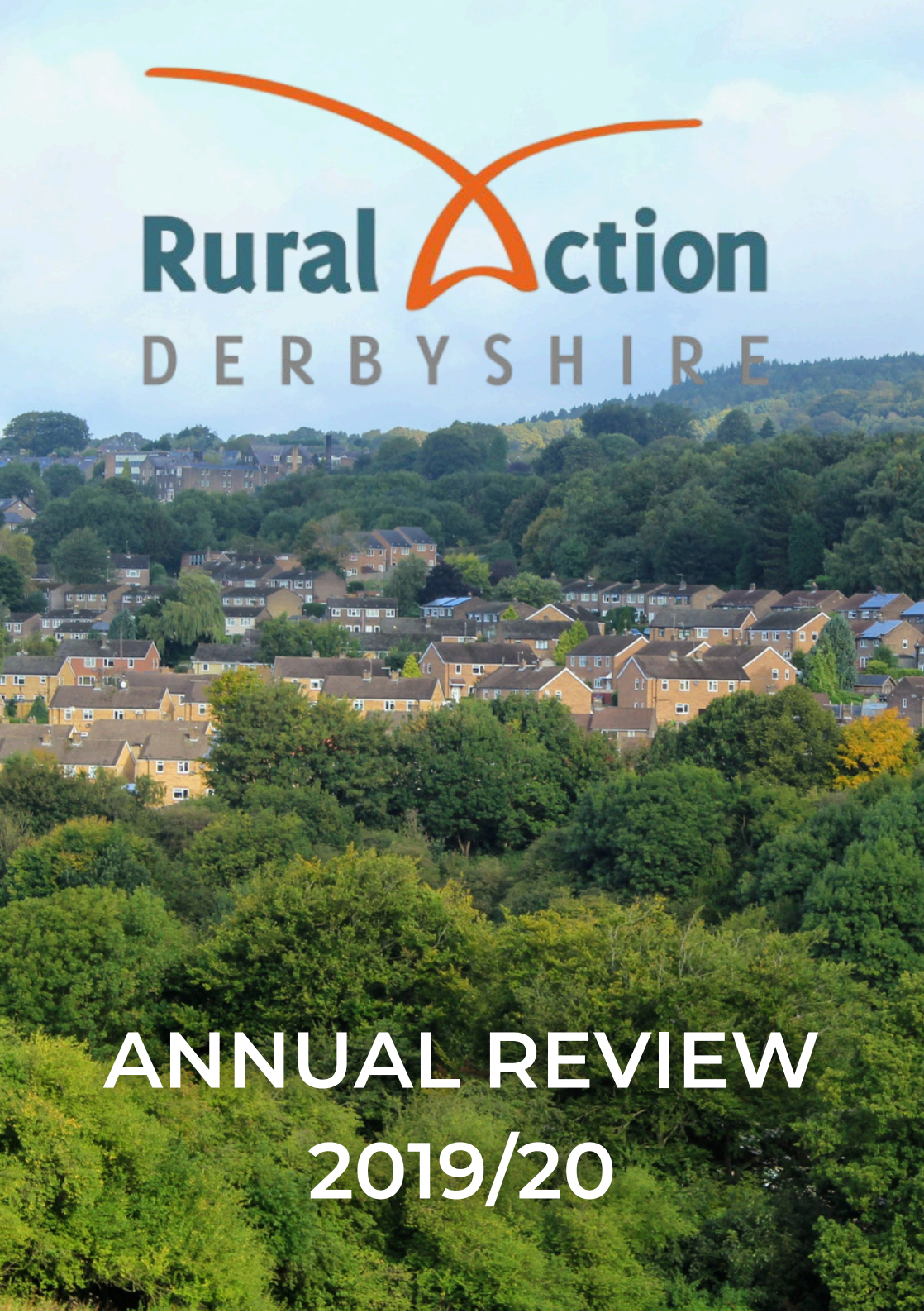
Rural Action
DERBYSHIRE



ANNUAL REVIEW 2019/20



Chair's Remarks

Simon Taylor

I write this a few months after the March 2020 year-end for which the accounts and report have been prepared. The relative serenity of the majority of the 2019/20 reporting year is in stark contrast to what started to emerge at the end of it.

