

Brough is a village in Eden District with a population of approximately 750 people. Situated on the A66 it's on the eastern edge of Cumbria and is relatively isolated.

A youth-led group in the community has developed a Multi-use Games Area which is aimed at young people. It's one of the projects funded by the Community Health and Well-being Programme which ran from June 2012 to May 2014 using funding from Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group and Cumbria County Council Adult Social Care.

Background

The project started in early January 2011 when a small group of young people in Brough, who felt there wasn't enough for them to do in the village, decided to survey other youngsters on the school bus. They handed out questionnaires and asked for views.

The most popular idea was to have a shelter to meet up at on the recreation ground. Brough Youth Committee was formed to look at providing facilities and the committee members were a mix of young people and adults.

The Project

Although the project started with the intention of providing a youth shelter the young people were also interested in recreation and sports facilities. Plans were eventually expanded to include refurbishing an existing tennis court and converting a second tennis court into a Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) which would include a games area and basketball hoops. This is sited next to the village football pitch.

As the project developed the decision was taken not to provide a shelter, as originally planned, because the area is unlit, there were concerns about safety, and it was difficult to fund. Work started on site in April 2013 and will be completed in August 2014 when a pump track, for BMX bikes, will have been added.

One of the aims of the project is to make the recreation facilities attractive to a wide-range



The site before work started

of people including adults and younger children so that different age groups can mix together.

The total project cost for all the work has been £44,000. The community has done a lot of fundraising and Brough Youth Committee have also received grants from a range of local funders including those supporting crime reduction projects and the Community Health and Well-being Fund which contributed £10,000. Other Funding came from Eden Community Fund and the local County Councillor's Members Fund.

The site has been adopted by Brough Parish Council who will take responsibility for it's maintenance.

What has been achieved?

The project has given people of all ages, particularly young people, a wider range of recreation and sports facilities on their doorstep. Previously they would have had to travel to Kirkby Stephen for similar facilities.



Work underway on the site



The finished MUGA

It has increased opportunities for people to socialise together as well as to take exercise.

People involved in fundraising and developing the scheme are proud of their achievements and feel they've contributed to a worthwhile project. Local organisations have appreciated the volunteers' work and have donated money.

Brough is a self-sufficient community but the success that the Youth Committee have had in fundraising from grants has demonstrated to other community groups that they can also raise money from grants to bring additional funding into the area.

Twenty-five survey forms were filled in by users of the site on behalf of the Community Health and Well-being Programme. They were all under the age of 35 and, as a result of the MUGA, 56% of respondents were getting more exercise and 44% didn't have to travel as far to get social contact.

The Learning

Brough Youth Committee has learnt a lot about applying for grants and have stressed the importance of understanding the type of project grant makers want to fund, and ensuring your applications reflect this. Be

prepared to talk to funders and find out what their priorities are.

The Youth Committee also made involving young people a priority. The project was started by young people, they had representatives on the Committee and members of the Committee visited the local youth club to share their plans, as they developed, with the young people there. It was from one of these meetings that the suggestion for the pump track emerged.

Brough Youth Committee made sure the project got planning permission before embarking on fundraising and kept the community informed through articles in the village newsletter and by reporting to the Parish Council.

Finally, they were confident about the project and believed they were doing the right thing for the community. They also made sure that any contractors did the best job possible to avoid future maintenance problems.

Contact Details

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