

WALK

Derbyshire





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.





Principles & Conditions of Funding

Principles

Each place was asked to follow the below principles:

- Tackling local inequalities and greatest need
- Targeted community engagement is embedded in co-creation, delivery, and evaluation
- Collaborate, share, and learn across local priority places
- Whole systems thinking considers the widest range of influences and interactions
- Ensure inclusive practice and opportunities
- Evidence impact and share learning across Derbyshire
- Connecting communities and ensuring people can access appropriate local opportunities
- Embedding the Walk Derbyshire vision at a local level

Conditions of funding

The aim of the pilots is to conduct a **test and learn approach to walking** at a specified geographical scale within a District or Borough. There were a number of conditions of funding;

- The decision on the priorities, location and scope of the pilots shall be made based on the below criteria;

Areas with high levels of inactivity

- A key driver of the work should be community voice. All bids must have a clear phase of community engagement to understand what walking means to that community, and what would help them to walk more.
- Collaborative approach with multiple stakeholders from across the walking system and from different levels of the system
- A lead partner will be nominated and agreed by the stakeholder consortium which will
- coordinate the process and manage the spend.
- All learning will be regularly shared with all other Derbyshire Districts and Borough's through a learning network
- The Walk Derbyshire evaluation partner will be embedded into the work
- Build capacity of communities and community organisations to encourage people to walk more.
- Where possible, the work should join up and compliment wider strategies, visions, and funded initiatives that promote and influence the walking and active environment agendas.

Areas with high levels of deprivation



Developing an approach for local investment

All areas were asked to:

- **Host** two local Stakeholder Events with a cross section of system partners to:
- **Explore** the local insight*
- Identify a shared ambition for walking in the district
- **Identify** community engagement approach
- **Develop** a local consortium to further develop the application process
- **Identify** a lead organisation to “host” the investment on behalf of the consortium
- **Collaboratively develop** a community engagement proposal that embeds co-creation, to make every day walking the norm for our least active communities and that builds relationships with community groups and leaders.
- **Meet** proposed timeline

**Data and insight provided by Press Red to support conversations with stakeholders and partners on where the opportunities are to most influence levels of everyday walking within each district / borough.*

Timeline

Dec 22 - Feb 23 Walk Derbyshire hosted 8 online stakeholder engagement sessions to explore local insight for each place and set out the approach to the Pilot funding and ways of working

Jan 23 - March 23 Walk Derbyshire hosted 8 face to face stakeholder sessions to explore the values, systems and approaches in each place with a view to start to identify a local focus and create consortium groups to take the work forward. These sessions were facilitated by Nifty Fox, a local creative facilitator.

Consortiums formed and each place was asked to submit a proposal as to where they wanted to work, what they wanted to learn and how they would go about this, including a community engagement plan and detail of who would be the Pilot 'lead' by end of **April 2023.**

Following review, each place was allocated £20k.

- Community Engagement & Coproduction Pilots then began.
- Active Neighbourhood Pilots were asked to use the £20k to complete a phase of community engagement (*Stage 1*) and submit a further proposal (*Stage 2*) by the end of **August 2023** as to what they had heard and how they planned to focus ahead, including an overview of resource, community capacity building, funding allocation and who the 'lead organisation' would be.

Stage 2 funding was allocated to the Active Neighbourhood Pilot areas between

September - October 2023

Our initial Pilot timescales were **March 23 - March 25** 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.

Each place has committed to continue to update on activity and impact every six months throughout the sustainability phase.





How are we feeding in learning as it happens?

- **Learning Network:** The Walk Derbyshire Pilot Learning Network is a space where Pilot leads and other consortium members discuss learning and challenges, fostering opportunities for mutual learning. Online sessions are recorded to cascade learning more widely across Derbyshire.
- **Talking Spaces and Active Environment Network:** Learning is shared through Talking Spaces. In June 2024, pilot leads from Erewash and North East Derbyshire discussed their Walk to School Week activities and community litter picking events at the 'Creating Walkable Communities' Talking Space. Learning from the eight pilot areas has also been shared at the Active Environment Network, a space for those working to provide safe, active, and inclusive places for all.
- **Qualitative Connections:** Learning feeds into conversations and collaborations with various countywide and place based partnerships, including the ICB Improvement Collaborative (falls prevention) Air Quality Group, NHS Green Strategy refresh, DCC Sustainable Travel Team and the Children's Healthy Weight Network (Derby & Derbyshire).

Each place was provided the same supporting information, including online and face to face stakeholder events. Some elements were pre-recorded to ensure consistency of information provided across all 8 districts and boroughs.

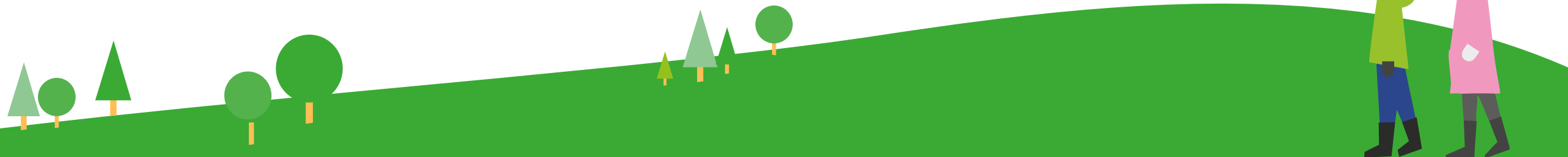
Despite the same scope and information being provided to each place, every single Pilot area worked differently, focusing on different methods of engagement, activity and outcomes.

This highlighted the real importance of place based working.

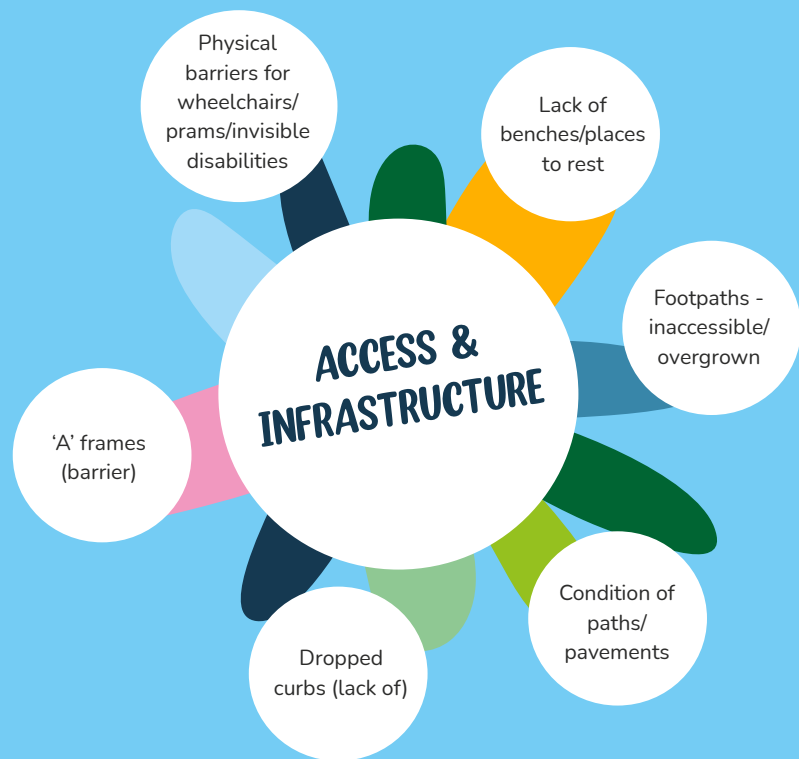
Places were intentionally not given a '*measure of success*' - ie – getting more people walking – as this inevitably leads to solution focused activity (such as putting on a led walk), rather than understanding the community wants and needs before any action takes place.

Instead, each place was asked to understand community need and what helps and hinders their every day movement around their own communities to help them focus on 'what next'. Levels of success can be measured by case studies around better system working to align agendas to include everyday walking and movement, more inclusive practice - and of course, more people walking

Throughout the first few months, different barriers and opportunities were fed back by each place, leading to the identification of three major themes across all 8 districts and boroughs:



Safety, infrastructure and opportunity.



Consortium activity in each place has since been broadly focused on one of more of these themes.

This report contains the activities, highlights, and challenges from our 8 districts and boroughs.

The full report for each place can be found here: [Walk Derbyshire Pilots -](#)



Active Neighbourhood Pilots

**Bolsover, Chesterfield,
Erewash, North East Derbyshire**

Focus Area:

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

Lead partner:

Bolsover CVS (Stage 1 & 2)

Core consortium:

- Bolsover CVS (Project Lead)
- Bolsover Active Schools Network
- Derbyshire County Council Public Health
- Active Derbyshire
- Bolsover Countryside Partnership
- Bolsover District Council
- Additional delivery partners included:
Deaf-Initely Women, Junction Arts, and
BLAST

*"What truly made this partnership
exceptional was the people behind it: a
dynamic and inspirational group of
individuals whose passion, creativity, and
deep-rooted commitment to their
communities were instrumental in the
project's success."*

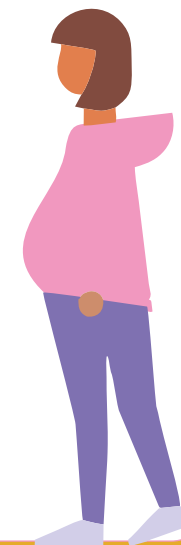
Key activities

Stage One

- Engaged 938 individuals total (231 children ages 7-11, 101 parents, 606 residents)
- All 9 local primary schools reached
- Summer events, market stalls, postcards to every household (5,000 homes)
- Social media campaigns
- Outreach through community organizations
- Innovative and interactive community engagement

Stage Two

- 1,575 total community engagements
- Community grants programme
- Youth Ambassador Programme (10 secondary students)
- Halloween Trail (85 participants) and Christmas Trail (105 participants)
- Walking maps co-designed with children
- Installation of benches for accessibility
- Coffee mornings and accessible walks (48 women reached)
- School assemblies (472 pupils)
- Creative trail mapping with Junction Arts (41 direct participants, ~230 at launch events)





Highlights

The project positioned itself from the start not as a 2-year walking pilot, but as a 10-year action plan to drive generational change in physical activity across Bolsover

Distributed Leadership - different partners took the lead at various times, enabling agility and shared responsibility, with no single organisation dominating- leadership rotated based on skill and capacity.

