

# Heart & Hopes of Horden

A Healthy Happy Places Approach

Summary Report  
Experiences. Stories. Data. Possibilities.  
January 2024



Photo credit: Graham Easterlow



Horden  
Residents  
Association

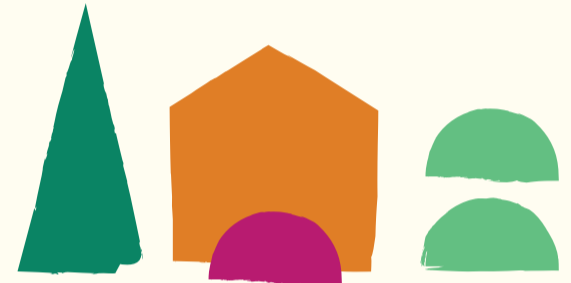


Health Innovation  
North East and North Cumbria



## With thanks.....

To all the adults, families, children, young people that have been involved in any way as a resident or friend of Horden. To all the organisations that have led, co-funded, supported and contributed to the activities listed in this report, big thanks. This summarised report documents and shares that work, past and present. It is a record and call for action for the voices of the people of Horden to be listened to and heard in creative ways that can help the community to be equal partners in creating healthy, happy places.



©2024 Health Innovation North East North Cumbria  
Not to be reproduced without permission of copyright holder.  
Author Contact: [rachel.turnbull@healthinnovationnenc.org.uk](mailto:rachel.turnbull@healthinnovationnenc.org.uk)  
January 2024 (Final Summary Report v1.4)

## Contents

<b>Funders &amp; Project Collective</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Why Health, Wellbeing &amp; Place Matters</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>"Starting with what's strong, not what's wrong"</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>What makes Horden strong?</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Habitats &amp; Wildlife</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>What Data Tells Us About Horden</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>What Creative Practice Tells Us...</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Heart &amp; Hopes of Horden Pop Up Art Trail</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Heart &amp; Hopes of Horden Mapping</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Findings Of Heart &amp; Hopes of Horden Mapping Sessions</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>General Comments On How Horden Affects Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Future Visions of Horden: Cotsford &amp; Yohden School Children</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Other Past &amp; Present Community Engagement Work</b>	<b>32</b>

Understanding  
Place  
5-32

Interventions  
in Place  
33-36

<b>Hopes &amp; Possibilities For The Future</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Community Activated</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Food</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Arts &amp; Creative</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Neurodiversity &amp; Dementia Friendly</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Trauma Informed</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Biophilic / Nature</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>36</b>

Evaluation in  
Place  
37-38

<b>Reflections &amp; Learning</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Reflections &amp; Learning</b>	<b>38</b>

<b>Get In Touch</b>	<b>39</b>
---------------------	-----------



Funders



Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria (HI NENC) is an organisation committed to doing things differently to achieve improvements in health and in the economy. HI NENC provided funding for the Healthy Happy Places programme of work in the region between 2021 and 2024.



The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (NENC ICS - now Integrated Care Board) plan and commission health services in the region. The ICS provided funding between 2022-2023 for Healthy Happy Places and enabled this piece of work to happen.



Horden Parish Council was formed in 1947 and has 15 councillors who serve Horden to provide a point of contact to local government and can help raise and deal with issues facing the community. The main aim of the Parish Council has always been to provide good quality services, particularly in recreational facilities for local people. They own, manage and maintain two parks, 4 small play areas, playing fields and sports pitches as well as a cemetery and the Social Welfare Centre.



The association was set up to give a voice to Horden residents and a forum to raise issues and concerns. All persons involved are concerned about the decline of the once thriving village. There are many reasons for the decline, including the closure of the colliery, but more recently the disposal of the houses by Accent. The association would like the town to be a safe, clean and desirable place to live. H.R.A. values and supports initiatives that are working to better the environment, health and well-being of our residents.



Horden Together is a Council funded place-based partnership project aiming to improve public safety by offering support with a broad range of issues, including emotional health, crime, anti-social behaviour, housing, drugs and alcohol and environmental issues. The team deliver a range of services and projects to complement ongoing regeneration work in the village and longer-term aspirations of the Horden Masterplan.



Creative Youth Opportunities CIC is a social enterprise. We use art in all its forms to enrich the lives of children & young people. To address social issues, link people with place and one another and to improve well-being, boost confidence and raise aspirations. We want to increase participation in the arts and to make art accessible to all. But most importantly we want to spread the message of the importance, value and power of art!



'No More Nowt' (formerly East Durham Creates) is funded by Arts Council England as part of its Creative People and Places (CPP) programme. It seeks to engage local people in creative activities and grow arts provision in ways that are sustainable and can last. We aim to attract more people to choose, create and take part in brilliant art experiences in the places where they live.



East Durham Trust is the flagship Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) support organisation for the 22 towns and villages of the East Durham coast. Delivering poverty reduction and community development they promote community led support for the most marginalised. They are the 'go to' organisation within East Durham for often-disenfranchised 'seldom reached' communities and balance delivery and development of a range of community based and led VCSE services.



Durham Wildlife Trust is a charity dedicated to conserving wildlife dedicated to conserving and restoring wildlife from Tees to Tyne through management of nature reserves, conservation projects, environmental education activities and providing volunteering opportunities. Nextdoor Nature is an initiative to work with local communities to give people the skills, tools, and opportunities to take action for nature.



Durham County Council Public Health team members were active participants of the project group. The role of public health is to help improve and protect the health of the county's residents, helping people to stay well and avoid illness.

This booklet provides a summary of the Healthy Happy Places work to share findings about how the people and organisations of Horden understand and experience their place. It is a collection of stories, maps, data, and evidence, intended to be from a community perspective which can guide future interventions in the village.

Future hopes and possibilities are also shared using the Healthy Happy Places ingredients as a framework, and in response to community needs and wishes.

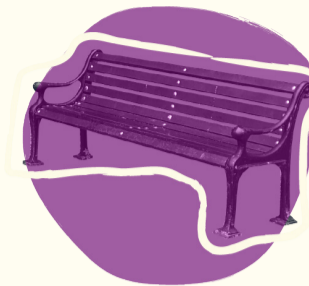


## 'Ingredients' of Healthy Happy Places

The approach is based upon a developing set of what has been called 'ingredients' to guide the transformation of spaces and places.

-  **Trauma informed** - the creation of environments and behaviours that foster a sense of safety for people who have adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
-  **Biophilic** - bringing nature into spaces. This may be through greenery and planting; but also about how design can mimic the forms, patterns, smells, colours, and materials found in nature. All of these appeal to our senses and have a positive effect on our wellbeing and mental health. Biophilic design can also be used to create a sense of safety and protection.
-  **Neurodiverse and dementia friendly spaces** - for people who may experience environments in different ways. This includes people living with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity, Tourette's, bipolar, learning disabilities.
-  **Arts and Creative spaces** - evidence shows the benefits of creativity on health and wellbeing.
-  **Community activated and participatory** - having spaces that are shaped, influenced and managed by the community where appropriate, and where a range of voices are heard and understood.
-  **Lifestyle Security** - 'the basics' - having access to good housing, food, safe travel routes, employment, opportunities for physical activity etc.

## What is Healthy Happy Places?



Healthy Happy Places is a programme that has been developing and testing a concept in the region to bring together planning, regeneration, design, NHS, public health, arts/creative, and the community to improve places and spaces that can create and support mental health and wellbeing. It is built on a partnership place-based approach that cares about what makes great places for people to live, work and play. It is a conversation between people and organisations, and a sharing of knowledge and skills between different sectors and citizens that can influence the design of our 'built environment' (i.e. buildings and all the spaces in between).



**Place specific**



**People**



**Buildings & spaces in between**



**Guided by Evidence**

## Healthy Happy Places Approach



**Understanding Place**

Using data and health insights, combined with opportunities for creative participation, to understand how people experience their place and share this in creative ways.



**Interventions in Place**

Directly responding to the needs, hopes and wishes of communities; working with and alongside citizens and organisations to create built environment interventions that make our places and spaces more joyful, peaceful, hopeful, and stronger.



**Evaluation in Place**

To capture reflections, learnings and the impact of participation.

## Why Horden?

In 2022, the Healthy Happy Places programme was looking to work with organisations in the region to explore practices and methods which could directly inform the shaping of places and spaces at different scales (for example, interior spaces, exterior spaces, towns, and villages). The purpose was to establish (in partnership with regional friends in different sectors) how collaborative working may be able to benefit the local mental health, wellbeing, vitality and economic regeneration of communities in an innovative way through the sharing of expertise and knowledge. It was critical that this way of working included and embraced individuals and communities as experts in their places and experiences.

Healthy Happy Places were introduced to Horden Together, and the housing and regeneration team at Durham County Council and from there a project group was put together to represent different sectors and the community. It was acknowledged that there was already regeneration plans being developed and therefore this piece of work was particularly concerned with what added value this approach could have to further inform developments in the village.



