



Your Back Yard Annual Report 2014-15



**Places to
be proud of**

Welcome...

...to our first Annual Report.

Your Back Yard was formed in January 2013 to support community led regeneration in the north of England. Since then we have been busy finding and delivering projects. This report provides some highlights of the projects we have delivered since we started, and some that are still underway.



We've set out briefly why we set up Your Back Yard and what we hope to achieve through it. We've deliberately kept it brief and to the point. If you want to know more about us and what we do, please get in touch – there are lots of ways to do so listed at the end of the report.

Our Purpose

Your Back Yard was created to help communities in need in the North of England to create places to be proud of. We did this because we passionately believe that everybody – young or old, rich or poor – has the right to great community facilities. Sadly, we know that this is often not the case, particularly in poorer areas.



We know that it is getting harder to find the help that communities need. Dedicated regeneration funding is now a thing of the past. The National Lottery has done a great job over the last 18 years, committing £29 billion to good causes, and has introduced the 'Big Local' programme that specifically target areas who have not had their fair share of lottery cash. However, the worry is that some areas are still falling further behind as cuts to local service hits the poorest areas hardest.

So, we try to help wherever we can, working with local people to find ways to improve their neighbourhood. Whether that means managing community buildings better, setting up youth clubs, cleaning up open spaces, creating play areas, or promoting healthy living, our aim is to ensure that those places that need it the most get support to make things better.

Project Highlights to March 2015

Church of the Ascension, Easington Colliery

With Hugh Massey Architects, We carried out a comprehensive feasibility study into the potential to create new uses of this historic church, home to the Memorial for the disaster in 1951.



Community Asset Transfers, County Durham

We carried out a 'pre-feasibility' stage business plan for Community Associations in Great Lumley and Annfield Plain, who were looking to go through 'Asset Transfer' of their community centres.

Low Heaton Community Association, Newcastle

We supported the creation of a vibrant community group who came together to improve the quality of life of the terraces area of Heaton. Their priorities included sharing cake, litter picking, planting and more cake!



Byker Old Town, Newcastle

We secured Our Place funding to engage and consult local people about local improvements. We agreed some priorities with local people, and secured further funding to take the project forward.

Shieldfield, Newcastle

We developed an Action Plan in consultation with local people, re-established a Community Forum for the area, and submitted a bid for further funding for an Environmental Task Force to support volunteers to clear up the area.

Normanton, Wakefield

We worked with the Friends of Haw Hill Park to consult local people and draw up plans to improve this lovely Victorian Park. We then helped to develop some deliverable projects as a next step.



Ashington Football club

We undertook a preliminary feasibility study into how Ashington FC could become a more successful, sustainable, community club, and drew up a practical Action Plan for them to work through to put it into practice.

South East Northumberland

Together with Wansbeck CVS and North East Social Enterprise Partnership, we developed a community-led Local Development Plan for the area. This could form the basis of a large bid for European funding for the area.

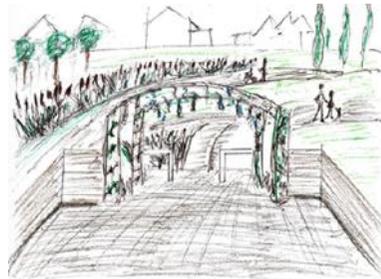


Seaton Valley, Northumberland

We began the process of consulting local people on behalf of Seaton Valley Council, to create village plans for Seghill, Seaton Delaval, Holywell, New Hartley and Seaton Sluice.

Wythers Park Open Space, Armley, Leeds

We consulted local residents and organisations on how to improve a large area of overgrown, fly tipped land lying between two housing estates. We prepared an action plan, and the Council agreed to clear and improve the site.



Leeds University Archive Project

As partners of Leeds university, we used our contacts within the local community to bring together a group of Seacroft residents who were interested in the history of their area. They became a research focus group for research by the University into how people archived their local family history.

What next – our ambitions

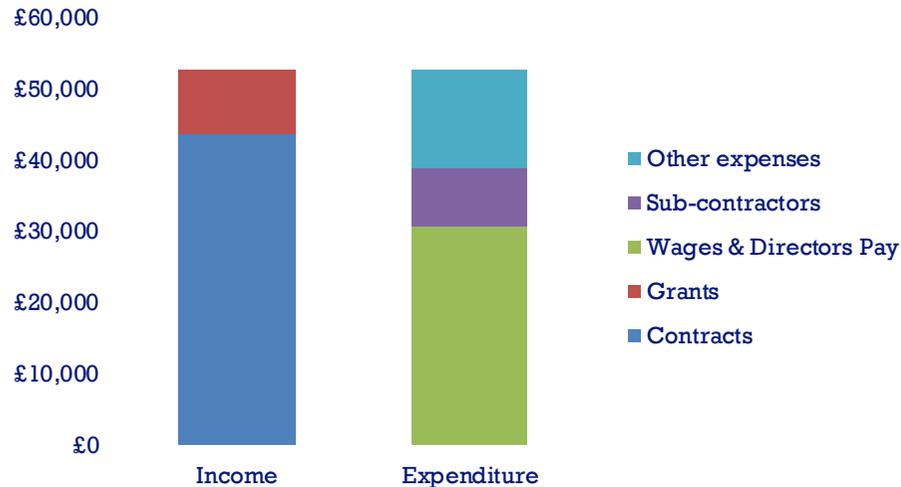
Finding clients and funding for community regeneration is far from straightforward these days. Despite these challenges, Your Back Yard has grown slowly but surely. We have a growing portfolio of successful projects across Yorkshire and the North East. We now plan to grow, as and when we can secure the contracts to do so. Our plans include:

- Broadening our areas of activity into healthy living and sports club development
- Developing pilot projects around Healthy Living Parks and organising local conferences on community-led regeneration issues
- Making the most of European funding opportunities to support communities in need
- Expanding our offer by taking on recent graduates and widening our pool of specialist partners and associates
- Opening a second office in Newcastle (our main base is in Leeds)
- Working with University Departments to strengthen the evidence around our work, and help them deliver impact in communities
- Strengthening our governance and expanding our Board

We are always open to new ideas and suggestions too.

About Your Back Yard in 2014-15

Income and Expenditure Summary



Directors for 2014/15

Robin Beveridge
Colin Seccombe

David Gluck (resigned 15/05/2015)

Tony Mullin
Jennifer Williams

Your Back Yard CIC is a Community Interest Company, Registered in England and Wales, registration number: 8362686.



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Find out more or Contact Us

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- visit www.yourbackyard.org.uk
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- Like [YourBackYardCIC](https://www.facebook.com/YourBackYardCIC) on Facebook

And if you have any questions or suggestions please get in touch:

email: contact@yourbackyard.org.uk

Tel: 0113 217 1507