



Bishop Auckland Town Council

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Website: www.bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk

Mayor: Cllr Michael Siddle

Town Clerk: Sarah Harris

03 September 2026

Members of the Community Committee

Councillor L Zair, (Chairman) and Councillors Elliott, Fox, Harker and Redmond

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **Bishop Auckland Town Council Community Committee** on **Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 6.00pm**, at the Town Council Offices, 54 Kingsway, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL14 7JF.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend. We request that attendance is registered with the Town Clerk prior to attending to ensure that the meeting space is large enough to accommodate everyone safely. To register attendance please call 01388 207110 or email council@bishopauckland-tc.gov.uk by noon on 8th September 2026.

The Chairman advises members of the Council and the public that the meeting or part of the meeting may be recorded by audio and may be by video.

Yours sincerely

S Harris

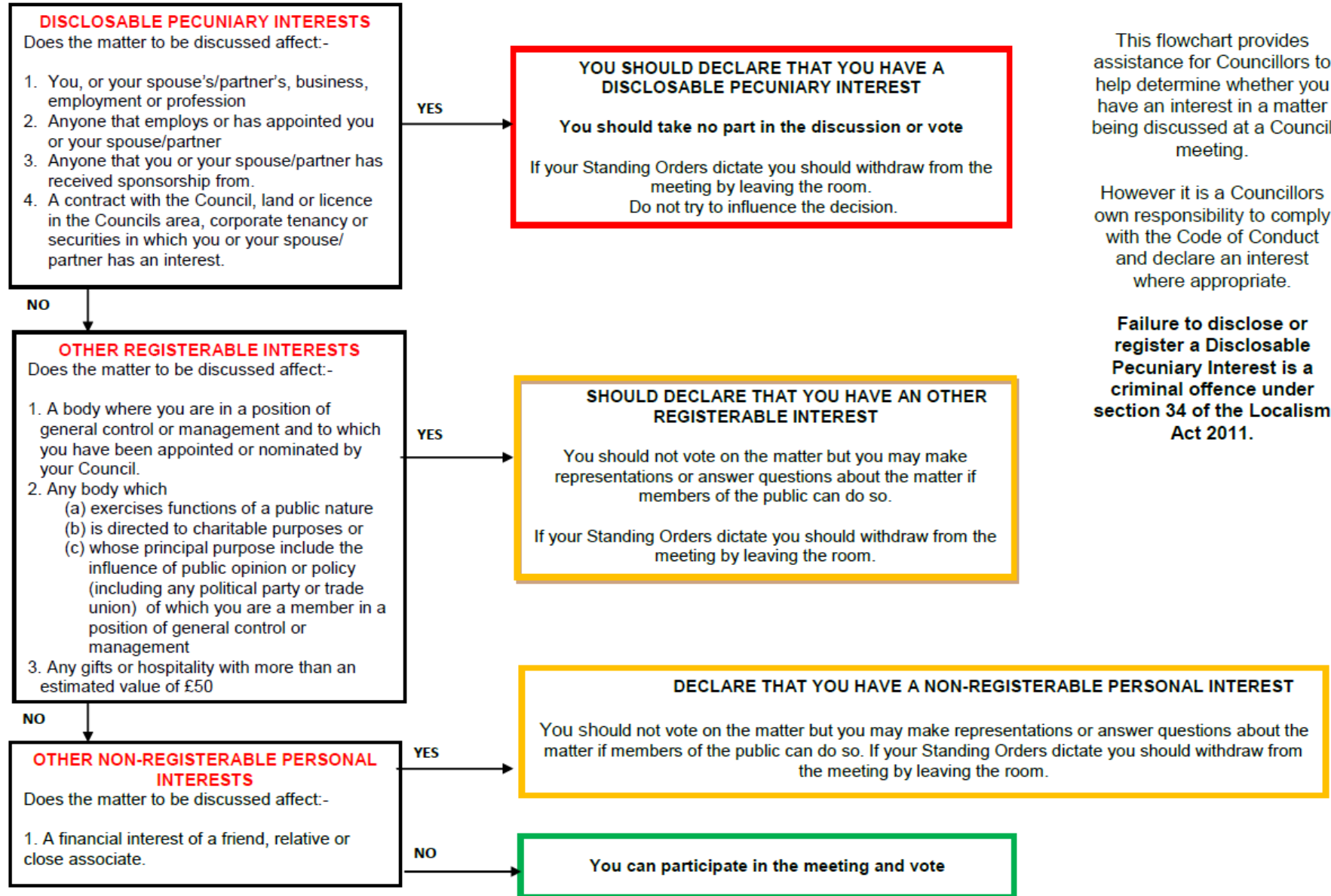
Sarah Harris

Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence** - To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence
2. **Declaration of Interest** - To record declarations of interest from members on any item on the agenda, including any interest prejudicial or personal as recorded on the Members register of interests.
3. **Action Log of Previous meetings** – to look at completed and outstanding actions of the committee.
4. **Community Engagement update including but not limited to:**
 - a. Enchanted Bricks Fairy Tales
 - b. Media Dashboard
5. **Events Update including but not limited to:**
 - a. Heritage Fair
 - b. Word Fest
6. **Summary for 2026 -27 Spend and future considerations.**
7. **Public Participation** - To hear from any members of the public subject to [Public Participation Policy](#)

DO I HAVE AN INTEREST?



