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# Growing Goldthorpe and The Dearne

The Goldthorpe Towns Fund a £23.1 million investment in Goldthorpe and the Dearne

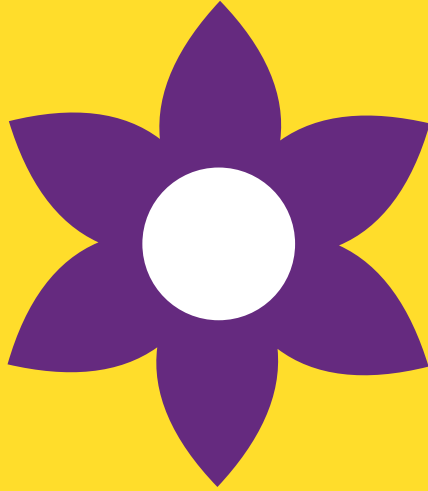
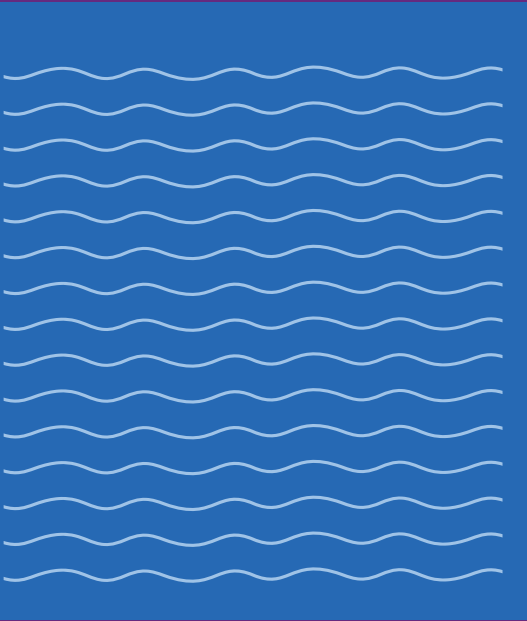


**Goldthorpe**  
Regenerate Renew Revitalise



**BARNSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Goldthorpe | Thurnscoe | Bolton upon Dearne



# A transformational investment in Goldthorpe and the Dearne Valley

Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe, and Bolton upon Dearne are experiencing a once-in-a-generation transformation, powered by the £23.1 million Goldthorpe Towns Fund. This major investment from the UK Government's Towns Fund aims to further Goldthorpe's regeneration as the Dearne's thriving centre of the community.





“When we set off on this journey the board were ambitious and bold with our aspirations. We worked hard collectively and were delighted to be awarded the £23.1 million for these truly transformational projects. I am so pleased that we have managed to deliver on those initial objectives, and these outputs will shape Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe and Bolton upon Dearne for years to come. As we look ahead, we focus on the lasting legacy of this work, building on what’s been achieved and delivering the outcomes this part of the Dearne genuinely deserves.”

**Matthew Stephens** *Chair of Goldthorpe Town Board*

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# The context of **Goldthorpe's** investment

**In the early 2000s, Goldthorpe benefited from the Housing Market Renewal (HMR) programme, which brought substantial investment in housing, new schools, and neighbourhood improvements. Initiatives such as neighbourhood wardens helped to stabilise the area and improve quality of life.**

The Goldthorpe Town Board exemplified robust governance, with all members adhering to the highest standards of public life. The Board's inclusive approach ensured that every project was shaped by local voices and delivered maximum value for money

