

# Community Spaces - meeting notes

What do we know about the problem?	What help or solutions are already out there?	What opportunities are there?	What are the next actions?
<p><b>Hartlepool’s community spaces, particularly green areas, are facing several issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Neglect and Poor Maintenance:</b> Many green spaces are run-down, with vandalism, litter, and glass making them unsafe. There is confusion about who is responsible for their upkeep, and funding cuts have led to stretched resources.</li> <li>• <b>Anti-Social Behaviour:</b> Poor lighting, gangs, and unsafe conditions deter residents from using these spaces, especially at night. Parks are often locked after hours, limiting access.</li> <li>• <b>Lack of Ownership:</b> Residents do not feel a sense of ownership over green spaces, which leads to further neglect and discourages community involvement.</li> <li>• <b>Inequality:</b> The quality of green spaces varies significantly between wards, and terraced streets lack accessible green areas. Girls are disproportionately affected by the lack of safe spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Gardens and Allotments:</b> Since COVID, more people are reclaiming neglected spaces, establishing community gardens, and allotments, especially with church involvement.</li> <li>• <b>Local Initiatives:</b> Wellness walks, play streets (Victoria Ward), and outdoor gyms (Brone Park) are examples of local activities that promote community use of green spaces.</li> <li>• <b>Youth and ASB Programs:</b> There is funding for uniformed patrols in Foggy Furze until March 2025, and research into safer spaces is being conducted around Throston Youth Centre.</li> <li>• <b>Efforts by Organisations:</b> Groups like Thirteen are working to make green spaces more accessible, while Hartlepool Food Partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transforming Neglected Spaces:</b> Derelict buildings and unused spaces, such as Grayfields skate park and Throston allotments, can be revitalised for community use.</li> <li>• <b>Community Involvement:</b> There is potential to encourage greater ownership of green spaces by residents, particularly in terraced streets, with initiatives such as murals, litter picking, and community guardians.</li> <li>• <b>Schools and Other Buildings:</b> Local schools and abandoned buildings could be used for clubs, classes, crafts,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rally Local People:</b> Engage residents in the process of reclaiming and revitalising community spaces, using successful projects as models.</li> <li>• <b>Identify and Focus on Key Areas:</b> Work with the community to identify key areas that need improvement, possibly using the “Say it with flowers” campaign.</li> <li>• <b>Build Strong Collaborations:</b> Establish open communication with local organisations, residents, and businesses to secure resources, support, and ensure transparency.</li> <li>• <b>Ensure Long-Term Sustainability:</b> Create a plan for maintaining these spaces and keeping the community involved,</li> </ul>

	<p>focuses on community growing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Voices of Hartlepool:</b> Run a community shop and community garden in West View.</li></ul>	<p>and other community activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Building Partnerships:</b> Organisations like JRF, Home Group, and PFC Trust, along with local businesses, can provide resources and support for these efforts.</li></ul>	<p>including exploring initiatives like guerilla gardening and community notice boards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Expand Outreach:</b> Reach out to schools, home-schooled children, and other target groups, aiming to engage both older and younger generations through this work.</li></ul>
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