Ego-less collaboration - underpinned by mutual respect, openness, and absence of ego, created good grounding for genuine collaboration and innovation, with partners described as having a 'can do' attitude

Shared ownership and vision - Strong commitment to co-production from the outset, with all partners united by community-first values and collective ownership and a shared vision that this work was essential, not just "nice to have".

Solutions focused approach, with a resolutely positive attitude across the consortium, taking practical action-oriented steps rather than getting stuck in problems, which successfully navigated 'red tape' through trust, flexibility, and relationships.

Flexibility & Responsiveness - the Pilot evolved organically based on community engagement feedback, with no idea being off the table when engaging communities.

Seamless integration of new partners - New partners like Junction Arts joined mid-project and immediately understood the vision and could quickly identify how to contribute meaningfully. Integration happened naturally rather than feeling forced.



Budget and spending

- Stage 1 (Engagement): £20,000
- Stage 2 (Delivery & Community Grants): £80,000
- Additional £8,700 from Bolsover Countryside Partnership for Junction Arts trails work

Key Expenditure:

Project management: BCVS lead, schools engagement lead, reporting)

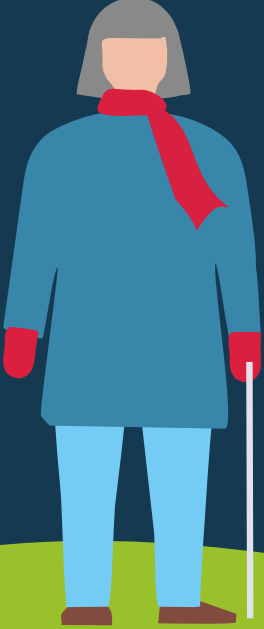
Community grants:

- Junction Arts trails
- Shirebrook Academy Ambassadors
- Deaf-Initely Women
- BLAST benches & ambassadors
- Community engagement: (postcards, seeds, promotional materials, prizes, social media)
- Initial community organisation spend: (BLAST, Shirebrook Rangers, Pleasley Pit, The Brook)
- Room hire for events

All funding was fully allocated by the end of the project phase.

Additional funding either aligned to or as a direct result of this Pilot is as follows:

- Secured £645,000+ in additional funding for related initiatives, including:
 - £290,000 from National Lottery (Green Generation)
 - £130,000 for trails feasibility study
 - £25,000 from Lloyds Bank Foundation



Next Steps

Immediate Legacy Actions:

- **Four Youth Ambassador Programmes** launching across Bolsover District over next 12 months in:
Clowne/Creswell
South Normanton
Tibshelf
Bolsover
- **Finalised walking trails** (Junction Arts-led, BSL signed by Deaf-Initely Women) - *available May 2025*
- **Active Compass formalisation** - first AGM supported with reserved budget, aims to become constituted by summer 2025 with 4 trustees.



Long-term Vision:

- 10-year generational change strategy (#betaforbolsover - targeting Generation Beta 2025-2039)
- Active Compass to serve as key vehicle for driving sustained physical activity increases
- Target: 2% increase in activity levels by 2030
- District-wide wellbeing programme expansion (15 schools, 273+ pupils)
- Continued integration with Place Board, Active Travel initiatives, Creswell Heritage Centre, and healthcare pathways



Bolsover Compass Youth Ambassador Programme

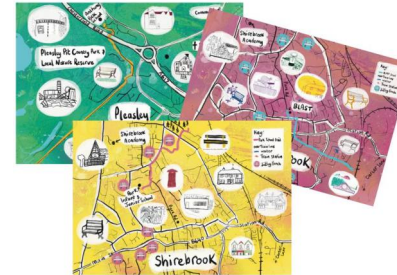
We joined the Bolsover Compass Youth Ambassadors in October for their first event, a Halloween trail. The programme is an opportunity for the young people in the area to build their confidence, meet new people, develop skills for the future and contribute more to their community. The Halloween trail was the first of many activities fully developed and run by the young people.

Bolsover Compass Shirebrook Trail Story



A look through the Youth Ambassador programme and the amazing work done by the young people and partners to increase activity in the area and get the young people more involved with their community.

Interactive maps created by Anthony Bek Primary School, Park Infant & Junior School and Junction Arts to showcase local walking trails to help the community get outdoors.



- **191 views in 8 months**
- **Across socials- 21 likes/5 shares**
- **Shared within the Bolsover Pilot network, socials and at the Derbyshire Making our Move Celebration Event**

Benches



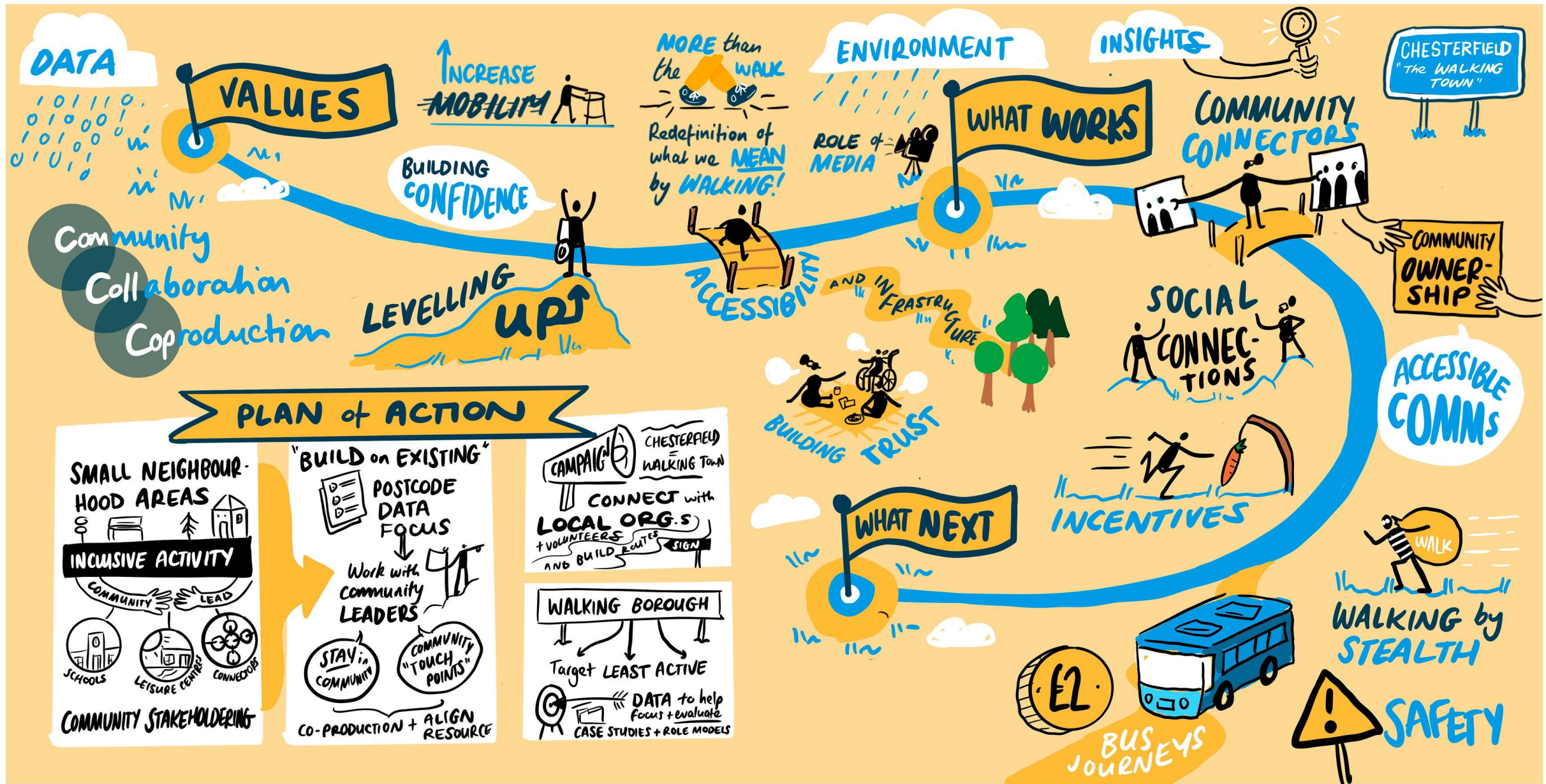
10 community benches were installed across Shirebrook, designed to increase physical activity, get people outdoors and connect.

Deaf-initely Women Coffee Mornings and Activities

- **28 women attended**
- **100% of attendees reported an interest in continuing physical activity**
- **100% reported improvements in mental health, connection, and overall wellbeing**

1 in 4 people in Shirebrook do less than 10 mins of walking per day

Bolsover is the 4th least physically active area in England



CHESTERFIELD - 13TH FEB

Focus Area:

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)

Core consortium:

Chesterfield Borough Council:

- **Healthy Lifestyle officer**
Housing officer, tenant participation
- **Local Councillor x 2**
- **Volunteer - Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park**
- **Volunteer - walk leader, Holme Hall Hub**
- **Active Derbyshire**

Other members did attend some sessions but on a less regular basis – DCC Public Health and Holme Hall Primary School Head

Key activities**Phase 1 activities (Spring/Summer 2023)**

- **Community consultation** across various settings to gather views on physical activity, walking destinations, and barriers, including Coffee cart initiative - innovative outreach to engage people in their natural environment
- **Resource mapping** - identified existing assets like Holme Hall Walking Group, Community Garden, Hub, and Holmebrook Valley Park
- **Infrastructure planning** - discussed improved signage and local mapping needs

Phase 2 Activities (Nov 2023 – March 2025)

Community Connector employment to engage previously missed groups

Creative Engagement Activities

- **Brand development** - created "Holme Hall Explorers" identity
- **Art Trails** - organised community-wide events involving school, Hub, Edge Centre, pub, and care home (Cross-venue collaboration - strengthened connections between Hub, Edge Centre, school, pub, and care home)
- **School Arts Trail (June 2024)** - well received by families
- **Summer activities** including a games night and pottery workshop **(July-Sept 2024)**
- **Christmas tree workshops** and community event **(Nov-Dec 2024)**
- **Spring craft workshops** and second Art Trail **(Feb-March 2025)**

The pilot evolved from direct walking initiatives to a broader creative engagement approach, though this shift created some tension within the consortium about effectiveness and alignment with the original walking-focused goals.