2026-2027 Bishop Auckland Town Council Community Committee Action Log Outstanding Items and Last meeting actions

Min Ref	Item	Action	Status
Community Committee 3rd June 2025			
CC004/25	That members requested clarification on what 100 homes can be used for so then council can consider ideas, to feed into the process to address needs of the area. A report to a future meeting was	Report to be drafted for 8 th July Meeting	Further update requested and will be at July 2026
CC007a/26	Youth Award 2026	Resolved: that members noted the update, and agreed that their be a Barbara Laurie Award and agreed to send Barbara Laurie some flowers and Cllr Zair to present the award in Barbaras name.	Award given Cllr L Zair to arrange to take some flowers to B Laurie
	Update given on Youth Awards, special Barbara Laurie award was discussed for special achievements. It was agreed to recognise the two young members of BARUFC who had been selected for England north. As Barabara Laurie it was suggested that the Council buy some flowers as she is unwell.		
Jul-26			
CC008/26	Apologies for absence	Resolved: that as no apologies were received members did not note or approve any absences or apologies.	noted
CC009/26	Dec;aration of interests	Resolved: that members made any declarations of interest, therefore none were recorded.	noted
CC010/26	Action Log	Resolved: that the members noted the action log and members agreed that it was accurately updated	noted
CC011/26	Public Participation	Resolved: two members of Christmas Town were present to answer later questions.	noted
CC012/26	Community Support reports as follows		
CC012a/26	Community Fund application - bridge creative	Resolved: that Members considered the request for transport funding and agreed to provide the cost	noted
CC012b/26	Community Support update	Resolved: Members agreed and accepted the report	noted
CC012bi/26	Community fund donation AYCC update	Resolved: that members agreed to allocate the funding on the provision of an audit trail, and detailed feedback reports to the council.	Complete
CC012bii/26	Community fund donation Woodhouse Close update	Resolved: that members agreed to allocate the funding on the provision of an audit trail , and detailed feedback reports to the council.	Complete
CC013a/26	Strategy Update	Resolved: members agreed to promote the Strategy at all events and will commit to supporting activity. It was agreed by members that shorter information sheets, and surveys into shops and cafes would be useful, and the clerk was tasked with enabling this.	In progress
CC013b/26	Moving Together	Resolved: members noted the report and welcomed future information on the project.	noted
CC013c/26	Greener Together Community Gardens updates		
CC013ci/26	Kings Trust	Resolved: members noted the report and acknowledged the improvements made through effective partnership working.	noted

CC013cii/26	Railway Station Garden	Resolved members noted the report and acknowledged the improvements made through effective partnership working.	noted
CC014a/26	Youth Award Update	Resolved: members accepted the update and complimented the Youth Awards and billed it as the best one yet.	noted
CC014b/26	Pride update	Resolved: members noted the update.	
CC014C/26	Freedom of the Town	Resolved: Members accepted the report and acknowledge the work that has gone into the organisation of the event, with tight timescales. Members agreed that with the decisions the Chair had made regarding the medals, and scrolls to ensure that they would be delivered on time.	noted
CC014d/26	Lego Trail - disply in Bishop Auckland	Resolved: Members accepted the recommendation and the spend required	
CC014e/26	Family Festival - update presented	Resolved: members agreed and accepted the recommendations from the report.	noted
CC014g/26	Christmas Town update	Resolved: members agreed that the funding had been allocated, however they wished to seek approval from full council to make the payments in early august and early September rather than September and October like previous years.	
CC014h/26	Word Fest -update and request for funding	Resolved: members acknowledged the report and an offer of £6000 from the ward and in year events budged was made, with the Council billed as the primary sponsor. The Clerk is tasked with ensuring that the appropriate funding agreement is in place, and that the council is appropriately acknowledged.	noted

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Community Committee

9th September 2026

Enchanted Brick Fairy Tales Summary

2 week Fairy Tale Trail – Lego themed. Ran from 17 August until 31 August 2026

Funded by DCC Regeneration with BATC providing marketing and liaison support.

Total Town Council Spend: £3084.97

There were 13 installations – housed in independent Bishop Auckland Businesses. Ranging from Cinderellas carriage, to Little Red Riding Hood and Rumpelstiltskin.

To compliment the event the Town Council utilised 'Summer holiday activity' funding to run 6 workshops linked to the trail.

The Town Hall did agree to work in partnership and provide the room for the Town Council to hold the workshops. Each workshop was £1 per participant, bookable through the town hall website. The town hall retained the ticket costs to go towards recouping the room hire costs.

The Town Council supplied staffing support, via the Community Support Officer.

Week one of the trail saw 2 days back to back, comprising of 4 Lego brick build race track sessions, which all sold out at capacity, with 120 children attending, along with parents/ carers.

Week two saw one day of activity with two fairy tale princess sing along events, which saw 50 children attend.

The Council produced 2300 trail cards, with a competition for additional engagement. Over 350 entries were made.

The Artists Hub report over footfall of over 3,000 across the two week event.

The Town Hall report footfall of 2500 and an increased in café usage.

Local businesses were involved, all of which reported positive feedback and that they would like to be part of any future activities. Further Survey work will be undertaken.

The spend did go over budget by £84.97 as additional trail cards were needed.

Feedback from DCC regeneration team is still pending.

Issues encountered:

- The trail was initially to be installed on the evening of the 16th August however DCC agreed this to be moved to very early on the Monday morning. However additional van delays resulted in the trail not being in place fully until 1pm on the Monday. There were a lot of people looking for the trail early on the morning.
- Advertisement of the 'Princess' event was delayed by DCC media, as they wouldn't put it on the Town Hall website with a generic picture. This resulted in ticket sales being delayed.
- A media and marketing pack had not been prepared by DCC for businesses, therefore the council stepped in which increased social media interest and presence.
- Wider activities at the Art Hub were not communicated with the Town Council team therefore maximisation of their advertisement was not gained.
- We had to rescue Little Red Riding Hood as the shop of her location was damaged by a car. We acted promptly to inform DCC, and assisted them with rescuing her and relocating her to the town council offices.

Considerations for 2027:

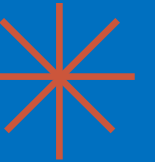
- That the council considered undertaking another summer trail of a similar quality and standard, as the wider business engagement has been very positive. That more brick build/ interactive workshops are developed, as these were very popular, and easy to manage.

