

About us...

The Executive Committee:

Garstang & District Partnership (GDP) was tasked with delivering the Market Towns Initiative in Garstang and the hinterlands. The concept of the Market Towns Initiative was to develop local solutions to local problems working in partnerships with representatives from the voluntary sector, service providers, schools and colleges, business groups and local government.

Community participation was a key element in the Market Towns Initiative as detailed local knowledge and skills are essential in addressing highly localised issues. Part of this work was undertaken through the 2004 Healthcheck and as a result the MTI Action Plan was born. In 2004 GDP were granted £1m from NWDA to help deliver identified actions, taken from the plan, by March 2009.

The GDP Action Plan consisted of a series of projects and initiatives aimed at supporting those that live and work within the market town. GDP is made up of a number of directors (from the original Area Partnership Steering Groups) and interested parties. The GDP employs staff and works with Wyre Borough Council to manage and deliver the projects and the funding programme.

Councillor Lady Dulcie Atkins - *Chairman & Director*

Councillor David Sharples - *Secretary & Director*

Councillor Richard Fowler - *Director*

Denis O'Connor - *North West Development Agency*

Councillor Tom I Balmain - *Director*

Mark Gutteridge - *Programme Manager, Community Futures*

Norah Hoyles MBE - *Director*

Councillor Anne Humphreys - *Director*

Councillor Gillian Lamb - *Director*

Councillor Don Lawrenson - *Director*

Geoff Markland - *Director*

Gail O'Brian, Damian Carr & Sue Ritchie - *Chamber of Trade*

Karen Stringer - *Manager Regeneration & Economic Development*

Angela Kershaw - *Regeneration Officer*

Christine Turner - *Manager, RWCC Rural Wyre Children's Centre*

Joanne Golton - *Former Project Manager 2005 - 08*

Fred Atwater - *Former Project Manager 2004 - 05*

Helen Ife - *Head Teacher, St Thomas's School*

Joyce Steen - *Consultant*

Business Support

- > The Business Support Grant Scheme assisted tourism businesses to gain accreditation, and to add value to their product to increase visitors and economic growth
- > It was a condition of all small grants applications that the businesses received one to one advice from an accredited advisor. They were also invited to Business Breakfasts to help them network locally
- > Wedding Packs were produced in which all wedding related businesses could include their promotional leaflets. The packs were then distributed locally in Garstang, and were also taken to wedding fayres to help promote the businesses
- > The Garstang.net website received a major facelift and the business pages were increased and made more accessible
- > First Aid, Food and Hygiene, Retail and Promotional Marketing courses were all provided for local businesses to upskill their workforce
- > Youth Enterprise Scheme encouraged young entrepreneurs to start up their own businesses
- > We employed an administration assistant to provide support to the Chamber of Trade
- > A Rural Wyre and Economic Skills Survey was undertaken highlighting rural skills shortages

Awards and Achievements

Guinness World Record for the Largest Hotpot.

- > Environment and Culture Award – Action for Market Towns
- > Overall Regional Winners – Action for Market Towns
- > Finalists – National Awards for Action for Market Towns
- > Event of the Year – Wyre Tourism Awards
- > Nominated – Lancashire Excellence in Tourism Awards

Rural Wyre Children's Centre:

- > Achieved "Baby Friendly" Accreditation
- > Speech and Language Champion
- > Increased staff from 4 to 11 in three years
- > 132 parents and practitioners achieved training in a range of areas

Garstang Plan



1. Rural Wyre Children's Centre

£225,000 investment helping to deliver key services to families across Rural Wyre



2. Discretionary Fund

£100,000 investment community grant pot for local projects up to 10k



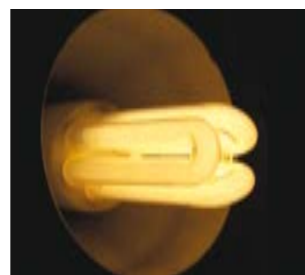
3. Village Halls Fund

£40,000 investment grant towards Village Halls enabling them to purchase equipment that could save them money on energy and attract larger audiences



4. Tourism Support

£80,000 investment delivery of tourism actions to increase visitor numbers to the area, and make Garstang a regional destination.

