

# Victoria Ward Notes



Notes of VWP meeting  
@ Salaam Centre,  
Murray Street – 27th  
April 2023

Next Victoria Ward  
Partnership meeting –  
9.30am (-11am, latest)  
Tuesday 13th June @  
Salaam Centre, Murray  
Street



## What is the Victoria Ward Partnership?

The Victoria Ward partnership is a collective effort to try and bring residents and organisations together to create a community within the Victoria Ward. This is seen through collaborative work to create community events and address issues that local people have.

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**Attendees:** Juli Simons (Facilitator), Gill Kilburn (Huskies Basketball), Rachael Wanley (Changing Futures), Hannah Cawley (Big League CIC), Stephanie Holmes (Big League CIC), Jan Hollis (Hartlepool Carers), William Walker (Community Navigators), Rachel Garlick (HBC Youth Service), Ameera Hussain (Sustrans) Carolyn Lakin (Lynnfield School), Paul Lawton (Wicketz), Mairi McBain (Community Pastor), Graham McBain (Community Pastor), James Irvin (Hartlepower).

April 2023

## Hartlepool Borough Council



High Street Safari is open until the 12th May 9am-4pm Mondays through Saturdays and features a FREE augmented reality experience supplemented by a narrative children can follow to develop reading skills while exploring their local area. Stops include; Masons Cafe, Whitfields Pharmacy, Geek Retreat, Utilita Energy Hub, Community Hub Central, Thornton Street Linear Park and Poolie Time Emporium.

### Community Engagement Update

Two events took place during the Easter Holidays. On Thursday 13th April there were between 50-60 families in attendance on a very soggy day. Play Out Hartlepool, Wicketz, Sustrans, Community Hubs, Portrait Artist and facepainting were all on offer. This event resulted in a large number of new families joining the Whatsapp group, hopefully helping them feel more connected and have them be a part of a communal network.



From this session it was discovered that the potential renaming of the park is indecisive with many residents not having an opinion on the name, as a result, further consultation will be held. Also noted was the want from the community for more youth sessions in the area.

The other event was an evening gathering of local residents to celebrate Iftar. Iftar is the fast-breaking evening meal of Muslims in Ramadan at the time of adhan (call to prayer) of the Maghrib prayer. The event was very well received with local residents at the Salaam Centre as several families in the Ward helped to put on a magnificent event, with everyone from different backgrounds coming together to celebrate. The organising families would love to host other events at the venue.

Through the Know Your Neighbourhood Fund, the ward will have two intergenerational community engagement workers; Rachael Wanley and Dawn Robinson who will be hosted by Hartlepower. The school based activities will continue as set up prior by Rachael, with her two pilot coffee mornings being successful. With a familiar setting they hope to grow the already good number of attendees and expand to other schools. This is in addition to meeting with the new PTA of Sacred Hart School.

## Youth Work

Starting with their initial trial period, 2 sessions were delivered at the Salaam Centre. The course was delivered by HBC and supported by Changing Futures North East. The trial retained the majority of attendees from the first session, The main question asked of the group was what they'd like to see from the youth club going forward. The group runs Tuesdays from 6pm-8pm from the Salaam Centre and are able to take referrals.



## Schools

The aforementioned sessions with parents have been picking up momentum with different advice and support groups from around the town coming along to offer their expertise to parents of the school.

Caroline has met up with Wicketz who are going to provide evening sessions, including on the 15th May 4-5 at Lynnfield School and between 5-6 at the Salaam Centre.

Hartlepool Huskies have ran their 'Hoops not hate' campaign at the schools which were well recieved, as were visits from PCSO's and the Fire Brigade.

Due to the success of the earlier HAF scheme, with all events fully attended, the schools have been successful in continuing on the scheme for 4 weeks in the Summer.

## Hartlepool Huskies

Following from the local schools, the 'Hoops not hate' campaign has most recently been to Brougham school to an equal level of success. The Huskies have also attended a Young Carers Event held by Hartlepool Carers which received a number of signups of young people to join the groups. The team will come out to local events if asked so drop them a message.