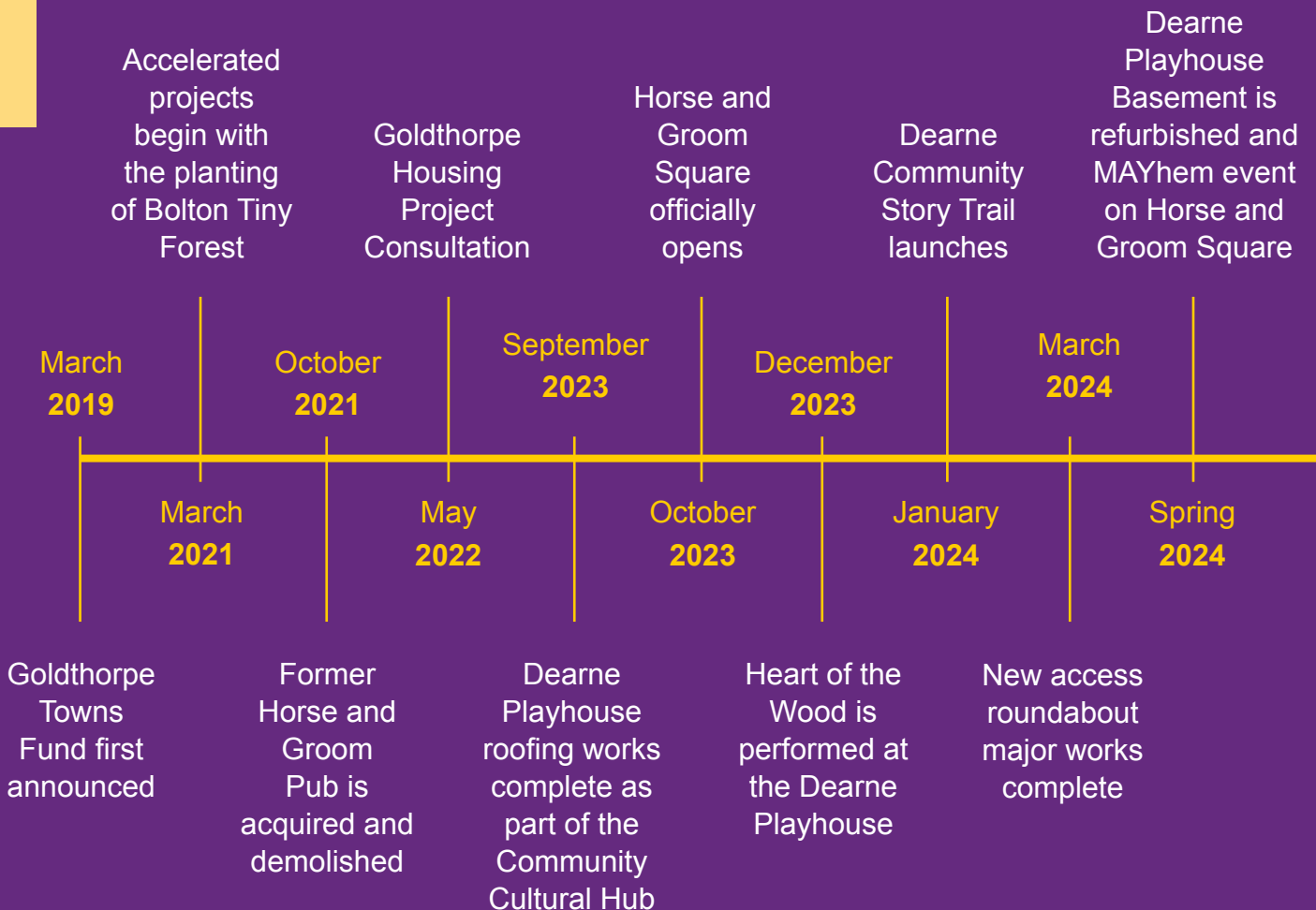
The arrival of the Goldthorpe Towns Fund represented a critical opportunity to break the cycle of investment without sustained follow-through. Only a long-term, strategic commitment can secure lasting improvements for Goldthorpe and the wider Dearne Valley. The Goldthorpe Towns Fund is designed not just to deliver outputs on paper, but to make Goldthorpe a better place to live, work, and invest. The foundations for a sustainable future have been laid, and it is now time for us all to build upon them.

