Management can be contacted by groups requiring advice or support with projects. The team can support with the loan of equipment, supply of black bags, picking up of rubbish, advice on risk assessment, H&S, safe working practices etc..

Celebrate and support long standing and historical events and celebrations taking place in local communities	Explore and deliver community projects with the VCS Network to engage local residents in cultural activity e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artwork and installation to celebrate the Stephenson trail • Community poetry project 	<p>The Stephenson Project delivered art and history workshops across the whole of the Coalfield area. Over 350 participants from 27 groups and schools made glass tiles and learned about the important contribution George Stephenson's Hetton Railway made to the local area. Tiles were incorporated into a large model of a coal tub which has been moved to its permanent location at Houghton Primary Care Centre.</p> <p>The People Board developed a Call for Projects to incorporate activities such as poetry to help improve mental wellbeing. Recommendations are made to the June 2018 Area Committee.</p>
	Continue to support Houghton Feast	SIB funding of £10,000 was allocated to support community engagement prior to the 2017 Feast and to support the community programme at the Friday evening opening ceremony. Councillors and Officers of the Council continue to attend and support the Houghton Feast Steering group and offer support to the newly formed Houghton Feast Trust. A proposal to support the 2018 Feast is presented to the June 2018 Area Committee.
	Develop local assets, explore heritage features and buildings	The Old Rectory in Houghton le Spring is now occupied by Acumen Community Buildings who will be working with experts to carry out investigative work to establish which parts of the original building may still be in place. Working with the Council's Heritage Team, Acumen is developing a funding bid to Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out a feasibility study for repair and restoration of the building.
	Improve promotion and marketing of existing and new events to encourage and support local groups to plan and take part in local events	The SIB funded Local Events and Celebrations project has supported 5 local banner parades with road closures. Remembrance Day events in four locations and Christmas events across the Coalfield area.
	Maximise Coalfield contribution to citywide events and initiatives e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local activities to contribute to Tall Ships 2018 • Promote and develop local contribution to City of Culture bid 	SIB funding was approved at the June 2017 Area Committee to support 8 sail trainees and to develop a number of community projects in relation to the Tall Ships 2018. An interschool art competition and a Jack Ahoy drama programme have been delivered to local schools between February and July 2018. A Call for Projects was made via the VCS Network to deliver community events and activities.