



Greasbrough Ward: How a package of funding to build a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at Greasbrough Recreation Ground was secured

The Greasbrough ward councillors agreed their ward plan priorities, including a priority on providing facilities for young people. A Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was a facility that was built as a facility for young people.

1. Background

Greasbrough Recreation Ground, known to local residents as Greasbrough Rec, is a large green space in the heart of Greasbrough. It is a popular area for dog walkers and residents, especially during the summer. However, in winter or wet periods the Greasbrough Rec was not fully utilised.

There was a long-held community aspiration, conveyed by the Friends of Greasbrough Parks, to build a MUGA on the Greasbrough Rec as there was a lack of this type of provision within the local area.

A MUGA would be an ideal addition to the provision in the area as it is an enclosed, multiple purpose games court where young people can take part in sport and physical activity. This included a football pitch and basketball court, as well as park equipment for younger children.

The Friends of Greasbrough Parks is a local group of residents who oversee activities and upkeep of the various green spaces in Greasbrough. They had an aspiration to build a MUGA. This was evidenced by letters of support for the project to fundholders from the Friends of Greasbrough Parks group.

Letters were also issued from Rotherham United Community Trust (RUCT) and Active Regen, both of whom said the MUGA would provide a facility for organised provision within the local area.

2. Developing the idea

Following the letters of support, a survey was conducted by the Council's Children and Young People's Service. Over 500 young people were surveyed. Young people in the local area commented on what they would like to see in the MUGA.

The Neighbourhoods team established a working group comprising of ward councillors and a range of stakeholders, both statutory and community.

This included Council teams (Neighbourhoods, Green Spaces, Housing, Environmental Health, Children and Young People's Service), South Yorkshire Police, Rotherham United Community Trust (RUCT), Active Regen, Harsco and the Friends of Greasbrough Parks.

During meetings with the working group, the Council's Landscape Design team drafted and costed several MUGA options. The working group decided to pursue an option which would cost £126,000. It was felt that this option would provide the best value for money.



3. Delivering the project

The next step was to look into funding the project so that work could begin. The Neighbourhoods team identified the funding streams and led the bid writing process, working together with councillors and stakeholders to secure the following funding:

Football Foundation: £64,000

The Football Foundation's plan for the borough identified the Greasbrough Recreation Ground as a 'grassed park with the opportunity to install a small-sided MUGA type football facility...which will support participation in recreational football and cater for people in the locality'.

Veolia Environmental Trust (VET): £38,000

The VET funding paid specifically for the multi-use games area.

Rotherham Council: £24,000

As well as meeting a community aspiration and delivering upon the ward plan, the Neighbourhoods team established that this would also support the Council's Cultural Strategy, which is geared towards getting people 'more active outdoors, more often'.

The Neighbourhoods team also secured resources in-kind with a private company providing the materials for the playing surface free of charge.

The building of the MUGA began in April 2021 and was officially opened in July 2021 by the Deputy Mayor and Assistant Manager of Rotherham United, alongside ward councillors.

The MUGA is a free to use, open access resource. The Neighbourhoods team have, however, worked with partners including RUCT to deliver some organised provision that they will promote.

The project has been promoted through the Greasbrough ward e-bulletins and through the Council's Corporate Communications channels.

Two videos were also created and shared to celebrate the opening and to mark the one-year anniversary of the MUGA. These were uploaded to the Rotherham Council YouTube channel.

In 2022, a year after the opening of the MUGA, a fete was held to mark the one-year anniversary of the MUGA.

This event was organised by the Neighbourhoods team, in partnership with ward councillors. An inter-school football competition took place, along with a range of other activities aimed at a broad range of people.

Hundreds of residents attended this event.





4. Evaluation

Feedback from partners is that the MUGA is an extremely well-used space. This is supported by data that has been collected from the bean counters that are attached to the MUGA.

In addition, South Yorkshire Police and the Council's Children and Young People's service have reported a reduction in reports of antisocial behaviour in the area as a result of the increase in play provision.

Following the success of the MUGA, the Neighbourhoods team worked with Positive Impact Sports on their 'inspiring Wellbeing' project.

The project included delivering provision at both a local school, community centre, and on the MUGA on a weekly basis on Saturday mornings over 40 weeks. The activities were aimed at young people aged between five and 12 years old and highlighted how the MUGA could be used, not only by residents but by community groups.





Hellaby and Maltby West Ward: How the Lost Chord Community Singalongs were delivered

The Lost Chord Community Singalongs support the Hellaby and Maltby West ward priority around supporting and developing initiatives to increase community and individual wellbeing.

1. Background

The demographics in Hellaby and Maltby West ward are significantly older than the Rotherham average, with 53 per cent of the population aged over 45 compared to the Rotherham average of 46.6 per cent.

As there is a high proportion of elderly residents in the local area, ward members wanted to support projects that increase their health and wellbeing and set ward priorities around developing initiatives to increase community inclusion and reducing isolation.

While the aim of councillors was to support older residents, it was felt that support should also provide residents with information and signposting people to health and welfare services, whilst promoting local social clubs and encouraging activities that promote active minds.

The objectives of the project were as follows:

- To work with partners and organisations to increase residents' understanding of signs and symptoms of Dementia for early diagnosis and to signpost residents to access specialist health and adaptive support

- To work with partners who support older people's health and wellbeing at home, work or leisure activities. These partners included Age UK Rotherham and Alzheimer's UK
- To work with artists and musicians to support creativity and healthy minds
- Work with local community centres and promote social group in the Maltby and Hellaby area

In May 2022, Maltby and Hellaby Music and Reminisce Week took place, which supported UK Dementia Week. This included a week of activities where music was played and performances took place. This activity supported older residents and their families' mental health and memories, which is important for good brain health.

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Adult Social Connector, Hellaby and Maltby West councillors, and Maltby East councillors worked together to deliver the week of activities.

This was the first time that ward councillors had worked with Lost Chord UK – a local charity originating in Maltby. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator had previously been involved with Lost Chord volunteers and singers while supporting a Maltby Dementia Café at the Wesley Community Centre.

Other Local partners were also invited to the larger venue events, to give information and support to residents. Participating partners included Age UK, Alzheimer's UK, Adult Social Services and Rotherfed.