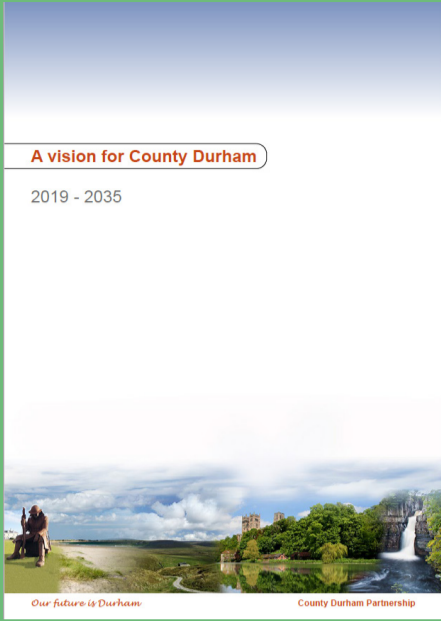
# Understanding Place

5



6





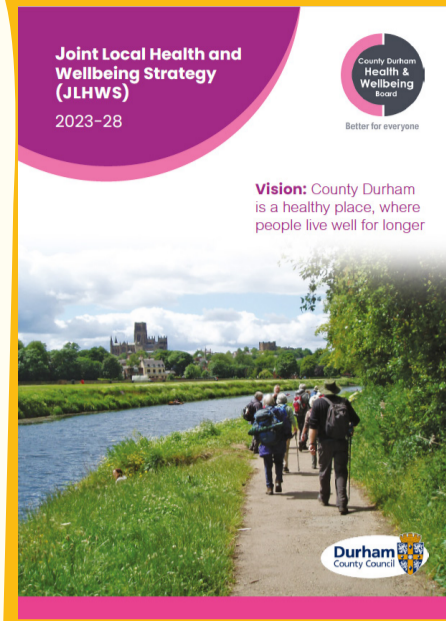
Durham County Council Vision for County Durham 2019-2035

**"a place where there are more and better jobs"**

**"a place where people live long and independent lives"**

**"a place where our communities are well connected and supportive"**

Source: [A Vision for County Durham 2019-2035](#)



"The conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age have a greater impact on health outcomes...Simply put,

**some of our residents and families with the least money in their pockets are likely to live in poorer health, and die earlier, than those who have more money"**

(pg. 7; [Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2023-28](#)).



**"People with severe mental illness don't always get the help they need, or the right help that makes a difference to their overall wellbeing. It's also not always at the right time, or in the right place."**



Source: [NHS England video, The NHS Community Mental Health Transformation](#)



**"putting people at the heart of everything we do"**

"Wellbeing includes everything that is important to people and their lives. It is 'how we are doing' and 'how satisfied we are with our lives'... Things that affect - and are affected by - personal wellbeing include: relationships; physical and mental health; what we do; where we live; personal finances; the economy; education & skills; and the environment that surrounds us."

Source: [County Durham Together Partnership Approach To Wellbeing](#)

"Starting with what's strong" and building on community strengths is one of the key principles of 'Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)'. It is a citizen led approach for change which poses three key questions:

- What is it that residents in communities are best placed to do together?
- What is it that residents can best do, with some outside help?
- What is it that communities need outside agencies to do for them?

This can also be thought about using the following words and considering how it feels to be involved (or not) in change:

Doing To (Us), For (Us), With (Us), By (Us).



**This approach recognises the unique "gifts, skills and passions" that individuals can offer to the community but highlights the importance of relationships between people to come together and influence change ('relational power'). This enables "consensual 'grouping-up' or hive like behaviours to amplify and multiply the capacities of individuals, ensuring the societal whole is greater than the sum of its individual parts.... Relational power, also referred to as associational life, is a key determinant of individual wellbeing and public safety".**

Credit: Cormac Russell, [Nurture Development](#)





Horden already has a strong foundation and history of community driven projects and groups set up by local people.



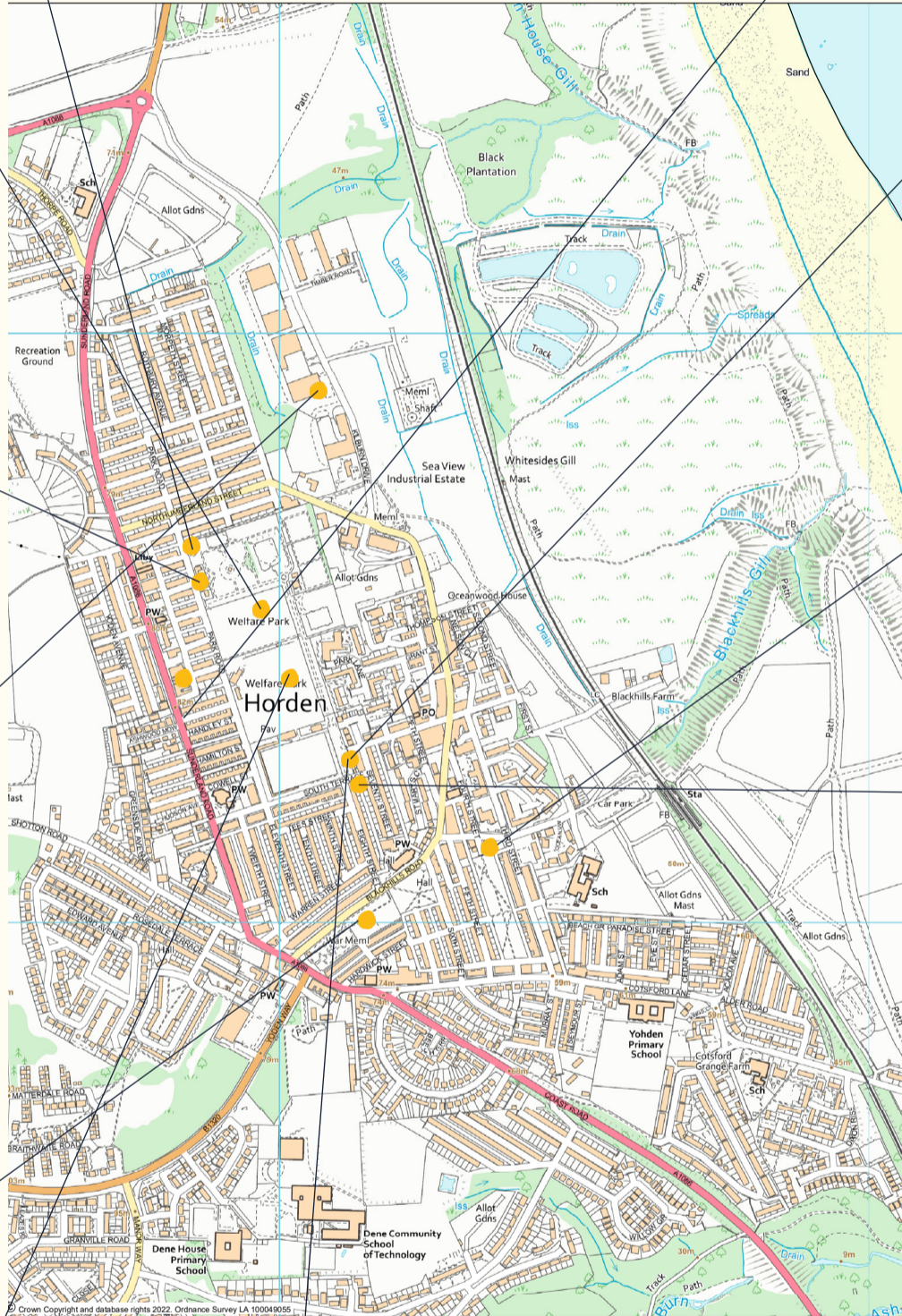
Heritage Centre and Cafe



The Ark



Welfare Park



Horden Social Welfare



Creative Youth Opportunities



Memorial Park



East Durham Partnership



Hub House



Salvation Army



Horden Cricket Ground  
Credit: Horden Cricket Facebook page

GOING THROUGH  
A STORM  
OR JUST BEEN  
THROUGH ONE?

ANDYSMANCLUB  
are talking  
groups for men to  
**HELP YOU** through  
those storms.

FIND OUT MORE

info@andysmanclub.co.uk  
www.andysmanclub.co.uk

#ITSOKAYTOTALK

**ANDYSMANCLUB  
HORDEN**

**HORDEN**

Horden Social Welfare  
Centre, Seventh St,  
Horden, SR8 4LX

**EVERY MONDAY  
@ 7PM EXC.  
BANK HOLS**

ANDYSMANCLUB LTD is a  
Registered Charity in England  
and Wales (1179647) Scotland  
(SC054185) and a Company  
Limited by Guarantee, registered  
in England and Wales (11118153)

*IleOstomy, UrOstomy, ColOstomy Patient Support*

**James Wilson**  
Chairman  
Tel: 0191 5863520 kist24@hotmail.com



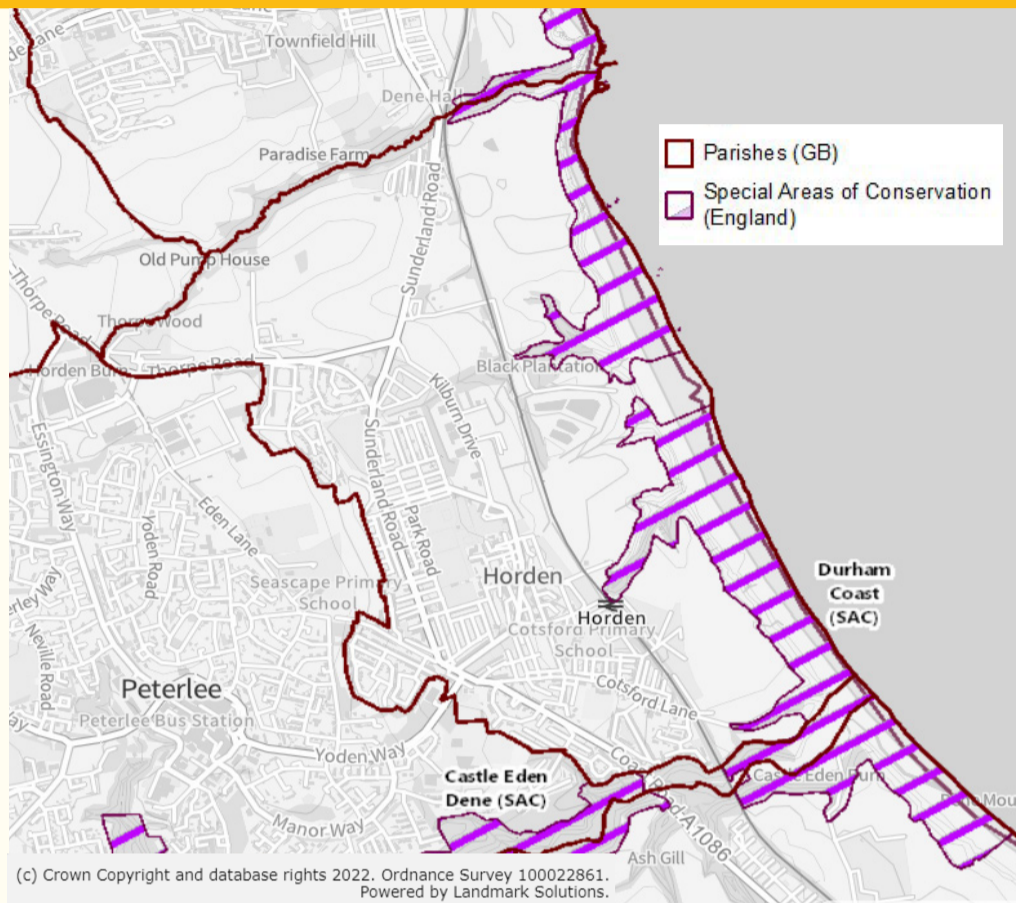
Happy Thursdays  
Horden group



Site of Special Scientific Interest

The Durham Coast (including Horden) is classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its unique geology, consisting of one third of the UK's magnesian limestone. This has global significance and provides a habitat for a range of plants and invertebrates, including the 'Durham' argus butterfly.  
(Source: [Durham Wildlife Trust](#))

