



Walk Derbyshire – Year 3

Walk Derbyshire aims to make every day walking the norm for all residents of Derbyshire



We will do this by working together with all parts of the public sector such as transport, health, housing, planning, and education together with the voluntary sector and the community to help make every day walking as accessible as possible for everyone.

- Using data and insight to work with the people and places that need it most
- Co-ordinating a system wide approach to every day walking

Inputs & Insights



Inputs

- Walk Derbyshire Lead
- Walk Derbyshire Workforce Lead – left end Sept 2024 and not replaced
- Marketing & Comms inc website support – ongoing support
- 8 x D&B pilots (4 x 100k and 4 x 20k pilots)
- D&B walk coordinator support delivering our accredited walk leader training and community led walk programmes
- Evaluation Partner -PhD student, LBU

We are working with Rebecca Sutton - our embedded PhD student from Leeds Beckett University - to understand the complex system change involved in promoting every day walking across the county.

Through an embedded research approach, she will contribute to both academic research and practical learning in the field of physical activity interventions and systems working, ultimately striving to influence policy shifts and foster real change by collaborating closely with the Pilot consortiums and communities.

More information on her findings can be found here: [Walk Derbyshire Pilots -](#)



Insights

Main community themes from Pilots:

- Safety (inc. ASB, road safety etc)
- Access/ Infrastructure (inc. Benches, signage, mapping)
- Opportunity (inc. Confidence, knowing what's out there, someone to walk with etc)

We have been able to bring resident voice into system wide spaces to increase and embed local and countywide understanding of barriers to every day walking.

There has been some real development in system understanding on how walking can impact so many agendas.

"until we started doing this a couple of years ago, I never really properly considered the role that walking could play in terms of tackling inequalities"

'Don't call it walking' Early on in our engagement across system partners and communities we heard that the term walking conjured up images of mile long hikes that are off putting for our less active residents. Instead we have tended to ask people how they get from 'a to b' and what gets in the way, what they like about where they live and when we do consider walking for leisure activities, the term 'trail' or walks based on a theme encourage a wider buy in.



Our 8 District & Borough Pilots



Active Neighbourhood Pilots

Walk Derbyshire allocated funding within each of the eight districts and boroughs in Derbyshire to develop a county wide systems approach to enable residents to walk more on an everyday basis.

100k each was allocated to Bolsover, Chesterfield, Erewash and North East Derbyshire as using local data, these were the areas with the highest levels of inactivity and greater need.

These are Active Neighbourhood Pilots and provided the opportunity for stakeholders to come together with communities to develop a shared ambition for walking locally and agree on the best ways to invest funding on a place-based level to increase levels of every day walking.

The four active neighbourhood pilots will aim to increase levels of walking through adopting a systems approach to walking. They will help to make it easier to walk for enjoyment or travel in local neighbourhoods/communities.



Community Engagement & Coproduction Pilots

20k each was allocated to support Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and South Derbyshire to carry out smaller scale Community Engagement and Co-production Pilots, to develop an understanding around the barriers and opportunities to support residents to walk more.

Both of these investment funds aim to test and learn what does and doesn't work when adopting a whole systems approach to walking and share this learning on a county wide level.

Our initial Pilot timescales were March 2023 – March 2025, however all places invested time and value in building relationships with each other and with communities and we were seeing that not all funding looked like it would be spent within the timescales. Therefore we agreed that any funding leftover as of end March 2025 could be used to support the sustainability of the Pilot work and towards every day walking in the identified communities.

Our Learning Network will continue to meet to support this work.



Active Neighbourhood Pilots



Bolsover

Shirebrook (school catchment area) - Creating a generational shift in accessing physical activity through walking as part of everyday life.

Lead partner – Bolsover CVS

Community Grants scheme based on engagement themes

Deaf-Initely Women accessibility and engagement

Youth Ambassadors

BLAST benches project

Trail maps created with local schools

Match funding for trail signage

Creation of 'Bolsover Compass' brand

Sustainability:

'Bolsover Compass' will be taken forward by Bolsover Active Schools Network as **Active Compass** - first AGM planned, moving from constituted group to formal structure by Summer 2025.

Continued partnership working with established consortium maintaining momentum.

Four Youth Ambassador Programmes to be delivered across Bolsover District.