When sharing information about the activities, it was highlighted that this was event was open to people of all ages, with or without a Dementia diagnosis. It was agreed that this would be the best approach to ensure that people felt comfortable in attending the event.



2. Developing the idea

On the Monday and Tuesday of Maltby and Hellaby Music and Reminisce Week, Hellaby and Maltby West ward held a Lost Chord Concert as well as two Social Cafés at Hellaby Parish Hall and at St Bartholomew's Church Community Room.

The grand finale was on the Friday of that week where an event was held at the large function room of the Brooklands Social Club. A café-like feel and informal atmosphere was created with free refreshments and a buffet. Drop-in craft activities were delivered by a local artist who was experienced in delivering community events aimed at older people. Partners were invited to hold stalls at the event where they could offer advice on some of the support services available and promoted the importance of wellbeing for carers. The highlight of the afternoon was an hour of Lost Chord performance with singing and dancing.

Overall, the week was successful, however, staff time, room hire, artist cost and material cost amounted to a substantial amount. Feedback received from the week was as follows:

- Residents enjoyed the chance to relax and chat with people in the Café environment created
- Residents placed the concerts and singalong activities at the top of their wishlist for future events

Gathering this feedback was important, as it helped to inform the delivery of future events.

A meeting was set up with Lost Chord Chief Executive and the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator to discuss future events and partnership working.

The Chief Executive of Lost Chord was keen to develop opportunities in the community of Maltby, where the charity had close ties. Before Dementia Action Week, the charity had only

performed singalongs in care homes and wanted to trial a monthly Community Singalong after two successful events.



3. Delivering the project

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator contacted venues that had hosted activities in Dementia Action Week and had wanted to support the expansion of Lost Chord's offer.

Hellaby Parish Council and the Salvation Army offered their venues for free. Wesley Centre, a much larger venue, offered a discount.

The Chief Executive of Lost Chord asked local businesses such as Parseq, for fundraising support. They were able to raise money to provide a donation for venue costs and to pay for the singers who would perform at the events.

Ward councillors funded the refreshments and the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator committed time to promote and facilitate each session.

Planning when to deliver the sessions was vital. It was important that this would create additional social opportunities and not



want to run sessions when existing groups meet together.

From experience working in the local area, it was acknowledged that Tuesdays and Thursdays are particularly busy days for community groups in Maltby.

UK charity Making Spaces are a Dementia support café for carers and hosted their event on the last Monday of the month at the Wesley Centre, Maltby. In order to work in partnership with the charity, it was decided that two singalongs (one per ward) and a Lost Chord Community Concert would be organised over the first three Mondays of the month. This meant that Maltby and Hellaby had a Dementia-friendly activity and support session for carers on every Monday afternoon.

People living with dementia often find getting up and functioning in the morning difficult. With this in mind, it was agreed that sessions would run from 2pm to 3:30pm. This allowed time for carers and participants to make lunch but be back before teatime preparations.

To mark the end of a seven-month period where singalong events were planned and delivered, ward councillors funded special Christmas concerts with pie and peas.

Residents that had been attending the Community Singalongs over the past months had first refusal of the free tickets and then the remaining places were offered to the wider Hellaby and Maltby West ward residents.

St Bartholomew's Church was approached to host the concert inside the Church to create a special Christmas atmosphere. However, it was decided that an evening event would create a health and safety issue as the location of the church is in a dark valley and the uneven walkways are unsafe in the dark. It is important to ensure that any event is safe and accessible. As

such, it was decided that the event take place when it was light outside.

The community rooms at the side of the Church was used as a space to provide refreshments, a space to sit down, chat and eat a pie and pea meal before the concert. The Lost Chord Chief Executive and volunteers also joined us for the pie and peas and raised money for good causes with raffles and charity boxes.

Local Ward Councillor, Councillor Simon Ball, dressed up as Father Christmas and Community Leadership funding was used to provide a selection box for each person attending.

The whole event from was a huge success and Lost Chord Singalong participants voiced their desire for the event to become a yearly event.

Unfortunately, some participants that signed up for a ticket did not attend on the night, thus preventing people on the waiting list attending. It was agreed that if subsequent, a small ticket fee would be added and donated to Lost Chord to encourage those purchasing tickets to attend.

4. Evaluation

After evaluating the sessions in 2022 and from listening to feedback from partners and participants, there were some changes made to the Maltby and Hellaby Community Lost Chord Singalong Sessions for 2023.

Participants raised concerns that they were often uncomfortable catching public transport home. This was because the session finish time coincided with school home time and heavier road use. Occasionally the bus did not stop for people who attended the events as it was already full.

The new times are from 12:15pm until 2pm. The venue would be opened from 12noon so that hot drinks could be served as well as soup for



lunch.

With the introduction of soup, the sessions are now called 'Soup and Song'.

Unfortunately, Hellaby Parish Hall could not accommodate events on a Monday afternoon in 2023 due to other commitments. Bartholomew Church Community Group, who held the Christmas special and first session of Lost Chord Community Singalongs in May 2022 jumped at the chance to work with the group again.

The Church offers two rooms, which enabled the group to have a separate space for the lunch session with soup being served at dining tables before participants moved into the comfortable lounge space for a relaxed singalong session.

St Bartholomew Church have donated their venue and raised funds to cover the electricity costs. The Council's Neighbourhoods team provide and make tea and coffee refreshments, and ward councillors have funded tins of soup. Tesco donated fresh bread for each session. Voluntary Action Rotherham funded the cost of the Lost Chord Session facilitator.

Unfortunately, because of the change of times and venues, some regular attendees have had to drop out, but with the success and growth of the Lost Chord Community Singalong sessions across Rotherham. It is hoped that these residents will find an alternative venue. Other Lost Chord events are taking place in a number of different wards.

At the first session of the year in February 2023, there were 15 new people that attended. The new faces provided positive feedback and some have subsequently attended more sessions held in the Maltby East ward.

Along with posters and flyers created by Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Lost Chord were able to produce a flyer providing details of all sessions currently held in Rotherham.

The Lost Chord Facebook page had a high number of followers and helped to promote our sessions and achievements on a near weekly occurrence.

Community Singalong events have been promoted extensively in the Hellaby and Maltby combined e-newsletter, which is issued every month.