Horden also has one local nature reserve in the village - Lime Kiln Gill - close to Castle Eden Dene and accessed off Cotsford Lane. It is an area of coastal heathland which is reported to be extremely rare in County Durham, which sits atop the magnesian limestone. Some of the typical plants and wildlife that can be found here are shown in the photos including the common blue butterfly, orchids, scabious, toadflax, as well as kestrels, bullfinches, and the chance of seeing the migratory lapwing bird.  
(Source: Durham Wildlife Trust / [Durham County Council](#) / [Forestry Commission](#))



Source: DEFRA [MAGIC maps](#) / [Natural England data](#) (Open Government Licence)



Common blue butterfly  
Photo: Terry Franks



Northern Brown Argus  
Photo: © Andrew Curtis (cc-by-sa/2.0)



Kestrel  
Photo: Photo © David Wright (cc-by-sa/2.0)



Common spotted orchid  
Photo: © Pauline E (cc-by-sa/2.0)



Field scabious  
Photo: © Steve Daniels (cc-by-sa/2.0)



Toadflax  
Photo: © Natasha Ceridwen de Chroustchhoff (cc-by-sa/2.0)



Photo: Tom Allen, Time for A Pint blog



Photo: Rachel Turnbull



Photo: Rachel Turnbull



"Out of dereliction comes natural beauty...."

Photo and quote: Terry Franks

Above: Warren Street site, where the former Horden Hotel once stood ('The Trust'). Recently planted with poppies and wild meadow flowers.

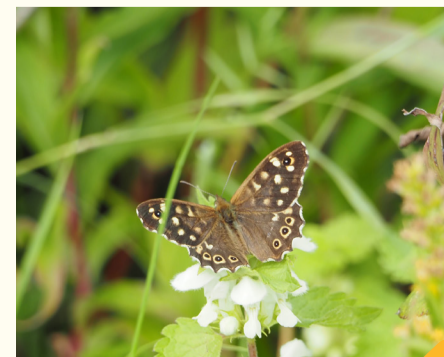
Right: Pictures taken between Horden railway station and the factory units.  
Photos: Terry Franks



Pyramid Orchid

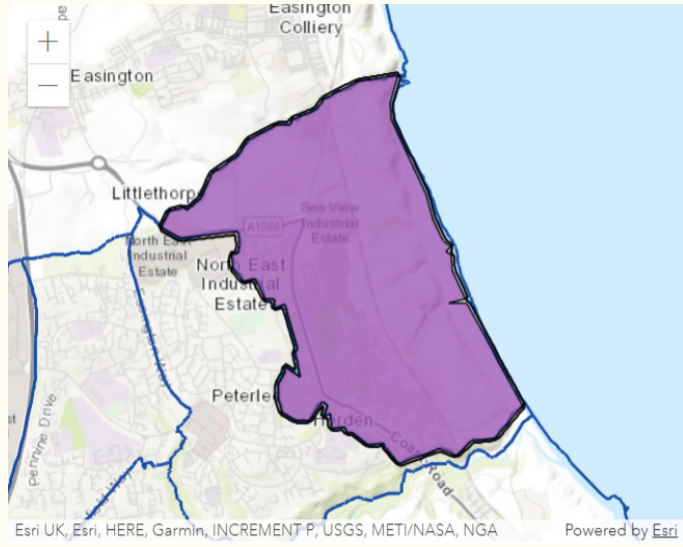


Hawthorn



Speckled wood butterfly





Compared to the England average, Horden has:

- a higher number of older adults (age 50 to 85+).
- a lower number of people in younger age categories (age 5 - 49).

Source: 2021 Census - Credit: [Durham Insight](#)



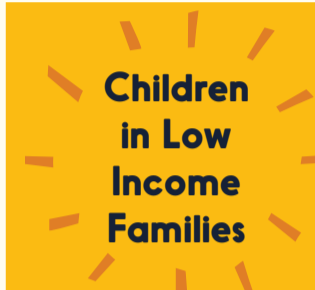
Less than 2% of the population in Horden are from ethnic minority groups, less than the England average, and less than the North East average.

Source: 2021 Census - Credit: [Durham Insight](#)



A total of **6.3%** of the population of Horden claim some form of unemployment related benefit (as counted in July 2023).

Source: ONS Claimant Count - Credit: [Durham Insight](#)



More children in Horden are living in households where the income is below a necessary level to maintain basic living standards (food, shelter, housing) compared to the rest of England (between 2014 and 2022).

Source: HMRC - Credit: [Durham Insight](#)



More terraced housing and bungalows than England, North East, and County Durham. Lower number of flats, detached, and semi-detached properties than anywhere else in England. Source: MHCLG (2021). Credit: [Durham Insight](#)



**47%** of the population of Horden are either in employment (full or part time) or are self-employed. **4.6%** are unemployed but looking for work, waiting to start, or able to start within two weeks (2021 data). Credit: [Durham Insight](#)



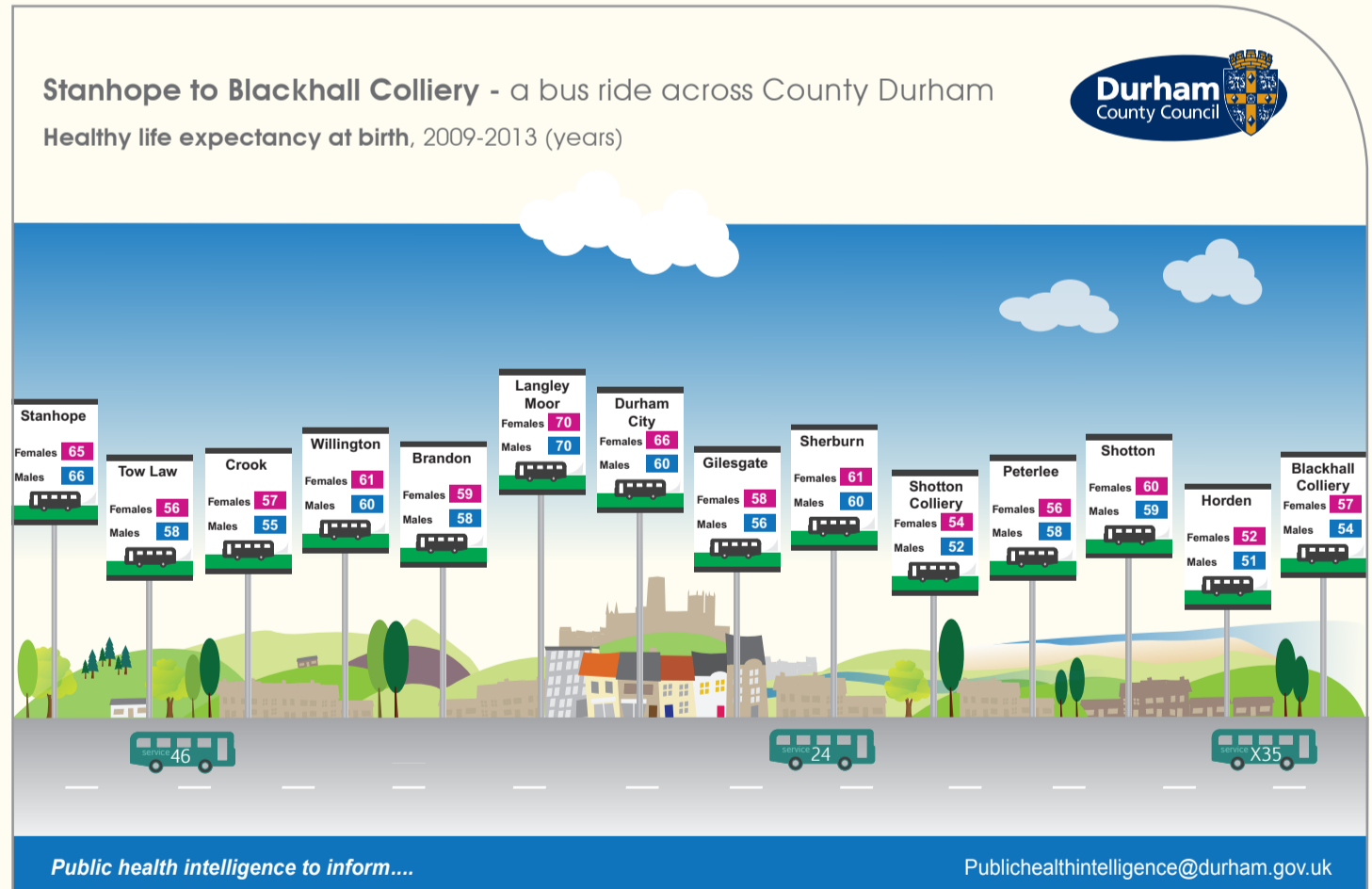
**46%** of children are entitled to free school meals in Horden compared to 30% in the rest of County Durham.

Source: [DCC 2023](#)



Half of the population owns property (outright or through a mortgage). Half are in social rented or private rented accommodation.