Currently, their sessions run as follows:

Millhouse

5pm-6pm - Baby Ballers (Reception - Year 3)

6pm-7pm - Years 4-5

7pm-8pm - All Girls Session

Fridays - English Martyrs

5pm-6pm - Years 6-7

6pm-7pm - Years 8-11

7pm-8pm - Shooters Club



## Youth Club

Despite a lower than expected attendance, the youth club has been successful with the members it has. From teaching the children new board games, cooking skills, crochet, to playing bingo and ping pong. The team hope to reach more youngsters through their outreach work and social media drives.



## Salaam Centre

Lots of new groups have opened up at the Salaam Centre:

Mondays - Cooking sessions, with a focus on nutrition and budgeting skills.

Tuesdays - 1pm-3pm - A crafts and social group led by Rachael Reynolds, focusing on crochet, knitting, mosaics and glass painting.

Fridays - 4pm-8pm - Craig Whitelock is running an addiction awareness group, based around lived experience, talking and rehabilitation, having noticed a lack of places in Hartlepool who offer this type of service.

An employability and IT skills course has also been setup with lots of uptake. This consists of very basic skills in small groups to allow for 1-1 support.

Stephanie and Hannah also wanted to mention the possibility of a fundraising tabletop jumble-sale in the future, selling items made in craft groups at the centre.

## Hartlepool Carers

Jan was keen to share the success of having Hartlepool Carers situated in

North Tees Hospital on Wednesdays and Hartlepool Hospital on Thursdays,

having managed to find around 10-15 new Carers every session. In

addition, they've managed to brief staff in the hospital about the service

and introduced a postcard system where identified carers can write their details down and the hospital staff will pass that on to Hartlepool Carers. The

Carers card is given to all Carers which features contact details in case of emergency

and acts as an access card, discount card. This is to be given out alongside the newly created Emergency Care Plan booklet and basic info pack.

## Community Pastors

Marie & Graham have both moved to Hartlepool recently and are aiming to help the community through the use of social justice. Living within the ward, they have been involved with numerous activities such as volunteering with Changing Futures North East, helping with a litter picking group and joining in Sustrans sessions. They have offered 1-1 support and even given out free mens haircuts to those in desperate need. They are hoping to partner with other organisations in the local area to lend a hand and are available at West View Baptist Church drop-in sessions on Wednesdays.



## Sustrans

Sustrans is a walking, wheeling and cycling charity. Ameera informed the partnership that the organisation is moving into its new home base on Church Street in May. This means that the guided rides are being stopped temporarily as they move into their new home. The Monday walks are still being held from St. Josephs Church. The group also offer bike maintenance courses which are practical and easy for beginners, with the next taking place on the 4th of May.



## Community Navigators

The role of the Community navigator is to assist people with issues and signpost to services that can support them, with the possibility to take the individual to the group. As such Will, who is new to the role, is hoping to link with as many organisations to create a supportive network. Located in Community Hub Central, the hub has healthy living activity groups on, like Moromed Bikes and many other activities which can be seen on [www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk](http://www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk).

## Wicketz

Wicketz is a cricket programme for young people aged 8-19, with a focus on breaking down barriers, developing crucial life skills, creating stronger communities and enabling brighter futures for those taking part.



They currently run two sessions, one at the Millhouse between 4pm-6pm and Brierton on a Wednesday between 4-6pm. Before the Summer holidays, Wicketz are aiming to get around all Hartlepool schools to engage with to bring together students to enjoy outdoor activities with a cricket theme.

There's a half-term Dynamos session for the 31st May and the 1st of June. Dynamos is a session put on for girls aged 8-11 and is normally £45. By getting in touch with Wicketz, with your child's details, they may be eligible to attend for free. The event will be held at Seaton Carew Cricket Club.

The group are launching a couple of beach cricket sessions during the Tall Ships event.

Wicketz are able to set up in most areas, indoor or outdoor and provide activities for young people, please get in touch.

They have also had a very successful time with Catcote School volunteers who are aiming to get into sports coaching. The offer for younger people to volunteer and gain sports coaching qualifications for free is available too.