

# Goldthorpe Town Investment Plan FAQs - Spring 2021

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## What is the Towns Fund?

It was launched by the government in September 2019 in recognition that many towns had missed investment which was directed to cities. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) invited selected towns in England, which included Goldthorpe, to develop proposals for a 'Town Deal' which forms part of a £3.6 billion Towns Fund.

Designed as a five-year programme, the Towns Fund is an opportunity to bid for up to £25m by developing a Town Investment Plan with project proposals that **"should drive long term economic and productivity growth through investment in connectivity, land use, economic assets including cultural assets, skills and enterprise infrastructure."** Only proposals that fall within the scope of the above statement will be considered and are intended to promote the long term sustainable economic growth of the town.

To find out more about the purpose, objectives and conditions around the Towns Fund, please see the [Prospectus](#) and [Guidance](#).

## How has the Towns Fund Board engaged or consulted with the local community?

The structure of the board means they already have good communication connections locally and, not having their own communication platform, make use of the offer of Barnsley Council to utilise their social media and host a webpage with which to pass on news and updates.

Under the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, specific Towns Fund consultation took place over a 17 day period (Friday 28 August to 13 September 2020) where we wanted to assess the level of support for the four proposed Towns Fund themes of Growing, Connecting, Developing and Placemaking that projects were going to be developed around.

The event was advertised by a quarter page advert in the Barnsley Chronicle, a 10-day advert Monday-Friday on Dearne FM (30 seconds, 6 times a day), direct email/phone contact to target groups by Customer Engagement and Area Council teams, plus Barnsley Council social media (Facebook/ Twitter). Direct contact to all residents of the area by post at a cost of over £7,000 was not thought to be a cost-effective approach.

Under normal circumstances there would have been face to face consultation held in local venues, but this option was not available to us due to COVID-19 restrictions. Consultation took place online and the board were aware it may be a barrier to engaging with some members of the community. To

counteract this the Barnsley Council contact centre volunteered to act as intermediary and take telephone calls, during which operators would talk through material with the customer, or their intermediary, and record the response to any questions or options contained in the consultation.

You can become involved and share your views at any time, please go the official Town Deal Funds [#MyTown Goldthorpe website](#). On this site you can also read what other people have already suggested for Goldthorpe.

PLEASE NOTE THE ABOVE WEBSITE HAS BEEN ARCHIVED AS OF 1 MARCH 2021 AND IS NOW AT: <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20210301121633/https://mytown.communities.gov.uk/town/goldthorpe/>

