



Poynton Area Community Partnership report for Cheshire East Council 2020-2021



Like most organisations, Poynton Area Community Partnership was greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The group changed from meeting face to face to virtual meetings and group representatives shared information about how their community responded to the Covid-19 pandemic by sharing good practice ideas, risk assessments and guidance for volunteers who were helping the most vulnerable and elderly residents across the PACP footprint.

Sadly, there were a number of events which the group agreed to support but which were then cancelled due to the pandemic. These include the Disley DART which aims to capture Disley’s creativity community as well showcase as a “Seeds of Friendship” growing project for children and young people. Pott Shrigley’s Rose Queen event was also cancelled.

Nevertheless, the group were able to respond to the needs of the community by financially supporting a number of projects which contributed to one or more of the following key outcomes: social innovation in our communities; communities are better connected; increased knowledge and accessibility to existing services/assets; decreased demand on public services.

Below are some of the projects PACP have supported:

Community projects supported by Poynton Area Community Partnership

Kettleshulme Garden refurbishment – Kettleshulme Parish Council.

The grant has helped towards the cost of extensive phased and urgent repairs to Kettleshulme Memorial Hall Gardens providing an inclusive space for all. Phase 2 allowed for improved access to the garden from the playing field along with the creation of disabled access by way of a new and wider gate and ramp. The garden is now accessible to all and provides a pleasant outdoor space for villagers especially senior residents from nearby bungalows, children who live in the village, school children and visitors to meet and socialise.



Before refurbishment



After refurbishment photos



Outcomes met:
COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER CONNECTED
DECREASED DEMAND ON PUBLIC SERVICES

Time to Talk. Dementia Support.

PACP helped to promote this multi-agency programme which supports people living with memory problems/dementia and their carers across the Bollington, Disley and Poynton Care Community footprint. Pull-up banners for the Poynton and Disley sessions were produced to raise awareness of the sessions, highlighting the opportunity for people with concerns to access expert health and social care practitioners in a non-clinical setting, in the hope of preventing a crisis. The programme is part of a wider project involving a review of the current dementia pathway for Bollington, Disley and Poynton and the development of Cheshire East Council's Dementia Strategy.



Outcomes met:

COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER CONNECTED

INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESSIBILITY TO EXISTING SERVICES/ASSETS

DECREASED DEMAND ON PUBLIC SERVICES

North East Cheshire Cricket Club

The group applied to create a club supply of women's protective kit (leg pads, gloves, helmets) and bats to provide an opportunity for female members to make the transition to 'red ball' cricket. The costs present a barrier to players getting involved, which can be upwards of £150 to make the transition. The kit also enables the club to reach out to local schools promoting cricket to all pupils but in particular to teenage girls from Poynton High School to access this style of cricket and learn more about cricket with our women's squad, which already includes several PHS pupils.

By increasing the numbers of female players, this also brings in other family members and friends to the club and many of the women players have taken up coaching and committee roles. These aspects both contribute to the sustainability of the club in the long term and provide role models for girls coming through the club.

Outcomes met:

SOCIAL INNOVATION

COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER CONNECTED

Friends of Dane Hill Close Park, Disley. Park improvements.

Dane Hill Close Park is the only park in Higher Disley, an important local greenspace located in the middle of a council estate where many elderly people and young families live. The grant aims to improve the paths through the park, improving accessibility and increasing the opportunities to bring the generations together to socialise outside and to combat loneliness. The local school will also be encouraged to use the park as part of its outdoor learning programme, and the local scout group who help us to litter pick and use the park and the local mums walking group all welcome the improvements. The group will engage Disley Footpath Society to help improve the footpaths. Access to well-maintained greenspace and increasing physical activity levels with younger and older generations will decrease demand on health services as a result of inactivity and/or loneliness. The park links directly to open countryside so encourages walking locally and wider.

Outcomes met:

SOCIAL INNOVATION

COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER CONNECTED

INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESSIBILITY TO EXISTING SERVICES/ASSETS

DECREASED DEMAND ON PUBLIC SERVICES

Refurbished laptops to support pupils home schooling

Early in 2021, the group reached out to local schools to understand better the IT needs for their children who were continuing to home school. Despite support available from the Government and other schemes it became apparent that there was still a significant gap in support with some children having to access educational resources using just a mobile phone and /or sharing with siblings or parents working from home. Following much research and being keen to be sustainable, the group decided to fund a number of refurbished laptops to meet this demand. In total 32 laptops (18 in the 21-22 financial year) were distributed to local schools for them to be offered to children and families in most need.