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and agree to explore the possibility of having another 'summer trail' with a report to the next meeting where they will consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 budget at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

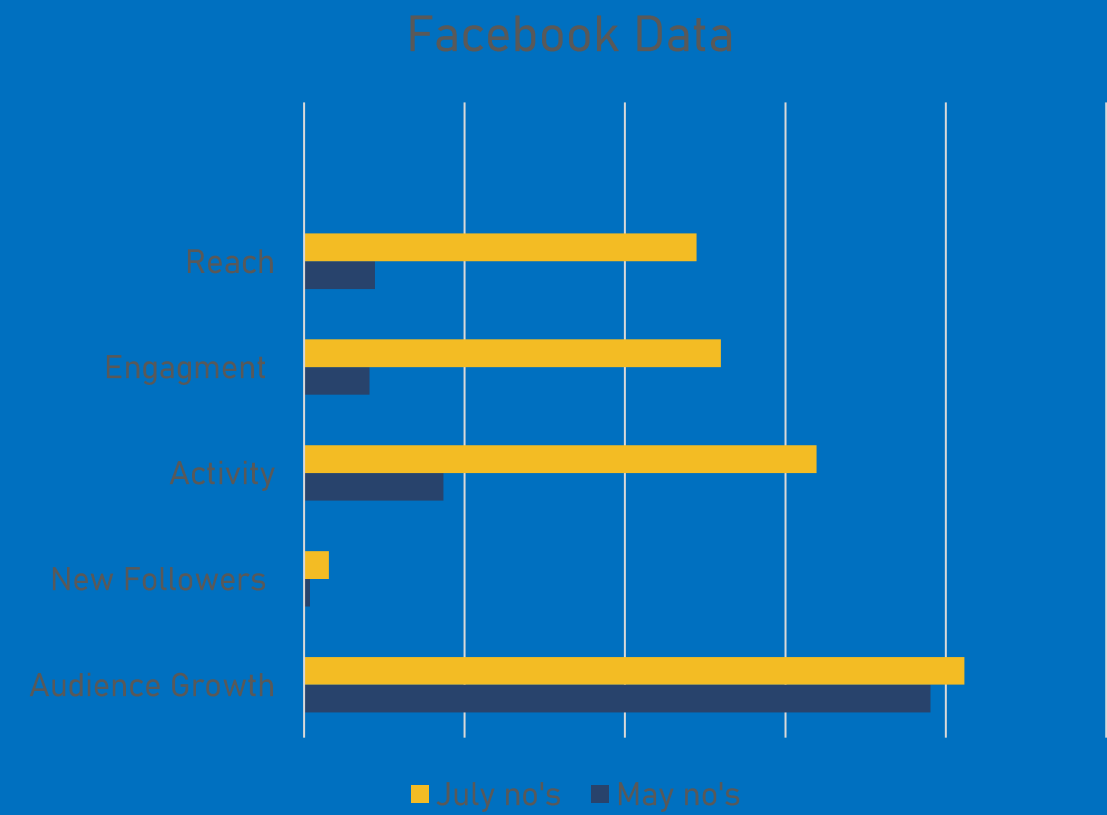
MEDIA DASHBOARD JUNE – AUG 2026

Community Committee Sept 2026



MAY – JULY 2026

Category	Facebook	+/-
Reach	44,200-244,692	+453.6%
Views (non-followers)	65.8%-83.4%	+ 17.6%
Engagement	408-2,597	+ 536.5%
Interaction (non-followers)		+1100%
Activity	869 – 3,195	+ 267.7%
New Followers	36-154	+327.8%
Audience Growth	3,904-4,115	+ 5.2% (211persons)



MARCH – AUGUST 2026 DATA

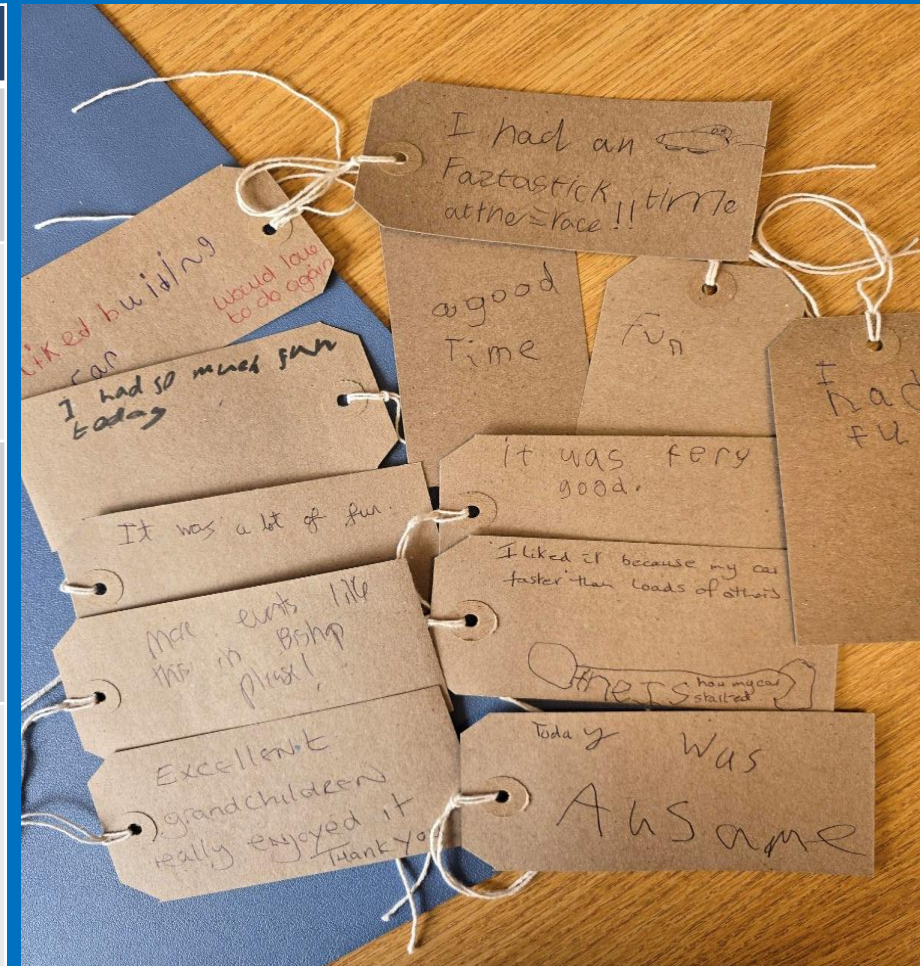
	March	April	May	June	July	August
Reactions	287	700	248	711	689	1,843
Engagement	3,265	3,888	2,159	5,120	9,923	19,664
Views	5,296	89,691	37,449	80,551	116,633	288,782
Shares	36	84	19	61	99	179
Followers	3,814	3,862	3,882	3,952	4,007	4,173
No of Posts	34	30	9	18	27	57
Interactions (comments)	82	74	69	79	353	392
Views by Non- followers	76.9%	71.5%	73.5%	69.7%	76.6%	85.1%