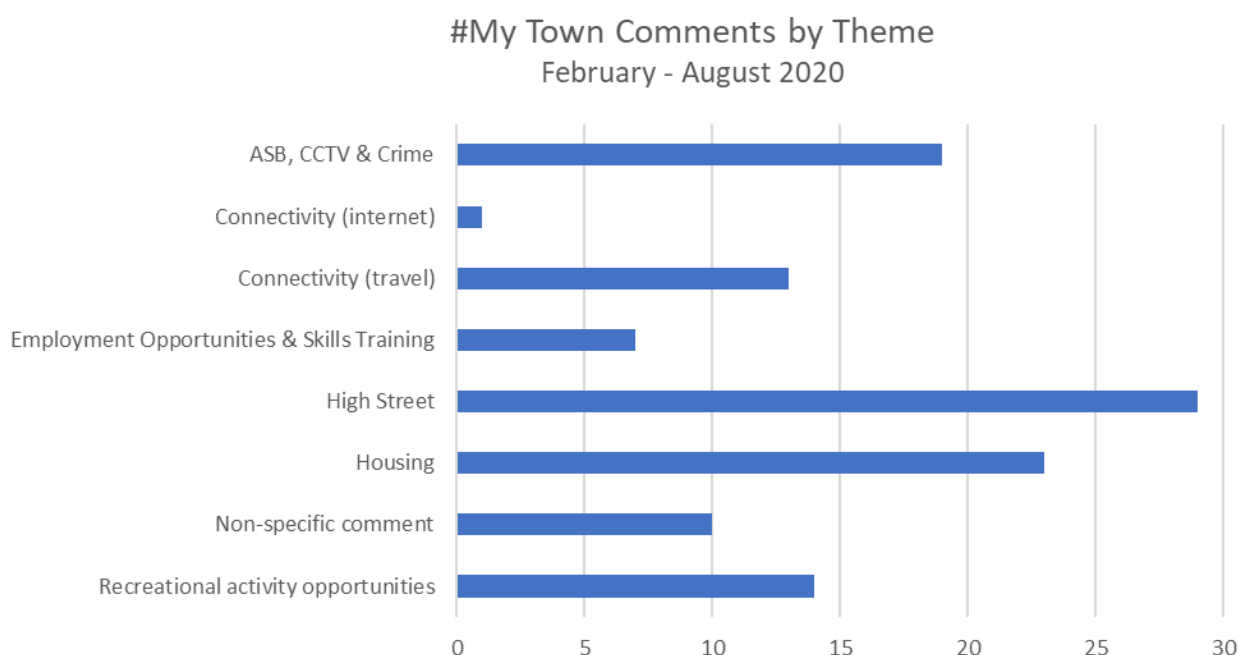
You can also contribute to the social media exchanges on Twitter for Goldthorpe #TownsFund #TheDearne, give your view at the [Barnsley Council Facebook site](#) or email us at [townsfundgoldthorpe@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:townsfundgoldthorpe@barnsley.gov.uk)

### How were the Towns Fund themes and projects decided on?

These Towns Fund themes and projects were based on evidence from a wealth of past consultation and engagement, and more recently:

- The community-led enterprise The Dearne Approach group annually review community needs and priorities; these remain constant and the top 4 are: Environment, Health, Housing and Jobs (Employability).
- Dearne Integrated Well-Being Team community consultations targeted under 18s and those of working age in Summer 2019 and included questions to help us understand what residents loved about the area they lived, and also what they would like to see improved.
- MHCLG developed an online communication and community engagement portal called [#MyTown](#). This portal gives the local community a chance to have their say in how a Town Deal should transform the place they call home.

#MyTown summary of comments by theme 2 February - 4 August 2020



Towns Fund themes and project areas used in Summer 2020 consultation:



In 2019, Dearne residents said that they were concerned that there were very few employment opportunities in the area, and also that there was a lack of good quality affordable homes available. Would you agree that we should develop projects under ' <b>Growing</b> ' to facilitate more employment opportunities and improve the choice and quality of housing available in the areas?	In 2019, residents said that transport links could be improved. Would you agree that we should develop projects under ' <b>Connecting</b> ' to help improve links to public transport, facilitate active travel (walking / cycling) in and around the Dearne?	In 2019, residents said that they were concerned that there weren't many social amenities and that recreation opportunities should be increased. Would you agree that we should develop projects under the ' <b>Developing</b> ' theme to help develop more community and social amenities?	In 2019, residents said that some areas within the villages had become neglected / untidy and overgrown. They were also concerned about graffiti and vandalism. Would you agree that we should develop projects under the ' <b>Placemaking</b> ' theme to improve the environment in the Dearne villages to create a sense of a place that is well kept and cared for?
92%	87%	93%	98%
8%	13%	7%	2%

Results based on 240 responses (excluding one spoilt questionnaire)

## When will Goldthorpe receive the Towns Fund money and what can it be spent on?

The Towns Fund scheme is set to run for five years and because it is based around a number of projects that will progress at different rates, we will not receive the all the funding at the same time. All projects have a maximum of 12 months to develop and approve a business case and submit a Summary Document to MHCLG, it is then that the funding will be released. See Towns Fund timeline below, this assumes all business cases take up to a year.