Source: 2021 Census - Credit: [Durham Insight](#)



Source (image): [Durham Insight](#). Source (data): [Durham Insight](#)



**Males = 51  
Females = 52**

The lowest in the County when compared with other areas, as shown on this bus map.

\*Healthy life expectancy is the average number of years that a person can expect to live in full health without any disabling illnesses or injuries.



**Males = 77  
Females = 81**

\*Life expectancy is the average number of years that a person can expect to live from birth (2018-2020).



The following health conditions in Horden are in the **top 20% nationally** (recorded in 2021/22):

Source: SHAPE Atlas

- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Coronary Heart Disease
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Heart Failure
- Hypertension

- Learning Disability
- Obesity
- Palliative care
- Peripheral Arterial Disease
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Stroke and Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA)



All of Horden has a high risk of loneliness (based on marital status; self-reported health status; age; and household size).

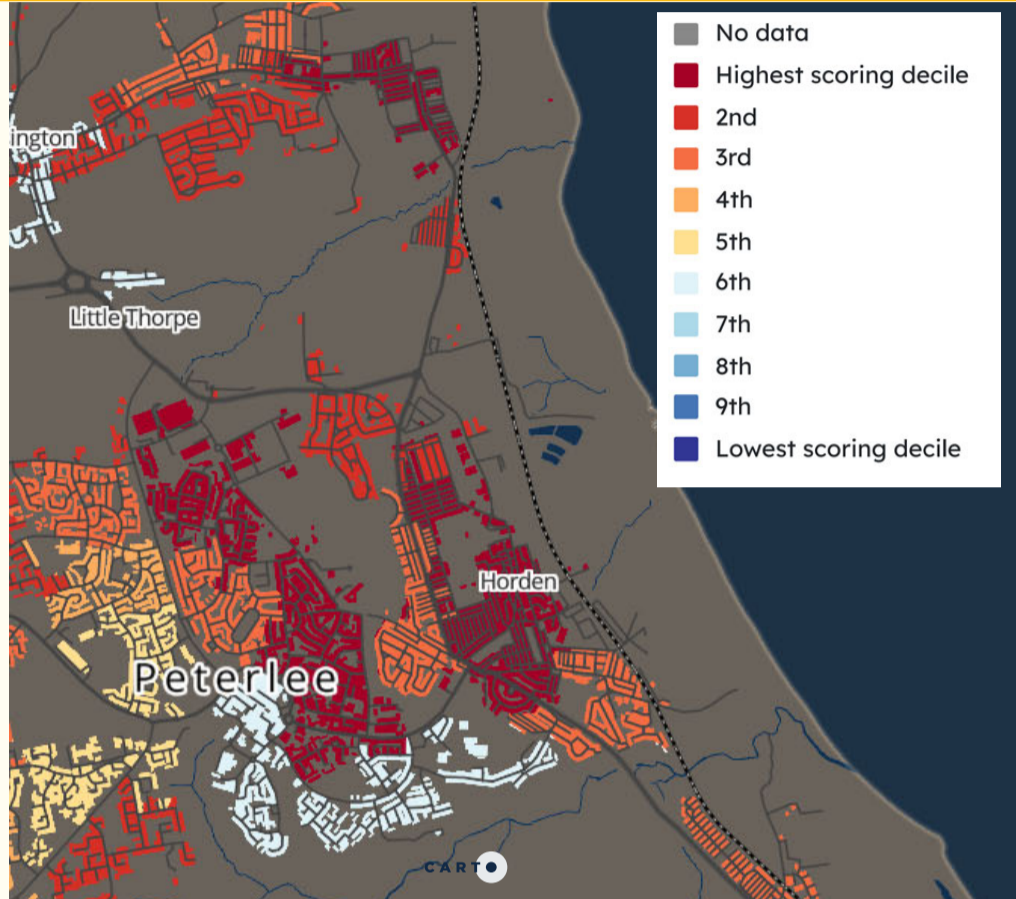
Source: SHAPE Atlas



**'Food deserts'**

A food desert is an urban area in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food. This measure takes into account both access to physical stores with healthy food available, as well as the availability of online grocery delivery and people's tendency to use them.

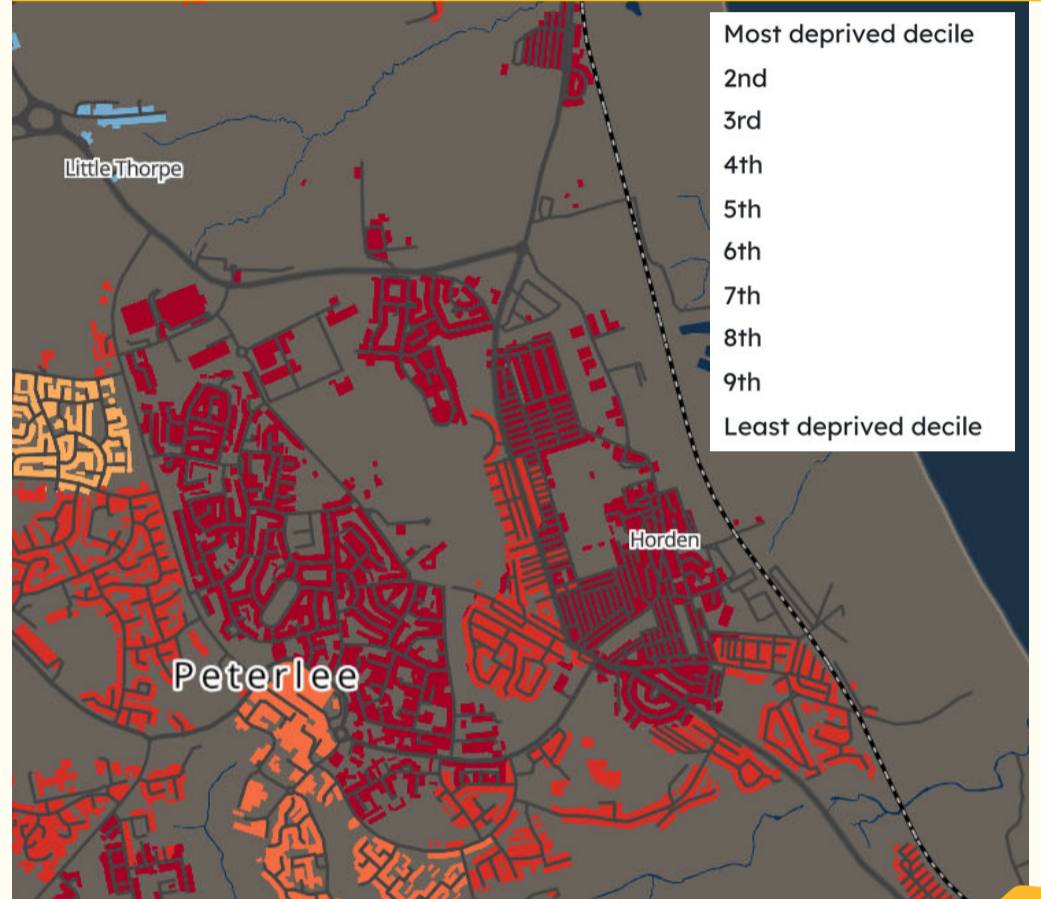
The map shows that Horden residents have extremely limited (healthy) food choices available.



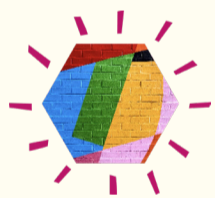
Source: Consumer Data Research Centre

**Deprivation**

Horden is rated as one of the highest deprived areas in comparison to other places in England as shown by the red and orange colour coding on the map, as measured by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).



Source: Consumer Data Research Centre



The Healthy Happy Places approach set out to complement what we know from data, with understanding experiences of place through creative practice. The aim was to share these stories so that these experiences could be considered as part of future investment plans for the village; whilst also promoting possibilities, hope, and involvement for the future prosperity of Horden.

Funding was pooled between Healthy Happy Places and the Partnership for People and Place (PfPP) budget and a joint brief was prepared to commission arts and creative practitioners which was titled:

**'Heart & Hopes of Horden: Stories from an Untold Future'**

The intended outcomes of this piece of work was to:

- Engage with the community of Horden in conversations about the future, people's hopes, and what makes people proud of the place they live or work
- Work with Healthy Happy Places to plan, develop and deliver creative engagement activities to complement and inform mapping work for 'Understanding Place' and contribute to ongoing conversations and engagement for co-production of 'Interventions in Place'.

The creative activities were led by East Durham Trust, East Durham Creates (now renamed as 'No More Nowt'), Creative Youth Opportunities and freelance artists.



**HEARTS & HOPES**  
A pop up art trail across Horden

Wednesday 22nd march  
3pm - 8pm

**"Back Then..."**  
This outdoor exhibition showcases some of the incredible art events and activities that have happened in Horden over recent years. From pop up rooms in bus stops to permanent public art on the coast art and culture happens in Horden. Would you like to see more? Let us know at the link below.  
The exhibition will be up from 3pm until 8pm.  
With young tour guides to help you on your trail.

**"Love irl"**  
We are delighted to bring the heart back to Horden. This beautiful temporary sculpture of a heart by North East artist Stuart Langley will pop up once again at the Park Road entrance of the Welfare Park.  
The heart will be on display from 3pm until 8pm.  
Will be lit up from dusk.

**"Changing Places"**  
These pop up projections include photography and film gathered in response to the Healthy Happy Places conversations.  
Projections will be from 6pm until 8pm

<http://bit.ly/horden-heart-and-hopes>





Photo: Rachel Deakin



Photo: Rachel Deakin



Photo: Rachel Turnbull



Creative Youth Opportunities  
Photo: Rachel Turnbull



Photo: Rachel Deakin



Photo: Rachel Turnbull

Healthy Happy Places commissioned a local company called Placechangers to use their online mapping platform to collect people's thoughts and experiences of the village.

A set of prompts were developed as shown on the leaflet to the left.

Advertising materials (leaflets and posters) were placed in shop front windows, community venues, and GP surgeries in the village (as shown below).

In addition to the digital method, face to face mapping sessions were also conducted as part of the creative commission using the same maps and prompts.