Positive feedback has been shared by participants and on the Lost Chord UK Facebook Page after a recent Hellaby and Maltby East Lost Chord Singalong Session.

In conclusion, the partnership working with local stakeholders, ward councillors, charities and organisations made this project a success.



This has benefited residents, as outlined in the original aims and objectives. Wider benefits have also been delivered, including:

- Bringing new participants to community venues, some of whom have joined and supported additional activities held in that venue or other locations that have been promoted whilst at a Lost Chord Community Singalong



- Participants have made new friends and we are seeing individuals meet up outside of the arranged sessions, which supports the ward priority to tackle social isolation and loneliness
- Local businesses and charities such as Craggs Store, Gripple and Voluntary Action Rotherham have become aware of the support Lost Chord offer to their local community. These groups have fundraised for and promoted the Charity, enabling further sessions of Community Singalongs and Care Home Visits to happen
- Some local residents who attended the singalong sessions for numerous months were encouraged to be part of the sessions by helping make refreshments, serving soup and interacting with other residents, or supporting those with a dementia diagnosis to engage with the music
- Lost Chord will be joined other projects including 'Picturing Maltby', a social history project, where residents were encouraged to share photos and memories of special times for them in Maltby
- Councillors aim to continue supporting Lost Chord deliver Community Singalongs. Looking ahead, they are working towards enabling the community to support us run these events so that new ventures can be made.

In March 2023, Lost Chord was invited to Rotherham Town Hall to meet the Mayor of Rotherham to celebrate the impact the project had had on residents in Maltby.





Hoober Ward:

How a community group was supported to enhance a community greenspace

In the Hoober Ward, a community group has been supported to create and maintain a community green space. This contributes to the delivery of the Hoober Ward priorities by addressing environmental issues and making good use of green spaces for everyone.

1. Background

Brampton Bierlow – also known as Brampton – is a village based in the Hoober ward. It is located close to Cortonwood Retail Park but also enjoys open rural land which leads down to Wentworth.

Ward councillors in Brampton Bierlow formed a voluntary group with the intention of turning a small disused Council-owned green space into a beneficial community space. The ambition was to turn this space into a pocket park that can be used by the local community.

This was supported by the Greenspaces and Neighbourhoods teams who wanted to help the group by developing a development masterplan.

2. Developing the idea

The Neighbourhoods team was initially approached in June 2022. An initial joint meeting with representatives from the group and partners was held.

At this point, it was agreed that with the help of the

Neighbourhoods team, Greenspaces and the Landscape Design team a site masterplan would be developed.

Further meetings were held in the summer to progress the masterplan brief to visit the site.

As part of the masterplan, there would be an opportunity to consult with local residents around the proposals.

A site visit was arranged and the following improvements to the site were agreed to be incorporated into the draft master plan.

This included:

- Improving the natural pathways through the site so that they are accessible to all
- Creating a seating area
- Retaining the central open space
- Enhancing the woodland experience with possible wildlife play sculptures
- Introducing habitats throughout the woodland including bat boxes, bird box, insect boxes, wildlife stack, habitat homes
- Installing display signs with information near these habitats to promote wildlife conservation

Neighbourhoods, ward councillors and the group organised a consultation drop-in event held on-site in September 2022 for residents to view the draft plans for the community garden, ask questions and to feedback.

Consultation letters were delivered to all the residents surrounding the site, with a pre-paid envelope to return any comments. Details of the consultation drop-in event were included in the letter. The consultation event and proposed ideas were promoted in the Hoober ward e-newsletter.



3. Delivering the project

A draft master plan was produced in August and the consultation commenced during September 2022.

The results of the consultation were analysed. Below is a summary of key concerns raised and the mitigations.

Seating within close proximity of the rear walls of the properties

- **Mitigation:** Seating located within a close proximity to the rear wall of properties was removed from the draft plan.

Litter and dog mess

- **Mitigation:** Regular checks and litter picks will be organised by the group. There is a dual-bin near the access point onto the green space. It was agreed that litter and bin capacity would be monitored.

Maintenance/cleaning

- **Mitigation:** Regular checks and litter picks will be organised by the group. The Greenspaces team will be responsible for the site.

Disturbance of wildlife

- **Mitigation:** The Community group must adhere to the memorandum of understanding between them and the Greenspaces team. The group's aim is to encourage wildlife by introducing habitats and to promote wildlife conservation.

Anti-social behaviour

- **Mitigation:** The green space will be promoted as a community garden for everyone to enjoy. Steps will be taken to involve the whole community. Regular activity on the green space by the group will enable the site to be monitored and any issues or concerns will be reported.

Privacy/security – bushes and other plants will be removed behind properties, which act as a barrier

- **Mitigation:** The draft masterplan includes screening with bushes and shrubs to encourage privacy for residents.

Following the results of the consultation and feedback, the draft site masterplan was amended with the removal of seating near the boundary to the properties.

The masterplan, having followed a local consultation process, has been approved by Greenspaces and the Council's Cabinet Member. This will be adopted by the group as a basis for the future development of the space.

With a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in place, the Greenspaces team were happy for the project volunteers to start the project but within strict parameters, based on the masterplan.

4. Evaluation

The consultation went well and helpful feedback was received which was used to adapt the plan.

There was only a small number of homes affected by the site, but three streets were consulted. As the consultation area was so small this enabled us to be able to hand deliver all the consultation letters, copies of the draft plan and the prepaid envelope to all the residents affected. Details of a link to the draft





plan were provided which enabled residents to look at the plan in more detail.

The consultation took place in early September and a drop in consultation was held on site due to the good weather. Residents that attended the drop in were able to view the plans and see the site for themselves. It made it easier to explain some of the ideas.

There was some feedback that a resident had heard of the consultation via a neighbour. Due to the small number of homes that backed onto the site a suggestion for future consultation would be to knock at these addresses and discuss the details of the consultation/letter with the residents to ensure letters didn't get mistaken for junk mail.

The group is currently working to secure funding to develop the community garden in-line with the masterplan.

Work has commenced on-site including litter picks, cutting back shrubs and vegetation. Access points have been improved.

Residents will be kept informed about the plans for the site and future activities. We will share information in the Hoover ward e-newsletter.

Activities and volunteering opportunities will be promoted by the local community.