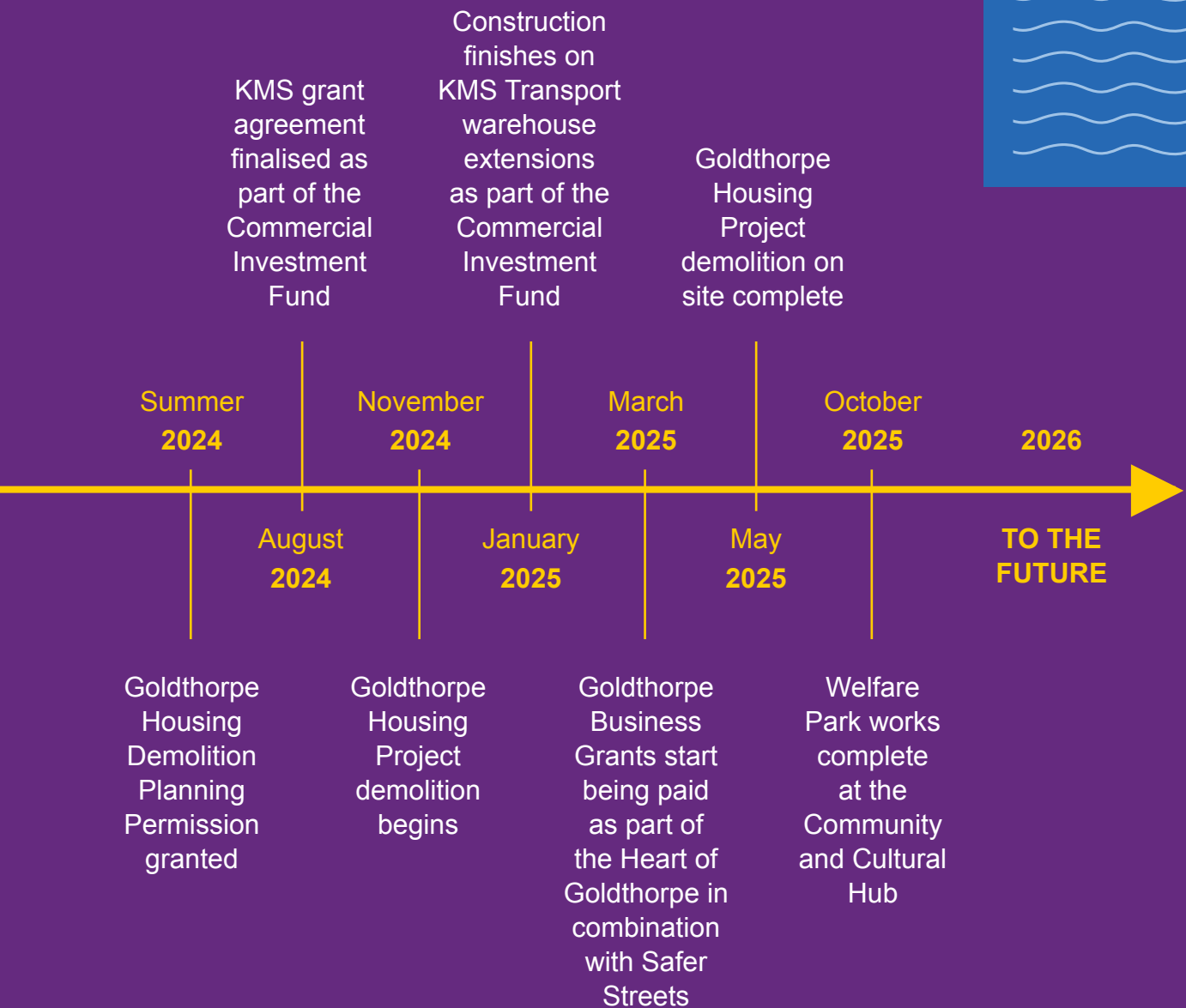
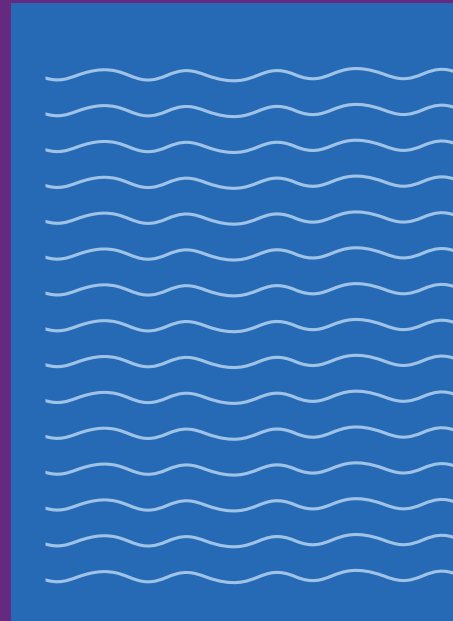


...to make  
Goldthorpe a  
better place to live,  
work, and invest.



