

Middleton Plus Development Trust

Set in rural Teesdale, Middleton Plus Development Trust utilised the availability of UK Shared Prosperity Funds to upgrade the old Tourist Information building to create retail space below and an affordable housing flat above. The building was built in 1770 and was the central focus of this market town. It fell into a medium state of disrepair having closed during Covid.

There is real pressure on homes in this area due to the high number of second homes, high private rents and a shortage of social housing. The group believed passionately that this was something they wished to address. A recent survey of housing data produced by Durham Community Action and ARC4 suggested that 90% of residents in this village would struggle to pay market rents.

They are now considering their Lettings Policy as they would like a local tenant to help alleviate the pressure on young families and key workers.

A Director said: “**DCA was very well connected and we needed their input. Following the connection to DCC UKSPF, 18 months of going round in circles was replaced with a hectic rate of progress.**”

The artist studio below opened in June 2025 and together with the flat should produce a small income for the group whilst preserving an historic and significant building in the town.