The group is looking at training courses to help develop their skills and knowledge and are looking into options of an asset transfer which means that they would become responsible for the land.





Keppel Ward:

How Charlie's Pantry was set up and opened

One of the ward priorities was to support post-pandemic recovery work in the local community. With this in mind, Keppel ward councillors supported Charlie's Pantry, who are based at the Chislett Centre.

1. Background

'Charlie's Pantry @ Chislett' takes its name from Charles Chislett, a local film maker, who donated a significant amount to enable the Chislett building to be completed.

Along with the donation, residents paid £1 per week for 20 weeks and the centre committee carried out fundraising which allowed the Chislett building to be built.

With this investment from locals and businesses, the Chislett Centre has a strong community ethos.

The Centre opened on 19 September 1967 and was named Chislett in memory of Charles Chislett's late son.

The Chislett Centre is home to the Kimberworth Park Community Partnership (KPCP) - a local charity that delivers a range of services to meet the needs of local residents.

They became concerned about food poverty during the Covid-19 pandemic and decided to explore ways in which they could support households in the local area who may be struggling to afford food.

In response, they set up Charlie's Pantry, a food pantry that households can access, subject to paying a minimal fee.

2. Developing the idea

KPCP created a project team with representatives from voluntary partners, schools, local people, the Neighbourhoods team and KPCP staff to discuss the initial plans and proposals. The aim at this stage was to gain thoughts and feedback from everyone.

The KPCP was flexible around the timescales and, because this was a large project, it was important to ensure that everything was in place before a food pantry service could be offered to residents.

After the project team was created, the KPCP visited other food banks in the area to gain an understanding of what their offer was and how they operated.

Contact was also made with potential distributors to find out what they could supply and the process they follow when working with food banks.

This information was brought back to the project team and discussions were held about the offer at the new food pantry. For example, the food pantry could just be a dry store that could provide items such as cereals, flour, rice, dried pasta, fruit and vegetables, tinned products and packaged foods that do not require temperature control. Alternatively, the food pantry could include fresh and frozen items.

The location of the pantry was discussed as this was an important consideration. The pantry needed to be somewhere local and accessible. During this time, it was acknowledged other buildings in the area were not suitable to provide a food pantry service.



It was agreed that an additional unit would be the ideal solution. This meant that the pantry could be on-site at the Chislett Centre but would not affect the current programme within the centre itself.

After a lot of deliberation where all pros and cons were considered, the decision was made to have a separate building and run it as a standalone unit. It was agreed that it would be a full pantry to include a dry store and fresh/frozen items.

This meant that as well as a cabin, fridges and freezers would also be required for storing items.



3. Delivering the project

The project team looked at what funding streams were available and highlighted several possible avenues. Applications for funding would be required for these, including in order to purchase the necessary equipment to open the pantry.

The Neighbourhoods team worked with Keppel ward councillors, who were able to support this project using their ward budget. Other funding was secured from the National Lottery and Covid-19 Emergency Fund.

Planning permission was also required from Rotherham Council for the new unit. The Neighbourhoods team discussed the suggested plans with a Planning Officer at the Council who recommended a pre-planning application be submitted. This was something that proved to be very helpful.

Slight alterations were needed before the full planning application was submitted and planning approval sought.

The project team also worked to outline how the pantry would function. They decided that the Pantry would be staffed by a mix of volunteers and Chislett Centre staff. A bank of volunteers who were checked and vetted would be needed to deliver this vital service. Using community contacts, the project group began making enquiries into who would be interested in helping out.

Membership of the Pantry was outlined and it was decided that people who access Charlie's Pantry would be referred by schools, Chislett Centre staff and Rotherham Council staff from the Neighbourhoods, Housing and Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) teams.

People who are referred could include families, couples or people living on their own. People who access the service would do so as members.

There is no limit to the number of weeks that members can access the service, however, they do have to engage with other services where required or needed. It was agreed that members would pay a small fee to contribute towards their weekly shop.

After the completion of the build and fitting out of the new building, Charlie's Pantry was officially opened on 8 June 2021. The Pantry is open two days a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



During the pandemic, referred members were allocated an appointment time to ensure they could shop safely and to allow for social distancing rules to be adhered to. The appointment system continued even after the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS - CHISLETT COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY IS ON ITS WAY

Ground has been broken on a new facility in Kimberworth Park which will see the creation of a new 'community food pantry'.

Over the last eighteen months, Kimberworth Park Community Partnership has become increasingly aware of, and concerned about people not being able to afford the food they need, and its impact on the health and well-being of people in the area.

They have been working alongside local schools in Kimberworth Park and neighbouring communities to assess the level of potential need, and if people would use the Pantry.

The Pantry is different to a supermarket in that people who use it will become members through a process where they have indicated both need for and a wish to use it.

Works have now started on site at Chislett Centre to create the Food Pantry. Ground works commenced on 15th March to allow the hard-standing and pathway to be laid this will allow the building to be sited and pedestrian access created. Once these are in place the building will be erected and power can be installed. The building will then be kitted out with fridges, freezers and shelving units to store the food items for the pantry.

[You can find out more about Kimberworth Park Community Partnership on their website.](#)



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4. Evaluation

During the first year of opening, the number of members increased gradually and this number has continued to increase week on week due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Some users are no longer members as their situations have changed and the need to access the food pantry has reduced. However, they have been replaced with new members.

As the project progressed, information was shared with local residents through news stories and bulletin information.

Wherever possible, the Neighbourhoods team has promoted Charlie's Pantry and the work that takes place at the Chislett Centre. This has been done so in a way that doesn't promote usage of the pantry because of the referral criteria.

Through working together as part of a team, it was possible to bounce around different ideas around how the project could best be delivered.

Regular meetings provided a forum to raise any issues or concerns around specific elements of the project.

The Neighbourhoods team were able to offer advice to KPCP on a range of different areas, which helped to ensure this project was delivered successfully.

The project continues to support local households and ensure that food remains available for members through funding bids and effective partnership working.

Through the project, it was possible to build relations with KPCP. The councillors and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator remain in regular contact with the charity and have linked the charity to other services and available support.



Maltby East Ward:

How the 'Picturing Maltby' project is being delivered

This project complements two of the Maltby East ward priorities.

1. Background

Maltby has a rich history. This is a common theme ward councillors found during conversations with older residents, visiting local areas and speaking with community groups.