# Goldthorpe Towns Fund timeline to March 2026







# Early intervention projects

## Goldthorpe Railway Embankment

There has been further transformation of the disused railway cutting into a diverse green space for community use. This was made possible through accelerated funding from the Goldthorpe Towns Fund.

The embankment had become an eyesore and renowned fly-tipping hot spot. This was until a community led project sprang into action. It rejuvenated it as a green space for the community to be proud of.





## Tiny Forest

A Tiny Forest was planted next to the Brick Yard Ponds in Bolton upon Dearne. A tiny forest is a very small, densely planted forest about the size of a tennis court. Earthwatch Europe is pioneering the initiative in the UK.

The ongoing maintenance of this project is helped by classes from Carrfield Primary Academy who, through their guided monitoring of the site, learn about the importance of nature and the environment.



## Green Active Travel Route

An accessible green active travel route between Goldthorpe and Thurnscoe has been created. This runs through Phoenix Park as one of the Towns Fund accelerated projects.

Existing paths have been converted into a multi-user route suitable for cyclists, prams, pushchairs, wheelchairs and users with limited mobility.

The paths connect Goldthorpe to surrounding locations and encourage the use of green space and active travel.







# Goldthorpe Housing Project

**Modern, energy-efficient homes are replacing outdated stock, supporting local families with a higher quality of life.**

These homes will be let and managed by Berneslai Homes and built to exceed current energy efficiency standards, including features such as air source heat pumps, solar PV panels, and high levels of insulation.

The project has been shaped by extensive public consultation, including input from local residents, community groups, and stakeholders.

**...air source heat pumps, solar PV panels, and high levels of insulation.**



# Market Street and the Lapwing View Development

**The relocation of Goldthorpe Market and redevelopment of the market site were early intervention projects developed to utilise part of the Goldthorpe Towns Fund and accelerated funding. They were identified as schemes that could be achieved quickly to start the regeneration journey.**

In February 2021, the go-ahead was given to clear the market site with new markets provided on the high street as part of the new Horse and Groom public square.

Planning permission was granted in April 2022 for demolition of the market office and for nine new council homes to be built on the cleared site. The Lapwing View development, funded from HRA and the Brownfield housing fund, is a mix of bungalows, two and three bedroom houses and a new green space link from Co-op Street to Market Street.

Whilst the market site was under construction, longer term housing regeneration plans were approved for the adjacent area of pre-1919 terrace streets. This included demolition and several affected residents were able to relocate to the new homes at Lapwing View.





