

CASE STUDY: UTASS

Background

UTASS (Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services) works with, and for, the people of Upper Teesdale and beyond to prevent problems getting to the desperate stage and assist in maintaining a safer, happier, self sustaining community. Their work includes practical support with complex paperwork, briefings for farm businesses, training delivery, advocacy and liaison work and provision of facilities for local activities and young people.

Support from DCA through the Village SOS Scheme

UTASS have regularly worked with DCA, and in this instance contacted us through the national Village SOS scheme ran by our umbrella body ACRE which helps organisations with an issue to resolve to apply for bespoke support to help with it. UTASS required an objective, external perspective on options being considered for relocation of their offices. They currently lease privately owned premises and wanted to investigate two other possible sites within the village. A Village SOS mentor was brought in and she assisted with site visits and an options appraisal of the various premises. She also interacted and brokered relationships with the Upper Teesdale Community Association; speaking individually with key members of the UTASS staff and board to establish their views. A report was produced with findings of all the research and UTASS pursued their preferred option. DCA also offered UTASS support through our community organisations toolkit and assist us with research work when required.

"The support we received through the Village SOS scheme helped us to understand and appreciate the complexities surrounding our options and greatly aided us in our quest."

Diane Spark, Project Manager