MAY – JULY 2026 PRESS ARTICLES

Date	Press Data		
13 March	Nil content		
27 March	Youth Awards Open (front page)	Bishops Press	Advert
10 April	Town of Culture Bid Launch (front page)	Bishops Press	Advert
24 April	Monthly Update from BATC – Plot to Plate	Bishops Press	Community
8 May	Monthly Update from BATC – Partnerships continue to Grow	Bishops Press	Community
22 May	Nil Content		
5 June	Outgoing Mayor Monthly Update from BATC – New Mayor Appointment (full page)	Bishops Press	Community Community
19 June	Nil content	Bishops Press	
3 July	After Youth Awards Channy (double page) Jill Scott with Mayor (front cover)	Bishops Press	Advert Community
17 July	Town Summer Holiday Activities (double page) Town of Culture Miss Out Youth Award Winners (double page)	Bishops Press	Advert Community Community
31 July	Freedom of the Town (front page) Brick Trail Coming Strategic Consultation (full page advert)	Bishops Press Northern Echo Durham Magazine	Community Community Advert
14 Aug	Kings Trust (front page) Brick Trail continues (full page advert)	Bishops Press Durham Magazine	Community Community
28 Aug	BATC Supporting Community Events Still time to have your say – Strategic Consultation Sept Committee Dates	Bishops Press Durham Magazine	Community Advert Advert

MAY – JULY 2026

Date	Engagement	
6 Aug	Wear Valley Community Action Fun Day	Vicki attended the Wear Valley Community Action Fun day at AYCC. The Mayor attended, as did Cllr Wilson. Consultation promoted.
15 Aug	Family Festival	Maxine attend family festival to adhere to the stall. Lots of engagement done regarding the strategic plan and Brick trail promotion by the Lego man. Attended by Cllr Siddle & Cllr Elliott. Consultation promoted.
16-30 Aug	Brick Trail, 4 x lego racing workshops and 2 x princess singalongs	Funded by DCC with media and promotion, and wider activities funded by the Town Council, using the summer activity budget and ward and in year events funding. The response was phenomenal. Cllr Elliott dropped into one of the lego workshops. All sessions were a sellout.
28 Aug	Street Food Market	Maxine & Cllr Lesley Zair promoted the consultation at the street food market.



Bishop Auckland Town Council

Community Committee

9th September 2026

Word Fest 2026

Funding to support WordFest by Dispel Art was agreed at the last meeting of this committee.

It is running 7th to 20th September 2026, predominantly from the Artists Hub.

Main festival activity is 11th, 12th and 13th September 2026.

Members are invited to attend the opening event on 7th September 2026 titled '***Turn the page brings together people, schools, businesses and community groups for a town-wide celebration of storytelling and local identity. Through established and emerging partnerships we invite people to find/remember and affirm the joy of reading and writing through creativity and connections.***

Town Council log is on all promotional materials as the event funder.

Recommended: members note the report and welcome a feedback report once the event has concluded.

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Community Committee

9th September 2026

Heritage Fair 2026 - Saturday 26th September 2026

Planned Activity

Activity	Notes	Status
<i>Market Place</i>		
Vintage Vehicle	Managed by Northern Bygones Society, they handle all paperwork, RA Insurance and SAG	Confirmed
Vintage Buses	Managed by Aycliffe and District bus preservation society	Verbally confirmed to Cllr Elliott need activity and copies of RA to VB etc
Howden Le Wear – mobile organ	Cllr L Zair to approach to see if they are able to bring it along, if they are temp event notice will be needed	Awaiting confirmation of approach and status
<i>Artists Hub – exhibitors, demos and crafts</i>		
Spinning Demonstration	with Petichor (https://www.petrichorwoolstudio.co.uk/) based on Bondgate of the spinning wheel.	Need copies of RA and Times of Activities
Heritage Display	Approx 14 x A1 foamex boards will be displayed around the hub showing images of local heritage things such as Spennymoor High St, Wilsons Forge, The Sun Inn put which was moved to Beamish (Dale Daniels confirmed I could use his social media posts which is where most of the information has come from). To be displayed on artists easels between exhibitors.	Confirmed in production and print
Heritage Crafts	There will be a small craft area for interactive makes possibly dolly pegs or block printing	Awaiting information back