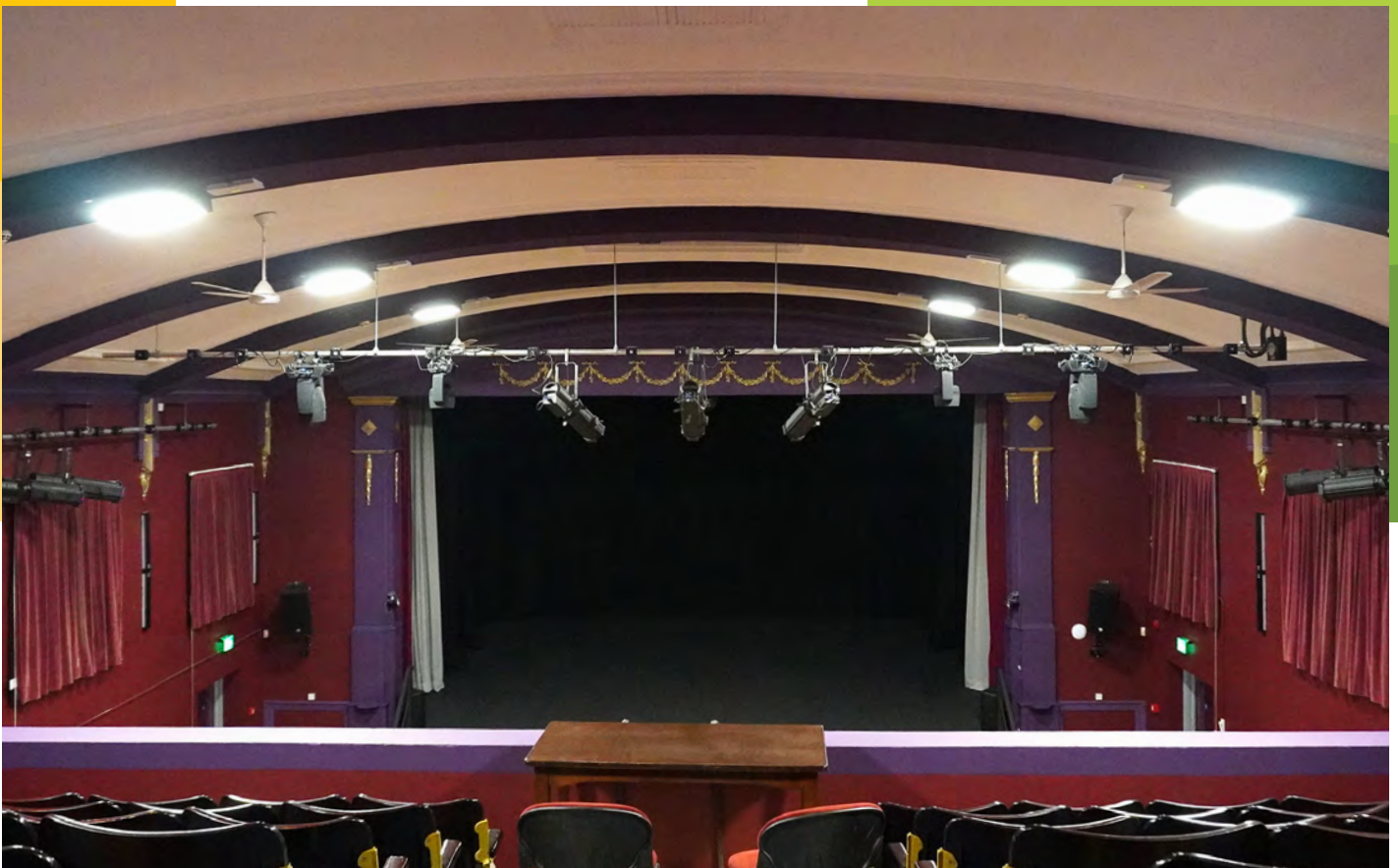
# Community and Cultural Hub

A flagship regeneration project funded by the Goldthorpe Towns Fund, with over £3 million allocated to transform the historic Dearn Playhouse and its surrounding Welfare Park into a vibrant centre for arts, culture, and community activity.





The 103-year-old Playhouse, formerly the Miners' Welfare Hall, has undergone extensive renovations. Works include a new roof, upgraded lighting and sound systems, redecoration of the auditorium and public areas, and restoration of historic stonework. The basement has been transformed into a multi-use rehearsal and creative space, now fully accessible and regularly booked by local groups.





# Community and Cultural Hub

“I am sincerely grateful for the generous Towns Fund investment in the Dearne Playhouse. This ignites our community’s spirit and has helped us create a vibrant space for arts and culture to thrive in Goldthorpe.”

**Julie Medlam** *Dearne Playhouse theatre manager.*



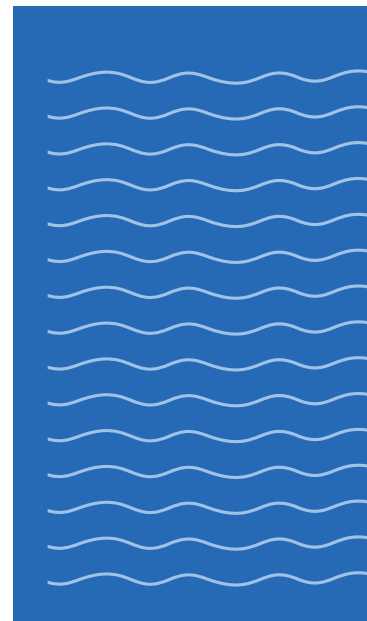


**The project is generating new income streams for the Playhouse, supporting local artists and businesses, and acting as a conduit for community support agencies to collaborate on learning and leisure opportunities.**

The project has delivered new car parking, improved footpaths, new fencing, and public artwork designed in collaboration with local schools and youth centres. Through the Shaping Futures programme in combination with Dearne Astrea academy, a group of work experience students helped Barnsley Council project managers design and install new gateways for Welfare Park. Play equipment and enhanced lighting have also been installed, with CCTV monitored by South Yorkshire Police to improve safety. This was undertaken in combination with Safer Streets funding to help protect our local communities.