Finalised walking trails (Junction Arts-led, signed by Deaf-inetly Women) available May 2025



Chesterfield

Holme Hall - Localised community approach to understand how every day walking can influence social and community connectivity and improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

Lead partner – Stage 1, Chesterfield FC Community Trust (CFCCT). Stage 2, Derbyshire Voluntary Action (DVA)

Coffee cart engagement

Holme Hall arts trail

Holme Hall Explorer - summer creative activities

Signage agreement to local community asset and park

Community connector

Links to local community hub and garden

Benches provided and awaiting installation based on community need

Volunteer 'Changemakers' from community identified

Sustainability:

Moving forward, a constituted group 'Holme Hall Active Community' will continue this work. Established assets and community groups will engage residents to be more active in a way that works for them, with a focus on activating community engagement findings and action plan implementation (grants schemes, events, community activities)



Active Neighbourhood Pilots

Erewash

Cotmanhay – Hearing the voice of Cotmanhay residents to enable them to walk more every day. Focus on adults with limiting conditions and links to unemployment and young people with links to employability.

Lead Partner – **Parkside High CIC**
Walk 2 School Week engagement and banner
Community Safety key theme
Community Safety role plays in schools
Locally held walk leader training and network walks
Community development officer and Coach Core apprentice
Accessibility report to Bennerley Viaduct
Piloting Nordic walking for those with long term conditions

Sustainability:

Now named '**Move More Cotmanhay**', community connector and coordination will continue until Sept 2025 to fully establish and support links with GP around expanding the nordic walking offer, strengthening the walk leader network, further delivery of the ASB/ disability role plays and piloting womens walks to address some of the safety concerns raised by the community.

North East Derbyshire

Clay Cross/ Danesmoor – Walking for travel within and between our key communities, with an objective of achieving better connected communities and improving the health and well-being of our residents

Lead partner – **Derbyshire Voluntary Action (DVA)**
Litter pick – engagement, leading to community run 'Handy Helpers'
Clay Cross Games
Match funding through Arts Council
Summer programme of local trails and activities
Winter trail involving local businesses and families
Looking to align to other local priorities and job roles to ensure this approach continues following Pilot end

Sustainability:

Group to continue being led by DVA and meeting through to March 2026, with quarterly action plans to maintain momentum and a comms plan developed for shared vision and community connectivity.
Clay Cross Healthy Futures Group to be re-established, Walking into Communities aligned to this work and supporting from new 'Clay Cross Active' leisure hub, with community and stakeholder events and fundraising support planned.



Community Engagement & Coproduction Pilots



Amber Valley

Somercotes - People living with long term health conditions

Lead Partner – **Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC)**

Creation of Amber Valley Ambles by local resident

Commissioned engagement through AVCVS and IbD

Resident requests include indoor walking, which will be complimented by local neighbourhood scans.

Linked with Arch PCN

Involving people with lived experience directly in decision making improved outcomes and levels of trust.

Sustainability:

Consortium to continue to meet twice yearly and Walk Derbyshire a standard agenda item at Move More Amber Valley meetings

Neighbourhood scans to take place, with community grants pot for post-scan community solutions

Engagement work with housebound/carers to be launched with support from the home visiting service



Derbyshire Dales

Bradwell - Improve our understanding of the Bradwell community, build our insight and connections, and understand how walking impacts the lives of residents.

Lead Partner – **Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC)**

Local transport and roads an issue - have fed into Hope Valley Active Travel Masterplan and bus service improvement team

Focus on hearing voice of more isolated residents - group inc local councillors

Transport themes fed into NHS Green Plan Refresh

Initial positive engagement with local school

Sustainability:

Consortium continues to meet to progress work
Establishing 'Bradwell Rural Social Group, led by Farming Life Centre, starting May 2025

Conversations with junior school around routes to school mapping project

Contingency fund held by DDDC for additional needs



Community Engagement & Coproduction Pilots



High Peak

Borough wide approach - older people and people living with a long term health condition

Lead Partner – **High Peak Borough Council (HPBC)**
Borough wide approach (**Gamesley, Fairfield, Ollersett, Hope Valley**)
Commissioned engagement piece with people with long term conditions and their linked health workers
Responses presented with key recommendations for each place and aim to set up local community forums to agree with communities next steps.

