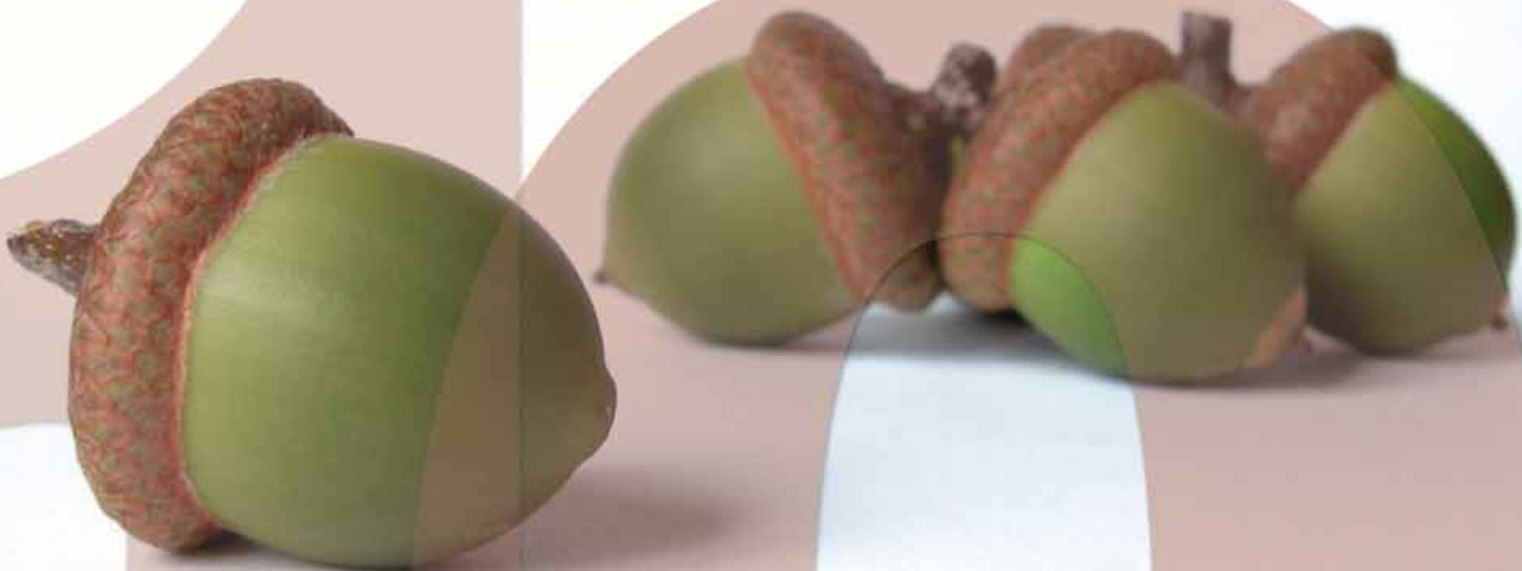


10. Skills in action

Some real life examples of sustainable communities skills being put into practice



Communicating

(listening, awareness-raising and consulting)

- Shape – the centre for architecture and the built environment in the East of England – has been working with South Cambridgeshire District Council to gather the views of young people on the proposed new development at Northstowe near Cambridge.
- South Wye News – is a quarterly community newspaper run by volunteers which reflects the views of residents in the South Wye area of Hereford.
- Scotland Gate – an attractive information sheet provided for the residents and professionals involved in the regeneration of this housing estate in Wansbeck, Northumberland.
- Environmental Ward Stewardship and Envirocall – an initiative to maintain open communication channels between the citizens of Newcastle upon Tyne and the City Council using a team of 26 Ward Stewards and a call centre.
- Planning and citizenship in schools – this project involved the development of new lesson plans to teach planning and citizenship to school students in Stafford. It is intended to raise awareness of key issues, and to empower the young people concerned.
- Planning for Real in the 21st Century – this project involved the implementation of a Planning for Real study pack developed by the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation for use in citizenship lessons. It involved Deansfield High School in Wolverhampton.
- Community involvement in Stockton-on-Tees – the Borough Council has won a number of awards for its imaginative approaches to partnership and community involvement. These include 15 local action plans, the development of community champions for health and the involvement of local people in planning exercises.

Personal development

(improving technical and generic skills and capabilities)

- ABCD – Achieving Better Community Development – involved training to build the capacity of members and officers in community development. The project was implemented by Durham County Council.
- Birmingham CAN! (communities and neighbourhoods) – this programme has funded a range of activities to strengthen the community and voluntary sector in Birmingham. It enables organisations and residents to engage in regeneration activities and to benefit from them – especially those at risk of social exclusion.
- Neighbourhood Audit – a programme designed to build the capacity of the residents of Grangetown, Middlesbrough, to conduct local surveys.
- Training for the Voluntary Sector – a project in North Tyneside aimed at increasing the capacity of people involved in the voluntary and community sector by delivering relevant, low-cost training. It has successfully engaged black and minority ethnic groups and the disabled in training activities.
- Arch North Staffs – uses involvement in sporting activities to boost the confidence of disadvantaged people and empower them to take a more active role in their communities.
- The Voluntary Sector Academy – runs training programmes for the managers of voluntary sector organisations across County Durham.