	Approach made to Artists in residence for workshops based on heritage crafts. Maybe potato stamping, or lino printing, knitting/ crochet etc. Looking to engage with the college	from artists in residence.
Co Durham Forum for heritage and history	Liaison with M Headly. Usually have 10-15 in attendance. Organisations exhibit info and artifacts. Anne Allen will have a stand from the archeological society. Weardale railway Beamish? Durham Museum?	Need confirmed numbers
Just like I remember	An interactive artifact table, to show the like an old telephone, or an old dressing table set. Also linked with a what do you think these were used for? Images/ objects for guessing/ conversation starters.	Items being sourced
<i>Strong Room in the Town Hall (talks) – Venue tbc if not Spanish gallery</i>		
Heritage and History talks. Usually have three speakers across the day. Strong room selected due to level access, small intimate space, with local author and history books on display as well.	Speaker 1 - Tom Hutchinson – 100 pictures	Confirmed
	Speaker 2 - Dr McManners approached	Approach made
	Speaker 3 – John Phelan	Confirmed
	Speaker 4 – Anne Allen on Stormin Normans	Confirmed
<i>Other</i>		
Businesses advised of event and asked if they wish to have any special offers etc promoted including liaison with likes of McIntyres.	Initial flyer/ information sheet passed out/ email contact made. First social advert 27.08.26	In Process

Marketing

Social Media

- campaign started 28.08.26 and will be advertised weekly and then every few days leading up to the event
- social media pack will be issued to all exhibitors/ participants to share consistent messages.

Press

- Listed in end of August bishops press
- Full page advert into Bishops Press for last week of September.

Other

- Signage to go on high street lighting columns to indicate where the event will take place.
- Two feather flag banners are been designed to be put outside the Artist Hub and the Town Hall to promote that an event is taking place.
- Posters will go into shops and notice boards around the town from the 1st Sept when the brick trail is removed.
- Listed on TC website

Budget

Total Budget Allocated to event	£5,000.00
Spend to date	£395.00
Estimated total spend	£4,500.00
Spend breakdown	
• Speakers fees	TBC
• Lunches x 30 & refreshments	£200 approx.
• Room hire	£350 approx.
• Feather Flag Banners	£160 approx.
• A1 Foamex Display Information Boards x 10	£400 approx.
• Marketing materials	£400 approx.
• Just like I remember display	£40 approx.
• Activity Craft Materials	£30 approx.
• Artist fees	TBC
• Northern Bygone Society Donation	£200
• Bus Preservation Society Donation & Fuel	£300
• Tressel Table Hire	£200 approx.

Recommended: that members note the report and agree to support the council staff at the event.

Community Committee

15th July 2026

Events & Community Support

Summary for 2026/27 Spends and Future Considerations

Background

The council has budgets available for community support, community events and Council Event programme. The funds are as followed and are managed via recommendation from this committee. The funding allocations for 2026-27 are as follows:

- Community Organisation Support £15,000
- Community Fund Grants £15,000
- School Holiday support £15,000
- Summer Time Activities £3,000
- Events Budgets for delivery of:
 - National/ regional Celebrations – inc. Freedom of the Town £10,000
 - Town Youth Awards £10,000
 - Christmas Town Support £35,000
 - Wider Christmas Activity £10,000
 - Heritage Festival £5,000
 - Recognition Awards £3,000 (this is joint with Allotment and Environment Committee)
 - Ward and In Year events funding £20,000

The following report outlines the current spend position with each of these funds, and offers suggestion for 2027-28 funding for consideration by the Committee. Appendix 1 contains the spend to date, and the projections for year end.

In order to be in a better position for planning events and activities, the Town Council needs to move to a 18 month planning/ event cycle therefore when reviewing budget allocations members are asked to look further ahead to make planning more effective, and a more robust plan of action for promotion is then available to maximise exposure and attendance at events.

Community Organisation Support

Total budget Available: £15,000

Allocated as follows:

- £5,000 Woodhouse Close Community Centre (also supported with School Holiday and Wider Christmas Funding)
- £5,000 Auckland Youth and Community Centre (also supported with School Holiday and Wider Christmas Funding)

- £1,000 Chef Academy agreed for 2026-27 and 2027-28 - 2 year commitment.

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £4,000

Considerations to be made:

At the last Community Committee meeting it was agreed that meetings would be held with Bridge Creative CIC, Bishop Auckland Community Partnership and Groundworks North East (Advice and Guidance Service), with a view to allocating the remaining £4,000 across these organisations to recognise the support that they give to the community.

Meeting has been held with Groundworks North East relating to the advice and guidance service that they now provide across the county. They took over the contract issued by Durham County Council in 2025, from Citizens Advice Co Durham. They run appointment only session at the Town Council once per fortnight (room given in kind – equivalent of £2080 in room hire), and they do a weekly face to face session at Woodhouse Close Community Centre.

They have implemented a phone line manned in house 10am-2pm – answer phone available out of hours with commitment to call back priority cases within 48hrs. No waiting list for appointments, in our area, most clients are seen within a week of their call if face to face is needed. If they can help on the phone they will or via online support, so often help is instant. They have been looking at a potential drop in service in Bishop Auckland as they do offer this in other places, however this requires more space than the council has available to provide. As numerous rooms are needed, one for meet and greet, and a couple for advisors to meet confidentially. The meeting gave opportunities for further networking and contacts have been shared for Bridge Creative CIC and Cornerstone.

They have agreed to come back to us if they need any further support or assistance, but at this time they don't have any immediate need to change the service, other than informing the community about the service available and their contact information. It was agreed in principle that we would help promote their service on social media, cover the information in one of our community stories with Bishops Press and look to include an advert in next years 'Bishop Auckland' Guide.

Bridge Creative CIC – operate from the Henknowle Ward, they were founded to improve employment opportunities for adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults across County Durham. Through real work experience, skill-building, and exciting opportunities, they aim to raise the aspirations of the people they support and ultimately support people to lead the best life possible. They operate the following projects:

- **Keeping People Connected** - Mental health and wellbeing support, build confidence, independence, make friends and find out about services in the community.
- **Creative Placements** - the work experience project for autistic adults and adults with a learning disability. Where they gain real work experience in social enterprise, designing and building art installations for festivals and events, as well as helping to organise and work at a range of events throughout the year.
- **School Leavers** – they have partnered with Attitude is Everything to deliver a School Leavers project in the North East - aimed at young adults aged 16-24 who are deaf, disabled or neurodivergent and are interested in a career in the music industry.
- **The E&O Project** – for those who dream of being their own boss? Maybe getting a job hasn't worked out for them then they work together to develop people's passions or hobbies into a real businesses.
- **Travel with Confidence** - A new project working with the Good Life Collaborative to support people to travel independently. The project will employ people with lived experience to carry out quality checks on transport providers across the North East. Council awarded a community grant of £1000 to take the Friday friends group on a summer trip.
- **COSE Lunch Club** - Open to all (not just service users), at The COSE in Bishop Auckland every Friday for our Lunch Club - our volunteers prepare and cook a delicious 2-course lunch for just £4.