As the huge social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic began to hit, RAD very quickly adapted, allowing it to continue to support existing beneficiaries as well as new ones. The staff were able to immediately start working from home thanks to the 2019 investment in IT. The team promptly worked out where best to refocus their energies, as Bev Parker writes in her report below.

I believe the full impact of the pandemic on UK society will not emerge until 2021 as the government's support schemes fully unwind, public finances adjust and there is some clarity on the broader economy's winners and losers. On top of this, Brexit and the as yet unclear changes to the economics of farming all add huge uncertainty in the world in which RAD works.

In the face of all of this, it would be very easy for RAD to decide to hunker down and do its best while it rides out the storm. But that is that is the opposite of what Derbyshire's rural community needs from us and what we want to do. RAD has been at its most impactful during the most difficult periods, whether BSE in 1986/87, Foot and Mouth in 2001 or in the 2019 floods.

RAD has an increasingly innovative, adaptable and energetic workforce, supported by an active Trustee Board with a wide range of backgrounds. We have been very fortunate to have recruited 3 new trustees, Phil Coates, Angela Montacute and Amy Wheelton who bring a blend of commercial and farming experience to the existing group. I would like to thank all of them for their commitment to RAD and thereby to the rural community of Derbyshire.

Simon Taylor
Chair of Trustees



From the CEO

Beverley Parker



From floods to a pandemic, Derbyshire communities had a turbulent year in 2019/20 and Rural Action Derbyshire has been working with them as they responded to unprecedented events.

Who could forget the scenes from Whaley Bridge with helicopters dropping sandbags to prevent a potentially catastrophic failure of the dam at Toddbrook Reservoir? This was followed by severe flooding which saw Matlock under water for the first time in many years, and the tragic loss of a life in Darley Dale.

Then, in February we were hit by a global pandemic resulting in schools closing and a full lockdown of the whole population in March.

RAD was quick to respond throughout the year, with our Rural Chaplains getting involved in supporting the Whaley Bridge community, and helping farmers affected by the devastating floods.

We worked alongside food banks and our partners to make sure that families and individuals in food poverty were able to access food parcels, particularly children affected by school closures and the loss of free school dinners in February and March.

We have received generous support from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hardyal Dhindsa, to launch two new projects during the year.

Digital Hubs is supporting communities to become more digitally inclusive, helping local people get online and stay safe online. The Willow Project aims to raise awareness of rural domestic abuse and challenge attitudes which perpetuate abuse.

We have held two major stakeholder events during the year: The Feeding Derbyshire Symposium attracted 80 delegates from food banks, community cafes and food pantries to look at how the partnership can work to end hunger. And we were delighted to welcome David Emerson CBE, Chair of ACRE, to open our second annual village halls conference.

Thanks to all our funders, without whom we would be unable to support Derbyshire's rural communities. Thanks also to our team of hardworking staff who consistently go above and beyond and are totally unfazed by whatever challenges arise.

Beverley Parker
CEO

Some Highlights

Cyber Security Events



We delivered 3 Cyber Security sessions to community groups in September and October 2019, featuring presentations from Derbyshire Police and DCC.

Feeding Derbyshire Crowdfunder



Jacqui Bell on the BBC at the start of the Feeding Derbyshire Food & Fun Clubs crowdfunding campaign in May.

Village Halls Conference



55 delegates attended our Village Halls Conference in November 2019, on a day of significant flooding.

Wheels to Work



The Wheels to Work project celebrated its 15th birthday in April 2019.

Rural Chaplaincy Carol Service



Another successful carol service took place in the Store Ring at Bakewell Livestock Market in December.

Bishop Libby Visits RAD



Bishop Libby visited the RAD offices in May to talk about our important projects.