November 2022 - May 2023



## One Voice, One Horden

Healthy Happy Places is a partnership about what makes great places for people to live, work and play. It is a conversation between lots of people and organisations, but the most important part of the team is you! Your thoughts, your ideas, your feelings, your village.

The good, the bad, your stories, your pictures.

Scan the QR code and add your thoughts to the conversation.

The webpage will ask about:

- A place you like to go and how you get there
- A place you visit most
- A place of kindness
- A place that makes your heart sing
- A place that needs hope and care
- A place you feel safe that is not your home
- A place where you feel close to nature

A partnership between....



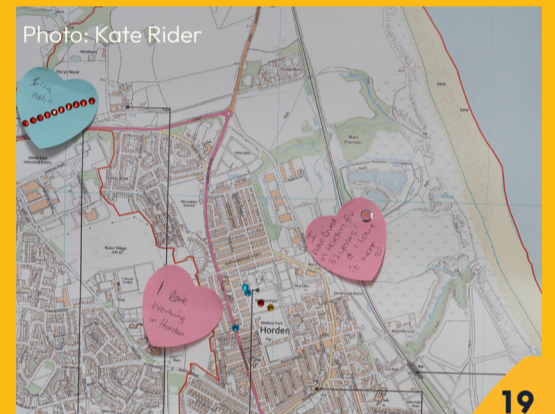
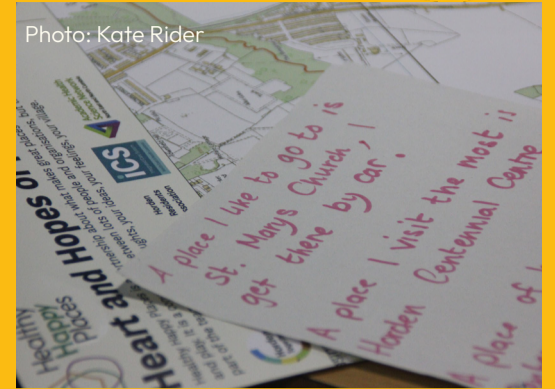


November 2022 - April 2023

A range of face to face mapping sessions were conducted in Horden facilitated by artists, and team members from East Durham Trust, Creative Youth Opportunities, and Healthy Happy Places.

Sessions included:

- Horden Social Welfare - Warm Space
- Creative Youth Opportunities - various events
- The Ark
- Salvation Army
- Centennial Centre
- Yohden Primary School (Year 6)
- Cotsford Primary School (Year 5 & 6)
- Jack Dormand Care Home
- Langley House Care Home
- Horden Welfare Park - Coronation of the King event



19

The outputs of all of these sessions were recorded and captured on the Placechangers website. Additional people used the website directly to feedback their thoughts. The interactive map can be viewed online:

<https://app.placechangers.co.uk/campaign/277/map>



Total number of entries placed onto the maps.\*

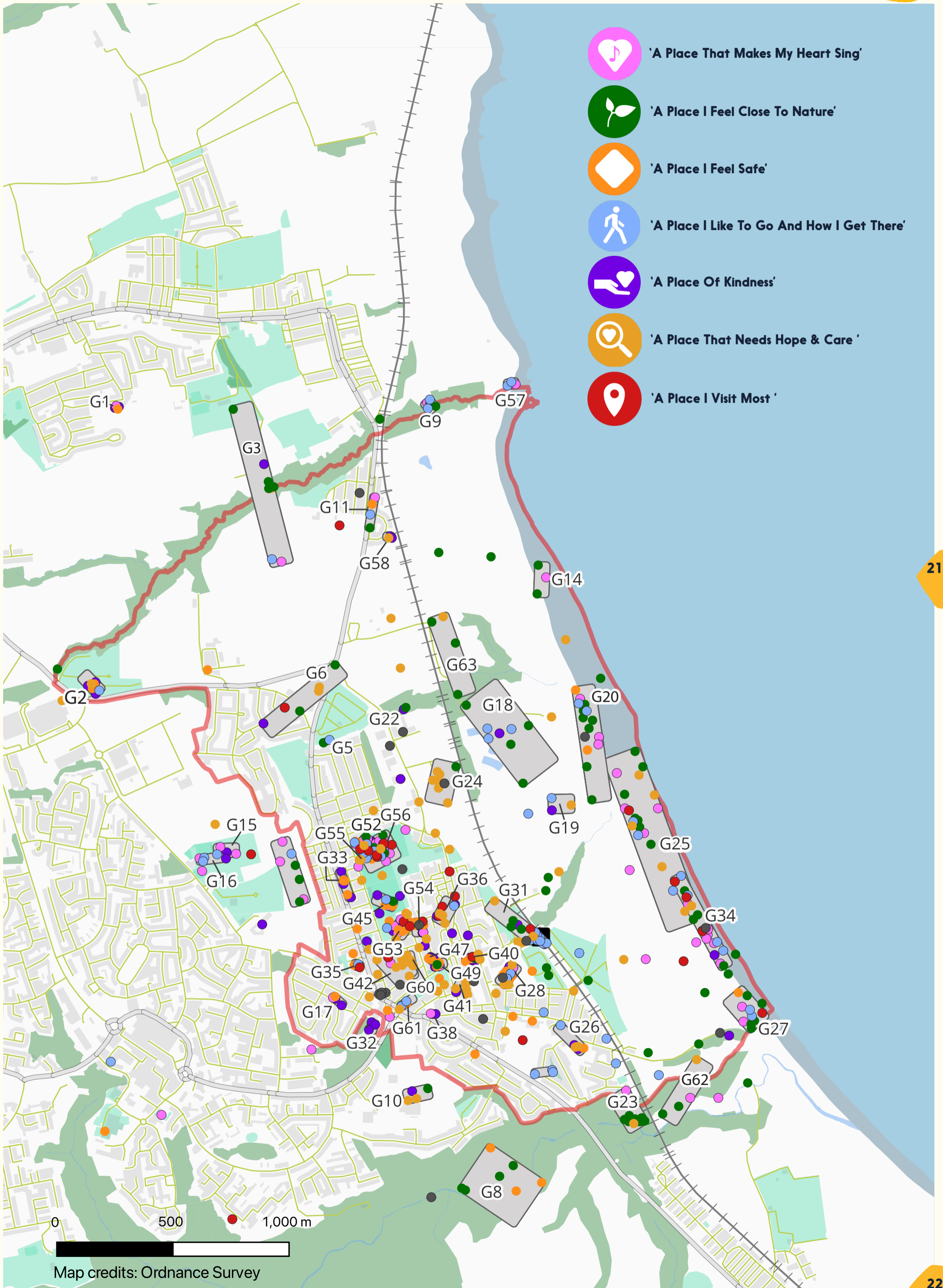
\*Not all unique entries - for example, one person may have placed more than one dot onto the maps. In addition, not all people who placed a dot on the map left a comment.



Total number of people who took part.

The map on the following page is a collection of all the points that were placed on the maps (both on the Placechangers website, and in the face to face sessions). Photographs shown are from residents who shared through the Placechangers platform. All entries were anonymous therefore with thanks and credits for the photos to the citizens of Horden who contributed these. The maps were produced by Placechangers, with edits and all annotations added by Healthy Happy Places.









### 'A Place That Makes My Heart Sing'



G54 - "Horden Hub House - a great community spirit!"

G15 - "Horden & Peterlee Rugby Club"

"My school...I feel happy and calm at school"



G56 - "Vintage Tea Room & Heritage Centre - Open from April to October Monday, Wednesday & Friday - run by volunteers. A great good value place for food, drinks and the best cakes! Please drop in!"



### 'A Place I Feel Close To Nature'



G20 - "Old beach cabins" / "Walking near the pit" / "I go down the beach and look at the water to just calm down and relax."

G40 - "The garden at the Salvation Army"

G23 - "the dene because I like lying down with the flowers and it makes me calm"

"I feel close to nature at the allotments because they grow crops and vegetables" / "A quiet place for me to reflect"

G52 - "welfare park" / "I go down to the welfare park because it has trees and lovely flowers" / "the welfare park is close to nature because there is lots of plants and flowers, trees, birds and more in our local area!"



### 'A Place I Feel Safe'

"Glenhurst Farm"

"Tearoom in the park"

"The Ark"

G53- "Andy's Man Club" / "Football ground"

G40 - "The Salvation Army... I enjoy the food and the people make me feel safe"

G61- "A place I feel safe is the clock park because it makes me feel happy and brings back memories."

G54 - "Horden Welfare" / "Hub House :)" / "Horden Together" / "Services...The police, NHS and fire people keep us safe" / "Creative Youth Opportunities" / "Miners Hall"

G28 - "my school" / "Cotsford Primary" / "I feel safe at school because all my friends are around and I trust the adults. I feel safe when I am in school because there is high security doors and safeguarded adults there." / "...all my friends are around and I trust the adults"



### 'A Place I Like To Go And How I Get There'

G57 - "I go to the beach and I get there by walking through Horden Dene"

G13 - "Bells Steps - I walk"

"Cotsford field... Nice place to walk"

G30 - "Train Station... I like the train station - I walk here with my Mam and Dad from home" / "Thirsk on the train" / "Seaham on the train... wish there was more train space though" / "London on the train"

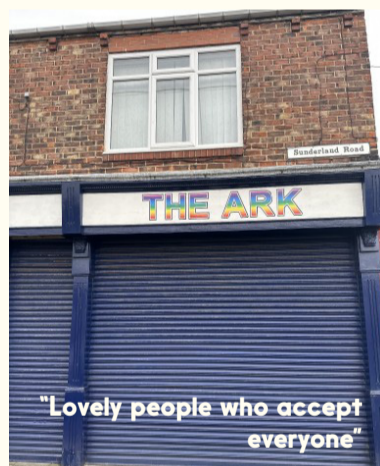
G52 - "Welfare Park" - I walk there" / "I like reading the history things on the chairs" / "I get there by driving"

G15 - "Horden & Peterlee Rugby Club... From Horden up the Bell steps... It's quicker on foot than by car to go up the steps."