However, through creative engagement, people who might not usually be active or socially connected attended events which included walking by stealth (eg arts trails and creative activities) and different community assets, such as the school, pub and care home were connected both with each other and with the wider community, creating a network in Holme Hall that did not previously exist.



Infrastructure Improvements

Signage implementation - gained agreement from CBC and DCC for pedestrian route signs directing to community assets like The Hub, shops, and Holmebrook Valley Park

Equipment provision - tent, activity table and benches for ongoing community use

Other ongoing activities, linking to but not as a result of the Pilot

- **Walking for Health group** - fortnightly sessions from **Oct 2022** to Nov 2024 from Holme Hall Hub

Community Garden - regular social meetups with optional gentle gardening (**March-Oct 2024, restarted March 2025**)



Highlights

Local system working - Successfully developed a network of partners and established a unified Holme Hall community identity where previously separate groups worked in isolation

Infrastructure improvements – Signage agreement and two benches for instalment at key places at resident request.

Walking by stealth – creative engagement through Holme Hall Explorers - focused on different ways to experience going for a walk rather than putting the focus entirely on walking and each activity incorporated a walk as an integral part of the experience (eg the pottery workshop involved exploring Holme Hall Community Garden or Holmebrook Valley Park to collect natural materials to press into the clay)

4 mapped walks were created around Holme Hall area, with flyers and a Google map, plus 4 activity cards providing prompts that support walkers to become engaged in their surroundings differently.

Each activity facilitated 30-60 minutes of walking for each participant, with an estimation that over the summer we supported Holme Hall residents to walk an additional 270 miles!

The community clearly valued both the creative activities and the walking integration, with many expressing desire for more similar activities in the future.

Improved understanding – both from the community around local assets and opportunities and of the consortium around community wants and needs, understanding that there is currently a lack of coordinated information/publicity resource to reach all residents effectively.





Challenges

There have been some communication challenges throughout this pilot, with clear learning about the importance of communication, role clarity, and balancing different engagement approaches.

Engagement Approach - It is fair to say that there has been some tension within the consortium around different approaches to community engagement and disagreement about the effectiveness of the creative engagement approach versus more direct walking or physical activity focussed interventions, with a 50/50 split between consortium members on this issue.

Communication - On reflection by all consortium partners, this was due to communication on all parts – with some people feeling that control had been taken away from them and others struggling to understand where they fit. This impacted the perceived effectiveness of the pilot, although when time is spent looking at achievements outside of the consortium dynamics, these are significant and positive.

The group reflectively felt that more time could have been spent with consortium members getting to know and understand each others perspectives and roles within the work.

Role Clarity - The lead role is a prime example of this – where in both Stage 1 and Stage 2 the lead person felt that they either misunderstood the purpose or their role or that this wasn't understood by others and despite time being spent initially around a 'way of working' it is felt that not all consortium participants, including the lead, felt that their voice was equal or heard.

Moving into phase three (*the sustainability phase*), the group have agreed a set of working principles which includes the following: Open communication – ensuring all partners are informed and involved, flexibility -willingness to collaborate and adapt to reach decisions together and respectful and willing to learn from each other - recognising the strengths, skills and value each network member brings to the whole.

Budget and spending:

Of the allocated £100k, by the end of March 2025 there was still £50k of the budget remaining.

Funds so far have been spent on capacity (lead role, support, community connector role) and engagement activities and resources, along with the procurement of signage for instalment across Holme Hall.



Next Steps:

Taking the learning from phases one and two, along with information from residents, it is proposed to embed phase three within community groups and organisations.

Direct representation from these on a Steering Group will ensure the focus is on improving the health and well-being of residents through everyday walking and other activities, with ownership for development being held by the community through their representatives at first.

The longer term aim is for community groups to lead through a constituted group, ultimately aiming for a constituted community group capable of independent fundraising. This will be known as Holme Hall Active Community Network.

The remaining budget will be spent on capacity (fund holding and community connector role to be based within the community) and a 'community activation fund', created to support implementation of an action plan based on community engagement findings - through a community grant scheme, events and community forum.



Chesterfield Stories

Holme Hall Explorer Art Trail Day at Holme Hall Primary School

In May 2024 Holme Hall Explorer hosted their first event at Holme Hall Primary School. Four sessions of creative activities were done at the school and later led to the art trail to showcase the figurines and activities they made and explore their local area. The day was joined by both students and parents exploring together.



- **34 adults**
- **42 students**
- **1.75km trail**
- **82 miles walked together**

"It's nice to be able to do something as a community"

"I've visited places that I haven't been to before and will now visit again"



"Looking forward to more of this activity in the future. Good community spirit building new connections and friendships"

"2 volunteers have joined to help with the community garden and Holme Hall Unite"

Holme Hall Explorer Summer of Activities



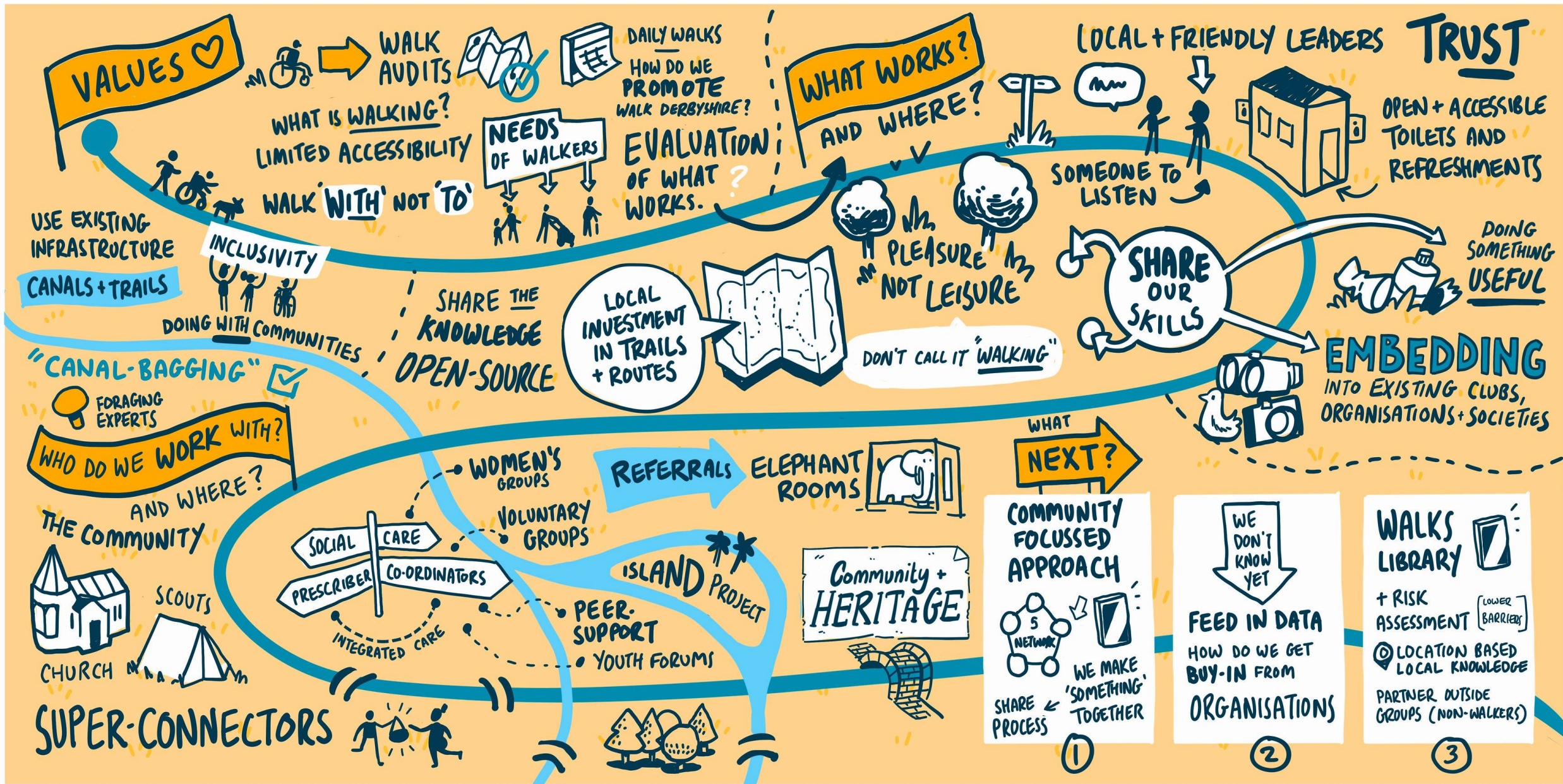
Seven activity sessions throughout **August and September 2024** took place in the area, from pottery making to photography sessions designed to help residents in the area look the nature close to them and get outdoors. Ending with an art exhibition to showcase all the art created during the summer of activities.

Holme Hall Explorer Christmas Activities



Six art and craft sessions took place in **November and December**, from crafting to retro gaming sessions. Ending with a decoration day at the community garden.

- **40+ attended decoration day**
- **450+ activity flyers distributed**
- **200+ decorations made**
- **200+ people engaged**



Focus Area:

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

Core consortium:

- Erewash Borough Council
- Volunteer (Susie)
- Active Derbyshire
- Friends of Bennerley Viaduct
- Derbyshire Adult Community Education Services (DACES)
- DCC Public health
- Erewash Voluntary Action
- And more recently, Sustrans and Primary Care Network Lead. Public Health were initially represented, however this tailed off.