Community Buildings Advisory Service

Helena Stubbs
h.stubbs@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Key Information

- **115** telephone enquiries
- Information disseminated to over **280** rural community buildings
- **55** delegates attended the Village and Community Halls conference

The Community Buildings Advisory Service provides guidance to over 250 village and community halls across Derbyshire, which act as vital hubs for social activity in rural areas. Around 2,500 voluntary trustees rely on the Service for professional publications, annual conferences, and training.

RAD recently conducted research into how the Advisory Service can continue to provide the best possible guidance to community buildings in Derbyshire. Through focus groups, surveys, and phone calls, trustees helped to shape the Service for the future.

With the outbreak of Coronavirus, halls turned to RAD for information about the implications of the crisis and advice on showing resilience in the face of the outbreak. Halls are continuing to receive vital intelligence through the Village Halls Updates page on the RAD website.

Stand-Out Moment



Helena Stubbs talks to BBC Radio Derby about the importance of village halls during Village Halls Week.

Key Information

- **71** service users
- **5** halls shortlisted to become hubs
- **3 Digital Champion 'C**yber Buddies' recruited

Digital Hubs Derbyshire

Joe Dugdale
j.dugdale@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Funded by
Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Protecting Communities, Fighting Crime

Rural areas are often left behind when it comes to technology. Up to 7% of people living outside of urban zones are unable to access reliable broadband - 6% more than those in cities. While local governments continue to adopt a 'digital by default' policy for their services, it can be a struggle for many to navigate the internet safely and reliably.

The Digital Hubs project was created as a result of conference feedback and RAD's push to increase secure access to the internet for rural people. RAD is working to establish Hubs at community buildings across Derbyshire, and has recruited cyber buddies to offer advice to those struggling with technology.

Success Story

69 people received training on cyber security across three different training events

Due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the Digital Hubs scheme had to be suspended. However, RAD continues to provide cyber security updates and information to ensure that people in Derbyshire can stay safe online.

Community Planning

Joe Dugdale

j.dugdale@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Key Information

Joe Dugdale, RAD's Neighbourhood Planning Officer, has nearly **20 years' experience** with neighbourhood plans

Rural Action Derbyshire has the ability to assist communities across Derbyshire with Neighbourhood Development Plans, providing advice and insight both before and during the planning process. Meetings, workshops, and telephone and email support can help groups to recruit and inform volunteers, apply for Locality Grant funding and access useful tools and documents to navigate their community strategy.

Plans submitted by Breadsall and Kirk Ireton are now under examination, and the Rural Officer has supported the Peak District Park Advisory Board over the last year.

Are you interested in considering a Neighbourhood Development Plan for your community?

Joe can help you understand what is involved, the many benefits of a plan, how long the process can take and how you can find funding to cover the costs. Just get in touch.





Key Information

- **256** farmers visited or supported
- **32** farmers receiving ongoing support
- **206** Lead Chaplain referrals



Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy

Rev'd Alan Griggs
a.griggs@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk
Emily Brailsford
e.brailsford@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

The Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy service rebranded from the Derbyshire Agricultural Chaplaincy in early 2020, expanding its remit to focus on helping anyone struggling in rural areas, regardless of their connection to agriculture.

Chaplains have remained a visible presence within the rural community over the past year, officiating at four funerals, and attending five rural shows and eight harvest festivals.

Success Story

Rural Chaplains helped to organise a harvest festival in Matlock which attracted **300 people** and featured in the Matlock Mercury and Derbyshire Times

Additional funding for the Chaplaincy has been secured from the Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group, helping to ensure this service continues to benefit rural communities in the future.

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, reliance upon the Chaplaincy service has increased significantly.

While face-to-face contact has been limited due to lockdown, Chaplains have ensured that vulnerable individuals have access to support via telephone, including those requiring on-going assistance.

Call Alan in confidence on **07710 088 972**.

