

Background

West Rainton Parish Council approached DCA on the advice of the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) for help with impartial community engagement to find out the views of residents to help formulate a village plan to inform and coordinate future actions and developments in the parish. This included linking with existing community groups. A grant was obtained via Durham County Council to commission DCA to offer in depth support to the Parish Plan steering group to develop the parish plan for over a year.

Support from DCA with Parish Plan

DCA assisted with the initial consultation by producing community surveys, attending events and facilitating consultations. It was felt DCA had valuable experience from their involvement with other town and parish councils. The team from DCA had good people skills and offered impartiality. DCA also chaired the steering group meetings and drafted template documents for engagement with businesses and community groups. DCA analysed the feedback from the consultations, held face to face meetings with businesses and as a result produced the final version of the Parish Plan in May 2017 which includes a number of agreed actions to be delivered by the Parish Council and community groups to address the issues raised.

"The support from DCA has been invaluable. Their vast knowledge and experience of working in the community with other parish and town councils was so helpful."

Cllr Avril Wallage, Former West Rainton Parish Council Chair