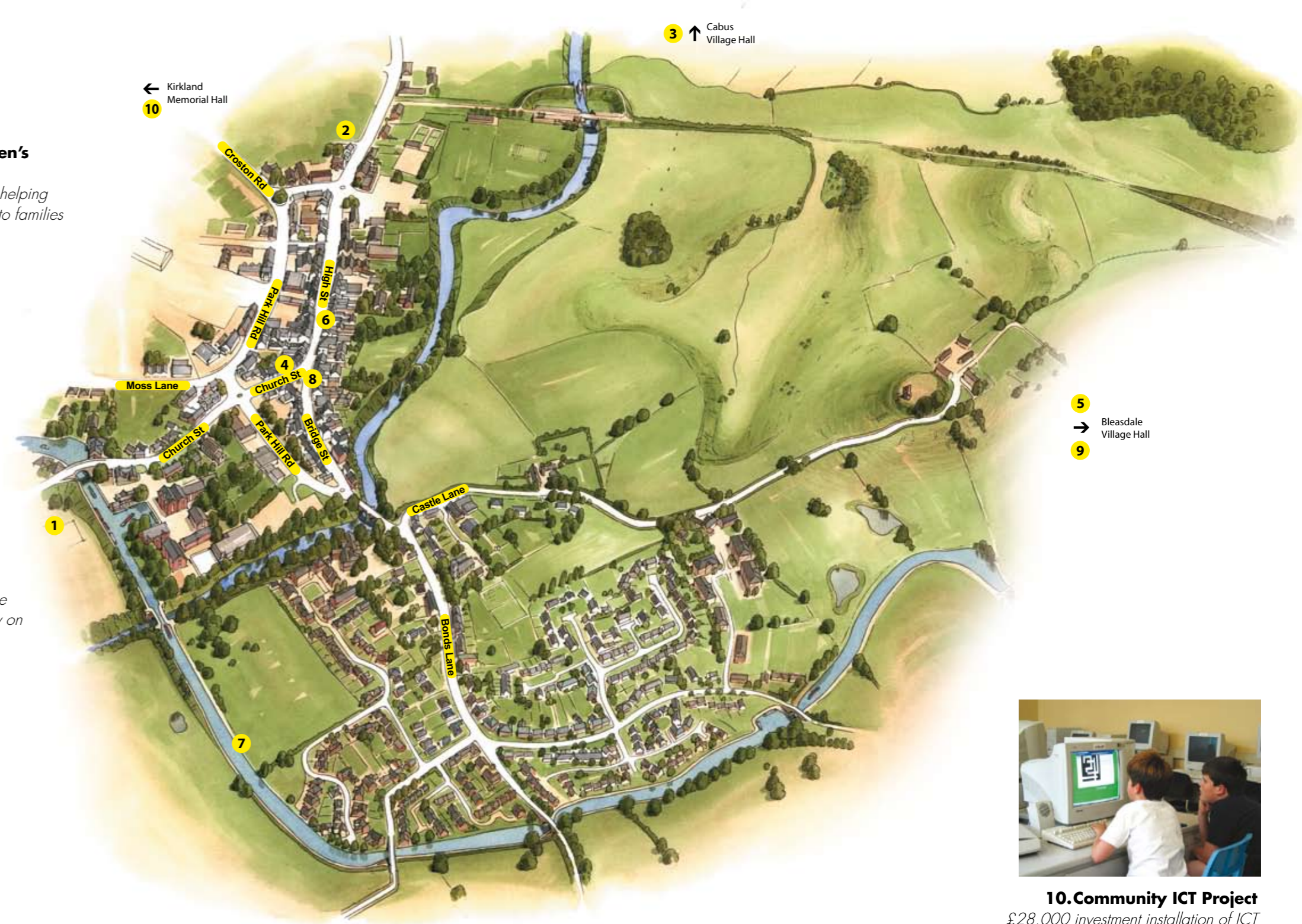


5. Energy Efficiency Scheme

£13,000 investment supporting renewable energy issues in the local area, improving the service to the public and reducing utility outgoings for the venues.