Funded by
The Methodist Church

Domestic Abuse Awareness/The Willow Project

Emily Brailsford
e.brailsford@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Key Information

- Funding has been secured for the **2020/21 Willow Project**
- A **£40,000** grant has been secured to fund a worker for 12 months

Funded by
Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Protecting Communities, Fighting Crime

The National Rural Crime Network has found that domestic abuse is often longer-lasting and more severe in rural areas, as victims are left isolated due to a lack of support.

As a result, Rural Action Derbyshire founded the Willow Project in February 2020, which will deliver awareness training and events throughout Derbyshire. Funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, these sessions will aim to give victims the confidence to report wrongdoing, change attitudes that worsen the issue and inform people of the signs of abuse so that intervention can happen earlier.

The Willow Project also acts as a partnership service, coordinating efforts from a range of organisations to eradicate domestic abuse in Derbyshire. This has become even more crucial as a result of the pandemic, with cases reportedly increasing by 49% since the start of lockdown.

Success Story

THE WILLOW PROJECT
RURAL ACTION DERBYSHIRE

RAD was recently awarded £25,000 to commission a series of short films on the impact of rural domestic abuse

Key Information

- **16** suicide awareness courses delivered
- **296** people trained
- **100%** of those trained rated courses as "good" or "very good"

Suicide Awareness Training

Claire Symonds
sat@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Funded by
DERBYSHIRE County Council

Every day, 18 people kill themselves on average in the UK. This issue is of real concern in rural areas, with suicide rates for those working in agricultural trades almost twice as high as the national average. Agricultural trades could also face additional uncertainty caused by Brexit and climate change.

Success Story

RAD now runs an annual county-wide event for the Derbyshire Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Partnership Forum, where stakeholders work together to ensure that as few people as possible die from suicide across Derbyshire

The SAT team has delivered vital suicide awareness training since 2009. RAD once again won funding from Public Health at Derbyshire County Council to provide a programme of free places to delegates in Derbyshire.

From the training sessions held over the last year, 98% of attendees stated that their knowledge of suicide prevention increased. RAD aims to continue its support in tackling this issue, with two members of staff attending mental first aid training and the CEO studying an NVQ Level 2 qualification in mental health awareness.

Rural Poverty

Feeding Derbyshire

Mandy Chambers
Joanne Peck
j.peck@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Key Information

- **5** steering group meetings
- **£20,000** raised from DCC's 'end holiday hunger' campaign
- Provided advice and information to over **100** organisations after the outbreak of Covid-19

Funded by

DERBYSHIRE County Council

In rural areas, 31% of households are forced to live on low incomes, making it difficult for many to keep food on the table. This is an issue affecting many families in Derbyshire, with nearly 25,000 children relying on free school meals across the county.

Feeding Derbyshire works with public, private and voluntary organisations to fight the causes of rural poverty, helping to orchestrate local efforts to eradicate food insecurity.

The team continues to develop its networks with food banks and raise significant amounts of funding to tackle the issue.

This includes £60,000 from Feeding Britain, nearly £10,000 from Awards for All lottery funding, and over £7,000 from a crowdfunder to tackle holiday hunger.

RAD's work became even more important after the outbreak of Covid-19, as they coordinated links between over 100 food groups and organisations across Derbyshire.

Stand-Out Moment



80 delegates from local food banks, councils and voluntary groups attended the Feeding Derbyshire Symposium.

Key Information

- **602,945** litres of oil ordered
- **£39,338** savings made
- **28** new scheme members

Fuel Poverty

Oil Buying Scheme

Emma Simpson
e.simpson@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk



Almost 20% of properties in Derbyshire aren't connected to the main gas network, meaning many residents rely on oil or LPG, with fuel prices and accessibility varying drastically. The Community Oil Buying Scheme has been running for nearly a decade, helping to lower costs and improve price stability for rural people by negotiating bulk orders from oil suppliers.