Key activities

- **Community Survey and Pop Up Events** - Launched and conducted the "Cotmanhay Conversations" survey
- **Bennerley Viaduct Accessibility Report** - Developed accessibility recommendations that were implemented by the Bennerley Viaduct Board, including seating and paved spaces for wheelchairs/mobility aids
- **Coach Core Apprentice** - Recruited Josh as apprentice to work with Year 11 students on employability skills
- **SMILER Ambassadors Work** - Collaborated with Cotmanhay Junior School's SMILER ambassadors on litter picks and move more planning, including **Walk to School Week** - Event with Cotmanhay Junior School to Bennerley Viaduct
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Role Plays** - Worked with young people on safety themes through role-play activities
- **Community Safety Workshop** - Held workshop to identify safety 'hot spots' and develop action plans
- **Safe Places Scheme** - Established DACES as registered safe building
- **Women's Walks Planning** - Developed plans for women-only walks to address safety concerns
- **Walk Leader Training** - Provided training and established WhatsApp network for walk leaders
- **Multiply Walks** - Family-focused walks organized with DACES (including **Winter Wander Walk** - Joint initiative with DACES in December 2024)
- **Sofa 2 Stroll Initiative** - Trialed program for encouraging house-bound individuals to become more active
- **Erewash Walking Month** - Developed 6 walks for the March 2025 walking month
- **Nordic Walking Programme** - Established links with British Nordic Walking and local GP practice (Old Station), ran taster sessions for people with conditions like breast cancer, Parkinson's, fibromyalgia, and traumatic brain injury, leading to a new weekly walk
- **Newsletter Production** - Created and distributed community newsletters and local activities brochure jointly with Friends of Bennerley Viaduct
- **System Integration** - Fed insights into Ilkeston Active Travel Masterplan and other strategic initiatives



Highlights

System Working:

- Successful joint partnerships developed with DACES, Erewash Borough Council, Sustrans, Friends of Bennerley Viaduct, British Nordic Walking, and Cotmanhay Juniors
- Work fed into the Ilkeston Active Travel Masterplan and influenced the Safe Places scheme
- Staff at partner organisations embedded physical activity conversations into their regular work (EMH home visits, Parkside youth work)
- Strong networking through Netwalks that brought professionals into the community for the first time

Community Knowledge:

- Community safety emerged as a major theme for adults and young people
- Women expressed safety concerns about walking alone, leading to interest in women-only walks
- Identified specific "hot spots" through community safety workshops
- Recognition that face-to-face, individual engagement is essential - "very difficult to engage people unless it's face to face and individual"

Consortium Working:

- Understanding roles and relevance within the group
- People's capacity to attend meetings due to part-time work and other commitments
- Longer timeline needed for relationship building and implementation
- Recruitment of right person for connector role took significant time



Challenges

System Working:

- Staff turnover across partner organisations caused discontinuity and required relationship rebuilding
- Mixed messages about "test and learn" approach versus need for extensive evidence before delivery
- The lead would have appreciated a clearer framework for budgeting and ongoing outputs to help with managing delivery of the Pilot

Community Knowledge:

- Difficult to reach "hardest to reach" residents - no single gathering place
- Community cynicism due to history of short-term initiatives that "come and go"
- Building links to employability proved challenging
- Need for long-term, embedded support to tackle underlying issues (such as healthy eating and self care) before people are motivated to move more

Consortium Working:

- Understanding roles and relevance within the group
- People's capacity to attend meetings due to part-time work and other commitments
- Longer timeline needed for relationship building and implementation
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Budget and spend

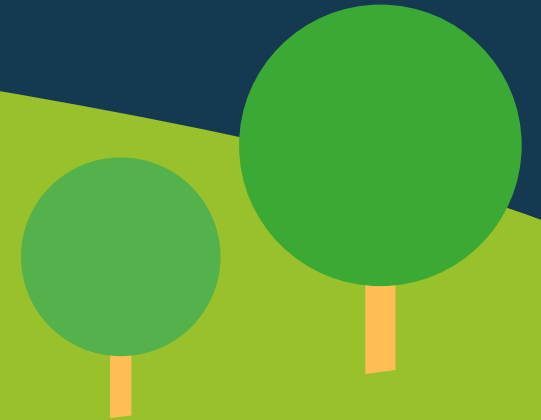
Of the allocated £100k, by the end of March 2025 there was still £7k of the budget remaining.

Funds so far have been spent on capacity (lead role, support, community connector, apprentice) and engagement activities such as newsletter production and distribution, community events and workshops, as well as walk leader training and nordic walking sessions and equipment.

Whilst no match funding was gained for this Pilot, there was significant partner and volunteer time and resource that was put into the work by all partners.

Next steps

The remaining funding is allocated to resource the community connector role until September 2025 and to support activities such as Sofa to Stroll Pilot walks, further walk leader and Nordic walking instructor training, anti social behaviour role plays along with publicity materials.



Walk to School Week May 2024



Cotmanhay Conversations and Coach Core apprentice Josh worked with Cotmanhay Junior School year 6 group to create a banner. They walked 25 steps each to represent 2000 steps of our daily steps quota.

A walk at Bennerley Viaduct with 99 children, staff and volunteers also took place to display the artwork and raise awareness to the importance of walking and being physically active.



Anti Social Behaviour Role Play

Three Anti Social Behaviour Role Play sessions took place at Cotmanhay Junior School. Aimed at showing young people the challenges of living with a disability or health condition when walking or wheeling in the area, the impact of anti social behaviour and how to empathise and support others.

The young people at first got really into the roleplay especially into the anti social behaviour acting as they don't usually behave like that, but they also had a lot of great insight and understanding to share.

Newsletters

2 newsletters (Autumn 2024 and Winter 2025) were hand delivered to residents in the area to update them about what's happening in the area and how people can get involved.



Coach Core Apprentice Josh

Coach Core Apprentice Josh has been working with Parkside High and the Cotmanhay Conversations group to support young people in the area to engage more and be more active.



- **Nordic walking group started in July, a women's walk and a group walk at Shipley lock also ran in August and September.**
- **Expand the success of Sofa2Stroll/Walks 4 Wellbeing across Erewash aimed at people living with health conditions. Working with partners like Sustrans, Erewash BC & Nikki and Michelle**



Focus Area:

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)

Core consortium:

- North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDCC) (Health and Wellbeing Development Officer and Walking into Communities Officer)
- First Art
- Public Health
- Active Derbyshire

The consortium was also joined at different points on an ad hoc basis by Live Life Better Derbyshire, NEDCC Tourism Officer, NEDCC Planner, ICB lead, social prescriber and a parish councillor.

Key activities**Stage 1 (Jan 23- Aug 23)**

- **Extensive resident surveys:** 182 young people and 374 adult responses (556 total)
- **Over 20 engagement meetings and 7 public consultation events**
- **Targeted outreach:** Consortium members hand-delivered QR surveys to 1,182 addresses in Danesmoor
- **School engagement:** Survey adapted for 240 Key Stage 2 pupils at Sharley Park Primary
- **Social media campaigns** and Facebook advertising

Stage 2 (Sept 2023 – March 2025)

Consortium development: Building partnership structure with terms of reference

Community Connector role: Recruitment and establishment (Andy from Parish Council)

Creative engagement planning: Working with First Art on community engagement strategies

Stakeholder engagement plan development

GDPR compliance framework creation

Branding: Name agreed as the 'Out and About Partnership' and logo designed by local school

Clay Cross Games: Community co-designed games and activities

Summer Clubs: Regular programming for children, young people and families

Christmas Walking Trail: Seasonal themed walking activity

Creative workshops: Art and music-based walking activities

Litter picks: Community-led environmental activities (Handy Helpers group)

Themed walks: Nature activities and music/art walks

The activities evolved from initial consultation to hands-on community events, with walking embedded 'as an invisible thread' into enjoyable social and cultural events rather than positioned as a health initiative.



Highlights

System Working

- Successfully influenced multiple systems including the Place Alliance, and Healthy NED with naturally aligning priorities
- Shifted First Art's approach from "art first" to "wellbeing of people first" - putting community needs at the centre
- Created a "local action task force" model that will be used for the next 3 years
- Fed ANP learning into prevention approaches focusing on person and community

Community Knowledge

We heard:

- 556 survey respondents (182 young people, 374 adults) revealed four main themes: safety/ASB, footpath conditions, signposting, and points of interest
- 83.7% of residents walk at least once weekly, with barriers being poor pavements (48.7%), time constraints (46.3%), and vehicle danger (43.9%)
- Free events and activities are highly valued by families
- Strong community pride in Clay Cross with keenness to be involved

Consortium Working

- Described as "the best consortium I have ever worked in"
- Developed distributed leadership across 3 subgroups
- Built trusted relationships with ability to both support and challenge each other
- Partners aligned personal agendas to collective work rather than individual gain
- No rigid end goals allowed focus on building sustainable foundations



Challenges

System Working

- Met resistance when trying to influence Towns Fund development – felt the system wasn't ready initially, although appetite has now increased
- Time constraints and capacity issues across consortium partners

Consortium Working

- Capacity and scheduling conflicts with busy consortium partners
- Initial misunderstanding about lead role being part of consortium, not separate entity
- Difficult group decision-making around funding allocation
- Feel perhaps some difficulties for some partners less involved in justifying continued involvement to managers when there were no specific targets



Budget and spend

Of the original £100k, there was still £25k left of the funding at the end of March 2025.

Spend so far has been on capacity, events and resources.

Additional funding either aligned to or as a direct result of this Pilot is as follows:

Arts Council match funding: £16k through First Art

Creative People and Places bid: First Art applying for £1M across North East Derbyshire, Bolsover, Ashfield, and Mansfield with Clay Cross/Danesmoor focus

UKSPF funding: For Clay Cross events informed by ANP work

Sport England Movement Fund: Bid to support Clay Cross Games and summer programming

Role alignment and commitment: NED's Walking Into Communities officer (½ day weekly minimum from April 2025)

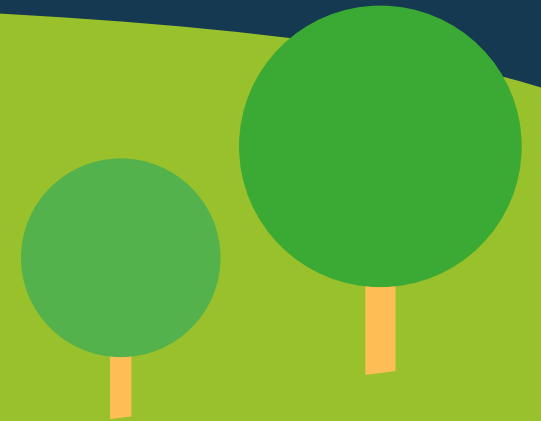


Next steps

DVA will continue to lead the work through to March 2027, with monthly consortium meetings and quarterly action plans to maintain momentum with the Out and About Partnership.

