

## COALFIELD PLACE BOARD Work Plan 2018/19

Area Priority	Actions	Progress
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 (and other areas where appropriate) via the Retail Support project	<p>The SIB funded Coalfield Retail Support project continues to support traders in all three areas. To date the project has supported 89 individual businesses across Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row. During the last quarter 1 new business has opened in Hetton and received support from the project.</p> <p>Traders in Houghton, Hetton and Shiney Row have taken part in environmental improvements such as planting up tubs and baskets, and have pledged to take on certain aspects of maintenance going forward.</p> <p>The November meeting of Area Committee allocated additional funding to the project to enable it to continue until March 2020. This next phase of the project will continue to support the three main shopping centres where necessary, but reach wider to other shopping areas to see where support can be offered.</p>
	Monitor Houghton le Spring town centre review (Highways)	Consultation carried out in 2017 resulted in a number of issues being raised. Plans have been revised where appropriate and objectors have been contacted directly. The proposals have now been finalised and public notices have been displayed in the area. Works for a new zebra crossing, built out bus stop and lining of roads have been ordered and should take place during April/May 2019.
Deliver environmental improvement and education projects to encourage communities to get involved in, and take pride in, their local area.	Support 'Friends of' groups and community groups to encourage local residents to get more involved in their local environment	<p>The SIB funded My Space, Our Place project is working with Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park, Friends of Herrington Country Park and Friends of Houghton Rectory Park to support social and environmental activities in the parks.</p> <p>Funding to support Friends of groups was approved at the November Area Committee. A simple application form is available for groups to apply for up to £500 per project. This opportunity has been circulated to Friends groups and via the VCS Network. To date one application (Friends of Herrington Country Park) has been approved.</p>
	Make better use of land and greenspace by encouraging local groups and schools to take care of, and use, green spaces within their own community (including My Space, Our Place project)	A Call for Projects was made by the Place Board in January 2019. Applications recommended for approval are presented to the March 2019 Area Committee.

	Encourage local residents to participate in maintaining the local natural environment and continue to deliver 'Love Where You Live' activity	<p>My Place, Our Space, funded by SIB is working with all 15 primary, and two secondary schools, traders, shoppers, residents, Friends Groups, community organisations and key partners to make physical improvements and deliver educational messages across the area. During the quarter to January 2019, 17 educational sessions were held in local schools. A total of 45 volunteers have been involved in environmental activity during the last quarter.</p> <p>The Place Board developed a number of initiatives at the January 2019 meeting which are presented at the January 2019 Area Committee.</p>
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	A Pit Wheel project has been developed by the Place Board and a budget of up to £7,000 agreed from the existing budget. A memorial designed from an old pit wheel will be sited at Lorne Street/Elemore Lane, Easington Lane.
	Continue to support Houghton Feast	The 2019 Houghton Feast will commence on Friday 4 October with a community led opening ceremony. The theme for this year is 'Flying the Flag'. Schools and community groups will be invited to take part in music and art workshops in the lead up to the Feast.