

SIB Project Update 2015/16

Below is a summary of key **Place** based SIB funded projects which have been delivered between April 2015 and March 2016 and contributed to Area Priorities. The information shows what they have achieved during these dates.

Neglected Land

Supported by Council Officers and partners across the VCS sector. A number of schemes within this project have been finalised:

- Preparation and fencing of grazing plots at former Forest Estate, Easington Lane
- Improvement and repair of fencing at the Doorstep Green scheme, Herrington
- Clearance of site adjacent Easington Lane School
- Metal fencing at High Street, Easington Lane to assist with ASB issues

A balance of £30,306 remains. The Place Board will prioritise projects/actions to allocate the remaining budget over the coming year.

Love Where You Live

Love Where You Live activities have been delivered by a number of schools and community groups over the last year, including:

- St Aidans Team Sport members, along with volunteers from the community, refurbished the Pavilion at Herrington to enable local people to use the facilities
- Shiney Row Childcare took part in a 'grow and eat' project using outdoor space to grow vegetables
- 55 school children from Hetton Primary and East Rainton Primary Schools took part in a poster competition to encourage people to keep their local area tidy
- Fencehouses YMCA led a community project to tidy up the local area, litter picking and carrying out environmental works in the locality

Retail Support

During this phase of the project, a programme of 1-2-1 business support, mentoring and grants has been delivered to 10 businesses in Houghton le Spring, 12 in Shiney Row, and 22 in Hetton.

The Houghton Traders Association continues to be involved in shaping and supporting redevelopments such as the traffic highway redesign in Newbottle Street and the re-siting of bus stops.

Shiney Row traders supported the delivery of an Easter market, with entertainment arranged in partnership with ShARP. The local church organised a tearoom with all children receiving an easter egg. The shops were busy due to the number of people attending the market, it was estimated the market had over 1,000 visitors, which was up on last year. Traders are keen to have more markets and are looking at options to operate the market as part of the Trade association.

Market Street, Hetton, traders are currently raising funds to get a local artist to do work on the gable end of the street.

An evaluation of the scheme is underway. This will provide an evidence base to allow the Place Board and Area Committee to make a decision about provision going forward.

Local Events, Celebrations and Heritage

A number of events and activities have taken place as a result of SIB funding. Over the past year projects have included:

- Support to Houghton Feast (see People Board update)
- Christmas events and celebrations at Fencehouses, Easington Lane and Shiney Row
- Miners banner parades for Herrington, Eppleton, Elemore and Lambton & Houghton
- Remembrance parades
- Summer activities and events
- Community mining heritage project involving over 250 people at 17 art workshops

Allotment Improvement Programme

During the last year, the allotment improvement programme has completed works at a number of sites including fencing on two sites, and clearance, waste disposal and cleansing of 16 plots at Urwin St and Burnside. The improvement programme is now complete and all payments have been finalised. Place Board has agreed to carry forward the balance of £5,918 to support allotment associations and self supporting groups.