Sustainability:

Strategic planning meetings with HPBC, Public Health, and Active Derbyshire
Neighbourhood groups to have Walk Derbyshire as standard agenda item

Establishing Active Environment Community Engagement (Ashwood Park, Manor Park)
Move More Better Health communications campaign
Ringfenced funding for Gamesley and Ollersett neighbourhood groups (held by The Bureau and Youth Matters respectively)
Contingency fund held by HPBC



South Derbyshire

Cadley Park, Newhall and Church Gresley - Understanding how to create sustainability beyond the Beat the Street funded initiative, to foster walking being the norm in our key communities with a focus on children & Young People & Families and Intergenerational (with a focus on those with Long Term Conditions)

Lead Partner – **South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC)**
supported by South Derbyshire CVS
Countywide Beat The Street with specific data relating to some of Pilot aims
Developing community led 15 to green mental maps and signage, linking in with recruiting and empowering local community champions (collaborative approach)

Sustainability:

6-weekly consortium meetings for duration of remaining funding

Community Movement Champions program (led by Peak Running and SDDC)
Training 10 volunteers in Community Organising, Walk Leader, and Safeguarding
Ringfenced budget for community champion initiatives
Production and communication of green space mental maps



Headlines across our 8 Pilots

Community led activity

New community groups:

- Handy Helpers (North East Derbyshire) - litter picking group
- Amber Ambles (Amber Valley) - walking group by and for people with long-term conditions
- High Peak Neighbourhood groups development and formation to map infrastructure needs such as signage and benches
- Nordic walking group set up (Erewash) for people with long term conditions, directly signposted by local GP surgery
- Community Movement Champions identified and programme of support beginning (South Derbyshire)
- Bradwell Rural Social Group developed (Derbyshire Dales)

Community assets have been identified, leading to better understanding of existing community strengths and gaps

System level changes

Health system integration: All areas show stronger links with primary care, public health, and community health services

Strategy influence: Walk Derbyshire work has influenced local strategies across all areas

Role alignments: Several areas created permanent role changes or new strategic alignments

Cross-sector collaboration: Improved working between voluntary, community, statutory, and health sectors

Infrastructure developments

Footpath and access repairs in Derbyshire Dales.

Signage needs identified (Chesterfield) and worked with CBC and DCC to produce and instal them

Bench aquisition and placement agreed (Bolsover and Chesterfield)

Neighbourhood Scans taking place in Amber Valley to further identify infrastructure needs

Mapping developed with residents to help people to identify local assests and to get around easier (Bolsover and South Derbyshire)

Infrastructure barriers have been shared with the DCC Sustainable Travel Team and have been embedded into the Active Travel Masterplans, where behaviour change along with a focus on the **walking environment has been identified as an immediate priority.**

For a more detailed overview of our 8 District and Borough Pilots, each place has completed an end of Pilot report – the overview can be found here: *(link not yet active)*



Learning Spaces for Sharing our Learning

Learning Network

Our Walk Derbyshire Pilot Learning Network is a space where Pilot leads and other consortium members come together to discuss learning and challenges and aims to create opportunities for members to learn from each other outside of learning network. We record our online sessions so that learning can be cascaded more widely across Derbyshire.

Learning Network -

Active Environment Network

Learning from our work across the eight pilot areas has also been shared at our Active Environment Network.

The Active Environment Network is a space for anyone who works to provide safe, active and inclusive places and spaces to come together so we can share learning, develop opportunities and engage in supporting people to make movement a part of their lives.

Active Environment Network - Making Our Move

Talking Spaces

June 2024

Creating Walkable Communities- Talking Space -

we were joined by Pilot leads from Erewash and North East Derbyshire to talk about their Walk to School Week activities and their community litter picking events and Heather Clarkson gave an overview of our System Approach to walking.

Jan 2025

How benefits help or hinder movement- Talking Space -

The session had insight into the daily difficulties people with long term health conditions or disabilities face and how benefits can help or hinder their movement opportunities.

Jan 2025

Empowering people to create walkable communities- Talking Space -

We were joined by Active Oxfordshire who spoke about how active neighbourhood scans can support to create walkable communities, based on resident voice.



Stories from our Pilots



October 2024- Bolsover Youth Ambassador programme



The Bolsover Youth Ambassador Programme focuses on building the young people's confidence, developing their skills for the future, teamworking and helping them contribute more to their community.

The video was shared within the Bolsover pilot network, on our socials (186 views on YouTube in 7 months) and at the Derbyshire Making our Move Celebration Event.

The video was well received and was the perfect representation of the importance of this work and its impact on the young people.



Clay Cross Litter Pick- North East Derbyshire
Community litter pick attended by 44 people to help keep streets and green spaces clean.

Holme Hall Art Trail Day- Chesterfield
The art trail showcased the clay models created earlier in the year by the Holme Hall Primary School children.