A number discussions took place around what Maltby used to be like. The Coal Pit, Markets, Grammar School and Maltby Crags formed an important part of life for many people living in the area. Local people were passionate about Maltby's history and a large number of residents had fond memories of the past.

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and Council's Adult Social Connector wanted to embrace this passion and use it as a tool to get people out of their homes so they could interact with new people in the hope to form friendships. It would also increase people's wellbeing.

The Picturing Maltby aimed to celebrate Maltby through sharing photographs, stories, family tales and memories of places and people.

A café that embraces reminiscing past times is the Vintage Tea Booth, just off the High Street. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator had worked with the Vintage Tea Booth on numerous projects before so it was the first place they thought to approach about

hosting a group. The Vintage Tea Booth agreed to allow use of their end room and would put on refreshments and biscuits, at a cost of £3 per person.

2. Developing the idea

Monday was chosen to hold the community group as the café was quieter and there were no known community group running that day of the week.

The new group was advertised in the café, Neighbourhood e-newsletter and on social media. Posters were created and displayed around the High Street, community centres and community hubs such as the library.

The first 'Trip down Memory Lane' event took place on 8 November 2021 and events ran monthly until July 2022. Along with ward councillors, Age UK Rotherham and RotherFed were invited to support activities and offer advice. Each month, a theme was chosen to base the session around, however the discussions often ebbed and flowed so it never got stuck on one theme for too long.

The group came to an end for numerous reasons. The popularity of the café had grown, and the group could not continue to take up the space at the venue. Some of the community group members had disagreements with each other causing the group to split. However, a new group, B:Friends, was established, and residents were signposted to this new group.

There was still an appetite for further local history groups and activities, so ward councillors and the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator looked into what else could be done to celebrate and record Maltby's history.



3. Delivering the project

Although, the 'Trip Down Memory Lane' project came to an end, there was still a desire for Maltby's History to be recorded.

In January 2022, the FLUX Rotherham Project's Engagement Officer began working in Maltby. They were looking for an arts and culture engagement project to run for a period of three years. After a year of consultation whilst delivering the Trip Down Memory Lane events and activities with the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, it was clear that Maltby residents' passion to talk about Maltby's past was strong.

It was recognised that many residents engaged with Facebook pages, such as Maltby Past and Present, but the sites had no means of cataloguing the photos uploaded or recording the stories behind them.

As part of the consultation process, FLUX Rotherham, the Neighbourhood Coordinator and ward councillors shared



information about 'Picturing Maltby' and welcomed support from partner organisations including Maltby Town Council, Adult Social Care Connector and RotherFed.

To gain funding to purchase resources and to pay for a website to be developed, FLUX Rotherham wrote a funding bid to Historic England in June 2022 in partnership with ward councillors and Maltby Town Council. Unfortunately, the bid was not successful as it focussed on recording social history rather than maintaining buildings.

However, partners believed in the 'Picturing Maltby' project and its importance. They donated funds and time to enable it to continue without an external grant.

FLUX Rotherham, ward councillors, the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and Maltby Town Council agreed to commit resources needed to deliver the project.

Ward councillors used capital funding to purchase a laptop for Maltby Town Council that could be used to support the project.

Maltby Town Council agreed to fund a website domain and commit to the yearly subscription. FLUX Rotherham agreed to fund the creation of the website.

The Vintage Tea Booth donated a scanner and printer that was used in the 'Trip Down Memory Lane' project.

Along with collecting stories and photos, a social experience was created when community groups attended in the local area.

The first group collection took place on 27 September 2022 at St Bartholomew's Community Group. Further collections took place when we visited social groups including B:friends, The Grange, Bevan, Redwood and the Silver Dollar Line Dancing Club.



Information about the project has been included on the FLUX Rotherham website as well as the ward e-newsletter, Council website and on social media.

A number of events and activities took place to mark the Official Launch of the Picturing Maltby Project.

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and FLUX Rotherham worked to source an affordable empty shop. This would be funded by FLUX Rotherham for a two-month trial period from January to March. Along with providing a visible presence in Maltby the shop, it became a focal point for events, a meeting place to share photos and a drop-in space for residents to have a warm drink and a chat whilst out shopping.

The High Street was selected as the area remains an important part of Maltby and a prominent talking point when discussing Maltby's past.

The pop-up hub was open to the public on 7 February on Mondays and Tuesdays, between 10am to 3pm.

Maltby Landmark Artwork was commissioned by FLUX. Local Artist Steve White created 'It'll Do Art', which was a collage of some of Maltby's special landmarks as part of a giant colouring-in piece situated in the pop-up hub.

All visitors to the shop were encouraged to colour a small section in. It is hoped that the finished community artwork will be turned into a giant jigsaw that would be kept in the library.

In February 2023, a three-day celebration with the theme 'Love Maltby' took place during the half term holidays and tied in with Valentine's Day. A range of activities took place in and around the High Street, including the opening of the pop-up hub.

Families were encouraged to hunt for love hearts in participating High Street shop windows and searched to find the extra special 'golden heart' of Maltby.

If you found all the hearts, you were placed in a prize draw to win a family ticket to the cinema, which was donated by FLUX.

Ward councillors joined the fun over the three days of events and used some of their Community Leadership Fund to ensure all participants could enjoy some free Love Heart sweets.

Through the Picturing Maltby project and the 'Love Maltby' initiative, the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and FLUX went on the lookout for couples who got married at the local church, St Bartholomew's Church. They got in touch with residents who were lucky to still be in love and had an old black and white photo of themselves in their wedding finery under the arch.

They were asked to share their wedding photos as part of this project and asked if they wanted to recreate the photo with a professional photographer.

In the final month of the pop-up hub, there was a want to collect information, photos and stories around the history of the High Street.

On the 21 February, the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and FLUX Rotherham delivered two drop-in sessions. The first invited residents and community groups to share their stories and photos of the High Street. The second, 3pm to 6pm, was a chance for current shop owners to visit the FLUX hub and share their knowledge and history of Maltby High Street.

Although the pop-up hub had been a fantastic achievement and benefitted both residents and the project, funding and time



restrictions meant that the hub had to close. The project resumed its mobile activities at events and community groups. This also include arranging appointment at the library.