Sharing best practice

(willing to learn lessons)

- Hallmarks – is a research project that was set up to promote the sharing of best practice among learning providers across the East of England. To date it has involved the evaluation of over 100 programmes.
- One Voice Network – a virtual support service developed by Durham Rural Community Council, it provides a key source of information and guidance for the County's numerous voluntary and community groups.
- Northumberland Financial Management Support – an initiative to provide financial management support to voluntary and community sector organisations throughout the County, and to enhance their capacity to deliver mainstream services.

Collaborative working

(effective team and partnership working; a shared sense of purpose)

- Perry Common Regeneration Partnership – owned and run by its residents in partnership with the local church, the project aims to meet many of the social, economic, health and emotional needs of the community on this Birmingham housing estate.
- Alnwick partnerships – the Council has been commended for its work on public-private partnership working to regenerate this historic market town in rural Northumberland.
- Donnington Wood Lifelong Learning Centre – is a successful community learning centre in Telford & Wrekin District. Its development provided some useful lessons in partnership working for agencies involved in the delivery of learning programmes.
- Darlington Communities Project – employs four community development workers and a neighbourhood manager to help establish and support community partnerships and assist in building the capacity of residents.
- Park Central, Attwood Green – this project, led by Birmingham City Council, combines strong partnership and novel funding arrangements to bring about a transformation of this run-down estate.
- The Teesdale Village Halls Consortium – aims to improve access to and public use of a network of 30 village halls and community buildings across this district of County Durham.
- The FAST – Funding Action Stoke on Trent – project involves local people in small-scale regeneration activities and supplies incentive funding. The model is based on an approach that has proved successful in the USA.

Vision and leadership

(strategic thinking, clarity and creativity)

- Hexham Community Partnership – is a broadly based partnership that is active in promoting the regeneration of their historic market town, based on a well-researched and focused strategy.
- Hollinswood Centre Regeneration Project – located in Telford, Shropshire – has demonstrated that, with a strong partnership led by Wrekin Housing Trust and a shared vision, even a small regeneration project can have a substantial impact.
- Cambridge Historic Core Appraisal – produced by Cambridge City Council – assesses the character of the historic core as a basis for minimising the threats to key features and suggesting enhancements for the less attractive areas.
- Pride in Camp Hill Ltd – has led the development of a 10-year vision for the sustainable redevelopment of this large housing estate in Nuneaton.
- Positive Pathways – a wide-ranging project to raise the achievements and aspirations of the students of Shotton Hall School in Easington, County Durham, and residents of the surrounding community.
- Vision for a new canal-side community – local communities and development agencies in Birmingham are working together to build on the success of Brindley Place and similar developments to exploit the regeneration potential of other parts of the canal system.

Ways of acting

(committed and entrepreneurial, but inclusive and respectful of diversity)

- The Beth Johnson Group – redeveloped an abandoned mill near Telford which had become a focus for antisocial behaviour. The project, which involved local schoolchildren, the police and other partners, concerned the conversion of the mill into 15 housing units.
- Social Enterprise Sunderland – is actively involved in the promotion of all kinds of enterprise, and supporting entrepreneurship in the disadvantaged areas of the City.
- Goscote and North Walsall Foods – is a food co-operative serving a disadvantaged area which has used local volunteer labour to rescue this business. It not only provides a valuable service, but also contributes to the promotion of healthy eating.
- The Eastside City Jobs project – recruited 2,604 people from disadvantaged communities across the West Midlands by outreach work and then placed them in jobs created by the regeneration of the Bull Ring.





Making things happen

(decision-making, motivation and a can-do approach)

- Acumen Development Trust – only a couple of years old, the Trust already employs 55 people to provide services in the disadvantaged district of Easington, County Durham.
- Walsall Waterfront – plans to create a complete new canal-side commercial and residential quarter linked to the iconic Walsall Art Gallery. The plans were initiated and are being driven to fruition by the Walsall Development Company.
- Craghead Development Trust – includes a post office and a community transport scheme among its successes to date. The Trust employs 21 staff in this small County Durham settlement.
- The regeneration of the Bull Ring area of Birmingham – involved the complete redevelopment of this key site focused on an iconic new Selfridges building and multi-level shopping mall. The works also enabled the city centre and surrounding areas to be re-linked by extensive redirection of the road network. Local people were recruited and trained to take advantage of the construction and resultant jobs.
- The Ouseburn Development Trust – has worked successfully to regenerate this historic area of Newcastle upon Tyne. Its projects include housing and commercial properties as well as environmental improvements.

Keeping things on track

(effective project and financial management)

- Rosebud SRB – is a partnership of voluntary and statutory agencies which has demonstrated how the regular review of project goals can help keep work on target, whilst renewing the commitment and enthusiasm of all concerned.
- Amble Development Trust – based on the Northumberland coast, the Trust has taken an active role in the economic, social and community regeneration of this one-time mining and fishing town. It has attracted significant funding from a wide range of sources.
- Oswestry Station – has been completely restored and made available for a range of educational and visitor activities through the work of a local partnership. This has involved the effective management of a complex package of resources.

More detailed examples and case studies can be found on the websites of the Academy for Sustainable Communities and the Regional Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Communities (see Section 11).

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