Towns Fund Stages	2021											2022					2023	2024	2025	2026
	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May to Dec					
Agree to Heads of Terms from MHCLG																				
Submit Project Confirmation to MHCLG																				
Develop and approve individual project Business Cases																				
Submit Project Summary to MHCLG																				
Funding release and project implementation																				

The Towns Fund is primarily a capital fund, for example it could be used to build roads or buildings and to invest in property, but not to run services, which is known as Revenue. The Towns Fund also

requires that the capital fund is spent on certain types of project (known as an intervention) that can help generate local economic growth while also following clean growth principles: “Investment from this fund should support clean growth where possible and, as a minimum, must not conflict with the achievement of the UK’s legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.”; see below:

Intervention Theme	Intervention Examples
<b>Local transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New, revived, or upgraded train and tram lines and stations</li> <li>• New or upgraded road infrastructure</li> <li>• More frequent bus services or infrastructure upgrades e.g. digital bus shelters with Real Time information.</li> <li>• New or upgraded cycle or walking paths.</li> <li>• Wider cycling infrastructure such as cycle parking.</li> </ul> <p><i>Clean Growth example: Other clean transport, including cycling infrastructure and electric vehicle charging points</i></p>
<b>Digital connectivity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of specialist digital technologies to meet the needs of specific sectors</li> <li>• Infrastructure to support 5G or full fibre connectivity, where this is appropriate for the LA role.</li> </ul>
<b>Urban regeneration, planning and land use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remediation and/or development of abandoned or dilapidated sites</li> <li>• Delivery of quality residential or commercial space in key locations (town centres, gateway areas, employment sites)</li> <li>• Delivery of new public spaces</li> </ul> <p><i>Clean Growth examples: Regenerating and retrofitting existing buildings to be as low carbon as possible. Carbon offsetting, e.g. planting trees. Innovative energy efficiency measures, clean heat and power generation, and energy storage</i></p>
<b>Arts, culture and heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New, upgraded or protected community centres, sports or athletics facilities, museums, arts venues, theatres, libraries, film facilities, prominent landmarks or historical buildings, parks or gardens</li> <li>• New, upgraded or protected community hubs, spaces or assets, where this links to local inclusive growth</li> </ul> <p><i>Clean Growth example: Regenerating and retrofitting existing buildings to be as low carbon as possible</i></p>
<b>Skills infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in capacity and accessibility to new or improved skills facilities</li> <li>• Availability of new specialist equipment</li> <li>• Increased and closer collaboration with employers</li> <li>• Increase in the breadth of the local skills offer that responds to local skills needs</li> <li>• Increased benefit for the public education over the long term</li> </ul> <p><i>Clean Growth example: Skills initiatives which support clean growth industries e.g. solar, wind etc.</i></p>
<b>Enterprise infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the amount (and diversity) of high-quality, affordable commercial floor space</li> <li>• Increase in the amount of shared workspace or innovation facilities</li> <li>• Other schemes to support enterprise and business productivity and growth</li> <li>• Programmes of grants to local SMEs or employers in key sectors</li> </ul>

<p><i>Clean Growth examples: Infrastructure that reduces emissions from industrial areas. Low carbon buildings. Carbon offsetting, e.g. planting trees. Low carbon buildings</i></p>
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Up to four or five years is a long time to wait to see things happen in Goldthorpe; will there be anything sooner?

Some projects will naturally take longer than others due to their complexity, but you may see completed projects within 2-3 years. However, the Towns Fund has already provided £500,000 of additional funding to kick-start activity and these will make a noticeable change to the Goldthorpe landscape in the very near future. Known as ‘accelerated projects’ these early initiatives will assist regeneration, drive growth, and improve the environment, including projects which will increase walking and cycling.