G28 - "Cotsford primary - I walk there" / "I bike to school"



### 'A Place Of Kindness'



G17 - "Roseby Road Centre... Volunteers are kind. Supportive place with nice people"

G52 - "Horden Welfare Park" because people are kind" / "People are nice and always say hello. The events are good" / "ABC Park...people are kind"

G54 - "Horden Together" / "Horden Hub House...A place you can go for help and support" / "Horden Hub House...a great community spirit!" / "Social...A place that helps so much" / "Durham Deafened Support"

G23 - "I feel kind and supported at my school"

G32- "I like going to Aldi because everyone is nice to me"

G38 - "A place of kindness is ...greggs" / "Sainsbury's... A great place to shop and staff very friendly despite what they have to put up with"

"A place of kindness is sugar rush and greggs and the youth club"



### 'A Place That Needs Hope & Care'



G63 - "Rubbish dump...This area should be a natural beauty spot but is often fly-tipped and the paths and roads are too muddy to walk. Wouldn't take much to make it beautiful."

"Rear of third street... needs clean/renewal." / "desperately dangerous place for kids to exit from school"

G42 - "We used to have so many people all helping, now it feels like I don't know my neighbours"

G36 - "It is dangerous here" / "Abandoned Streets... I think that all the houses that are broken they need real bad work done"

"Traffic lights crossroads leading to Peterlee"

"Acacia Ave. Footpath"

G29 - "More signs about where things are" / "There are no signs to anywhere" / "Cant get to beach"

G24 - "The Colliery... So much possibility in a place left behind"

G26 - "Old Cotsford infant school, rapidly get trashed, windows broken, building going to waste, could be used as a community hub, use this space for our family's and children it has the space for a wide range of community activities"



### 'A Place I Visit Most'



G27 - "Horden Coast... It's just so nice to walk along side the sea. Some locals fish the sea."

"Football pitches" / "Horden Community Welfare FC... Sunset from the football club"

G36 - "Essential service in our area... I like to go here."



"Horden Hub House"

"Salvation Army"

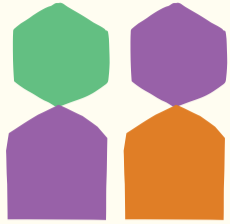
G59 - "Horden Youth and Community Centre, Eden Street... A great place to go for help, support and information. The staff are friendly and willing to help."



The comments and locations on the map below were not associated with any specific prompt but have been included as they share valuable insights about possible future interventions.







On the Placechangers platform, a broader question was included to invite people to leave a general comment on how Horden affects health and wellbeing.

"Horden for me has been my home town for 16 years now and me and my 3 boys have lived here. It was beautiful the first day but now it has gone really down hill, it's such a shame cos it is a beautiful place and the community are lovely, most of them, but there is not much to do now in this place for kids or adults. I do hope that in the future it will pick back up to what it used to be but I like living in this town, if you keep yaself to yaself then life is ok and today seeing this beautiful piece of art is what it's all about to me, makes it worthwhile living here to come out ya door and see that xx "

"Horden's crime rate is horrible. We have been a victim of crime 4 times in one year alone. We are moving away as soon as our house is sold. There's no making this place better, the people are either criminals or too scared to report criminals even if they know who it is. There's no community pride or care, which is reflected in the amount of houses with windows smashed or just overall run down. Especially the numbered streets up the road - breeding criminal activity is their only sad claim to fame. The only way you can make this place better is to get everyone to stoke the flames of pride and bravery, but everyone is lost and broken here so good luck with that."

"I love Horden, but it is heartbreaking to see it's continuing decline."

"Horden is beautiful, the coast is lovely especially during the day. Most of the people are also nice However on a night time there are groups of youths smashing empty properties up. Anti social behaviour seems to be everywhere especially around Third, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Street. All the empty boarded up properties really gets me down..."

"I was born in Horden and lived here for 56 years, I love the place and the people. Yes it has its problems but so does every where else."

"A lot needs improving in Horden."

"Horden is a fantastic place to live but some places are spoiled by people who live there or come from outside of the village."

"I love living in Horden. I find most people friendly."

"I love living in Horden, but we need to change a few things."

Future Visions of Horden  
Cotsford & Yohden School Children

We are grateful to both Yohden and Cotsford Primary School teacher and support staff for providing time for the children of Horden to participate in these activities. Maps were taken to the schools and children were also asked how they would imagine their future Horden....

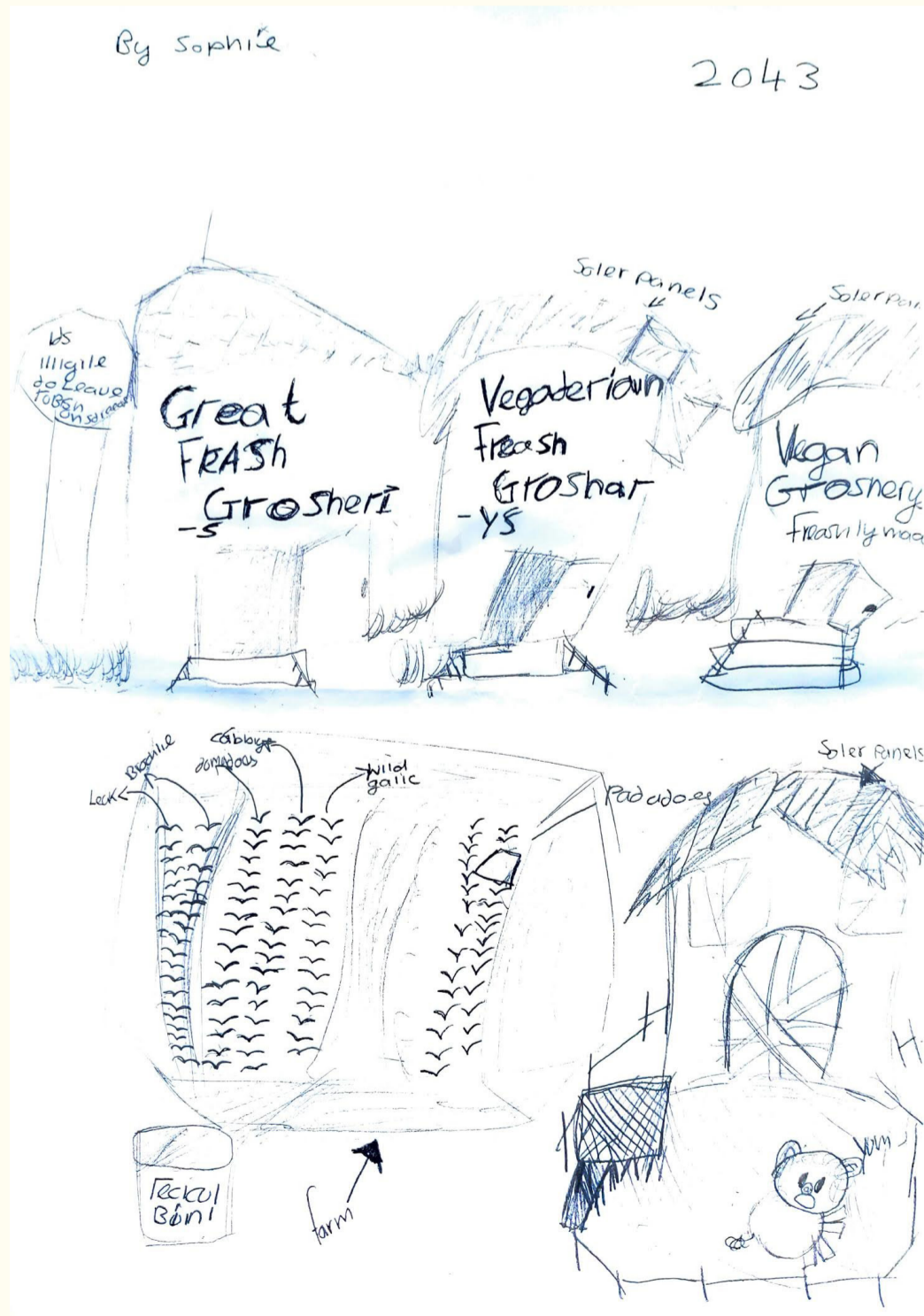
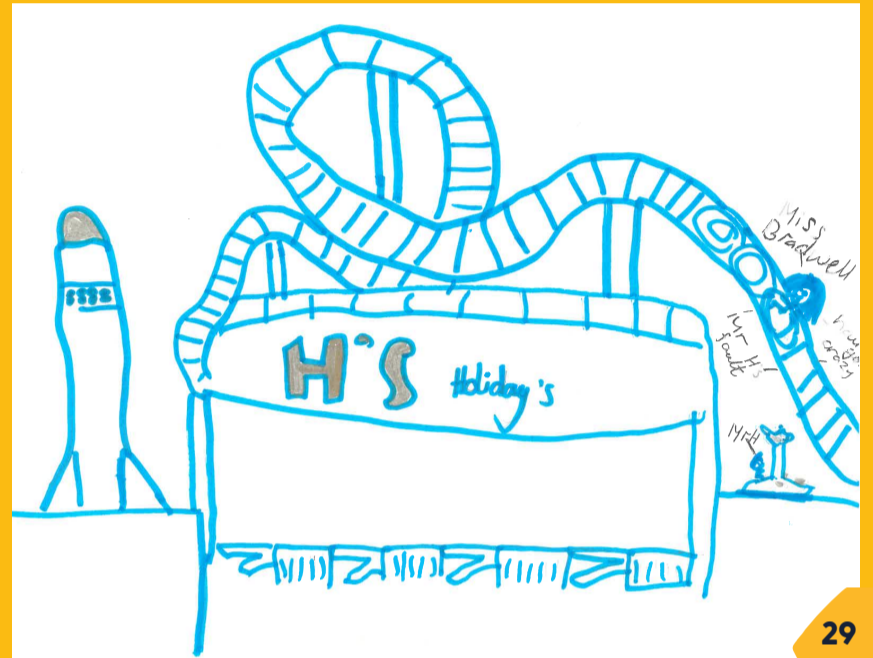
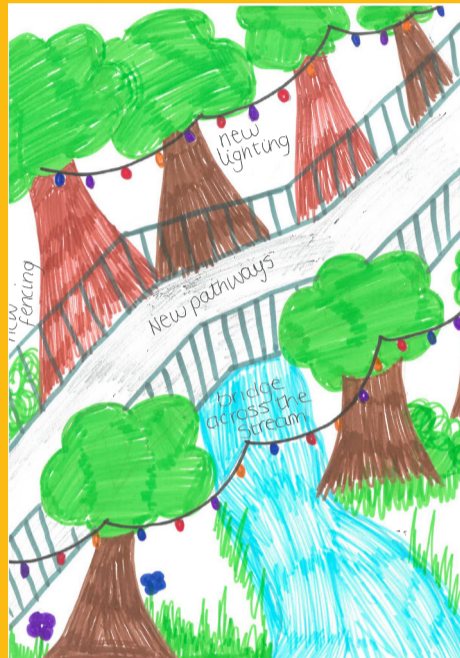
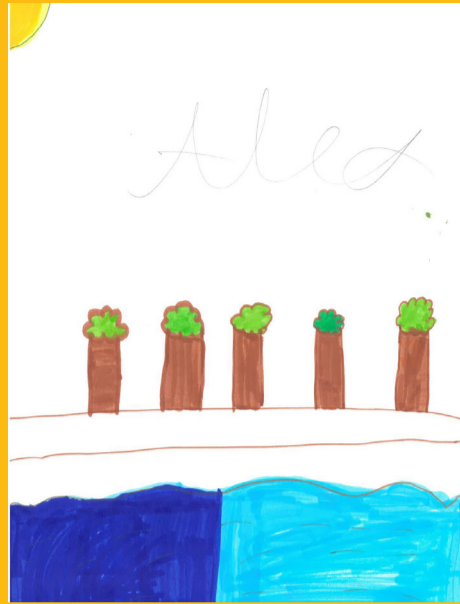




