Bishop Auckland Town Council

Kingsway Court, 54 Kingsway, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL14 7JF

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Mayor: Cllr Michael Siddle **Town Clerk:** Sarah Harris

05 November 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 11th November 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 Tuesday 10th November 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

Community Committee Agenda - 11 November 2026 6pm

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 Fund Applications** – to consider applications to the Community Fund.
5. **Events/ Community Engagement update** – to provide members with updates on recent Community Engagement and Event Activity as well as a update on the progress towards planning future events.
6. **Public Participation -** To hear from any members of the public subject to Public Participation Policy

DO I HAVE AN INTEREST?

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Does the matter to be discussed affect:-

1. You, or your spouse's/partner's, business, employment or profession
2. Anyone that employs or has appointed you or your spouse/partner
3. Anyone that you or your spouse/partner has received sponsorship from.
4. A contract with the Council, land or licence in the Councils area, corporate tenancy or securities in which you or your spouse/ partner has an interest.

YES →

YOU SHOULD DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

You should take no part in the discussion or vote

If your Standing Orders dictate you should withdraw from the meeting by leaving the room.
Do not try to influence the decision.

NO ↓

OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS

Does the matter to be discussed affect:-

1. A body where you are in a position of general control or management and to which you have been appointed or nominated by your Council.
2. Any body which
   (a) exercises functions of a public nature
   (b) is directed to charitable purposes or
   (c) whose principal purpose include the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member in a position of general control or management
3. Any gifts or hospitality with more than an estimated value of £50

YES →

SHOULD DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE AN OTHER REGISTERABLE INTEREST

You should not vote on the matter but you may make representations or answer questions about the matter if members of the public can do so.

If your Standing Orders dictate you should withdraw from the meeting by leaving the room.

NO ↓

OTHER NON-REGISTERABLE PERSONAL INTERESTS

Does the matter to be discussed affect:-

1. A financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate.

YES →

DECLARE THAT YOU HAVE A NON-REGISTERABLE PERSONAL INTEREST

You should not vote on the matter but you may make representations or answer questions about the matter if members of the public can do so. If your Standing Orders dictate you should withdraw from the meeting by leaving the room.

NO →

You can participate in the meeting and vote

This flowchart provides assistance for Councillors to help determine whether you have an interest in a matter being discussed at a Council meeting.

However it is a Councillors own responsibility to comply with the Code of Conduct and declare an interest where appropriate.

Failure to disclose or register a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest is a criminal offence under section 34 of the Localism Act 2011.

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 106 monies 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 requested	Report to be drafted for 8th July Meeting	Further update requested and will be at July 2026
CC024/26	action log	Agreed that due to illness that flowers are to be sent to B Laurie	In progress
CC025/26	Community Fund Applications	Agreed that Rugby Club be awarded 990, BA Baptist Church be awarded 499.95 and Four Clocks Community Parntership be awarded up to £1000 for a laptop	awards made
CC026/26	EVENTS COMMUNITY ENAGEMENT	Word fest noted, and Flying Scotsman feedback to be given to next meeting	noted
CC027/26	**Community Support 2026-27 plus proposals for 2027-28 and events 2026-27 plus proposals for 2027-28**	Community Fund that member made a commitment for the remainder of the budget allocation remaining is reviewed again in January 2027 to ensure that all funds are allocated fort his years budget by the end of the financial year.	awards made
		Communiy org support agreed to give Bridge creative 1000 plus transfer their 1000 from Community Fund. Award 3000 to Four Clocks community Partnership	awards communicated to organisartions
		that members considered and recommend to full council as part of the budget setting that the community organisation support funding allocation is a vital life line for community organisations and the people they support and the budget should be increased to £25,000 for the 2027-28 financial year.	in progress - report to NOV Council
		that members will actively encourage Policy and Resources Committee to champion that this booklet is developed again in early 2027. For it to involve as many organisations and community groups as possible, to consider adding in a directional page for contacts for support organisations. That the booklet may be bigger than in 2026 and would want it to reach every household rather than the 6000 it did this year and that will need to be considered in the marketing budget. That members agreed this should not include advertising space and is entirely a directory for groups and organisations in the town.	in progress - report to NOV Council
		Christmas Town - that member await the outcome of the 2026 event and agree the budget with full council a part of the budget setting.	In progress
		wider christmas Events - that applications be considered at the next meeting	on agenda

Item: 4

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Community Committee

11th November 2026

Community Fund Applications

The Community Fund grant has a total budget of £15,000 for 2026-27 financial year.