Healthy Futures North East Group will reconvene to help to embed the work within the wider system.

Planned events include a free summer activity programme for children, young people and families and the opening of the new Clay Cross Active leisure hub presents a new opportunity for further collaboration and signposting to local activities.





NE Derbyshire Stories



Clay Cross Litter Pick

Empowering local people can make a huge impact on the look and feel of a community. Recently in Clay Cross we saw this difference through a local litter pick where local people came together to tidy up their town.

44 local people joined together to help clean up the streets, and green spaces, of Clay Cross. Everyone who came spoke about their desire to see Clay Cross as a cleaner, safer and more welcoming place to live and shop.



Clay Cross games

Over 650 people turned out to the first ever Clay Cross Games on Sunday 28 July at Sharley Park, for an afternoon filled with fun, games and plenty of community spirit. Families and friends from Clay Cross, Danesmoor, and beyond enjoyed the event designed by the local community, which featured a wide array of activities and performances designed to entertain and engage all ages.

Badger Christmas Party Trail



The aim of the trail was to get local families outside in the fresh air doing a free and fun activity together. They had to walk around Clay Cross using the trail guide to find clues on what Badger needed for his festive fuddle! Roughly 160 families took part in the trail over the three week period.

"It's nice to be able to do something as a community"

"It brings together community groups, residents, businesses, schools, health services, arts organisations, and the local council"



Community Engagement and Coproduction Pilots

**Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales,
High Peak, South Derbyshire**



Focus Area:

Somercotes, Riddings and Ironville - Understanding barriers and opportunities to walking for people living with long term health conditions and/or disabilities.

Lead partner:

Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC)

Core consortium:

- Amber Valley CVS (AVCVS)
- Active Derbyshire
- Public Health
- Local community members /volunteers
- Local councillor
- Arch PCN

 **Highlights****System working**

- The Walk Derbyshire work has given system partners a real opportunity to test and learn collaborative ways of working.
- Helped to forge impactful relationships with primary care and community health.
- New ARCH PCN Health Inequalities Strategy – influenced by the Walk Derbyshire place work and priorities.
- People are genuinely interested in the engagement pilot and surprised at the amount of insight gathered as a result of the work.
- Widened some system partner's knowledge of the barriers – providing a greater understanding as to how it aligns with public health work and changed some individual's perceptions of walking
- If we can change mindsets within the system and the public to understand that there are barriers, this will make a huge difference – 'doing something is better than doing nothing'.

Community knowledge

- Amber Valley Ambles – a walking group led by people living with a long-term condition for people with a long-term condition, has been co-designed and co-produced as a direct result of the Walk Derbyshire work.
- There are recognised gaps in who we have engaged with (adult learning disability/SEND/ housebound/carers).
- Indoor walking – requested by community members but we still need more insight as to what people want it to look and feel like before developing further.
- Increased knowledge of community wants and needs.
- Increased knowledge of physical barriers eg tactile paving / walking in supermarket
- AVCVS and Information by Design report is a valuable resource and has been widely shared and well received in the system.
- Community members really care about their community.
- Creating trust locally pays dividends.

Consortium working

- Adding community members to the consortium was invaluable – brought real community voice and knowledge.
- Engaging and working with local Councillors.
- As the consortium membership widened, we gained skills and experience from their involvement which is positive. However, sometimes it meant there was a lack of consistency with different voices in the room.
- Way of working changed – an openness developed.
- Less data focused and more about real conversations.
- Developed understanding of roles and how we can work together.



Challenges

- The time it takes to build trust in partners and communities
- To keep a focus on engagement rather than jumping to solutions.
- Having a pot of funding with a date set for using it by – this created some angst with consortium members to begin with – 'what are we going to spend it on?'

Consortium working

- We lost some people who 'would help' if they could but it didn't fit with their role/capacity.
- Young people representation limited so we didn't reach youth voice.
- Some missed opportunities for broader engagement with key partners - potential to strengthen partnerships with Live Life Better Derbyshire, planning officers and youth engagement teams in future initiatives.
- SEND (Special Educational Needs)– this cohort does tend to go out of 'place' to different schools but do access the community
- Housebound and carers and their cared for' – recognition that these still need to be considered and there are plans to look at this in our pilot continuation.



Budget and spend

Of the original **£20k** funding, there is just under **£12.5k** left at the end of March 2025.

Spend so far has been on commissioning AVCVS and lbyD for community engagement work, videographer sessions and room hire.

Additional funding either aligned to or as a direct result of this Pilot is as follows:

- A further 12 months of **GOGA (Get Out Get Active)** was confirmed (25/26) in Amber Valley to further develop the inclusion agenda. We have been able to learn from the Walk Derbyshire engagement pilot and build our knowledge and confidence with gathering community voice and lived experience. The value of case studies, personal narratives and a place-based approach has really helped us to demonstrate value and outcomes in the GOGA work also.
- Public Health locality funding influenced by the Walk Derbyshire engagement work and the impact it is having in the system. They have funded the development of the **Move More Amber Valley** Strategy and part funded the work of the wellbeing sessions.
- Physical Activity Collaborative and Exercise By Referral – the Walk Derbyshire pilot has influenced how funding is broken down/shared.
- The **Physical Activity Coordinator** role in the Borough Council, is now a permanent contract (was temporary) - the Walk Derbyshire work has contributed to the acknowledgement of the benefits of the physical activity work that is going on.

Alongside this, we now have a greater understanding of place-based inequality to assist in funding bids. We also recognise that this Pilot has worked due to a focus on people and themes rather than money.

The Walk Derbyshire work has acted as a conduit for a number of pieces of work occurring in place and has helped to align the strategy and the work priorities.

Get Out
Get Active
Amber Valley

WALK
Derbyshire

MOVE
MORE
Amber Valley

AV
Amber Valley
Borough Council



Next steps

- We plan to develop the Walk Derbyshire work and embed it within the Move More Amber Valley action plan.
- Our priorities are to develop insight from the Neighbourhood scans in the places of focus (Somercotes, Riddings and Ironville) - we are making the scans as accessible as possible by making each scan a short distance so more people will be able to walk or wheel them and also by videoing the routes so people can build confidence about the route or if unable to walk or wheel them they can still feedback. Once the insight is gathered we can then look at potential community solutions and also lobby for change/s and or additions in communities spaces.
- A portion of the remaining funding has been set aside to film and create scan videos and create questionnaire docs, along with a community grants pot for bringing community ideas/solutions to life after the neighbourhood scans insight is gathered and collated.
- We also want to prioritise engaging with the housebound community, to establish if there is an offer of supported walking and or movement in their own home or very local area, that we can make that they co-design. The remaining funding is allocated to this element, to be delivered via the Home Visiting Service - for both engagement and delivery of support to move/walk/wheel more in their own homes.
- Finally, we want to forge relationships and networks with carers and cared for to engage with them in a similar way to the housebound community.
- To oversee the sustainability phase of this pilot, the consortium will continue to meet twice yearly and Walk Derbyshire and the work associated, will be a standard agenda item in the Move More Amber Valley meetings.



Amber Valley Stories



Living with a Long Term Health Condition or Disability Explained Through the Spoon Theory

Based on four stories from people who live with health conditions. Capturing their daily challenges to being active and the importance of managing their energy.



62% have a condition or illness that reduces their ability to carry out daily activities

- **675 views in seven months**
- **Across all socials- 59 likes/ 34 shares/ 11 comments**
- **Shared with Sport England, We Are Undefeatable, Amber Valley CVS**
- **Slowly changing peoples perception of what it is like to live with a health condition**

Move More Amber Valley Chair-based Exercise

Resident engagement done in June 2024 in the Somercotes, Riddings and Ironville area found that many people want to walk more but cannot due to not always feeling safe outside, which led to some indoor chair-based sessions and the Amber Valley Ambles walking group for people with health conditions.



Plans for indoor walking due to demand for more safe walking activities

94% have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting more than 12 months