6. Shopfront Improvement Scheme

£35,000 investment scheme to improve the Conservation Area of Garstang. Support retail growth and promote the quality of the retail offer



8. Town Centre Renaissance

£72,000 investment improvements to the town centre including public realm and linkages with the Booths development



7. Heritage and Waterways Project

£81,000 investment to enhance and improve the canal area and access to towpaths. Created a heritage trail to showcase our unique heritage



10. Community ICT Project

£28,000 investment installation of ICT learning equipment in Kirkland Memorial Hall, Great Eccleston Village Centre and Forton Village Hall



9. Wind Turbine Project

£18,000 investment supporting renewable energy issues in the local area

Did you know that the GDP...?

Invested £225,000 into the Rural Wyre Children's Centre, which was the first of its kind in the North West?

Have supported 6 buildings to improve their energy efficiency and save money?

Spent over £100,000 through the Discretionary Fund on supporting over 25 community projects?

Offered free business support to over 150 businesses in Garstang?

Appears in the Guinness Book of World Records for cooking the Largest Lancashire Hotpot in 2007?

Spent nearly £40,000 improving 9 Village Halls?

Spent over £30,000 on the Shopfront Improvement Scheme, which supported over 25 High Shops?

Invested in 150 people to help them gain their first aid and food and hygiene certificates?

Launched Garstang's first Heritage Trail in 2008?

Supported Garstang's entry to Britain In Bloom, and they went on to win the Entente Florale International Competition?

Improved road safety at Kepple Lane by installing new steps and improving access for all?

Financed 3 Youth Enterprise businesses, to help young people set up in business on their own?

Director Norah Hoyles MBE was presented with an MBE for her work within the local community?

Purchased 100 hi-visibility vests that were distributed to all Primary Schools in the area?

Spent nearly £30,000 on the installation of ICT learning equipment at village halls?

Community Participation

The GDP office was situated in the Town Centre from 2005 - 2009, which made us easily accessible for local businesses the public and community groups. It was important that this relationship was strong and that we knew what the community expected from us, and also we could keep them up to date on the projects. We also produced a quarterly newsletter, which was posted to every house in Garstang, and also published reports on the garstang.net town website.

Garstang is the World's First Fairtrade Town, and this has always been actively supported by the GDP, through representation at the meetings, attendance at special events and also the funding of Fairtrade merchandise. The GDP have continually worked in Partnership with Garstang Town Council and Garstang Chamber of Trade to deliver projects, support local businesses and improve facilities in and around the town.

Some of the projects included a Discretionary Fund Grant that supported Bowland Rescue Team, a feasibility study for the Rural Wyre Children's Centre, which developed into the successful flagship project that it is today, supporting families and children across Rural Wyre, and a feasibility study at Garstang Gym. All of these projects and the many more listed in this brochure couldn't have been achieved without the support from local groups, councillors, and the local community.

Logos & Partners



Partners:

Garstang High School, Millennium Green, Garstang Arts Centre, Community Futures, Garstang Chamber of Trade, Garstang Town Trust, Garstang Town Council

Leaflets and Support

The Partnership has supported a number of major events including:

- Garstang Arts and Music Festival
- Garstang Food Festival
- Garstang Victorian Festival
- Garstang In Bloom & Entente Florale
- Garstang Walking Festival

They have also produced the following documents:

- Garstang Local Produce Guide
- Millennium Green Flower Book
- Garstang Recipe Book
- Garstang Heritage Trail
- Garstang Heritage Pub Trail
- Garstang Town Centre Guide

We would also like to thank: Brian Rowe, Mark Pearson and Vanessa at Shared Approach for their support.

What is next?

The GDP have continued to search for a suitable venue for a new Community Centre in Garstang. A Community Centre Steering Group has now been set up to take this forward.



Garstang

& DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

SERVING THE COMMUNITY



SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE MARKET TOWN INITIATIVE, THE GARSTANG AND DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP HAVE AIMED TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY OF GARSTANG AND THE HINTERLAND.

THE INVESTMENT AREAS OUTLINED, HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER A RANGE OF PROJECTS, EVENTS AND INITIATIVES THAT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR, ALL OF WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OF GARSTANG, CREATING A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE, WORK AND INVEST.