- **Volunteer Project** - the Volunteer Project supports people to gain confidence and independence to move into sustainable volunteering roles in their local community, as well as delivering volunteering workshops for those taking their first steps into volunteer work.
- **In work Support** - For those starting a new job or struggling at work, the In-Work Support service can help them succeed in the workplace. They can people apply for Access to Work, and provide any support they need at work. The team can work on a 1-1 basis in workplaces to help build confidence and help those become independent in their roles.
- **Training** – they offer a range of training including:
 - The Oliver McGowan Mandatory campaign is designed to ensure that the health and social care workforce has the essential skills and knowledge to provide high-quality, well-informed support to autistic people and people with learning disabilities.
 - Inclusive Employment, Learning Disability and Autism Training – their Expert Training Team has developed a dynamic, in-person training programme designed to help businesses of all sizes create truly inclusive workplaces for adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults.
 - Bridge Academy - providing vocational training courses, Supported Internships and Inclusive Apprenticeships for young adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults. Our programmes equip participants with the hands-on training, nurturing support, knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their chosen careers.
 - Bridge Creative are one of the two organisations behind the delivery of Bishop Auckland's Christmas Town (Town Council are principle partner of the event with support with £35,000 of event funding).

A meeting has been scheduled with Bridge Creative for mid-September.

Bishop Auckland Community Partnership – is a charity which operates from the Four Clocks Centre Bishop Auckland. The centre houses a range of organisations (Hiyed CIC, Eric Knows CIO, Kings Trust, Counselling services, NHS Speech and Language, a Book keeping service and estate agency) and the Time for You Tea Room/ Café. They operate a range of projects:

- **4Clocks Club** - A fun social afternoon of activities aimed at the older generation and including tea and home-made snacks
- **4Clocks Games Club** - Come and join us we meet every other Tuesday afternoon 1pm to 3pm to play cards, dominoes, board games etc with refreshments.
- **B.A.A.S.S.** - A local self-support group for those with a dependency to alcohol. The group meets every **Monday** morning (excluding bank holidays) in the Brougham Place room or the Wesley Room , between 10am and 12 noon.
- **Bereavement Support Group** - Please come along every Monday 1pm to 2.30pm to enjoy the refreshments provided during the session and meet others going through the bereavement process.
- **Cultivate 4 Life** aims to support the young people and adults of Bishop Auckland and surrounding areas, with their current circumstances and needs, providing a holistic horticultural working environment and one to one support; together aid the community they are part of. They run two allotment plots at Woodhouse Close Allotment Site.
- The **Bishop Auckland Family Contact Centre** is a safe, friendly and neutral place where children of separated parents can meet their estranged parent or family member.
- **Knitting Club** - We are a small friendly group for those who knit or those who would like to learn. First Friday of the month 10am – 12 noon and then every other Friday

- **Four Clocks Memory Club** - Runs alternate Tuesdays 1pm till 3pm. There will be games tailored around the needs of Alzheimer sufferers, arts and crafts. Also the opportunity to visit some local areas.
- **Railway Heritage Project** - The Four Clocks Heritage Project is a collaborative venture, between Bishop Auckland's Four Clocks Centre and the Auckland Railways Group. The aim of the venture is to promote the town's heritage links, with a particular focus on its industrial past.
- **Time for Toddlers** - an exciting toddler group, aimed at 0-4 years old. There is lots of fun to be had, from colourful homemade play dough to exciting toys, sing-a-long to story time, and much more. Meet on a Friday 10-12.

The council support the Cultivate 4 Life project – through in kind support. As a peppercorn rent is only charged for the three allotment plots. This would cost £245.63 if full allotment rent was charged.

The Council granted the partnership £1000 in Community Grant funding for 2026-27 to support the project users with a range of summer trips and activities.

A meeting has been arranged with the partnership for mid-September.

Other support requested

Bishop Auckland Football Club Museum and Shop – who operate from a small shop space in the Market Place have approached the council seeking support, as they are financially struggling, primarily to cover rent. They have predominantly in the past been supported by one financial doner who covered rent. However they are not able to continue to support this individual support at present. They have applied to the Charity Commission application for charitable status, however they applied in April, and were expecting a decision by 31st August 2026 (24 weeks from date of application), they have now been updated that the period has been extended to 40 weeks (w/c 21st December 2026) due to the Commission prioritising 800-900 applications per month.

They are concerned that they will loose the property, as a prospective tenant came to view the property recently.

They have asked if there is any possibility of the council supporting them. More information has been requested from them.

Recommended:

- that members note the update, and consider if there are any other organisations which they feel they may need to support, and agree that at the next meeting of this committee in October that they will agree the allocations for the remaining £4,000 of this budget.
- That members consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 budget at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

Community Fund Grants

Total budget Available: £15,000

Allocated as follows:

- In Bloom Railway Garden awarded £700 spend to date £562.99
- Army Cadets – tablets and IT Equipment – Awarded £1000 Spend to date £880.33
- Men's Group Woodhouse Close awarded £1000 spend to date £1000
- Friday Friends Group - Bridge Creative CIC - awarded £1000 spend to date £1000
- Durham Amateur Football Trust – Leaflet -awarded spent £303.06
- Bishop Auckland Community Partnership – Summer Trips - £1000 awarded, £0 Claimed to date (expecting October at latest)

- Renaissance CIC – Training - £150 outstanding from award made last financial year.
- Choral Society – support with concert– awarded £1000 claimed £0 to date.