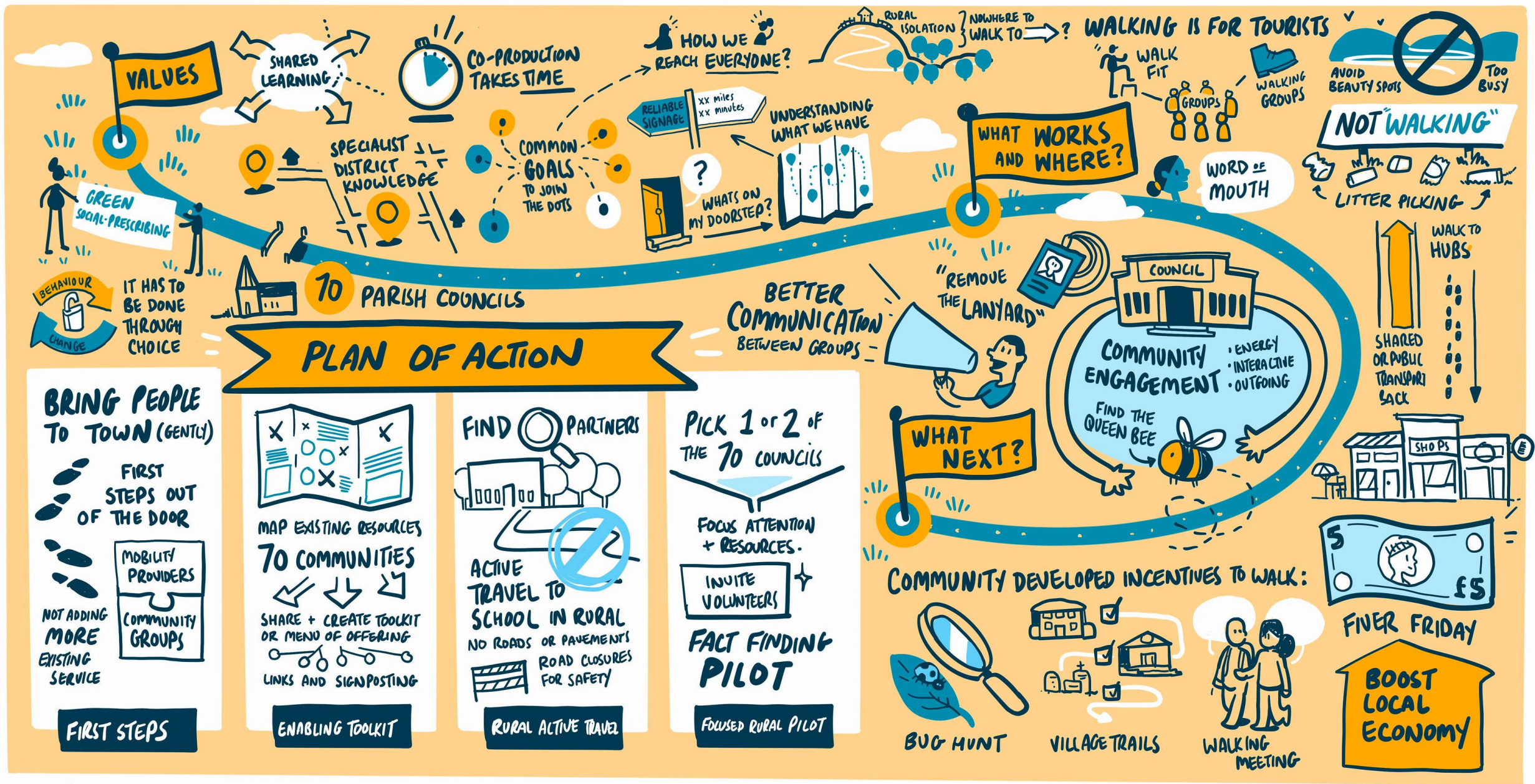
61% of resident are aged 65-84 years

Amber Valley Ambles

The Amber Valley Ambles walking group started in September 2024, aimed at those living with health conditions or disabilities who want to steadily increase their movement or just spend time outside with others in a safe and comfortable space. The walk is run by a walk leader who herself lives with a long-term health condition making her the perfect leader as she can relate and adapt the walk to peoples needs.



- **The walk is attended by an average of around 7 people**
- **People come for mental and physical health benefits**



Focus Area:

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)

Core consortium:

- Public Health
- Active Derbyshire
- Hope Valley Travelling Light (HVTL)
- ICB
- The Farming Life Centre (FLC)
- Local councillor

Initially we also had engagement within the consortium with the Peak District National Park planners and the Ramblers Footpaths officer, however due to capacity issues this engagement fell away as the Pilot progressed.

Key activities**Engagement events:**

- Bradwell Carnival along with HVTL
- Bradwell Memorial Hall
- Local pub
- Infant school with parents
- Junior school

Agreed two subgroups;

1) engaging with isolated people - this subgroup met and discussed how we could move engagement forward and a few ideas were raised. This group met a few times, however, our key members from within the community dwindled, and so no further activity occurred within this subgroup as there were no links into the community.

2) project work with junior school – whilst this group pursued the school and held positive conversations with the school council, this part of the work has been slow due to limited and sporadic contact.

Commissioned Farming Life Centre to engage isolated people in the area and also to consider proposals around the work with a school, due to a trusted link within the FLC.





Highlights

System working

There have been some brilliant practical changes – for example, early on in the work the community reported to us several broken stiles / a bridge etc which impacted on short journeys on foot in the local area. The Footpaths Officer from the Ramblers and Peak District National Park rep picked these issues up and fixed them very quickly. The Footpaths Officer has surveyed several footpaths in the area to support the work.

We took our findings on this work to the Dales Local Integrated Group (DLIG, a group led by ICB and Public Health) and have got this work as a sub group to that group, where we are able to feed the insight gained in. The group were particularly interested when it was presented in terms of the Building Blocks for health and understanding how community and transport can impact the health needs of residents.

We heard that residents wanted a 'Quiet Lane' which would enable young people to walk to Hope Valley College safely and when fed into the group, it felt like this was a real possibility through the PDNP, however this went quiet and we are now unsure whether this is a priority. We were able to feed these views into the DCC Hope Valley Active Travel Masterplan and so we are hopeful that there may be funding to do this at some point.

This work will also help to influence the new Move More Derbyshire Dales Strategy that we are currently developing.



Community knowledge

We heard that there are already a lot of active community groups within Bradwell, but they often lack capacity for additional activity above what they already do. They also tend to be 'time rich' people who are already active.

We also heard that much of the community activity is led by people who are relatively new to the area rather than lifelong residents and that it can be hard to bridge the gap between the two.



Challenges

System working

The Parish Council dropping away from the work has had a significant impact as this was our way into the community, however we do recognise that we could have then made connections with the local church etc once we realised that the parish was unable to commit.

We heard that residents were struggling with the bus service and that in some cases it wasn't clear that if you got a bus in one direction, there was no return journey and so residents found this unhelpful and unreliable. We fed this into the Bus Service Improvement Team with an idea that maybe, if bus times could not be changed, there could be some communication around the matter, however we did not receive a positive response on this and were unable to take this any further.

Our engagement with the local schools has taken time. We attended the primary school and spoke to parents and carers and gained some fantastic insight from them around walking to and from school and some of the barriers. We also went into the junior school and despite a good conversation, showing interest in the Pilot and how they could be involved, we then didn't hear back from them despite several emails. This school then changed hands and we believe there was a change in staff and so history of the conversation was lost. We do now have a way into the school through someone with a personal contact. The school have shown interest again and are speaking with the school pupil council to get the go ahead to work with us but do seem keen.

Community knowledge

We have struggled to really connect with the community until very recently and have not yet been able to identify some key advocates for this work within Bradwell, despite our initial confidence that we would. We understood from the beginning that we couldn't just parachute in and that sustainability needs to come from within Bradwell

We believed that working with the Parish council would give us the opportunity to really influence some community action and insight but that didn't happen. We have learned from this that we cannot rely on just one person within a community.





Budget and spend

Of the original £20k, only £2k was spent as of March 2025 – on engagement and resources (flag etc) - mostly due to issues gaining the right engagement with the right people and not wanting to throw money into something just for the sake of spending it.

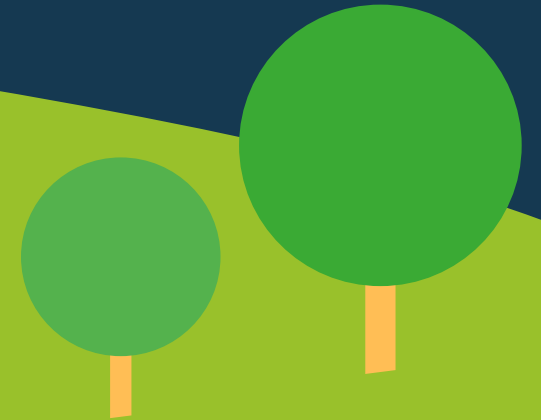
However, we have now been able to identify a clear way forward.



Next steps

Having identified a significant gap in social groups or activities for our more isolated residents, we are working with the Farming Life Centre (known to and trusted by this community) to develop a Bradwell Rural Social Group, starting May 2025. Part of the remaining budget has been allocated to the coordination, room hire and expenses for this project.

We have also allocated some funding towards work with the junior school to undertake a mapping project with the School Council, along with a contingency held by DDDC for additional needs or funding requests from either pieces of work.



VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (VCSE)



HIGH PEAK - 10TH FEB

Focus Area:

Borough wide – with a focus in 4 places – Ollersett Estate (New Mills), Fairfield Estate (Buxton), Gamesley Estate (Glossop) and the Hope Valley - Focus on older people and people living with a long-term health condition and health care professionals working in place

Lead partner:

High Peak Borough Council (HPBC)

Core consortium:

- Public Health
- Active Derbyshire
- The Bureau
- My Active
- Derbyshire Adult Community Education Services (DACES)
- New Mills Volunteer Centre

Key activities

Our first activity was to review what engagement had happened before to ensure we weren't asking the same questions. We commissioned The Bureau to complete this piece of work.

The initial engagement review highlighted that the voice of people with long term health conditions and/or disability and older people were a missing component of our community.

From this we commissioned Dr Jo Blackwell to complete some engagement work in our identified communities, with people with long term conditions, carers and their health care professionals. Different members of the consortium with links in the areas supported this process.

Presentation in New Mills of High Peak engagement insight from Dr Jo Blackwell. The addition of some community members with lived experience to the consortium provided real added value.

The insight and engagement of community members helped formation of the New Mills Neighbourhood group. Glossop Neighbourhood group already in existence and Buxton Youth Engagement already in existence, Move More Hope Valley being relaunched and Move More Hope Valley Engagement Worker starting a nine-month piece of work. Discussions around how these groups could start to have Walk Derbyshire as an agenda item as the pilot project approached the end of the funding period.

System working

This process has helped to inform the Move More Better Health Campaign to support prevention for long term health conditions - 'it is safer to be physically active than not'.

An acknowledgment of the community receiving mixed messages from healthcare professionals and trusted sources – Physical Activity Clinical Champion (PACC) training to be promoted and facilitated to access for primary care and community health partners via Sheffield Hallam University PACC team.

Linked into the Gamesley Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Feeding into the Manor Park / Ashwood Park sports courts/green spaces redevelopment projects – utilising community assets and commissioning community engagement

Consortium members have spoken/ presented at: Falls Alliance / Place Alliance / High Peak Health & Wellbeing Partnership and the insight has been well received.

Interest from high level system around the engagement, case studies and lived experience. Acknowledgment of the value of community voice.

Links to Physical Activity Collaborative (PAC) and MyActive Leisure Centres. Future plans for incorporating walking into the Exercise by Referral across the High Peak are being developed

Community knowledge

New Neighbourhood group in New Mills (Ollersett) and formation of group in Gamesley – community members joining the conversation

The residents in the places of focus are often passionate about their community and want the best outcomes possible.

The community prefers advice from 'trusted sources' - family, community champions, their GP etc – it would be good to drill down more on this as a topic to understand further.

Highlighted that public transport has an impact on walking, knock on in Gamesley is the bus service is under review for extending timetables under new TFGM Beelines

Attention required to the mapping on Gamesley 'all roads lead to Gamesley Community Centre'

Walk leader training opportunities leading to led/supported walking opportunities

Signage and benches (for resting) recommendations being followed up at social connectedness events at New Mills – where do the community want to see them etc – link to Sett Valley Trail from Ollersett – flat, so good for LTCs.