- ♥ "It's really friendly"
- ♥ "Welfare Park"
- ♥ "There's lots going on, something going on every day"
- ♥ "There's still life, and trees"
- ♥ "Flowers and trees"

## What children like about Horden

- ♥ "Can learn loads of stuff from Welfare Park"
- ♥ "Like history of the coal mines"
- ♥ "Like the local shops around the area"
- ♥ "Like how much things you can do"
- ♥ "Like the range of parks"



## Children's comments on their pictures of a future Horden

- ♥ "I'd have more shops for vegetarian and vegan food, and fresh groceries. There would be a farm area outside school for growing vegetables which the shops would sell. There'd be recycling bins, and the shops and farm would be solar powered"
- ♥ "No rubbish would be allowed"
- ♥ "Having a cinema and department store"
- ♥ "A new park where there could be a slide for boys and girls - pay £1 to get food and a slide"
- ♥ "New pit wheel"
- ♥ "By 2050 - all cars and houses should be solar panelled and better for the environment....and levitating cars!"
- ♥ "Amazon delivers parcels from drones"
- ♥ "Water for electricity"
- ♥ "Real life pokemon"
- ♥ "2065 - bubble hotel, unicorn and disco ball so Horden becomes more magic"
- ♥ "A cleaner, greener Horden"
- ♥ "Flying cars"
- ♥ "People forever and never break promises"
- ♥ "New squash court"
- ♥ "Earth is going to fade away, we need to protect it" "Have a game of Horden"
- ♥ "More houses and nature"
- ♥ "A house where every time it rains house turns spotty"
- ♥ "Hovering cars - every window can see a different view (mountains, sunny beach)"
- ♥ "A factory that makes bubble cars"
- ♥ "Lots of trees - protect what we have and grow more"
- ♥ "Flying swimming pool"
- ♥ "Football pitch"



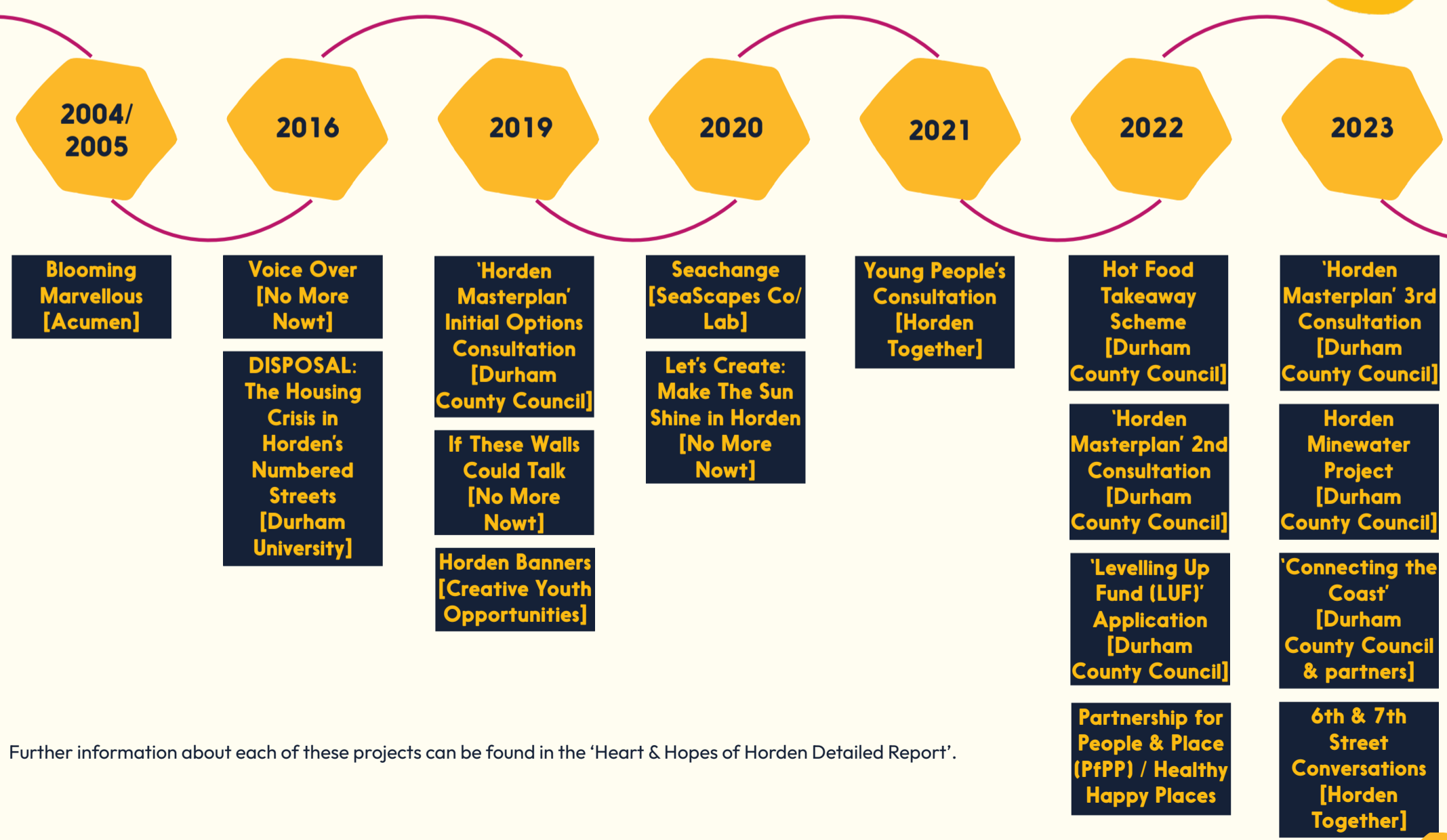
Its not just Horden  
 Its Community  
 Made up of all sorts  
 A right Pick & Mix  
 Even made up of ones without respect  
 Or give a toss  
 And the others live proud of this community  
 All the way from Smillie Road to Langthorn Avenue,  
 named after my great Granda a hundred years ago.  
 It didn't look like this then. Every house was proud and  
 would have a cuppa sugar for the neighbour.  
 Now there's nobody next door but the pigeons in the  
 roof.  
 A hundred years in the future I'd be surprised if my  
 house is still here.  
 On the numbered streets ghetto.  
 It shakes in the wind.

Conversation with Horden resident

Photo credit: Rachel Turnbull



### Summary of Other Past & Present Community Engagement Work



Further information about each of these projects can be found in the 'Heart & Hopes of Horden Detailed Report'.



# Interventions in Place

## Hopes & Possibilities For The Future

### Hopes & Possibilities For The Future

Guided by the community of Horden, and the Healthy Happy Places ingredients, the following section presents a summary of future hopes and possibilities for Horden. **Please note that this is a summarised version. A full detailed report with more extensive information and examples is available. Please contact [rachel.turnbull@healthinnovationenc.org.uk](mailto:rachel.turnbull@healthinnovationenc.org.uk). Printed copies can also be accessed through Horden Together, Horden library and other community venues.**

Future plans should be guided by activity that moves from the community being 'done to' to being 'done with'. It is suggested that the next steps involves transitioning into a project 'doing' group which would involve delivery of projects which are guided by the hopes and possibilities presented in this report. This would also require assessing and applying for relevant funding opportunities (as detailed in the full report).

Although it is outside of the scope of this current piece of work, a masterplan which takes into account Horden as a whole, building on the existing masterplan for the numbered streets and the levelling up bid using the information and insights gathered in this report is suggested.

#### Community Activated

##### Hopes:

- ♥ The community of Horden are enabled to be active participants in shaping their environment and future of Horden (for those who choose to do so), including children and young people.
- ♥ Citizens are able to explore viable community enterprise opportunities.
- ♥ Disused and empty properties and land are considered for reuse and re-purposing by the community (subject to land ownership).
- ♥ More joint approaches between 'top down' decision makers and 'bottom up' community members.

