



Connecting the Coalfield Partnership

www.urban-2.org.uk

Celebrating Urban II

A week of events to celebrate the achievements of the European URBAN II programme was held in June. The events were jointly sponsored by the URBAN II Programme, and Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT), whose URBAN II Small Grants Scheme has jointly funded a number of projects within the area.



The Lisa Dixon Centre at Haswell Mencap held a fun day on 21st June, which coincided with the 1st anniversary of their opening. Local dignitaries including MP Mr John Cummings attended. The 'circus' theme for the event

included free workshops in juggling, circus skills and samba dancing. A launchpad displayed successes and future plans. A balloon launch took place, and the event finished with a circus float parading around the village with a giant elephant, cheesy rider and samba drummers.

Thursday 26th June saw Easington Lane Community Access Point host a music and graffiti evening for young people. A much awaited night for young people, who had been looking forward to it for a while, participated in mc-ing, mixing on the decks, and 'graffiti art'. Over 50 young people attended and their efforts in planning, organising the event, setting up equipment and delivering the event including publicity and designing tickets, are to be commended. Young people have requested to duplicate this event for Christmas celebrations in 2008.



On Saturday 28th June, a family fun day was held at ELCAP. The event was opened by Peter McNestry, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, and Paul Watson, Leader of Sunderland City Council, and attended by local councillors. Local people of all ages (delete from birth upwards) participated and took advantage of the attractions on offer, ranging from 'music and decks' held in the marquee, healthy option packed lunches, live music from "Hells Marauders" (9-12 year old rock band), also a magician, tombola, and circus skills. Dark skies and overcast clouds did not dampen the spirits as the event saw the grounds of ELCAP full of the local community participating in attractions and taking the opportunity to have fun with their families. Comments and suggestions from the local community have been very positive, who would like to see this an annual event, as it gives the whole community something to look forward to.



From left to right Councillor Bob Heron, Sunderland City Council, Councillor Paul Watson, Leader Sunderland City Council, Juliana Heron, Mayor of Hetton, Peter McNestry, Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Harold Watson MBE Honorary President ELCAP

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Celebrating URBAN Success

A formal conference was held at the Glebe Centre on 27th June to celebrate the achievements of URBAN and the success of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. Janet Johnson, Chief Executive of Easington District Council welcomed around 100 delegates. Speakers included Neil Robertson, Deputy Regional Director, Government Office for the North East, Ken Greenfield, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Gordon Bell, Sunderland City Council. Presentations by Ernest Dobson and Carol Meredith summarised the independent evaluations of both URBAN II and CRT. A dvd showcasing both URBAN II and CRT funded projects was launched, along with the distribution of the first edition of 'Unfolding Urban II', a magazine produced by a group of Year 9 pupils from Hetton School. Both these projects receive funding from URBAN II and are managed by Sunderland based Education Business Connections.



From left to right: Gordon Bell, Neil Robertson, Carol Meredith, Ernest Dobson, Janet Johnson, and Ken Greenfield.

URBAN II Community Artwork Project

Several pieces of commemorative glassware were commissioned by Sunderland City Council on behalf of the URBAN II Programme to celebrate the achievements of the Programme. The glassware was designed by an artist at the National Glass Centre in Sunderland and were individually hand-made, incorporating the colours of the European flag and the URBAN II logo. Several pieces were presented to key partners and organisations at the formal celebration event, held at the Glebe Centre on 27th June 2008.



Widening opportunities for pupils

Unfolding URBAN II - All their own work

Unfolding URBAN II is a magazine produced from start to finish by a group of Year 9 pupils from Hetton School. Five boys and four girls took on the challenging role of becoming a public relations team charged with producing a professional standard magazine... and so Unfolding URBAN II was born. The magazine aims to promote the work of projects in the community, which have benefited from URBAN II funding. To create the magazine, the Hetton Newshounds carried out all of the key tasks of a professional media expert in launching a new project

The project saw pupils:

- Creating a name for their magazine and design its title piece
- Interview people involved in URBAN II funded projects
- Research and write stories, selecting and editing photographs and plan/design pages
- Look at corporate identity and product promotion
- Research the URBAN II funding programme

5,000 copies of the magazine will be circulated across the area. The 10-week project was managed by Sunderland Education Business Connections (EBC), which is funded by URBAN II to run the project.