With the growing collection of photos, the project was able to begin its next stage of building a website where photos can be stored.

FLUX Rotherham commissioned two local film makers to interview key members of Maltby's community. The first interview was completed and reviewed to decide if further interviews will be commissioned with time and budget in mind.

Picturing Maltby is thriving due to the support of partner organisations, and it is hoped that further connections can be made.

The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and ward councillors are currently working with Sheffield Hallam University on a social history project around the use of coal as a source of heat in Maltby.

4. Evaluation

Encouraging people to share photos was a challenge at times. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and ward councillors did explain people's photos would be used, though some people did not want to share any with us. The 'Picturing Maltby' project is a personal project in-nature and not everyone may wish to share their photos and memories.

On some occasions, there were also large collections of photos that organisations and individuals had agreed to share any with us. Reminding individuals to find and share photo collections was something that proved to be a challenge.

A lot of time was spent organising community group sessions, only to discover that on the day, people had forgot to bring their photos. Measures were taken to avoid this from happening, as reminders were sent to attendees weeks and days before the meetings.

The project was promoted extensively which helped contribute towards its success. Through support from the Council's Corporate Communications Team, a press release was issued, and information was shared about the Picturing Maltby project and events. This information was included as part of a story in the Rotherham Advertiser.

The project was ambitious in scope and supported three of the Maltby East ward priorities. It was possible to reach a large audience and engage with many residents. This was all made possible by working together with key partners, including FLUX Rotherham, to deliver the wide range of events and activities.



Rawmarsh East Ward:

How 200 years of Parkgate was celebrated

2023 marked 200 years since the Parkgate area was established. To mark this bi-centenary, events and activities took place throughout the year. Celebrating the 200-year anniversary of Parkgate was a ward priority for Rawmarsh East ward councillors.

1. Background

In 1823 the ironworks and small steelworks were built in Parkgate. This started a huge industrial and societal change in the Rawmarsh area with more people coming from across the borough and the country to start a new life in Rawmarsh. Now, in 2023, residents wanted to celebrate their heritage and 200 years of Parkgate.

Rotherham Council and the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Local History Group wanted to mark the bi-centennial anniversary by holding a range of events and activities throughout the year.

The ward councillors also wanted to use this opportunity to promote local pride and celebrate achievements of residents, past and present. The aim is to share stories about the Parkgate area and encourage residents to share their memories.

Ward councillors also wanted to look ahead to the future. There were plans to improve Parkgate through the Towns and Villages Fund - a £4 million commitment from Rotherham Council to deliver improvements to local towns and villages across the borough. The project supported the Rawmarsh East ward priority around improving the physical environment as well as promoting the 200

years of Parkgate.

2. Developing the idea

The celebration of Parkgate's 200-year anniversary contributed to the delivery of the Rawmarsh East ward priorities to bring communities and groups together to celebrate the area and its heritage.

Along with the neighbouring ward, Rawmarsh West, partners, community groups and the wider community were approached to help develop a variety of activities to celebrate the anniversary.

Proposed initiatives and activities to help celebrate Parkgate's 200-year anniversary were:

- Towns and Villages Fund project to improve the main gateways into Parkgate at Broad Street and Rawmarsh Hill
- Planting and decorating the traffic roundabout at the bottom of Broad Street to promote the bi-centenary year
- Launch of a history route
- Delivery of a Whit walk in Rosehill Park involving local school children
- A summer gala
- A Mini Museum at Rawmarsh Library
- History Walks in the local area
- Chantry Brewery: A 200-year celebration beer/event involving talks and a film showing
- Celebration teas in the Neighbourhood Centres





3. Delivering the project

A Parkgate 200 Year steering group was set up to drive the projects forward and oversee all the activities taking place. The chair of the group was one of the local ward councillors, and the group was supported by the Council's Neighbourhoods team.

The core membership was made up of:

- Rawmarsh East ward councillors
- Rawmarsh West ward councillors
- Rawmarsh and Parkgate Local History group
- Colleagues in Council teams, including:
 - Neighbourhoods
 - Greenspaces
 - Street Scene
 - Corporate Communications
 - Regeneration (Towns and Villages Fund officers)
 - Culture, Sport and Leisure
 - Libraries
- Local Primary schools
- Rotherham United Community Trust (RUCT)
- RotherFed

The group met quarterly with flexibility to meet more frequently when needed.

Rawmarsh and Parkgate Local History group was a key partner and were keen to lead and secure funding for several of the activities. They met regularly with Council teams and partners.

The steering group designed a logo to be used throughout the celebrations. This was approved in August 2022. The logo captured the industry in Parkgate over the 200 years. It included an image representing the coal mine and the blast furnace.

The colour orange in the logo represents the fire from the steelworks blast furnace and the black colour represents the coal mine.

This logo was used throughout the project including on badges, banners, pencils, publicity and on the Towns and Villages gateway feature.

The steering group also oversaw the development of a communications plan. This outlined an agreed approach on how and when information on the project would be shared.

Residents and local businesses were also consulted during the project for specific activities, for example, the Towns and Villages project on Rawmarsh High Street.

There was a soft launch for this project in November 2022. Information about Parkgate's history and the 200 year anniversary celebration were shared in the November Rawmarsh East ward and Rawmarsh West ward e-newsletters.

A photocall was organised with councillors in both Rawmarsh wards, the Parkgate and Rawmarsh Local History Group and St. Joseph's Primary School. When this took place, videos were also recorded with Tony Dodsworth (Parkgate and Rawmarsh Local History Group). The videos were used as part of the soft launch and shared on social media.

Photos that were taken were used as part of a press release and shared on the Rotherham Council website and on social media.

It was identified that sharing information through local Facebook groups, including 'Old Rawmarsh and Parkgate I remember when...', would be an ideal way to reach people who live in the area, or have a connection to Parkgate. This was something that was done as part of the soft launch.



In December 2022, the Communications team explored the possibility of a double page spread in the Advertiser and worked in partnership with the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Local History Group. The aim of this was to promote the history of Parkgate and to preview the centenary celebrations that are planned. This was secured and was included in the Advertiser in January 2023.



It was also agreed that sharing five key historical stories related to Parkgate would be a perfect way to promote the project and Parkgate's rich history. These stories will be shared in ward e-newsletters and on Rotherham Council's social media and website.