Holme Hall Explorer Christmas Activities- Chesterfield
The six days of activities saw 40 people come together to create Christmas decorations and have fun

Badgers Christmas Party Trail Badger's Christmas Party Trail in Clay Cross -

Spoon Theory – developed in collaboration with volunteers from Amber Valley and Erewash

Amber Valley Pilot resident input- Amber Valley
A call was sent out in October 2024 for residents to join the pilot group so representation from the community would be present.

Resident Voice in High Peak- High Peak
Residents in High Peak are invited to join the pilot group in the area to add ideas and represent the community.



Connections & Activity



Connections

- ICB Improvement Collaborative (falls prevention)
- Natural England and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Air Quality Group
- NHS Derby & Derbyshire Green Strategy refresh
- DCC Sustainable Travel Team around support with Active Travel Masterplans
- Children's Healthy Weight Network (Derby & Derbyshire)
- Active Environment Network – taking the learning from engagement into conversations with system partners such as planners and housing etc.

Conversations around **Neighbourhood Scans** have created conversations and links with NHS and DCC that were previously missing, with offers to support a more joined up approach from community and system engagement to implementation and action.



Toolkits & Resources

Collaborated with Healthy Workplaces Derbyshire to develop a toolkit to increase movement and walking in the workplace
[Walk-Derbyshire-HWD-information-sheet-benefits-of-walking.pdf](#)

Worked with Jog Derbyshire / Peak Running to develop a myth busting document around insurance and risk assessments for led walks
[Resources -](#)

Collaborated with the Age UK Live Stronger For Longer Team to develop a 'pick up and go' training pack for walk leaders and volunteers around falls awareness
[PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Following on from community engagement around barriers such as dog fouling, overgrown footpaths and anti social behaviour, developed a signposting toolkit.
[Resources -](#)



Quantitative Success



Accredited walk leader training:

In 2024 alone, across our 8 districts and boroughs our accredited Walk Leader Training has reached:

- Over 140 volunteers trained by district and borough leads
- Over 90 individual walking groups supported
- Over 30,000 attendances at led walks

People trained include social prescribers, NHS staff, mental health practitioners, volunteer support groups and many more

"...it has given me the confidence to speak to a group of people to enable me to lead a group of walkers or to be a back leader"

Powerful feedback showing walking groups as vital social lifelines:

"what you don't realise is that this is the only social interaction I have all week -- this is my lifeline"

A great big thank you goes out to all of our walk co-ordinators, walk leaders and volunteers who are vital to the Walk Derbyshire network.

Our training is accredited by The Leadership Skills Foundation



Linking in with Jog Derbyshire

The Jog Derbyshire team and Walk Derbyshire co-ordinators have been working together to train existing Jog Derbyshire groups to offer a walking option. Groups include:

Jog Belper
South Normanton Jog Group
Rogue Runners Ripley
Alfreton Jog Group (The reindeer walk)
Borrowash Jolly Joggers
Mickleover Joggers
Derby Joggers
Swad Joggers



Collaboration with Derbyshire Timeswap

In January 2025 we collaborated with Derbyshire Timeswap to launch 'Active Swaps' - encouraging members to incorporate movement into their swaps, including earning time for walking to a drop in or swap.

Active swaps so far have included litter picking, walking with others (befriending or connecting) , gardening and supporting community gardens, dog walking etc.

So far 1,358 active hours have been logged!



Comms



Walk Derbyshire App

The Walk Derbyshire app launched in July 2024, a free community led tool helping people find and explore local outdoor spaces and short walks in their neighbourhood, with the ability to contribute as 'we know you know your area the best'.

Within a month of launching, we had 868 downloads and by May 2025 we had **1,384 downloads**.

The social media campaign was also successful, across all platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) as it **reached over 14,000 people** within a month of launching.



Walk Derbyshire Newsletter

- 4 editions this year
- 58 new subscribers (495 newsletter recipients)
- Average of 25% individual opens
- Average of 53% total clicks per newsletter



Social Media

Most social media platforms followers have increased apart from Twitter; this is due to us sharing less content and officially stopping posting in December 2024.

Facebook

- 777 followers (216 followers in a year)
- Content with the highest engagement:
- Walk Leaders/Walk Coordinators events
 - Walk Derbyshire App
 - Walking Festivals/events

Instagram

- Slowly growing in followers, reach and engagement
- 101 followers (around 50 last year)
- Content with the highest engagement
- Walking events
 - National/international campaigns



NEXT STEPS

Dedicated time for Walk Derbyshire marketing will be less next year due to funding stopping. But the newsletter, social media campaigns and yearly website update will continue.