The group also applied to Poynton Town Council for funding to maximise their efforts. Their application was successful which meant they were able to fully meet the needs of the Poynton primary schools who needed support.

Mr Dean, Head Teacher at Poynton High School said, *"I really appreciate this support. It will be invaluable for students who are most disadvantaged and please pass on my thanks to all those involved."*

Mrs Nora Armstrong-Boyle, Head at St Paul's Primary School said, *"Thank you for donating three refurbished laptops to support the learning of children at St. Paul's Catholic Primary School. The partnership working between Poynton Town Council and Poynton Area Community Partnership is impacting the lives of young people in our local schools, in a way that won't be realised for many years, but has the potential to change lives. What I can confidently say is that your example of partnership working is an inspirational platform from which children can learn about the power of working together"*.



Vernon Primary School children admiring the laptops to be used for children who have restricted access to IT devices for home schooling.



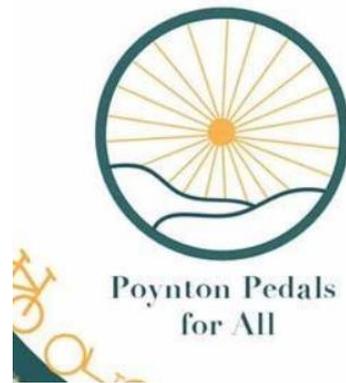
Mr Bennett receiving laptops for Poynton High School

Outcomes met:

The group felt that supporting our young people was vital during these unprecedented times. COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER CONNECTED

Poynton Pedals for All

Poynton Pedals for All are developing a project which provides an adaptive bike for community use that can be attached to a wheelchair enabling a limited mobility user to enjoy cycling along the Middlewood Way in the vicinity of Nelson's Pit car park in Higher Poynton where there is supporting infrastructure such as carpark and inclusive toilet. The project involves raising funds for a bike adapted for wheelchair use and associated equipment such as helmets, accommodation to house the bike, develop skills to maintain it and train volunteers to help run the project. The long term aims are to provide a community cycling base which support cycling activity for all and have available different types of bikes and adaptive bikes available for community use. The group have engaged with British Cycling, Cycling Projects UK and the Seashell Trust and hope to reach people with limited mobility, those living with dementia, care home and retirement home residents.



Outcomes met:

SOCIAL INNOVATION

COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER CONNECTED

INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESSIBILITY TO EXISTING SERVICES/ASSETS

DECREASED DEMAND ON PUBLIC SERVICES

Defibrillator. Village Hall Mottram St Andrew

The village hall is a community hub where lots of groups meet and social activities take place. Although there are young people who use the hall, the majority of users are older residents. Groups who use the hall recognise the importance of having a defibrillator at the facility and have donated funds to make it happen. When restrictions ease, there will be CPR/ AED training made available for groups and residents of the village.

Outcomes met:

SOCIAL INNOVATION

COMMUNITIES ARE BETTER CONNECTED

DECREASED DEMAND ON PUBLIC SERVICES

Poynton Area Community Partnership: The future vision

The group have increasingly recognised the need to raise their profile.

Currently we have a page on Poynton Town Council's website but moving forward we will look to develop our own website and provide information to residents about how we support our communities.

We are also going to recruit a volunteer to help support the group with its activities. We intend this role to connect the parishes more closely to enable more collective projects across the areas. The role will also support information sharing and secure external funding to help with projects.

Amount of donations/funding acquired to local community projects

It has been difficult to determine the amount of funding that projects have acquired additionally to the PACP funding. The amount of money secured or anticipated being secured for the projects supported by the group is underestimated at £6750.00.

PACP funding

In the financial year 20-21, PACP has contributed £8,932.05 towards community projects across the PACP footprint. This figure also includes ancillary costs associated with the group.

Number of volunteer for community projects and PACP

It has been difficult to determine the number of volunteer hours that the group or the projects that the group have supported. The figure is based on actual or anticipated volunteer hours. It has been calculated either over the life of the project or over 12 months, as deemed appropriate for each project. An underestimated figure is 4052 volunteer hours.