So far applications to the sum of £8314.30 been approved 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 - £0 claimed to date[1]
- 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 £1000 to date.
- Bishop Auckland Rugby Club – for young referee training – awarded £990
- Bishop Auckland Baptist Church for upholstery cleaner – awarded £499.95
- Four Clocks Community Partnership for equipment for family support worker – awarded £1000

This leaves a remaining £6685.70 for allocation.

The Committee has received three applications, and a third will be tabled at the meeting. If all applications are approved, it leaves £6685.70 to be allocated by the end of the financial year.

Application 1 Summary:

Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre have applied for £1,000 to continue with the meals on wheels and lunch club service that they have delivered for the past 25 years. This valuable service helps older people suffering from social isolation and enables people to remain independent within their own homes. The cost of food has risen dramatically and the service is reluctant to increase its process £4 for a main meal and dessert) and so many are facing financial hardship. The service runs mainly through grants, subsidies and volunteers. The service helps provide a balanced nutritious meal, enhanced social connections, helps promote independence. Some people purchase more than one meal so they can reheat one the following day to ensure they have a proper meal. The funds will help purchase food containers, fresh meats, travel expenses. The 2027-28 project is estimated to cost in the region of £29,463 (this includes, rent, salaries, food and

[1] The planned event was not able to take place due to unforeseen circumstances therefore they wish to utilise and carry it out in 2027.

meal containers, volunteer expenses). The centre would like to apply for £1,000 toward the ongoing costs to help ensure its sustainability.

Recommended:

- that member note the request and consider supporting the project to ensure people can remain independent and to help alleviate isolation.

Application 2 Summary:

EmpowerMama CIC

Perinatal mental illness affects approx. 27% of new mothers. Local initiatives have highlighted gaps in provision as most specialist provisions deal with severe cases and therefore cannot meet the demand of support required. The CIC was started 10 months ago by a lady following her own experience. From a local survey 3 themes emerged, managing overwhelm and understanding triggers, developing self-compassion in motherhood, rediscovering identity beyond motherhood.

The 2 hour workshops would be facilitated by a clinical psychologist. Outcomes from the workshops that have previously been held in Newton Aycliffe have been very positive and EmpowereMama wants to replicate that in Bishop Auckland. Each workshop would accommodate up to 40 people and 2 sessions are planned.

The application for £1,000 would cover room hire, refreshments for attendees, the psychologist facilitator and compile an outcome report.

As this CIC is only 10 months old they are unable to supply an income and expenditure report however they have provided a cash flow report.

Recommended:

- that member note the request and consider supporting the workshops proposed by EmpowerMama.

Application 3 Summary:

Family peer Supporter for Parenting (Delivered by Harrogate Hospital and Community Charity which supports the Co Durham HDFT NHS Growing Healthy Team).

Pregnant to preschool is a weekly stay-and-play group that provides a safe, welcoming environment for families with young children. It helps develop social connections, improve mental wellbeing and access information relating to health and child development for under 5 year olds. It is situated in a are area of high deprivation at the Family Hub on Walker Drive. This would be a prime opportunity to provide healthy snacks at the sessions as many face financial challenges and reply on processed foods. The group accommodates approximately 60 people each quarter, however in the last 12 months this has risen rapidly and have had unique contact with 57 adults and 54 children.

The community funds application is for £220 and this would provide healthy snacks at £5 per week over 44 weeks and craft/activity resources. The project without staffing costs amounts to £4337.76 per year.

Recommended:

- that member note the request and consider supporting the healthy snacks at the peer support for parenting group.

Application 4 Summary:

Cockton Hill Junior School is developing a family learning group. The groups is aimed at providing parents/carers with the opportunity to develop their own skills, build confidence and become more actively involved in their child's education. This will strengthen the relationship between home and school and improve children's learning outcomes by creating a welcoming supportive environment where families feel supported and included. The will help the wider community by brining families together, reducing social isolation and strengthen community connections. This project is likely to benefit 200 people. It will be continuous and not a short one term programme.

To deliver the project tables and chairs are required (6 tables £365.94 and 24 chairs £647.76) therefore the application is for £1000.