- Phoenix Park: upgrade of a north south footpath into a multi-user route creating a dedicated/segregated cycle lane with LED solar lighting. Three new rest points, welcome signage and orientation maps; this work is underway at the moment (March 2021)
- Creation of Tiny Forest at Brickyard Ponds: Barnsley declared a [Climate Emergency in 2019 and are committed to be net zero carbon by 2045](#). Planting a Tiny Forest (a dense, native woodland and the first in South Yorkshire) will help mitigate the effect of climate change, support urban wildlife and reconnect people with nature. It will be a great educational resource for local school children and the community, over the next 2 years several community events will take place where you can learn about the forest, to get involved visit [www.earthwatch.org.uk/tinyforests](http://www.earthwatch.org.uk/tinyforests). Planting took place in late March 2021.
- Goldthorpe Market: Strategic demolition and reclamation, to facilitate a housing growth opportunity. Spring 2021.
- The high street: acquisition, demolition and remediation of the Horse and Groom to enable the creation of a high-quality public square and new site for the relocated market. Spring 2021.
- Embankment Green Space: Further transformation to the disused railway line into a community use and green space through resurfacing of footpaths, handrails, resurfacing walls for murals, natural surveillance, plants, shrubs and trees; this work is underway at the moment (March 2021)

The Towns Fund can’t tackle all the community’s needs; what else is happening in Goldthorpe?

The Towns Fund £23.1m offer for Goldthorpe may seem like a lot of money, but it can only be spent on certain types of projects and can’t deliver everything that everyone wants. Other groups and public bodies are working and investing in Goldthorpe to deliver a variety of improvements and services; here are a few examples:

- ❖ [Big Local Goldthorpe and Bolton on Dearne](#) The aim is to create a better community and their priorities are:
  - Good education and training prospects
  - Quality and affordable homes to live in
  - Improved local facilities

- A supportive and actively involved community

❖ **[Barnsley Safer Neighbourhood Teams](#)** made up of police officers, police community support officers (PCSOs), special constables, council officers, volunteers and partners to police communities and respond to neighbourhood issues, such as anti-social behaviour.

- Give you access to local policing services through a named point of contact.
- Give you influence over policing priorities in your neighbourhood.
- Feedback to residents on what's being done in response to local issues.
- Find out what issues matter to residents in their neighbourhood.
- Work with partners and local people to agree on what action should be taken to deal with those priorities

New CCTV cameras have recently been installed on Barnsley Road / Doncaster Road, Goldthorpe and the system has been developed so it can be built on in the future. For example, we have recently added a camera to the system at the community environmental Embankment project and installed CCTV to stop anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

Further to this, we have also recently secured 6 further re-deployable solutions that will be installed at locations across the Dearne as and when required based on reported incidents.

All of the cameras installed provide broadcast quality High Definition images so the identification of offenders both during incidents and when reviewing footage is made much easier based on the increased image quality.

#### ❖ **Facilities and Services for Young People**

I KNOW I CAN; [IKIC Barnsley](#) (sometimes known as the Dearne Youth Centre) is a project to build confidence; create dreams and aspirations; raise qualification levels; strengthen life skills using help and support; and take ownership to develop a real 'I Know I Can' attitude. There is an IKIC centre at Goldthorpe Green.

Astrea Academy Dearne: Although COVID-19 has meant altering the programme the school offers a great range of [extra-curricular activities](#) including those around sports and physical health, wellbeing and mental health, creativity and the arts and many more.

There are active [scout](#) and [guide](#) groups in Goldthorpe.

The [Dearne and District Football Club](#) is a community football club based in Goldthorpe and have members from around the Dearne Valley area. The junior teams (boys and girls) play at pitches at the Dearne CC, Welfare and Recreation Ground. There is also a new community building on site.

#### ❖ **Community Services and Facilities**

**Dearne Area Council:** [The Dearne Area Council](#) is responsible for developing plans to improve services for local people and reviewing the way in which services are delivered at local level. Current priorities are:

- Improving Health and Well-being
- Young People
- Local Economy
- Skills for Work
- Environment

**The Dearne Approach:** established in 2013, the Dearne Approach is a collective of residents, community groups, businesses and local area delivery partners working together to tackle and address community issues.