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £8,984

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and agree that the community fund be advertised via social media and the press, along with mail shot to organisations asking for applications, to be considered at the November 2026 meeting.
- That members consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

School Holiday support

Total budget Available: £15,000

Allocated as follows:

- £4,000 Auckland Youth and Community Centre for summer activities.
- £1,000 Wear Valley Community Action for events in school holiday periods.
- £1,000 Woodhouse Close Community Centre for summer trips.

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £9,000

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and agree that the school holiday support funding should be advertised via social media and the press, along with mail shot to organisations asking for applications, to be considered at the November 2026 meeting.
- That members consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

Summer Time Activities

Total budget Available: £3,000

Allocated as follows:

- £3,000 for marketing, materials and wider events to support the Brick Fairy Tales 2 week Lego brick trail in August 2026.

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £0

Total Spend: £3084.97

Summary of spend for 2026

Historically this funding was used to support free events to compliment the summer exhibition at the town hall. However feedback and success was patchy, over the last couple of years. The Town Hall no longer have a summer exhibition and for 2026 did not have the capacity to deliver any free summer holiday activities.

Therefore, this committee made a commitment to use the funding to support the 2026 Brick Fairy Tales trail. This has proved to be very successful has been an huge success. 13 installations were placed in a

range of businesses in the town. The trail was funded by DCC, with BATC delivering the marketing, trail cards and wider activity.

To compliment the event the Town Hall did agree to work in partnership and provide the room for the Town Council to hold 6 workshops for children. Each workshop was £1 per person, and the town hall kept this funds to help cover costs. There were 4 Lego brick build race track sessions, which all sold out at capacity, with 120 children attending, along with parents/ carers. There were 2 fairy tale princess sing along events, which saw 50 children attend.

The Council produced 2300 trail cards, with a competition for additional engagement. Over 350 entries were made.

The Artists Hub report over footfall of over 3,000 across the two week event. The Town Hall report footfall of 2500 and an increased in café usage.

Local businesses were involved, all of which reported positive feedback and that they would like to be part of any future activities.

The spend did go over budget by £84.97 as additional trail cards were needed.

Considerations for 2027:

That the council considered undertaking another summer trail of a similar quality and standard, as the wider business engagement has been very positive. That more brick build/ interactive workshops are developed, as these were very popular, and easy to manage.

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and agree to explore the possibility of having another 'summer trail' with a report to the next meeting where they will consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 budget at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

Event Budgets

National/ regional Celebrations – inc. Freedom of the Town

Total budget Available: £10,000

Allocated as follows:

- £6,000 for Freedom of the Town 2026 – spend to date £ 5417.42

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £4,582.58

The inaugural Freedom of the Town of Bishop Auckland ceremony was a landmark civic occasion that celebrated the outstanding contributions of Dame Susan Snowdon DCVO and Dr Robert McManners, the first recipients of the town's highest honour. The event attracted a strong turnout from residents, dignitaries and community representatives, with many local people gathering to witness the historic procession and show their support. The response was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the pride the community felt in recognising two individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Bishop Auckland. The event was covered by Tyne Tees News, Norther Echo and other local press establishments. It was positively received by the people of the town. The event was held at the St Peters Chapel, and 80 guests were in attendance.

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and agree that the remaining funds be held, until end of quarter 3 in case of national event occurring.
- That members consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

Town Youth Awards

Total budget Available: £10,000

Town Youth Awards took place in June 2026. Over 150 no of people were in attendance, with 20 awards given out. Sponsorship was gained from £1750 sponsors.

Spend to date as follows: £5312.42 spent not including catering or venue costs (invoices pending for £900 and £1500 respectively), and £1750 in income generated from sponsorship.

Funds remaining for 2026-27: estimated £3,788

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and agree to consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 at the current rate or if they wish to review it, and if they wish to continue to have sponsors of the awards.

Christmas Town

Total budget Available: £35,000

Allocated as follows:

- £15,000 Paid August 2026
- £10,000 to be paid September 2026
- £10,000 to be paid October 2026

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £0

Recommended: that members note the update, and agree to consider the budget allocations after the 2026 event as part of the councils budget setting, and if included the payment timeline will be agreed in advance.

Wider Christmas Activity

Total budget Available: £10,000

Allocated as follows:

- £1,000 Woodhouse Close Community Centre for Christmas Lunches and Activities
- £2,000 Auckland Youth and Community Centre for Winter Wonderland

Total spend to date: £3000

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £7,000

Recommended:

- Members to consider still holding a 'Potential Christmas Vehicle Parade' as previously mentioned.

- that member note the report, and agree that the previous recipients, along with other community organisations be contacted to seek applications for funds, and this also be advertised via social media and the press, to maximise the reach to community organisations. Applications to be considered and awarded at the October 2026 meeting.
- That members consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 budget at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

Food Festival Donation to DCC

Total budget Available: £15,000

Spend to date as follows: £15,000

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £0

Considerations to be made:

Historically the Council have supported DCC with a donation towards the delivery of the annual food festival. This was £10,000 which increased to £15,000 in 2024-25. The event is across a weekend in April. This year the Town Council were named as sponsors of the Children's cookery tent which had interactive FREE workshops across the weekend. These were well received. The council was also named in publicity, and had our logo on banners around the site. No formal evaluation has been received from DCC that can be shared with members at this stage but it has been requested.

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 budget at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

Heritage Festival

Total budget Available: £5,000

Spend to date as follows: £ 395

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £4,605

Considerations to be made:

The event has been running for 5 years, and largely remains unchanged. There is a car show in the Market Place, an exhibition space for heritage organisations, talks, and craft workshops. Decision was made to move the exhibition and talks from the upstairs Town Hall spaces, due to the barriers it created, and for 2026 to have the event in the Artists Hub and No 42. No 42 is no longer available to use therefore the Town Hall was approached for use of the Strong Room for talks but this has been turned down as a request. Therefore for accessibility purposes the Spanish Gallery conferencing rooms to be used.