**The Community and Cultural Hub key outputs achieved:**

- 2.5 full time jobs safeguarded
- 1,145m<sup>2</sup> public realm improved
- 1 cultural facility renovated





# New access roundabout

Work to create a major new roundabout located at the junction of the A635 Barnsley Road and Dearne Valley Parkway in Goldthorpe has been completed, which will provide the main access into the ES10 employment site.

This site will enable the creation of many new jobs as part of the Dearne Valley economic growth corridor.





**A new sculpture for the gateway site has been designed by local artist Dan Jones with the local community, celebrating the Dearne’s nature and heritage.**

“The sculpture is symbolic of the area’s growth and how its future is built on the foundations of its heritage, while the ring in the centre represents the communities coming together and looking to a bright future with greater opportunities for everyone.”

“All three communities are passionate about nature, while also remembering their industrial and agricultural heritage.”

**Dan Jones** *Commissioned artist*





# ES10 employment site: developing new employment land

## ES10 employment site

The Goldthorpe Master plan Framework seeks to create an attractive, deliverable and sustainable high quality employment site which will provide for the town and the wider Dearne Valley.

The site provides an opportunity to deliver high quality employment, whilst responding positively to the surrounding environment by respecting the site and its surroundings, incorporating high quality green infrastructure and embracing low carbon energy opportunities.

## The Goldthorpe Towns Commercial Investment Fund

This new investment fund, offered as a grant, was created to help overcome viability constraints which were a barrier to businesses or developers in being able to deliver projects.

The aim of the fund is to facilitate new job opportunities by creating new commercial floor space and added social value for local residents.

The fund was eligible for applications from businesses and/ or developers, who intended to deliver projects in Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe or Bolton upon Dearne.



### ES10 employment site key outputs achieved:

- 1 new roundabout
- 280 metres of newly build roads
- 370 metres resurfaced roads



# Case Study

## KMS Transport

**A grant from the Goldthorpe Towns Fund helped a Goldthorpe company complete a major expansion to its premises and create more than 20 jobs.**

KMS Transport added two major extensions to its premises thanks to a grant from the Goldthorpe Towns Commercial Investment Fund.

The investment has increased warehouse capacity at the site on Goldthorpe Industrial Estate, boosting the local economy.

The company has also pledged to add social value through supporting local supply chains, working with young jobseekers and carrying out volunteering projects.

The £1.2 million grant and the project was delivered with support from our business development arm, Enterprising Barnsley, and our capital projects team.





“As part of the obligations under the grant, we are really encouraged by how well this business has engaged with both local supply chains and education establishments, demonstrating social value in how they have explored training and apprenticeship opportunities.”

**Matthew Stephens** *Chair of the Goldthorpe Town Board*

“This marks a massive leap forward for us as a business and a family. Without the Town Fund we wouldn’t be able to build this at all. It’s a testament to them how they’ve shown their commitment to us”

**Harry Mallinson** *Benefactor of the Towns Fund*



# Horse and Groom Square

**The Horse and Groom Square at the heart of Goldthorpe functions as a meeting place and a public space, with capacity for events and markets stalls.**

**With curved pathways and decorative contrasting paving, it's a place for people to relax and socialise in peaceful surroundings.**

“The Dearne Community Arts’ Festival worked with Barnsley Council to produce a series of photo boards throughout Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe and Bolton upon Dearne, one of which sits proudly in the Town Square, along with a town map which shows the location of all boards as well as being a useful feature to the area. The artistic features in the Town Square, including the sign from the old ‘Horse & Groom’ pub, a mosaic commemorating the pub and new murals on walls around the square, reflect the desire to bring beauty to the local area, and we are extremely pleased to have been involved in creating a beautiful area for residents to enjoy.”