Recommended:

- that member note the request and consider supporting the initiative.
- That members note this would not be deemed as double taxation as the expenditure benefits the wider community and support parents in their children's education going forward and the school and county council do not already specifically fund this project.

Application 5 Summary:

Bishop Auckland site, we deliver day hospice services, counselling, family support, complementary therapies and practical advice to around 600 people every year. Across the charity, we support people with complex and progressive illnesses where cure is no longer possible, helping them to manage symptoms, maintain independence, achieve personal goals. At Christmas the feelings of anxiety, anticipatory grief and concern are often heightened and carers carry additional emotional, physical and financial pressures.

Butterwick's annual Christmas party plays a vital role in the support provided. It is a place where illness temporarily recedes to the background so laughter, joy and celebration can take centre stage. This free festive event with entertainment, activities and traditional Christmas buffet ensure we can support families regardless of their financial circumstances. The party will have approx. 100 patients and carers attend. The £925 applied for will cover the entertainment (£360), Buffet (£360) and resources for games and activities (£205).

Recommended:

- that member note the request and consider supporting the festive celebration at a difficult time for families involved.

Item 5

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Community Committee

11 November 2026

Community Engagement and Events

This report sets out engagement activity undertaken and event planning and delivery progress.

October 2026

Engagement activities

Wider Christmas Activities

The Deputy Clerk and Community Support Officer have been liaising with organisations relating to Christmas Funding. An advert was placed in the Bishops Press and online seeking groups to apply. The recommended list of events to support is shown in Appendix 1.

Kings Trust

The CSO has been connected the Kings Trust with a range of wider organisations to support their programme of delivery including Bishop Auckland College and the ISS Service at the Hospital. The Mayor and CSO also supported the Kings Trust with 'Mock' interviews to help prepare the scheme participants with interview experience ahead of job and college applications. Working to support them with wider community organisation contacts.

General engagement activities

The CSO has been liaising with Schools and other organisations relating to other planned activities, and events in 2027. Including Flying Scotsman, Winter Blues, International Women's Day, School Holiday Activities. Have also attended to the Moving together programme event.

Attended Eden House Care Home to deliver flowers to resident who was 102 years old, Mayor and Deputy were not able to attend.

Attended the community engagement event linked to the new Leisure Centre. Contacts made with the community growing project.

Attended Groundwork Community Organisation market place event, wider contacts made with community partners.

Met with key SKYPAN partners to see if there is an option for a similar network in Bishop Auckland. Further exploration and full report will come to the council.

Recommended that members consider the applications for the wider Christmas funding as per appendix 1 to approve and note the October update.

Events

Recognition awards for Allotments and Environment - Funded from 2026-27 recognition awards.

The event was held at the McIntyre Centre, with volunteers, members of Greener Together and a representative of Northumbria in Bloom. Approx 50 people were in attendance. The event thanked those for giving up their time to make a difference in their community through volunteering to work on Greener Together projects, from Litter Picking, to community Planting.

The event was well received. Each volunteer was individually recognised and issued with the a certificate of appreciation.

Recommended that members note the report and welcome a spend update at the next meeting.

November 2026

Engagement activities

- **Flying Scotsman –** Community Support Officer (CSO) has been liaising with Schools and Groups regarding attending the train station for the passing through of the flying Scotsman. Two primary schools have been interested in attending, relationships are being building with these organisations. St Annes Primary, Cockton Hill have been in conversation, and King James have been contacted. Laison is in place with the College. Brownies, Cubs and Scouts have also been contacted.

- Planned attendance at the Moving together 3rd programme event.

- Attending Community Garden event for the new Leisure Centre, bespoke event at Woodhouse Close, linked community and growing. Attending with Owen the Allotment Officer. To understand the impact of the project.

Events

- **8th November 2026 - Remembrance Parade** and service took place on the 8th November 2026. An update will be given at the meeting.

- **12th November 2026 - Sponsorship of the High Sherrif's** – Carol Event at Auckland Palace – the Town Council are sponsoring the event to £1000. The Mayor and Consort are attending.

- **21st November 2026 - Christmas Fair** with Wear Valley Community Action. Funded from the Ward and In Year Events 2026-27. The Deputy Mayor will be opening the event as the Mayor is away.

Recommended that members note the report and progress made.