Reliance on the Scheme has increased considerably, with nearly 30 new members joining in the last year - taking the Oil Buying team close to its target of 1,000 members. In Q4 this year, oil orders rose to 268,225, increasing by 10% on Q4 2018/19. Savings also grew to £20,716.38 during this period, up by 41% on the same time last year.

Feedback

"I used to worry I might be paying over the odds for my oil, but now I've got **peace of mind** that I get my oil at a good price every time."

The Oil Buying Scheme continues to expand its service with new developments, including the establishment of a Direct Debit prepayment scheme and an emergency order every Friday.

Derby Notts Wheels to Work & Wellbeing

Laura Mitchell
l.mitchell@wheelstowork.org
Becky Newton
b.newton@wheelstowork.org

Key Information

- **111** bicycles provided
- **60** mopeds provided
- Funding for travel costs supplied to **9** beneficiaries

DERBYSHIRE County Council **Funded by** BIG LOTTERY FUND NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDED

Over half of the country's rural population has poor access to public transport, making it difficult to access high quality jobs and education. Through Wheels to Work, beneficiaries can loan bikes or mopeds and receive vouchers for free CBT and CBT+ training, making it easier to travel to areas with greater opportunities to work and learn.

Interest in Wheels to Work increased by over 12% from 2018-19, as 180 people were helped from an overall total of 412 enquiries. The team almost doubled their target of providing funding to cover travel costs for five beneficiaries within the first year of a new scheme.

There have been improvements to the service over the last year, with screamer disc alarms and covers now issued with all new Honda mopeds, helping to protect against theft. Wheels to Work continues to expand into new territory, with three clients helped in Nottinghamshire, all of which provided positive feedback.

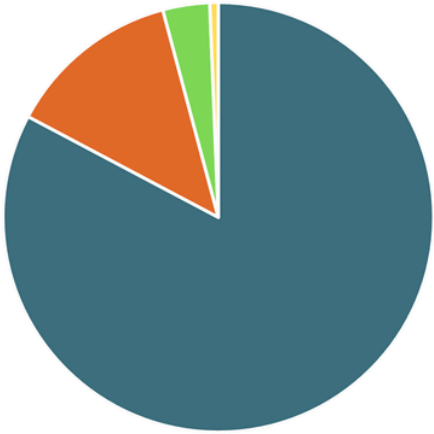
Feedback



"When I joined the scheme I had absolutely nothing. Now I have my provisional license, my CBT, fork lift truck licence and a job."

The Bottom Line

Income



- Grants: £451,810 (82.02%)
- Earned Income: £71,383 (12.96%)
- Donations: £24,178 (4.39%)
- Other: £3,452 (0.63%)

Total **£550,823**



Expenditure

- Transport: £218,202 (40.19%)
- Poverty: £98,747 (18.19%)
- Wellbeing: £71,964 (13.25%)
- Central: £134,325 (24.74%)
- Other: £19,702 (3.63%)

Total **£542,940**

Funders 2019-20

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisations that fund the wonderful work we do.

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Dales District Council
- Derbyshire Dales Health Partnership Grant Fund
- Derby & Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner
- Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust
- European Regional Development Fund
- Feeding Britain
- Foundation Derbyshire
- High Peak and Wellbeing Locality Fund
- The Methodist Church
- Methodist Church Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Districts
- Mugginton Parochial Church Council
- National Lottery Community Fund (formerly Big Lottery Fund)
- North East Derbyshire District Council
- South Derbyshire District Council
- St Barnabas Church
- Sustain
- University of Nottingham

Although we continue to rely on grants, we are also keen to increase our earned income and bring in donations and sponsorship. If you would like to help us with our fundraising efforts, please contact Beverley Parker on b.parker@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk





Rural Action DERBYSHIRE

We believe that no one should be unfairly disadvantaged because they live in a rural area.

Derby | Notts Wheels to Work & Wellbeing

Fit for the Future
VILLAGE & COMMUNITY HALLS

Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy

Digital Hubs Derbyshire

Feeding Derbyshire

The Willow Project

acre network member

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