**Julie Turner**

*The Dearne Community Arts Festival*

The former Horse and Groom pub, which had become disused and unsafe, was demolished prior to the project commencing using accelerated Towns Fund money. It's remembered in the square with a mosaic designed by artist Dan Jones, inspired by the Horse and Groom pub sign. The sign itself is displayed at the rear of the square.





# Horse and Groom Square public artwork

## Art collective STATIC designed and painted two new murals in the Horse and Groom Square.

Titled 'The Stories', the artwork pays tribute to the Dearne area's heritage, while also looking towards a brighter future. The design features stencil illustrations inspired by workshops at Highgate Primary Academy and was shaped by widespread consultation with the community in Goldthorpe and the Dearne.

The Stories covers the wall of Goldthorpe Library, while part of the wall to the rear of the square is covered with a mural featuring the words 'Learn from the past; look to the future'.

"Even people just walking past have been really positive. People might not have seen much street art or murals in the past, but they have been saying they really like it, because it brightens the area up.

"When you see kids inspired by it, that is what we really love."

**Tom Jackson** *Static Collective*

### Horse and Groom Square Goldthorpe key outputs achieved:

- 1,640m<sup>2</sup> public realm improved
- 100+m<sup>2</sup> pedestrian footpath improved
- 1,400m<sup>2</sup> new outdoor space
- 14 business supported with Security Grants





# Dearne Youth Legacy

**The Dearne Youth Legacy project was a collaborative project designed to explore approaches for arts engagement among young people in the Dearne.**

Led by Fusion, Barnsley's Cultural Education Partnership, the project built on the success of the community musical Heart of the Wood and the Storying Goldthorpe youth creativity programme. The project used research and testing through pilot engagement activity to ensure young people continue to benefit from the Goldthorpe Towns Fund investment hosted throughout the Dearne in regenerated areas.

The project saw the establishment of the Dearne Young Producers from Astrea Academy Dearne came together to design and host Barnsley's very first youth-led e-gaming tournament at The Pit, in the basement of Goldthorpe's Dearne Playhouse.

The event was a partnership between local freelance artist Jack Riley, gaming events company Adaptive Gaming and Astrea Academy Dearne. It was funded by Barnsley Council's Cultural Development Fund programme 'Storying Barnsley' and the Goldthorpe Town's Fund Deal. The partnership has been a huge success with future work planned (including more tournaments) and investment already secured.

"This has been one of the best things I've ever done. I feel very proud. I wanted to do it because I knew it would help me in the future and help my confidence. We're very happy!"

*Dearne Young Producer*



## A Dearne Story

The Dearne Youth Legacy Project also saw the creation of **A Dearne Story**, a zine created to give a voice to young people from the Dearne. **A Dearne Story** emerged from photography and creative workshops led by artist and photographer **Sam Batley** in collaboration with **Dearne IKIC**.

Building on Sam's commission 'A Barnsley Story', young people worked with Sam over four weeks to develop photography and zine making skills. The young people were given disposable cameras, example archive photos and prompts and were supported by Sam over the holidays to photograph summer in the Dearne through the eyes of a young person.

The Zine will be on display at venues across the borough to inspire content for future editions.





# Storying **Goldthorpe** - The Heart of the Wood

## Key highlights:

- Over 200 primary school children
- Four newly created school choirs
- One brass band
- One male voice choir
- One community ladies' choir
- Ten young contemporary dancers
- Two local amateur actors
- Two regional professional actors
- Four local young actors

“Beautifully illustrated by pupils from local primary schools Lacewood, Heather Garth, The Hill and Goldthorpe, who have also researched a new ending that looks into the future, not only with hope but with clear-eyed vision, imagination and compassion.”

“Many others have helped: young people from Goldthorpe Youth Club, who kept us up to date with what’s in and what’s out, and the men who told stories of their mining days and put me right about dialect.”