A bespoke webpage for the Parkgate Centenary was created to capture the history of Parkgate and the stories was agreed so that the information is not lost and there was a legacy showing what the community had done.

Archive images were collated to help tell the story of Parkgate throughout the years.

Residents were invited to share their stories, memories, artifacts, and photos of Parkgate.

Work on the Towns and Villages Fund project was completed in November 2023 and has been well received by ward councillors and local residents.

The Whit Walk took place on Friday 16 June 2023 in Rosehill Park where two schools were involved in dressing up in Victorian costumes, took part in maypole activities and played old fashioned games. Pupils really enjoyed the day.

The summer gala took place on Saturday 29 July 2023. Councillors used their Community Leadership Fund to provide financial support for the event.

The Neighbourhoods team led on organising this event. It took place on land to the rear of the Fitzwilliam Arms/Parkgate Astro. Rotherham United Community Trust supported the event and opened up buildings and land for use.

Celebration teas in Neighbourhood Centres took place in four neighbourhood centres in Parkgate. Tony Dodsworth from the Rawmarsh and Parkgate Local History Group attended to deliver history talks to residents.





4. Evaluation

Ward councillors were really pleased with the press coverage that was secured throughout the project.

It was encouraging to see positive feedback in local social media groups around the Parkgate's 200-year anniversary celebrations, especially the 'Rawmarsh Chit Chat', 'Rawmarsh and Parkgate Friends of Greenspaces' and 'Old Rawmarsh and Parkgate I remember when...' activities.





Rawmarsh West Ward: **How anti-social behaviour in Rosehill Park was tackled**

Ensuring Rosehill Park is a well-used resource that is accessible to all ages and abilities is a Rawmarsh West ward priority. Work has taken place to tackle anti-social behaviour at the park, which supports ward priorities.

1. Background

Rosehill Park is the heart and centre of the Rawmarsh community. It has a high footfall and is a much-loved asset that local people use and enjoy. There are several groups, including the Friends of Rosehill Park, that operate from the park who are keen to support improvements.

A consultation event was organised by the Neighbourhoods team and ward councillors in summer 2021. This involved working with the Friends of Rosehill Park, RotherFed, Active Dearne and Rawmarsh Runners. The local community was also consulted about the park.

The feedback from the consultation identified a number of different themes:

- Improving the park to ensure it is clean and safe
- Improving the facilities
- Maximising and utilising spaces
- Delivering more community events that bring people together

2. Developing the idea

Outcomes from the consultation and from the community intelligence received, referenced anti-social behaviour as being an issue at the park. Intelligence suggested that young people were gathering near the café and at the tennis courts, smashing glass bottles. There were also reports of fights being arranged at the park and individuals who had been attacked at the park, mostly at night.

Discussions were held at the Rawmarsh West ward Community Action Partnership (CAP) meeting and this helped to inform the Rawmarsh West ward priority, which sought to ensure Rosehill Park is a well-used resource and is accessible to all ages and abilities.

Key stakeholders who could support in helping to tackle anti-social behaviour at the park were identified and invited to the CAP meeting. At the meeting, a plan was agreed to tackle the issues raised. It was also identified at this meeting that there was potential funding available to tackle some of the issues.

Key partners were invited to a site visit to discuss possible solutions to anti-social behaviour in the park and to agree what resources were needed if funding was required and what could be funded. Risks were also considered.

Services agreed to cost-up potential projects and share information on timescales for when interventions could be delivered.

Following the site visit, details and costings for potential projects were presented to the CAP meeting for consideration. The group agreed to apply for funding as well as agreeing for CCTV and enhanced lighting to be included in the project.



3. Delivering the project

A successful bid from the Safer Rotherham Partnership helped to improve existing CCTV and lighting at the park. Funding from the Safer Rotherham Partnership was also used to install new CCTV to help improve safety.

South Yorkshire Police's Design Out Crime team and PCSO's provided support and advice to workers at the local café in the park around improving safety.

Spot the signs on Children Sexual Exploitation (CSE) information cards were distributed to organisations based in the park to share information on the signs to look out for if someone suspects a young person is being sexually or criminally exploited.

Remarking car parking spaces was carried out, which has made it safer for people to park up.

An Easter event took place in April 2022 that was organised by the Friends of Rosehill Park and the Neighbourhoods team. It encouraged people to use the park and was aimed at families who wanted to see more events in the greenspace. The event was well attended.

Over 70 trees were also planted at the park, supporting the Council's commitment to plant thousands of trees in the borough. The trees will help to improve air quality and the appearance of the park.

The park was used for the 200 year anniversary of the Parkgate celebrations. A range of events and activities took place, including a 'Whit Walk' in the park.

Children from two local schools carried out a walk around the park dressed in Victorian clothing. Maypoles were carried and schools took part in old-fashioned games.



4. Evaluation

Rosehill Park was raised as an issue at the CAP meeting in August 2021 and became a priority area in August and September 2021 due to allegations of CSE/grooming in the evenings. This was investigated further and patrols were carried out. No suspicious activity was seen and recorded. A response team visited the park after 10pm. No further intelligence around potential CSE/grooming at the park has been received.

The application for funding from the Safer Rotherham Partnership was made in December 2021 and was successful. The new CCTV and lighting was installed in April 2022.

As a result of this work, Rosehill Park was removed as an issue for the CAP in August 2022.

In March 2023, eighteen newly planted trees were snapped. CCTV footage was examined to identify perpetrators and issue reported to the Police.

The incident was followed up in the Rawmarsh West e-newsletter and educational talks took place at local schools. Since then, there have not been any further incidents.

Following the success of the 2022 Easter event, another Easter Egg hunt took place in 2023. The event was organised by Rangers



from the Council and Easter eggs were bought using councillors' Community Leadership fund. It is hoped that this will become a yearly event.

A sign language panel has been installed at the park to promote inclusivity. It has been received warmly by local residents.

Throughout the project, ward councillors and the neighbourhood co-ordinator were able to work closely with a range of partners to deliver actions that have helped to improve safety at the park. A number of actions were also taken to improve the appearance of the park and to deliver events for children and families.

All of this work supports the Rawmarsh West ward priority around ensuring Rosehill Park is a well-used resource that is accessible to all ages and abilities.