Infrastructure Spotlight on... Benches



Benches have emerged as an important infrastructure element for supporting walking and community accessibility, particularly for people with specific needs, such as long-term conditions who need resting points during walks.

Community-Led Solutions:

BLAST led the installation of 10 community benches across Shirebrook, designed to increase physical activity and social connection.

Holme Hall have acquired 2 benches to install at their community garden and near a local thoroughfare at residents request

New Mills Neighbourhood group have investment ringfenced pending a decision as to how the community would like to use the funding on bench placement and signage.

Walking Festival feedback in South Derbyshire requested highlighting of benches on their locally produced maps.

Requests for infrastructure improvements (such as benches, bins, lighting) came directly from resident feedback in the North East Derbyshire pilot.



Strategic Integration:

Benches are being considered alongside other accessibility features like signage and mapping as part of comprehensive neighbourhood improvements.

Through our Pilot work, communities are being directly consulted on where benches should be placed, ensuring they meet actual user needs rather than assumptions about what might be helpful.

Equity and Inclusion:

Benches represent a relatively simple but crucial infrastructure element that can make walking more accessible for older people, those with mobility challenges, and people managing long-term health conditions - groups that were specifically prioritised in our pilot programmes.

The emphasis on benches reflects a broader recognition that walking infrastructure needs to accommodate different abilities and energy levels, making community spaces more inclusive for all residents.



Spotlight on... Benches



Benches don't have to be boring...



...and are a great place to sit and talk...



Safety Spotlight on...

ASB and Disability Roleplay

Following a successful trial role play with the SMILER ambassadors from Cotmanhay Junior School, all year 6 pupils had the chance to take part in role plays lead by staff and disabled volunteers from Move More Cotmanhay and supported by Derbyshire Police.

They had the chance to see what it's like to experience anti-social behaviour with a disability.

At the end of the session the children were asked to reflect on the most important thing they learnt. Below are some quotes of what they said, which shows what a positive impact taking part in the role play had.

“One of the most important lessons I learnt is anti-social behaviour can affect people”

“Move out the way when they ask you”

“That everyone is different in their own way”

“To not be rude and ask if they need help”

“To respect people whether they have a disability or not”

“Help out and be kind”

“Be nice to other people and be considerate”

“If you bully people because of a disability think of what you would feel like if you were the person being bullied”



Opportunity Spotlight on...



The Spoon Theory - Living with a Health Condition



The Living with a Long Term Health Condition or Disability Explained Through the Spoon Theory video is based on four perspectives of people with health conditions and their daily challenges being physically active.

The video was shared widely, including with Sport England, We Are Undeatable, Amber Valley CVS and has gained 613 views in 6 months since its launch in January.

The video has brought attention to the daily challenges people with disabilities or long-term health conditions face and how being physically active can be different every day, along with the importance for more inclusive offers and walking groups.



Amber Ambles

Through the Amber Valley Walk Derbyshire Pilot work, a local resident became involved in the group and set up a walking group, specifically for people with long term conditions.

Amber Ambles is a low level walking group in Riddings for people with disabilities, limited mobility and long term health conditions.

Quotes from some of the participants:

"Having a Walk Leader (like Michaela) who understands and can relate to the walkers is essential in creating a welcoming space"

"If you are feeling up to it come along, if you are not there is no obligation"

"I'd gone from not doing any exercise to a tiny bit of gentle walking and I got myself better and better"



Next steps



Key Themes

Active Travel

Active Environments

Active Healthcare

Active Workplaces

Continued focus on

- Growing our insight and understanding
- Supporting and developing people
- Collaboration within and across organisations and sectors
- Focus on learning and adapting
- Investment – targeted and aligned with the places that need it most
- Advocating and influencing for policy and practice



Key Activities & Events

Supporting the sustainability phase of the Walk Derbyshire Pilots

Supporting development of and sharing learning on Neighbourhood Scans

Collaborating on 'Future Minds Collective' – a focus on ensuring children and young people in Derbyshire have access to the mental health support that works for them

Sharing final learning from our embedded researcher (due end Feb 2026)

Developing links with every day walking work in Derby – with an Active Environment lens

Active Environment Network Conference – 'Move More from Your Door' to share the learning from our Pilots and wider – 15th October at Chesterfield Football Club – sign up here: [Move More From Your Door, in a Way That Works For You - Making Our Move](#)

Collaborating with Jog Derbyshire and others on #RunWalkTalk events in each of our districts and boroughs – the first of this series will be 2nd October at Shipley Park: [RunWalkTalk | Jog Derbyshire](#)