The Hive Youth and Community Allotment Project



To mark the end of the URBAN II funded youth and community allotment project run by Barnardo's at the Hive, a celebration event was held at the Glendale Social Club, Houghton-le-Spring on April 18th 2008. The event was well attended by young people who have accessed the allotment project, local councillors and also people from other gardening/allotment projects in the region to see what has been achieved. Local MP Fraser Kemp also attended as well as the Mayor and Mayoress of Sunderland.

The main focus of the event was a presentation by consultants and young people to share the findings of an evaluation of the project, which had been carried out over the last year.

Young people reported that they are now

- More confident and feeling better about themselves
- Feeling safe
- Learning in a different way and achieving more
- More knowledgeable about the environment and better skilled
- More responsible
- Building relationships with new people
- Overcoming shyness
- Growing up where people accept difference and diversity

'The allotment is great, I do loads of digging and it helps me lose weight' 'We have grown, "tatties", chives, carrots, strawberries and cucumber this year it goes straight from the earth to home, not on a lorry'

After the presentation everyone enjoyed a buffet with entertainment by Viper Arts and a chance to network and browse files of pictures and information gathered by the allotment project over the years. Barnardo's are currently continuing to maintain the allotment with a small group of dedicated volunteers, but will be handing over the site in the next few months. It is hoped that the allotment project will remain for local community groups to access.



The Hazelwell Centre (formerly Haswell Community Centre)

Haswell Community Centre, situated on the outskirts Haswell village, was originally opened in 1980 to meet the needs of the local community. The Centre, originally built with grants from Durham County Council, Easington District Council, the Sports Council and money raised by the local community, was managed and operated by the Haswell and District Community Association. After 27 years of continuous use the centre required total refurbishment.

Funding from URBAN II, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, District of Easington, Sherburn Trust, Haswell Parish Council, Haswell Plough Regeneration Partnership and the local community enabled major improvement works to take place. Refurbishment commenced in September 2007 and the Centre re-opened for business at the beginning of November 2007.

The Centre has been transformed offering first class facilities for the community, promoting exercise, modern history, education and social activities. On 20th February, 2008 the re-launch took place at the re-named Hazelwell Centre, where guest speakers were Mr Peter McNestry, Chair of the Board of Trustees, of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Mr. Peter Smith, Head of Division – Europe, Government Office for the North East. Councillor Mrs Doreen Nisbet Liversidge, Chairman of Haswell Parish Council, officially re-launched the Centre by unveiling a commemorative plaque.

If you would like to know more about what's on offer at the Centre, please contact the Hazelwell Centre – **0191 5267455**



From left to right Councillor Doreen Nisbet Liversidge, Alison Clark URBAN II Development Team, Peter Smith Government Office for the North East, Elizabeth Lillie URBAN II Development Team and Alan Liversidge Haswell and Haswell Plough Regeneration Partnership.



Impressive new Reception Area at Hazelwell Centre

End of Programme Evaluation Summary

An independent evaluation of the European Urban II Community Initiative Programme for Hetton & Murton took place between February and April this year. It involved a study of documents, an email survey, interviews with stakeholders, project case studies, consultation with beneficiaries, observation, three priority theme focus groups, and dialogue with the Co-ordination Group. The remit included a peer review – feedback from project managers, staff and beneficiaries in their own words.

Particular strengths of the programme include partnership working, a “grass-roots” approach, the range and variety of projects, the high number of people achieving a positive outcome, improvements in employability, a strong commitment to young people, and a legacy of

excellent community buildings. Business support and development have had less impact. Partners were generally pleased with the development and management of the programme. The verification procedures were found to be onerous however.

The programme performed very well against its financial targets. In terms of activity, the programme has generally over-performed. In terms of outputs, performance has been reasonably good with a mixture of exceptionally good performance and some short of target. The number of people achieving a positive outcome is particularly impressive.

For a copy of the Evaluation Report please contact the development team.

URBAN II Community Artwork Project

As part of the legacy work for the URBAN II programme, a community arts project was commissioned in April 2008 to produce pieces of artwork, which would commemorate the impact the funding has had on the community groups involved.

Fiona Gray, the artist selected for this project, has been working with groups at the various community centres to develop five different pieces of artwork. The artworks have been designed to reflect the overall themes of the URBAN II programme, and to act as a permanent legacy of the Programme.