The Council's Greenspaces team are working towards gaining Green Flag status for the park. The Green Flag Award is the benchmark international standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom and around the world. If the park is able to get Green Flag status, this will be a real boost to the community.

Following on from the project, the Lawn Tennis Association, who are based in the park, identified the need for tennis facilities in the area. They have committed to carry out improvements to the tennis courts which will provide residents with better facilities and promote a healthier, more active lifestyle.



Rother Vale Ward: **How to set up a Lunch Club and re-launch after the pandemic**

A Lunch Club was set up in the Rother Vale ward, which supports the ward priority of supporting initiatives and events that encourage community cohesion.

1. Background

A Lunch Club was formed at Treeton Community Centre in 2017 and is still operating now. It was created after consultation with the local community was undertaken in Treeton, in partnership with Treeton Community Centre.

Initially this was to find out what type of activity people would like to see in their local community centre. One of the main gaps in Treeton was the lack of a café or somewhere to get a warm meal and socialise.

After talking with the Treeton Community Centre Committee and volunteers it was discovered that a Lunch Club used to be run from the centre many years ago. This lunch club had been, at the time, very successful. Following this feedback and the consultation, it was decided that the lunch club should be recreated.

2. Developing the idea

Volunteers decided that they would like to trial an initial lunch club to see if there was still a need for this type of activity. This would then be followed with monthly sessions. Dates were set, a menu was agreed, and a bank of volunteers were recruited to run the lunch club.

Ward councillors were approached with the idea and provided Community Leadership Funding that would enable the group to launch the project.

Research was undertaken to find a suitable caterer that was local and could provide an affordable meal to the centre. After initial conversations, Treeton Miners Welfare agreed to provide catering for the trial period and have continued to do so.

All food would be cooked to order off site at Treeton Miners Welfare and brought into the centre to be plated and served.

It was decided that all people wishing to attend must book and pay for their meal no later than three days before the Lunch Club so there was enough time for an order to be placed with the caterer.

Bookings could be made by telephone or by going to the centre, picking up a form and paying there.

There was a lot of work needed before the kitchen could save food. This included deep cleaning the kitchen and facilities at the community centre. They also needed to be registered with the Council's Food Hygiene department. An inspection was then carried out by the Council and a 5-star rating was awarded for the kitchen.

The kitchen continues to be inspected on a regular basis.



Other statutory requirements included:

- Volunteers undertaking a food hygiene course.
- A food allergy chart was produced with the caterer and made available for customers.
- A risk assessment was produced.

Treeton Community Centre made sure they had registered the service with their insurance so that all public liability was covered.

3. Delivering the project

The usual format of a lunch club is as follows:

- On the day, volunteers arrive to make sure the kitchen is clean and ready for the food to arrive.
- Plates are put in the plate warmer. There is a boiler for tea and coffee and there are jugs for cold drinks to set up.
- Tables and chairs are set up 'café style' ready for customers.
- Bingo is run by two volunteers who set up the prizes, tickets, and machine ready to sell after the meal.
- When people arrive, they show their receipt if pre-paid and are signed in. If they wish to book on the next month's session, they can do this on arrival.
- Food arrives around ten minutes before everyone is seated and is plated onto hot plates and served by volunteers as soon as possible to ensure it is still hot.
- Once the main course and desert are served and cleared away, bingo tickets are circulated and the bingo takes place.
- Kitchen volunteers clear away all plates and wash and clean the kitchen whilst volunteers carry out the bingo session.

A leaflet was produced along with Facebook publicity and posters on local notice boards.

The Lunch Club offered a two-course meal for £5 with bingo and a raffle at £1 each.



4. Evaluation

When the first Lunch club was held in 2017, it was attended by 40 people who all booked on to the next month's session. The Lunch Club continued to run monthly until the Covid-19 pandemic.

Each month saw a growing number of people attending with the average at around 45 to 50 people each time.

The local nursing home was contacted and they regularly brought along either residents to each session. This has been very valuable to many of their clients as it helps to keep residents in touch with each other, particularly ones that are local to the village.

Social prescribing teams connected with the Lunch Club and have signposted many clients over the years. They have not only accessed the club but have also become volunteers themselves.

As mentioned, the club continued until the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to lockdown restrictions, March 2020 was the last Lunch Club session for almost two years.

In this time, many people became isolated and felt cut off from their usual network. They weren't able to access community facilities like the Treeton Community Centre. The Lunch Club acted as a lifeline for many attendees, providing a valuable opportunity for older people in Treeton to socialise and meet new people and was



greatly missed.

Many of the volunteers were no longer available to help or felt anxious to go back out into social settings.

Once lockdown restrictions had eased, Neighbourhood staff and the Treeton Community Centre Committee received a large volume of enquiries around when the Lunch Club was going to re-open. People were ready to go back and start picking up 'normal' life again.

After several meetings it was decided to trial a Christmas Special Lunch Club in December 2021. This was funded by ward councillors.

The lunch had to be carefully planned to consider all Covid-19 restrictions at that time. Appropriate PPE was provided and a Covid-19 risk assessment was carried out.

The Christmas event was full to capacity with 50 people and was a great success, however the club was still short on reliable volunteers who could commit to a monthly session.

The ever-changing restrictions of Covid-19 also made committing to a monthly session difficult.

For these reasons, dates were limited to only four sessions in 2022 and five dates were set for 2023.

In 2022, the Neighbourhood Coordinator worked with Brinsworth Academy to solve the volunteer issue and the solution was having students and teachers would volunteer at the Lunch Club.

Ward councillors provided funding toward the cost of a mini-bus to transport the students to Treeton and to take part in this volunteering opportunity.

Students arrive in time to set up and prepare the centre for its guests, they meet and greet everyone, take orders and wait on tables.

Introducing Brinsworth Academy has revitalised the lunch club. The arrangement has had a great impact on both students and the attendees. It provides a great learning opportunity for the young people, as well as invaluable experience for their CV.

The older people love the young people being there and take great pleasure in their interaction and conversations.

Brinsworth Academy have committed to all sessions this year. Ward councillors have funded the minibus to take them to and from school.

Recruitment and advertising for new volunteers is still on going, and one new volunteer has recently expressed an interest in taking an active role in the delivery of the lunch club which will mean they are held monthly again.