Consortium working

Consortium made up of a mix of people across the High Peak and others in place specific areas

Core group of regular and consistent attendees from across the High Peak area

Continued Public Health attendance has been beneficial

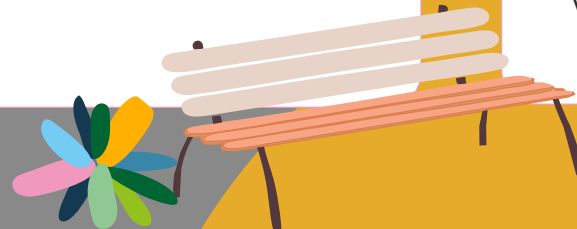
Followed the enthusiasm of the membership and benefitted from collaborative working - people with vision and with limited use of funding.

Move More New Mills and Move More Glossop in existence, plus Move More High Peak. Move More Hope Valley now started.

CYP dropped away as a focus and as a result High Peak School Sports Partnership stepped away from the consortium.

Some people/ partners not yet come into the conversation but now there is something tangible, people are starting to become more involved.

Hope Valley partners not yet come into the conversation because the work wasn't ready but it is now and we can start to move on this work.





Highlights

New Neighbourhood groups developing – bringing in new voices, additional capacity and community ownership

Recognition that the work/ time being invested now is setting the foundations for future generations / YP – developing LTHC / or have a parent/carers with LTHC

Positive relationships and networks built with health professionals and bodies.



Challenges

- Vast geographical spread of the High Peak (how to focus?!)
- The barrier that money created 'what do we spend it on?'
- Mixed messages from trusted sources eg GPs, relatives, friends
- Certain groups / gate keepers/influential community members not coming around the table and preventing messages / participation from community members
- Individual priorities not aligning.
- Interest was high in the beginning due to anticipation of funding and petered off when organisations/individuals realised it wasn't a 'funding' opportunity – not demonstrating collaborative system thinking.
- Capacity to engage and do actions that come from engagement



Budget and spend

£10,000 UKSPF funding and £1,500 from Public Health Walking funds (legacy) added to the pot by High Peak Borough Council and utilised upfront, meaning £17,714.13 of the Walk Derbyshire budget remains for Pilot sustainability work.

The money spent so far has been on engagement and consultancy fees.

Public Health is also funding Social Connected events in four priority areas – £12k investment across the areas for community events.

- Ollersett (funding likely to be held by Youth Matters)
- Gamesley (funding likely to be held by The Bureau)
- Fairfield and Hope Valley (funding likely to be held by High Peak CVS)

The vision for the Social Connect work is that it sits alongside the development of our High Peak Neighbourhood model. This gives us an opportunity to work more collaboratively at a local level and really get to know our neighbourhoods and the people's needs within it...beyond what the data tells us. This would also provide the opportunity to highlight the great support and connections available to residents in those areas



Next steps

£5,000 for the Active Environment Community Engagement work- Active Derbyshire has developed a framework for 'Creating Safe, Active and Inclusive Open Spaces' and working with High Peak Borough Council to apply this framework to two parks in Buxton and Glossop.

This initiative aims to create spaces that are inclusive, safe, and inviting to the whole community, with a strong emphasis on physical accessibility. The project will integrate meaningful community engagement with the design and installation of new play and physical activity hubs. It will build on insights that highlight the importance of clear signage, mapping, and communication, as identified in the Walk Derbyshire Community Engagement study.

The initial focus will be on **Ashwood Park** (Fairfield, Buxton) and **Manor Park** (Glossop), considering not only how people use these spaces but also how they travel to and around them, how they perceive park infrastructure, and their sense of safety.

£5,000 towards the Move More Better Health communications campaign - the engagement has highlighted the community feel they sometimes receive mixed messages from trusted sources re walking/movement. The funding will add value to a campaign by working with primary care re communications and looking at other ways of communicating as well as online. Further discussion with health partners and contribution from community focus groups will be had to establish a plan of action regarding the messaging for the campaign - what our aims are and how we will reach them. The money will be held by HPBC.

£3,000 for bringing some recommendations to life in Gamesley via the Gamesley Neighbourhood group. The money will be held by The Bureau in Glossop to be spent by and with the Neighbourhood group when appropriate – Helen Thornhill is based at the Bureau and works extensively on the Gamelsey estate.

£3,000 for bringing some recommendations to life in Ollersett via the NM Neighbourhood group. The money will be held by Youth Matters who work extensively with the community on the Ollersett estate, until decisions are reached via the New Mills Neighbourhood group as to how the community would like to use the funding on signage/mapping/bench

This will be overseen through strategic planning meetings taking place between HPBC, Public Health and Active Derbyshire, with contributions from other system partners as required – to meet ad hoc to monitor borough wide spend, work and progress.



High Peak Stories



High Peak Walk Derbyshire Community Engagement Data and Insight Collation



THE BUREAU

Why these people?

Greatest need in terms of inactivity is evident in these groups:

- People with a limiting illness or disability
- Older people
- People and families on lower incomes
- Children and young people

Adult physical activity behaviour across the High Peak



Children and young people's physical activity behaviour across the High Peak



Source: Sport England Active Lives Children & Young People Survey 2017-2019



THE BUREAU

General Summary

- Residents of the High Peak generally appreciate the idyllic surroundings and beauty spots we have at our front doorstep.
- High Peak benefits hugely from a large number of passionate, dedicated individuals who are working incredibly hard to make it easier to walk around our local areas, as well as preserving our environments for many years to come.
- There is no shortage of community engagement, and activity within High Peak is vibrant!
- There appears to be, however, a lack of specific research regarding walking without it being added into surveys about public transport and the climate, for example. This is because these topics do generally go hand in hand.
- There also appears to be lack of engagement with disability groups/representatives, as well as other specific cohorts identified (i.e. young families, specific locations).
- Most of the engagement seems to be lacking data about who is answering the survey, where they live, what challenges they might face in life etc.



THE BUREAU

Recommendations

- Initiatives to improve active travel would also benefit from considering accessibility and public transport options - which will help remove barriers for people.
- Improving the maintenance of paths and pavements.
- Creating local maps with details regarding ginnels and shortcuts through specific areas would help people to feel more confident in walking around their local areas, and also make it more convenient.
- Educating people regarding the benefits of walking and supporting individuals to remove barriers within their own lives to facilitate activity would be beneficial (i.e. helping people to change their mindsets and habits).
- Remember that areas within the High Peak are disparate and what works for one area may not work for others - each locality faces different challenges.



THE BUREAU

Suggested Next Steps

- Some specific engagement within priority areas Hadfield, Whitfield, Ollersett, Fairfield and Cote Heath. Gamesley has a specific survey but, as this area experiences some of the highest levels of deprivation in Derbyshire, there could be further engagement and enhancement of existing learning.
- Some specific engagement with target groups (which could be place-based, or more general across High Peak) such as disability groups, young families, or groups of unemployed people.
- Ensuring that any further engagement will seek to delve a little deeper into who is completing the survey/activity/engagement - rather than basic data.
- Engaging community leaders at an early stage, to help identify target groups within target areas.
- Getting employers on board with future engagement to understand how they can encourage walking to work.
- Work closely with key people in the councils to remove aforementioned barriers



High Peak Walking Engagement Summary

Who?

- 97 people engaged.
- 75% had a long-term condition or disability.
- 28 sharing work perspectives.
- 79% lived or worked in the focus communities of Gamesley, Ollersett, Fairfield, and Hope Valley (graph shows resident locations only).



Shared narratives across places

- Not everyone was hearing or seeing positive messages about walking and physical activity. People wanted to hear or see these messages from trusted sources, who could be family, friends, or members of the workforce.
- Health conditions and/or disabilities restrict both what people perceive they can do and what they physically can do.
- Despite the above challenges, many are determined to do something.
- Local people do not always know where to walk, if routes are suitable, or where to find information about walks.
- Paper, verbal, and digital means of communication and promotion were valued.
- Group/organised walks received a mixed response. Many people like the social, physical, and/or emotional support walking with someone else offers. People like to know what a walk involves to help them decide if it is suitable.
- For those who are less able, support for walking and movement around the home environment or near vicinity needs consideration.
- Lack of infrastructure and maintenance is a big issue such as overgrown vegetation, no or inaccessible paths, uneven paths, and lack of dropped kerbs.
- People would like open and green spaces to be more accessible.



Overall recommendations

1. Both digital and offline communication and promotion are needed to ensure the widest reach of information.
2. Collaboration between organisations is needed to support infrastructure and maintenance improvements and planning, with accessibility at the forefront.
3. Careful thought is needed when planning group or organised walks to tailor to community needs, and sub-groups within communities.
4. Local maps of routes, open and green spaces would be helpful. These should indicate distance, gradient, seating, toilets, refreshments, bus routes, parking etc.
5. Work is needed to promote positive, clear, and concise messages including imagery about walking and physical activity among the workforce and residents.
6. Co-production of workstreams with residents and other key stakeholders is important.



November 2024



Focus Area:

Swadlincote Urban Core

Lead partner:

South Derbyshire District Council
(SDDC)

Core consortium:

- Public Health
- Active Derbyshire
- Peak Running
- The National Forest Company
- South Derbyshire CVS (SDCVS)

 **Highlights****System working**

Mental maps – Working with Intelligent Health to create a map of Swadlincote (which includes Newhall and Church Gresley) to highlight the distance for residents to their local parks and green spaces. During the National Forest Walking Festival, this map will be used to help residents in Newhall and Church Gresley find out more about their local footpath networks and the green spaces on their doorstep.

Has helped to shape CYP and Active Travel project shared outcomes (members – DCC sustainability team, Active Schools Partnership, SDDC climate change, SDDC Active South Derbyshire, Active Derbyshire)

The walking lead's role has changed – able to now be more present in meetings, and also more effective. Regular updates at meetings and there are people waiting at end to share ideas / ask advice and support etc. Something has changed but whether that is because people are trying to be more connected or as a result of this work, it is difficult to tell.