December 2026

Events

- **3-6th December 2026 - Christmas Town**
- **Wider Christmas activities** with a range of partners where possible the Mayor, Deputy or council members will be invited to attend to support the events.
- **14 December 2026 - Town Quiz** – the Council have agreed to take over the hosting of the annual town quiz from the Civic Society. Fundraising from the event will be used to support a charity or CIC of the Mayors Choice. Members are welcome to attend the event and participate. Tickets can be purchased in advance.
  The venue is the Town Hall, from 7pm. The Bar will be open, and Pie and pea supper will be available to order in advance. Tickets are priced at £15 per team no more than 6 people.
  Posters are being finalised, and tickets will be able to purchase online. The quiz is being developed, and a quiz master in in place. Appropriate AV equipment has been booked.
- **Christmas School holiday** activities - venues identified actual activities being planned. Christmas Card making and story telling sessions are being planned.

Recommended that members note the report and progress made.

January 2027

Events

- Don't get the Winter Blues a series of free family friendly
  Sessions will take place on Saturdays in January.
  McIntyres, Town Hall, and working to secure additional venues. Board game session, arts and crafts, movie afternoon, etc. Basic lunch of soup and a bun.

- **Bringing Bishop Auckland Together**
  Networking event for organisations/ businesses/ CICs there is an opportunity for the council to facilitate some networking and sign posting activity to raise awareness of the great organisations within the town as well as facilitating some partnership Activity. Venue TBC, liaison taking place with the College, and some key organisation. Further update, to be provided at January meeting.

Recommended that members note the report and progress made.

February 2027

- **Half term school holidays** – '*can you beat the blues'* – game themed holiday activities. Venues identified actual activities being planned. More information at the next meeting.
- **Heritage on Tour** – 4 care home to be involved. Dates to be confirmed. Bishop FM would like to be involved. Event will have music and fun elements. More information at the next meeting.

March 2027

- ***new* Bishop isn't just Blue- event 1 –** Linked to International Women's Day
    - *New* **The new shade of blue – is Pink –** Town Hall has been booked for 8th March . Programme being developed. Update at the next meeting.

- **Easter school Holidays** – free family activities at a range of venues, at to include additions of cookery workshop activities to link to the food festival. venues identified actual activities being planned. More information at the next meeting.

- **Date tbc Easter Fair** with Wear Valley Community Action

- **Annual Meeting of the parish -** Wider annual meeting of the parish to encourage residents to participate and see the work of the council. A partnership event which will showcase the range of activities and organisations which the Council have supported for 2026-27 and opportunity for the council to launch the work they are doing moving forward into 2027-28. Spend will be minimal with room hire and refreshments. Clerk will bring a more detailed paper to the January meeting.

Recommended that members note the report and progress made.

April 2027

- ***new* Bishop Bites/ Edible Auckland** - food trail – engagement with the businesses of the town to have a special themed Bishop item on their menu – launched for the food festival. Would predominantly be a media focused campaign with participating businesses, having a window sticker and a themed item on their menu with a themed icon. More information to the next meeting.

Recommended that members note the report and progress made.

May 2027

- ***new*celebrating all of the 'Blues'** – opportunity for the Council to look to Sponsor the teams start/ end of season celebrations and to have a sponsor board at the grounds.
    - End of the football season
    - Rugby end of Season
    - Start of the Cricket season

  Supporting local sporting awards evenings aligns with the Council's objectives of promoting community cohesion, health and wellbeing, and civic pride. Sponsorship enables the Council to champion the volunteers and grassroots organisations that make a significant contribution to the social fabric of Bishop Auckland and the development of young people.

Funded from Community Organisation Support 2027-28 (this will need increased budget allocation).

June 2027

- **Town Youth Awards** – see Appendix 1 – funded by 2027-28 Recognition awards. Date confirmed 21 June 2027, Channy Thompson has been secured at the event compare. Further details to follow at the next meeting.

  Liaison is taking place with schools and groups about the Council sponsoring an individual prize at each school/ college as part of their own annual awards. This gives exposure of the council to each of the schools.

- **Bishop Auckland In 'Blu-om'**
  - Celebration of the work of Greener Together and Bishop in Bloom which are theming the town planning for summer of Two Blues
  - Ties to Volunteers week which is the 1-7th June

- ***new* Bishop isn't just Blue- event 2**
  - Support of **Bishop Auckland Pride** Event Funded from Ward and In year events 2027-28
- ***new* Armed Forces Day – at BA College**
  - Support the college event through sponsorship from Ward and In Year Events 2027-28. Liaison in place with the college.