##### Possibilities:

- ♥ Taking inspiration from other initiatives such as the Stalled Spaces project in Glasgow which supported citizens to take control of derelict and disused spaces (see '[Stalled Spaces Toolkit](#)'), [Granby Four Streets Winter Garden](#) (see right), [Back On The Map](#) in Hendon, and '[Every One. Every Day](#)' in Barking & Dagenham.
- ♥ Set up of a project delivery 'Horden Regeneration Group' which may also include an Arts & Culture group led by residents.



Photo: Granby Four Streets CLT



Photo: Granby Four Streets CLT

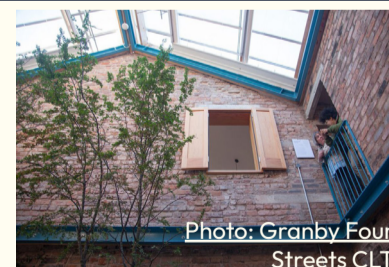


Photo: Granby Four Streets CLT

**Granby Four Streets Winter Garden** - "Two empty houses were in poorer condition than the rest and would have cost us more than we could afford to turn them back into homes again. But we managed to raise enough other kinds of funding to knock the two houses together, put a glass roof on them, and create a beautiful indoor garden and meeting venue – a resource for our community, owned by our community."



Photo: Granby Four Streets CLT





## Food

### Hopes:

- ♥ The community of Horden have access to, and better choices, around food.
- ♥ Opportunities are created for food growing and food sharing.

### Possibilities:

- ♥ Horden minewater project (if successful) has potential to provide opportunities for growing and selling produce, as well as being a place for leisure and education.
  - ♥ An 'Incredible Edible' project.
  - ♥ A community food hub.
- (see detailed report for examples)



## Dementia & Neurodiverse Friendly

### Hopes:

- ♥ An inclusive community which is represented by public spaces and buildings that support different needs in the community.
- ♥ Playable and fun spaces for all.

### Possibilities:

- ♥ Design codes to include ingredients for neurodiversity and inclusivity when advertising for, and selecting developers, artists, designers, guided by frameworks such as the British Standards Institute (BSI) Guide: PAS 6463 Design for the mind, and the [Autism Design Index](#).
- ♥ Use of nature based and sensory elements can provide benefits through use of tactile materials, textures, and quiet areas which provide retreat, contrasted with higher stimulation areas.
- ♥ Spaces for girls are considered in existing areas, using guidance available from '[Make Space For Girls](#)'.
- ♥ Sensory and fun experiences are available for all ages.



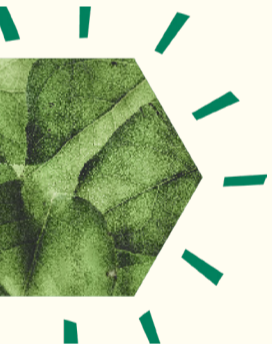
## Biophilic / Nature

### Hopes:

- ♥ The community of Horden becomes a place where the natural assets of the village are celebrated and shared as a positive feature to attract people to use the outdoor spaces.
- ♥ The community of Horden can experience a greener, more healing, urban landscape (including outdoor spaces but also housing and street design using principles of biophilic design).

### Possibilities:

- ♥ Interactive self-guided trails around the village which could identify and link green spaces and/or culture, heritage and the arts - making the invisible visible.
- ♥ Activate a Durham Wildlife Trust 'Next Door Nature' initiative using areas identified in the mapping work - to turn unloved, barren spaces into more colourful, active, and playful places that attracts wildlife and nature.
- ♥ Undesirable alleyways are taken control of by residents, using inspiration from projects such as [Gorse Hill Amazing Alleys](#) and [Heaton Back Lanes](#).
- ♥ The design of housing (new and old), and public spaces, takes into account nature and the principles of biophilic design - see [14 Patterns of Biophilic Design](#).



Biophilic design is design which is inspired by nature. This can be through the use of planting and the landscape, but it can also be achieved through man-made structures that mimic the textures, colours, forms, and patterns of nature. This can apply to the interior and exterior of buildings but also to open, public spaces.



Heaton Back Lanes  
Photo: Rachel Turnbull



Gorse Hill Forgotten Alleys. Photo: Manchester's Finest



Gorse Hill Forgotten Alleys. Photo: Manchester's Finest

## Arts & Creative

### Hopes:

- ♥ Residents have continued opportunities to create, participate in, and enjoy arts and creative activities.
- ♥ Residents of all ages are involved in creative ways to help shape the built environment and the future of Horden.

### Possibilities:

- ♥ A creative strategy for Horden which has support from key political, public sector, and business leaders.
- ♥ Arts and culture is included as part of any future masterplan for Horden, and integrated into existing plans for the numbered streets.
- ♥ Art trails and murals



## Trauma Informed

### Hopes:

- ♥ The physical and social environment creates spaces that are healing, safe, and compassionate through arts, creative, and nature based interventions.
- ♥ Decision making moves from a hierarchical top down model to a shared model with the community focussed upon building trust and a more democratised way of planning the future spaces of Horden.

"To acknowledge and address community-level trauma, residents must take the lead in designing and implementing plans for change through equitable participation and accountability among stakeholders. Partners representing traditional positions of power (e.g. government agencies, research institutions, law enforcement) need to provide space for community members to take on leadership roles and support them in these roles." ([Trauma-Informed Community Building and Engagement, Urban Institute](#))



## Housing

### Hopes:

- ♥ The community of Horden are involved in future housing developments as shared decision makers.
- ♥ Housing supply and design meets the housing needs of current and future occupiers.
- ♥ Existing and new housing is energy efficient and sustainable.

### Possibilities:

- ♥ A detailed housing needs assessment to ensure that future homes are meeting the current and future needs of Horden.
- ♥ Options explored for community led housing, Community Land Trusts (CLTs) such as Granby Four Streets '[10 House Project](#)'.
- ♥ Consider viability of 'retrofitting' old housing to improve energy efficiency and liveability, looking at schemes such as [Chimney Pot Park](#) in Salford described as a "radical reinvention of the Victorian terrace" ([shedkm architects](#)).
- ♥ If new housing is pursued for the numbered streets, incorporate a design code and 'ingredients' for developers to meet, informed by local community members as partners.
- ♥ Planning policy such as Section 106 (developer contributions) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies to be reinvested back into the community to fund activities specifically for the improvement of physical and social spaces.



Chimney Pot Park - the 'upside down houses' (Salford Council / shedkm architects)  
Photo credits: [shedkm architects](#)

# Evaluation in Place

## Reflections & Learning

**"Having a conversation and being in it together matters."**

Large format paper maps proved really useful and were a good focal point for the face to face sessions.

People mostly focused on 'positive' and 'negative'.

Engagement in the conversations were reported to be high and in the words of the artist team 'very generous' with 'little needed to get people to share'.

It was felt that the face to face sessions worked much better than the digital platform. Face to face communication provided richer data and was easier to gather people's experiences in a more conversational style. Recording on screens (even when tablets were available in sessions) was felt to be a barrier to this communication. One person commented "having a conversation and being in it together matters."

It was also noted that people were "sick of the lack of progress after giving their opinions and views."

**"it was easier to gather emotional responses face to face with a person rather than through a screen"**

Using a digital platform was considered less successful in this particular project. Some members of the community may have found it more difficult to access and use a digital format. Others reported some challenges with the functions and navigation of the site when using a mobile phone.

Tablet devices were made available in some of the face to face sessions and events. However, facilitators of sessions commented that it was easier to gather emotional responses face to face with a person rather than through a screen. Participants were less keen to engage with a screen, particularly about issues that were emotive.

It should be noted that the platform is primarily a tool designed for consultations around planning proposals and therefore the platform was being tested for a different purpose in this project as a trial for this community engagement work.

The benefits of having a digital platform was that it provided a central place in which to record all responses in both the face to face sessions and for those who contributed directly online. This will remain available online as a record of the conversations.

**"Attention is needed on what happens next... Need to demonstrate the goals and why/how can I get involved"**

Partnerships across different organisations has worked well in this project.

Although the intention was to gather a network of citizens to act as 'ambassadors' for the project, this was not fully achieved. This will be required as part of a delivery group if the community and partners of Horden choose to pursue some of the hopes and possibilities presented in this report.

The success of some of the ideas presented in this report will also require full engagement of all decision makers (from community level through to institutions). The Healthy Happy Places project was initiated with Durham County Council and partners and was offered as a free resource, with thanks to programme funders, Health Innovation North East North Cumbria and the former Integrated Care System Mental Health Programme. Whilst it is recognised that capacity is limited, the Project Collective reported that having more regular engagement from key Council departments throughout would have been welcomed and added more value.

Some of the tools used for project updates (e.g. Mural online whiteboard) worked well for some as it kept everything in one place over a period of time. It worked less well for others who found it difficult to access and navigate.





If you would like to be involved in future projects or have ideas about next steps, please contact:  
**Horden Together**  
 horden.together@durham.gov.uk  
 03000 263 387



If you would like to learn more, give feedback, or would like to explore future collaborations with **Healthy Happy Places**, please contact: **Rachel Turnbull**  
 rachel.turnbull@healthinnovationenc.org.uk



If you are interested in turning unloved spaces into better places for wildlife and nature, please contact:  
**Tom Parkin, Durham Wildlife Trust - Next Door Nature**  
 tparkin@durhamwt.co.uk  
 07840845466



If you would like to learn more about **East Durham Trust** or **No More Nowt**, please contact:  
 info@eastdurhamtrust.org.uk  
 hello@nomorenawt.org  
 0191 569 3511



If you would like to speak to someone about the Parish Council owned spaces (which includes the parks, play areas, playing fields and sports pitches, the cemetery and the Social Welfare Centre) please contact:  
**Samantha Shippen, Horden Parish Council**  
 clerk@horden-pc.gov.uk  
 0191 518 0823



If you are interested in creative activities and would like to find out what is available to children, young people and families in Horden, please contact:  
 Creative Youth Opportunities  
 Admin@CreativeYouthOpportunities.co.uk  
 07805415120

Horden Residents Association

If you are interested in joining **Hordens Residents Association**, the meeting takes place the 2nd Thursday of the month in Horden Social Welfare, starting at 6pm. All welcome.