Resonates with group – things are opening up but whether this would have happened anyway is difficult to say – feel this work has been an influence but perhaps not the reason

National Forest Investment – Beat the Street (both games), the Sustrans consultation and this Walk Derbyshire pilot work have all helped to inform a successful grant application to National Lottery Heritage Fund for the National Forest's Getting to know your Greenspace project. This project will identify and work with targeted, underrepresented and socially disadvantaged communities in three urban areas of the Forest to build positive relationships with their local natural and cultural heritage; co-created activities will help introduce wellbeing benefits that accessing nature can bring, so that: More underrepresented communities can access local greenspace and nature Individuals' wellbeing and confidence are improved and communities are stronger More people value and care for their greenspaces.

Community knowledge

- The latest Beat The Street has given us greater insight. Some of this insight has been shared with the CYP/ Active Travel work.
- People in our target areas tend to live in the area but often access activity outside of area

Consortium working

The way we work has changed – at the beginning there was a lot more 'politeness' as trying to work each other out but now have been able to have some more honest conversations and are much better at sharing information and responsibilities etc.



Challenges

System working

To begin with there was already a lot of activity taking place and it was hard to see where the consortium fitted in

Some difficulty in linking into the Partnership as up until now there hasn't really been anything tangible to share – that has changed now and will be able to update

Community knowledge

We spent a lot of time trying to recruit and a Coach Core apprentice and we didn't manage to despite going through several channels including the local college and community networks. (GCSE finishers at local school, Circularity Hub CIC but no capacity – felt like the wrong time to be trying to do this). Capacity within the consortium to properly engage with communities was a challenge and this is why we spent so much time looking for an apprentice – feels like we put all our eggs in one basket and it didn't work out. We didn't have time on top of own roles to undertake this work

How we grow and challenge community groups in Swadlincote feels difficult – likely because community groups are smaller and have only capacity for the 'thing' they do/deliver and no capacity for additional responsibility

Recognise the need to work with community members who have recently become active to understand barriers and effect change – this work is just starting.

Consortium working

The 'core' team involved feels a bit top down – could we have spent more time nurturing community members to be part of the consortium group? Whilst they haven't been part of the consortium, we do still have connections with some community members so this could be something for future progression.

CYP lead initially keen to be involved around SEND but due to reorganisation, the role no longer exists and we lost that link. Recognition that connecting with SEND groups is an ongoing struggle

Consistency – of partners around the table – when some people come into the group it feels like their voice / agenda can dominate the conversation, even if it wasn't a route that we were necessarily focusing on – and then the conversation becomes entirely different HOWEVER there has been a consistent core of people – especially those who are really committed to this work.



Budget and spend

Aligning of funding for CYP and active travel – upto £5k underspend from elsewhere utilised

Role alignment (Tor's role) to support Pilot work

BTS legacy funding used to fund maps (SDDC footed cost)

National Forest - Walk Derbyshire pilot work was referenced as evidence of need in NLHF Getting to know your Greenspace project (£400k project value) and Get Active SLA used as match funding, which will embed Walk Derbyshire work into Swadlincote communities through the project.

Funding spent on capacity through South Derbyshire CVS to coordinate the consortium meetings between April 2024 – March 2025 around apprentice recruitment tasks / attempts, along with engagement resources such as table cloth and flag for events.

Funding left at the end of March - £15,700



Next steps

Community Movement Champions: The overarching concept of this joint initiative to be coordinated and overseen by Peak Running and SDDC is to engage local people who, through their own experience and local knowledge, have a clear understanding of the issues faced by inactive residents and empower them to address the problem with consortium members acting as facilitators of the process.

Intelligent Health Mental Mapping: SDDC have kindly agreed to fund the cost of the design and production of these maps. It is hoped that the mental maps will also support the Community Movement Champions to enable residents to move more in their local area. During the National Forest Walking Festival, these maps will also be used to help residents in Newhall and Church Gresley find out more about their local footpath networks and the green spaces on their doorstep. After reviewing the first draft of the maps, it was decided that one map covering the whole of Swadlincote, would be more beneficial. It includes both Newhall and Church Gresley and allows people to see all the parks and greenspaces within the Urban Core.

The consortium has agreed to meet 6 weekly for the duration of the remaining funding to support the approach.





Walk Derbyshire Pilots: Overview



Key Learning:

Educating our workforce on walking: A key learning has been educating and raising awareness for system partner organisations around what lived experiences of every day walking actually looks like, including the barriers and what people need to make it accessible. This deep understanding, drawn directly from community engagement, is vital for designing effective and equitable interventions.

Frame of word walking / 'Walking by Stealth': This has successfully enabled some residents who normally wouldn't consider 'going for a walk' to become active. Examples of this can be found through the creative engagement approach - in North East Derbyshire, First Art found new and creative ways to increase walking amongst Clay Cross and Danesmoor residents, in Holme Hall a series of creative workshops including pottery and decoration making encouraged residents to walk as part of the events and in Bolsover, Junction Arts and BLAST encouraged young people onto the local trails through themed trails and events.

Walking as the 'Vehicle, not the destination' Positioning walking as an "invisible thread" and a catalyst for creating shared agendas and links has successfully generated additional capacity. This approach resonates with a wider range of system partners beyond just physical activity. Consortiums recognised walking as means rather than end, addressing wider determinants of health through a physical activity lens. Bolsover's intergenerational approach, North East Derbyshire's creative engagement, and Amber Valley's focus on barriers demonstrated sophisticated understanding that behaviour change requires addressing underlying causes.

Communities rarely identified walking as priority need. They spoke about social isolation, safety concerns, lack of opportunities, and infrastructure barriers. Walking initiatives that addressed these broader concerns achieved greater engagement than those maintaining narrow physical activity focus. This required flexibility from funders and delivery organisations to follow community priorities rather than predetermined outcomes. This systems thinking, whilst complex to manage, proved more sustainable than single-issue interventions.

Flexible approach: The ability to reflect, fail, and learn has been crucial. The flexible, adaptive, and community-led approach, despite some initial friction, proved beneficial by allowing autonomy and empowering community-driven initiatives and facilitated a more collaborative environment. Perceived 'failure' proved as valuable as success for system learning. Chesterfield's consortium challenges highlighted importance of role clarity and trust. Derbyshire Dales' struggle with community engagement revealed rural-specific barriers requiring different approaches. These lessons, honestly shared, can prevent repetition of mistakes whilst informing future design.

The test and learn approach, whilst creating uncertainty, enabled adaptation that predetermined programmes wouldn't allow. Flexibility to follow emerging opportunities and abandon unsuccessful approaches improved impact. However, this required tolerance for uncertainty that some partners found uncomfortable. Building comfort with emergence rather than predictability proved essential for innovation. This approach does take time to adapt to for some partners that have a more traditional way of working.



The bits we all know already but are still important to highlight:

- **Time to build trust:** Trust-based relationships between partners enabled more agile and responsive delivery. Building trust takes time, but it "pays dividends". Successful approaches evolved from initial "politeness" to honest conversations and effective collaborative approaches.

Several of the consortiums noted that it would have been beneficial to have more time at 'Stage 1' to build relationships with each other – along with comments around taking more time to understand and develop the lead role in this work.

- **System change requires time and trust:** The most commented upon learning across all pilots concerns timescales required for genuine system change. Two years proved insufficient for deep transformation, with most pilots only beginning to see meaningful change as initial funding timescales concluded. Trust building with communities experiencing consultation fatigue or historical neglect took months before productive engagement began. Professional relationships across sectors required similar investment before collaborative working replaced parallel delivery.

North East Derbyshire succeeded partially because they built on existing relationships and previous work. Starting from scratch, as Derbyshire Dales discovered, required longer inception periods that consumed significant proportion of available time. This suggested that system change initiatives should either build on existing foundations or plan for extended timescales with relationship building at the fore front.



But what does all this mean for walking?

- **New community walking groups have been developed** (Amber Ambles – accessible low level walking group for people with disabilities, limited mobility and long term health conditions, Handy Helpers litter picking group in Clay Cross and Danesmoor and Nordic Walking in Cotmanhay)
- **Creative engagement has encouraged participants to 'walk by stealth'.** The Holme Hall Explorers ensured each activity facilitated some measure of walking for each participant...supporting Holme Hall residents to walk an estimated additional 270 miles over the Summer alone - and in Clay Cross, the First Art programme estimates that up to **March 24 – Dec 24**, the 1,874 people that took part in their events and activities walked over 4,375 miles!
- **Local knowledge** of every day and leisure walking routes and opportunities improved – in Shirebrook, residents reported a dramatic increase in knowledge of walking trails, with the majority stating they would continue to use the trails. In Holme Hall, families reporting 'having no idea' that there was a park down the road or that it was easily accessible by foot.
- **Enhanced understanding** about infrastructure needs and provision of items such as benches, signage and maps influenced and co-designed by residents has meant that more people have the confidence and support to move around their own communities on an every day basis.
- **The ASB and disability role plays** in Cotmanhay aimed to increase awareness of young people around how some behaviours can impact peoples feeling of safety on the streets – with some great reactions from the young people 'one of the most important lessons I learnt was that anti-social behaviour can affect people' and 'to not be rude and ask if they need help' amongst other reflections.

Examples of strategic impact and where practice has been informed by learning:

- **Policy influence:** Community insights fed into strategic frameworks like Active Travel Masterplans (ATMs) -Cotmanhay in particular, but the community engagement themes from all pilots feature in the ATMs for Glossop, Belper and Ilkeston - and Health & Wellbeing Partnerships. In Derbyshire Dales, local transport and road issues were fed into the Hope Valley Active Travel Masterplan and bus service improvement team.
- **System integration:** The work is being embedded into existing systems rather than creating parallel structures. Examples include neighbourhood groups emerging in High Peak, integration with health strategies in Amber Valley, and the Community Movement Champions approach in Swadlincote.
- **Cross-sector collaboration:** Across the work, new strategic alignments and permanent role changes have occurred due to improved working between voluntary, community, statutory, and health sectors.
- **Funding alignment:** Pilots leveraged significant additional investment beyond original allocations. Swadlincote's work contributed to a National Forest grant, while Amber Valley influenced ongoing GOGA funding, North East Derbyshire gained match funding through First Art and the Bolsover work has helped to influence several other funding strands.
- **Learning informing practice:**
Following community engagement around barriers such as dog fouling, overgrown footpaths, and anti-social behaviour, a signposting toolkit was developed.
Insights on the importance of benches informed the understanding that they are important infrastructure assets for confidence in walking.