Recommended that members note the report and progress made.

July 2027

- **Bishop Brass –**
  The expression of interest has been made to DCC. The formal proforma will be released in January.

Recommended that members note the report and progress made.

Appendix 1 – Wider Christmas Activities

The Town Council put a post out for community groups to express an interest in festive funds that are available. The registered groups could apply for up to £500 towards the cost of their activity or event bringing members together to help spread the festive cheer. The total funds available is £10,000. Groups had to give a short description of

- their festive activity
- who will benefit
- approximate cost of the event
- amount required

The expressions are listed below along with some groups we frequently support at this time of year. (Total expression equate to £4995)

Organisation	Request	
Four Clocks	I would like to enter an expression of interest for 3 of our Projects for their Christmas parties etc., namely our Time 4 Toddlers group, Friday/Memory Club (joint), and our Family Contact Centre. I would like to apply for £75 each for the 3 of them = £225.	£225
Baptist Church	2 x Christmas Lunches - 2025 had 60 guests - young, old, refugees, lonely people etc. Some funds were even used to buy everyone a small gift, after the 15 volunteers ate. Both days were overwhelming and had a positive impact on volunteers and the guests.	£500
Girls Football	We would like support with the club Christmas party with a DJ and selection box/tube of sweets. The party would benefit all girls in the club approximately 250 players would be invited. We estimate the cost of the party being £350. Any support would be appreciated towards the event.	£350
Empowermama CIC	A short description of the proposed festive activity: Mum's festive Brunch. We would invite 30 local mums who have accessed EmpowerMama services this year to enjoy a dedicated brunch at Need a Slice, allowing them time out during the busy festive period. Who the activity will benefit. Mums from the Bishop Auckland area who have accessed EmpowerMama through our Maternal Wellbeing Groups and workshops. The brunch is more than a meal. It represents EmpowerMama's ethos: the importance of mums taking time for themselves and connecting with other mums to improve their own wellbeing, which in turn improves their families' wellbeing. Christmas is such a busy and expensive time, and mums are often the last priority, so providing this treat would be fantastic for them. A secondary beneficiary would be Need a Slice, an independent restaurant at the heart of Bishop Auckland. Our company would be a final beneficiary; we would use the opportunity to share content on social media to spread the word about our work. The approximate cost of the activity: £50 room hire, 14pp brunch The amount of funding being requested: £470	£470

Cornerstone	We are currently looking at raising funds to provide a Christmas dinner takeaway for all our tenants, delivered to their accommodation on Christmas. Last year, we held a Christmas dinner at our homeless hub, but unfortunately a few tenants didn't attend as they were still recovering and adjusting to life after living on the streets. This year, we thought it would be nice to deliver a Christmas dinner to everyone so they can enjoy it in their own home. Any financial support towards this would be greatly appreciated and would help us make sure none of our tenants miss out.	
BA FC	Bishop Auckland FC is seeking funding to support our annual Christmas lunch for the club's dedicated team of volunteers, recognising the invaluable contribution they make to the club and the wider local community. Our volunteers are the backbone of Bishop Auckland FC. They give their time freely, attend matches, undertake essential duties and provide ongoing support that enables the club to operate successfully. Their commitment extends beyond football, helping the club maintain its important role as a community organisation that brings people together. The purpose of this event is to recognise and celebrate the contribution of our volunteers by providing a Christmas lunch at the stadium, together with a small gift as a token of our appreciation. The event also reinforces Bishop Auckland FC's commitment to community spirit, inclusion and togetherness. As a club that relies heavily on volunteers, we recognise that supporting the people who support us is vital to maintaining our services, activities and community presence. We would like to apply for £500	£500
St Johns School	Would like to apply for £500 to bring together students, parents and carers prior to the festive break. Particularly targeting the most vulnerable students and families, offering them the opportunity to take part in a positive, inclusive festive experience, and enjoy a special time together with a supportive environment. festive crafts and festive refreshments, Use recycled and sustainable materials where possible to demonstrate how everyday items an be transformed into something beautiful and festive and use as decorations or gifts. The funds would contribute to materials and refreshments and help remove financial barriers.	£500
Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group	Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group is a registered charity that has been supporting people affected by cancer and their families for nearly 13 years. Our services cover County Durham and Darlington We provide free patient transport to hospital appointments, practical and emotional support, and regular support meetings and social activities to help reduce isolation and improve wellbeing. We also have 2 respite caravans so that patients can spend quality time together, and for some make those special memories especially if Terminally ill. We would like to apply for funding towards three Christmas celebrations for our cancer patients and their carers. It is particularly important that we offer both daytime and evening celebrations. Our Breast Cancer and Prostate Cancer Support Groups meet during the day, while our main Christmas party meeting takes place at 6pm.1. Breast Cancer Support Group – Christmas Meal We would like to take 20 breast cancer patients for a three-course Christmas meal at Santini's in Shildon 20 patients × £9.99 = £199.80We would like to arrange a two-course Christmas meal for 8 prostate cancer patients at Uno Momento in Darlington. These patients also attend daytime support meetings, with some experiencing significant health difficulties that make evening outings challenging. This meal will give them an opportunity to celebrate Christmas together, maintain friendships and support one another.8 patients × £13.95 = £111.603. Main Christmas Party – Open to All Cancer Patients and Carers As in previous years, we would purchase a selection of party food, festive treats and drinks from Morrisons in Bishop Auckland to provide a buffet for everyone to enjoy. The party provides a welcoming environment where patients and carers can relax, enjoy festive celebrations and spend time with people who understand the challenges of living with cancer. Funding requested: £180.00We would be extremely grateful if Bishop Auckland Town Council would consider supporting these Christmas celebrations. Your donation would help us ensure that cancer patients,	£500