The artworks are:

- An URBAN II banner for the Robin Todd Centre, South Hetton
- Several mosaics depicting village life for the Hetton Centre
- A window panel for Streetz Youth Café in Herrington Burn
- A new sign for the Flatts Youth Centre, Easington Lane
- A seat for the Lisa Dixon Centre, Haswell

Each group has been responsible for the ideas and design and has also assisted with the manufacture of the pieces. The artworks are currently under construction, and will be installed by the end of October, photographs of which will appear on the URBAN II website in due course.



Programme Administration Update

To date, the programme has approved funding to 68 projects. Of the £8,020,262 of grant available, the amount approved to these projects comes to £7,713,715. This represents 96% of the amount available.

The approved projects have already spent £6,949,773 to date, which is 90% of the expenditure target for the programme as a whole.

The number of projects approved during the lifetime of the project has varied from year to year, with a significant number of approvals at the start of the Programme, as expected. There was a further increase in approvals during 2006, following a call for projects in September 2006.

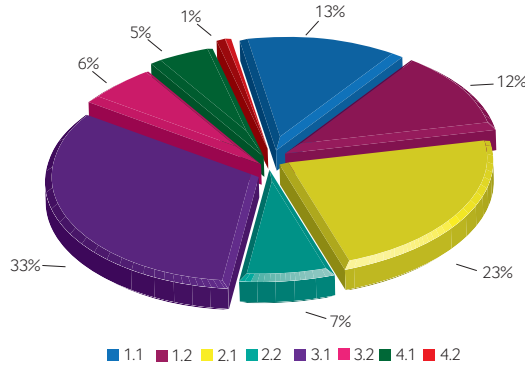
As the Programme is now drawing to a close, the focus has shifted from the allocation of funds to accurate monitoring of projects. Following two visits by the Article 10 team from Government Office for the North East, and a visit from the European Commission in 2007, the monitoring procedures have been revised to ensure that they meet with the stringent requirements for closing the Programme. The key message from all of these visits is that the monitoring of projects must be of the highest quality to ensure the successful closure of the Programme.

To assist in the closure of the Programme, live projects are reminded that

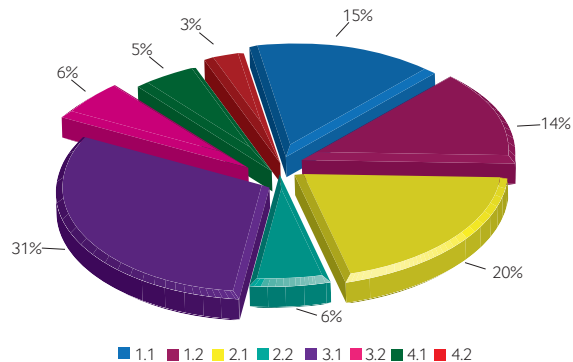
- All monies must be spent and claimed by their agreed completion date.
- If any changes to financial profiles or extensions to agreed dates are required, requests should be notified to the Development Team as soon as possible.
- The final project claim should be submitted by the date shown in the project offer letter. Once the claim has been agreed, a final statement of grant expenditure (ERDF 60 for local authority projects or ERDF 80 for other projects) will need to be submitted, again by the date shown in the offer letter.
- For those projects receiving over £100k ERDF, the statement has to be certified by an independent auditor and it is recommended in these cases that the auditor is booked in good time to complete the final audit by the due date.
- A project closure report is also required for all projects, a template for which can be found on the Urban II website.
- Finally, all project sponsors are reminded that all documentation and computerised records

relating to the project must be kept until three years after the formal closure of the Urban II Programme. This is currently expected to be 31 December 2014 but could be later and further advice on this will be issued in due course.

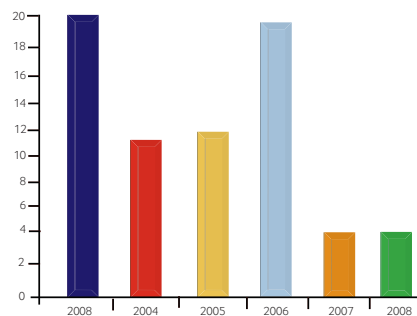
Actual ERDF claim to date



Total allocation of ERDF to measure



Project approvals



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Congratulations

Congratulations to Alison Clark URBAN II Programme Co-ordinator who gave birth to Joseph William (Joe) on May 11th

Free of charge
 This document can be made available in alternative formats or languages (braille, audio tape, large print) simply contact the Development Team.