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and agree to review the event once it takes place following which members consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 budget at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

Recognition Awards

Total budget Available: £3,000 (this is joint with Allotment and Environment Committee)

Allocated as follows:

This is to fund a recognition event for those involved in the support and delivery of council initiatives, including awarding the 'Best Allotment' awards. Volunteers and those involved in the greener together initiatives to also be invited, to show thanks. Recognition of any In Bloom winners also to be covered. There is scope to widen it to include garden/ environmental volunteer of the year, etc. event to take place in October 2026. Small drinks/ refreshment event, possible location of McIntyres Centre.

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £3,000

Considerations to be made:

To make it wider to include businesses?

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and agree to review the event once it takes place in October via the Allotment and Environment Committee, following which members consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 budget at the current rate or if they wish to review it, as well as if they wish to widen the recognition awards to more categories.

Remembrance Parade

Total budget Available: £3,000

Allocated as follows:

To deliver the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade event in November 2026. Wider activity also includes the new Unknow Tommy and women in the war figures for the Market Place beds, and additional crocheted poppies for a display at Kingsway court. Event will possibly need to fund security due to Martyn's Law. Therefore budget may be overspent.

Poppies are being crocheted by King James WI for a display at Kingsway.

Total Spend to date 2026-27: £416.67

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £2583.33

Considerations to be made:

That the Army Cadets be approached to fix the Unknown Tommys alongside the autumn bulb planting. Consideration needs to be given to possibly approaching some more groups to create more poppies, and maybe some school/ craft groups for potential window display. Hoping to fill the 8ft by 12ft fence at Kingsway.

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 budget at the current rate or if they wish to review it, based upon indicative costs.

Ward and In Year events funding

Total budget Available: £20,000

Allocated as follows:

- £3334 Bishop Auckland Pride (£5,000 total but £1666 paid from 2025-26 underspend in March 2025)
- £466 Bishop Family Festival (£7,000 total but £2344 paid from 2025-26 underspend in March 2025)
- £1333 Bishop Street Food Carousel (£5,000 total but £667 paid from 2025-26 underspend in March 2025)
- £6,000 Word Fest
- £267.36 Additional Food Festival Planting Activity

Total Spend to date 2026-27: £15,600.36

Funds remaining for 2026-27: £4,399.64

Recommended:

- that member note the report, and agree what type of events they wish to support for the remaining part of 2026-27, and task the Clerk to seek proposals and costings for the October 2026 meeting where allocations will be awarded.
 - Ideas have included
 - Henknowle residents Tea Party as there are not many activities in the area and no central hub, this is the same in Cockton Hill
 - Explore the opportunity for a 'Durham Brass Event' in say Cockton Hill Rec for summer 2027
 - Care Home/ community group – Heritage on Tour – possibly of taking the created heritage displays to the local care homes for engagement activity as they are not always able to attend events.
 - Local community volunteer afternoon tea
 - Networking event/ day for community groups and organisations across the town including local businesses
 - Consider holding the book/ word festival in Feb/ March 2027 as predominantly an indoor event, with links to World Book Day. Possibility of having schools or local organisations, or even the businesses themselves create window displays in independent businesses as part of a trail. Prescribed set/ display frames could be provided.
- That members consider if they wish to include this allocation in the 2027-28 budget at the current rate or if they wish to review it.

Appendix 1

Table of spends to date September 2026.

Cost Centre	Cost Code	Budget allocation 2026-27	Spend to date	Balance unallocated	Expected year end position
Community Support	Grants and Donations (Com fund)	£15,000	£5896	£8,984	£0
	Community Organisation Support	£15,000	£11,000	£4,000	£0
	School Holiday Support	£15,000	£5,000	£10,000	£0
	Summer Time Activities	£3,000	£3084.97	£0	£84.97
Events	National Regional (freedom of Town)	£10,000	£5417.42	+ £4582	+ £4582
	Christmas Town	£35,000	£25,000	£0	£0
	Wider Christmas Activities	£10,000	£3,000	£7,000	£0
	Youth Awards	£10,000	£3562.42	£4,462.42	£ 5537.58 ¹
	Remembrance	£3,000	£291.67		
	Food Festival Grant Support to DCC	£15,000	£15,000	£0	£0
	Heritage Fair	£5,000	£395.00	£	£0
	Recognition Awards	£3,000	£0	£3,000	£0
	Ward and In Year Events	£20,000	£15,600.36	£4,399.64	£0
Totals		£159,000	£93,248	£53,741	£4,497

¹ Youth awards generated £1750 in sponsorship

Appendix 2 - 2026 Event/ Activity Calendar – events BATC have funded or supported

Key

Green	BATC Organised and funded	Amber	BATC supported with funding / resources
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The below shows the events which the Town council supports across 2026.

January	February	March	April	May	June
		WVCA Easter Event	Food Festival	In Bloom Community Planting	Bishop Auckland Town Council Youth Awards
		In Bloom Community Planting	Food Festival Plot to plate activity	Annual meeting of Town Council and	Bishop Auckland Pride
			In Bloom Judging	Annual Meeting of the Parish – Annual Report	Kings Trust Project work
		College week of community action			
		Street Food Carousel	Street Food Carousel	Street Food Carousel	Street Food Carousel
July	August	September	October	November	December
In Bloom Judging	Brick Fairy Tales Lego Trail	Heritage Fair	Recognition Awards	Remembrance Sunday Parade	Wider Christmas support
	Family Festival	Word Fest			Christmas Town
Connecting Communities Event	Freedom of the Town	Horticulture/ Harvest Festival at Castle	WVCA Halloween Event	Bulb Planting with Community Groups	
Street Food Carousel	Street Food Carousel	Street Food Carousel	Street Food Carousel		