**Playwright Martin Riley**



# ...a spectacular of dance, music, song and drama.

**Production company The Big Reveal worked with Barnsley Council, The Dearne Playhouse and the schools and community of the Dearne Valley to create 'The Heart of the Wood', a spectacular of dance, music, song and drama.**

Culminating in three performances at the iconic Playhouse in December 2023, the project had been developed over the previous 19 months. It starred four young actors from the local area, some of whom had never appeared on stage before. The project also included storytelling and art workshops at schools in Goldthorpe and the Dearne.





# Storying **Goldthorpe** - A Walk Around Town, ARtQuest and Goldthorpe Townscape

**As part of the Storying Barnsley programme to celebrate the community's creativity, a collection of beautifully illustrated card packs were designed by artist Patrick Murphy with poetry by Ian McMillan.**

A pack was designed for each of our Principal Towns: Cudworth, Goldthorpe, Hoyland, Penistone, Royston and Wombwell.

Each came in a plastic wallet with a lanyard, inspired by Ordnance Survey walking maps, and was designed to accompany participants on their own adventures around each town.

The packs provided surprising historical facts and contemporary landscapes, with each card highlighting a local location and offering a creative activity to do.

This was run in conjunction with the ARtQuest for Barnsley, an immersive trail that featured six amazing creatures, including a lion prowling in Royston and a phoenix soaring through Goldthorpe.

Both projects invited residents and visitors to explore the rich cultural tapestry of our towns.



Over the summer of 2023, young people at the Dearne Youth Centre and Astrea Academy Dearne took part in a series of creative workshops to explore the themes of identity and place.

The workshops were delivered by local creative practitioners and were part of 'Storying Barnsley', a Cultural Development Fund engagement project.

As a result, a new Goldthorpe Townscape was made from drawings, art and photographs by the young people of the Dearne. It highlighted local landmarks, including sports facilities and their favourite eating places.





# Goldthorpe Town Board

**Goldthorpe Town Board was the steering and decision-making body in developing and executing the Town Investment Plan. Following the closure of the Board in March 2026, members continued to be engaged at their volition in ongoing work to secure the legacy of the Goldthorpe Towns Fund.**

Through the Goldthorpe Towns Fund, Goldthorpe Town Board operated as the steering group for a significant amount of public funding. As such, Board members fulfilled their role as champions of their local community, ensuring that local needs were prioritised and expert advice was at hand throughout stages of delivery.





# Meet the Board

**Matthew Stephens** *Chair of the Goldthorpe Town Board*

**Councillor Sue Bellamy** *Dearne North*

**Councillor Janine Bowler** *Dearne South*

**Councillor Wendy Cain** *Dearne North*

**Councillor Abi Moore** *Dearne South*

**Councillor Martin Morrell** *Dearne North*

**Councillor Deborah Pearson** *Dearne South*

**Stephanie Peacock** *Labour MP for Barnsley South*

**Matt Bowker** *CODA studio*

**Colin Buxton** *Proprietor of Hollygrove store*

**Tim Coleman** *ActionCOACH Rotherham*

**PS Paul Aston** *Police Sergeant Barnsley Southeast*

**Antonio Jamasb** *Dearne and District FC*

**Lynn Utting** *Coalfields Regeneration Trust*

## **With thanks to previous board members:**

*Michael Bunting, Derek Bramham, Jeremy Budd, John Healey MP, Councillor Dorothy Coates, Councillor Alan Gardiner, Councillor Neil Danforth, Councillor Annette Gollick, Councillor May Noble, Allan Joyce, Andy Lock, Chris McGinley, Gavin McMurtry, Billy Murray, Pauline Phillips and John Twigg.*

*And thanks to the many Barnsley Council officers, across many different teams and services who have helped to shape and deliver the Goldthorpe Towns Fund through working cohesively with the Board.*



# Looking to the future

We have several projects still ongoing in 2026, including:

- Goldthorpe Housing Projects phase 1 and 2
- Employment site

The Goldthorpe Towns Fund programme will have supported at least 107 temporary construction jobs so far. This number will continue to increase as the above projects continue through delivery.





We look forward to building on the Goldthorpe Town Board legacy. As the remaining Towns Fund projects deliver, the fantastic opportunity the Towns Fund investment provided will continue to feed into the future strategic plans and opportunities in this area.





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