	including some of our most vulnerable and terminally ill members, have the opportunity to enjoy festive cheer, friendship and companionship regardless of their health limitations.	
Little SENDsations Charity for Children	Charity for children with complex needs based at Innovation House, South Church Enterprise Park, Bishop Auckland. A Christmas Santa Express Train party with decorations, elves and Santa. Weardale Heritage Train Charity are very kindly running this for us taking our children on a magical Christmas journey from Bishop Auckland to Stanhope and return to Bishop Auckland. 200 profoundly disabled children, many with rare genetic disorders, non-verbal, several in wheelchairs etc etc. We will have a special carriage for wheelchairs Their parent/carers always accompany them due to the severity of their disabilities This will be approximately £500 fuel cost plus little presents and for the children £200 We would be very grateful for any amount towards this	£500
Coundon & Leeholme Community Association	We are a registered charity and offer a full timetable of events and various classes at the hall for the whole community. We run our welfare hall, and next year we celebrate its 70th birthday. A great opportunity to open the hall to everyone. We would like to put a mural on the back wall of the stace depicting the mining history of the all, the men who had 6 pence a week taken from their wages to help pay for the hall, along with other mining memorabilia. Your financial help would be a massive boost to us and enable our ideas reach fruition.	£500

Busy Dads Club (in partnership with better Brothers CIC)	We are proposing a Christmas themed Family Fun Day to bring together families from our group and the wider local community to celebrate the festive season. The event will feature interactive physical games, family play activities, dance, and seasonal entertainment designed to bring parents and children together in a fun, active, and welcoming the event will feature interactive physical games, family play activities, dance, and seasonal entertainment designed to bring parents and children together in a fun, active, and welcoming environment. In addition to providing a festive celebration, the event will serve as a vital outreach platform for our group. During the event we will be introducing and handing out check-in cards. these feature a discreet QR code that links directly and confidentially to a qualified councillor, giving local dads and young men access to free counselling sessions without any stigma or barriers.	£500
Shine Children's Community Choir	40 children aged between 6-14 years of age who wish to go around local care homes singing Christmas carols . The benefit is for the residents , staff and families - also the children who benefit also in giving of their time for others at Christmas. The activity would take place mid-December and cost is £460 approx to hire bus + driver for the day. The amount required is £450. We have our own bank account which is double signatory , governance , risk assessment and safeguarding in place .	£450

Organisations we supported in 2025 and would request members to consider supporting again to the value of £300 each group (total £4800)

- 1st St Helens Guides and Rangers
- 2nd Bishop Auckland Cub Scouts
- Angel Trust
- AYCC
- Community Partnership
- Methodist Church
- Football Club
- Rugby Club
- Theatre Society
- Bridge Creative
- Cornerstone
- ManHealth
- Royal Air Force Cadets
- Army Cadets
- St Andrews PCC (St Anne's)
- Woodhouse Close Church

Recommendation: that members consider the expressions of interest. That members consider the other organisations to support.