

What matters to Marsden



What Matters to Marsden Community Action Plan

March 2025



What Matters to Marsden - turning our conversations into action

What we did in Marsden

664 people took part in the What matters to Marsden conversations in October 2022, sharing their experiences of what life is like in Marsden – this equates to 17.5% of the population of Marsden. The conversations were led by Marsden Community Trust, Marsden Community Association, with support from different community groups and the Colne Valley ward councillors. To do this they used the Place Standard tool. This is a way of having conversations about any place – it could be your street, neighbourhood or town.

The What matters to Marsden conversations were either one to one, in groups or at workshops. People also took part online. 603 citizens took part, completing 403 Place Standard assessments.

In Winter 2023, 274 people took part in our 'Next steps' activities to discuss the results and prioritise what is important to them.



There will be more opportunities to continue the conversation about how we can make our local place better, ways for you to get involved in the actions and to share ideas and comments.

The aim was to reach out to the local community and involve more people in community activity and planning for future activity in a collaborative way. The engagement will also provide an evidence base to influence future planning, funding and work with partners.

What Matters to Marsden overview & Results summary with full data

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/what-matters-to-marsden>

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2024/01/26/what-matters-to-marsden-next-steps-results>

Marsden Community Trust website & social media links

<https://www.marsdenmechanics.co.uk/marsden-community-trust>

<https://www.facebook.com/marsdenmechanics>

About Marsden

Marsden is a rural village in the Colne Valley Ward in Huddersfield, Kirklees, West Yorkshire.

Population (2020 ONS estimate)

4,444 Total population

2,176 Male

2,268 Female

783 Age under 15

492 Age 16 to 29

785 Age 30 to 44

1,414 Age 45 to 64

971 Age 65 plus

4,279 White British

Number and type of households (ONS 2021 census)

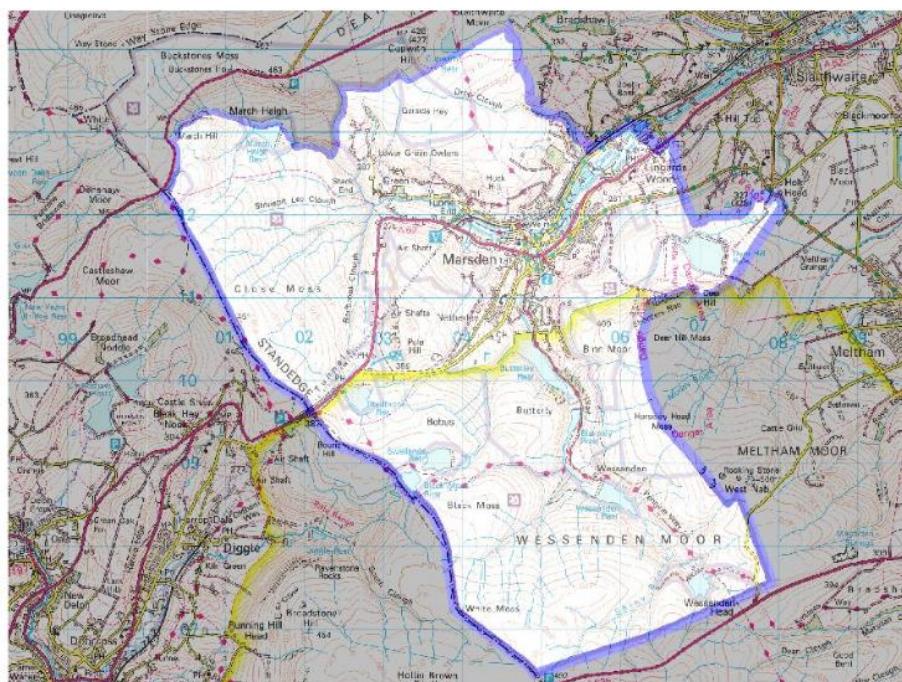
1,989 Total households

1,444 Owner occupiers

186 Social rented properties

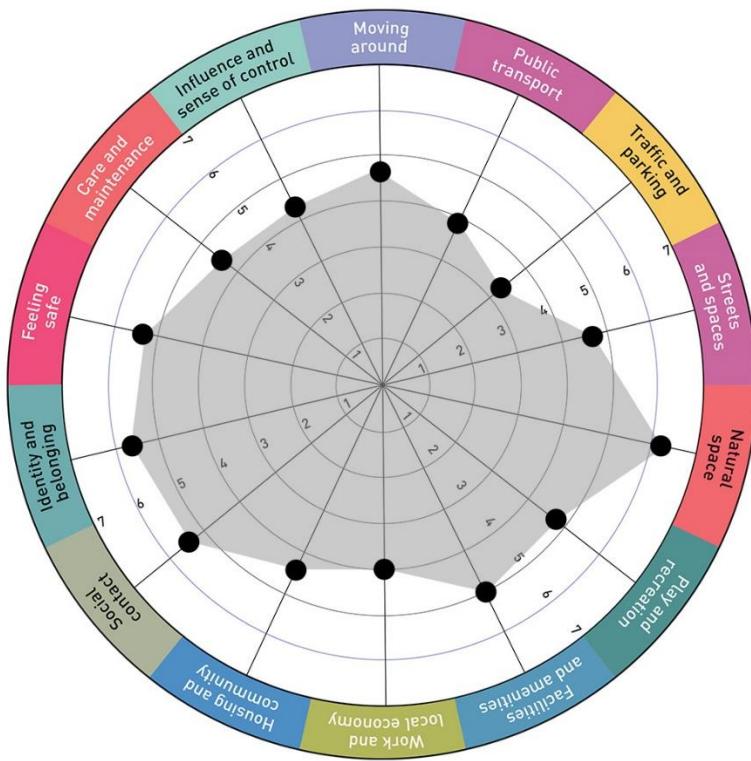
356 Private rented properties

748 Single person households



This information is from the Kirklees Observatory: <https://observatory.kirklees.gov.uk/>

What Matters to Marsden results



How people in Marsden scored their place, on a scale of 1 to 7, whilst talking about 14 different themes, and how many comments we received about each of these themes.

Theme	Average score overall	Range of scores received	Number of comments made
Moving around	4.7	1 to 7	309
Public transport	3.9	1 to 7	336
Traffic and parking	3.3	1 to 7	346
Streets and spaces	4.7	1 to 7	312
Natural space	6.2	1 to 7	280
Play and recreation	4.8	1 to 7	293
Facilities and amenities	5.0	1 to 7	296
Work and local economy	4.0	1 to 7	270
Housing and community	4.4	2 to 7	285
Social contact	5.4	1 to 6	257
Identity and belonging	5.7	1 to 7	255
Feeling safe	5.3	1 to 7	273
Care and maintenance	4.4	1 to 7	290
Influence and sense of control	4.3	1 to 7	230

Full results, including information about how different people responded, are available at:

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2023/11/13/what-matters-to-marsden-results>

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2024/01/26/what-matters-to-marsden-next-steps-results>

Strengths in Marsden

Natural space

Key issues: 211 people praised the natural space in Marsden and said it's the best thing about Marsden or is why people live there. 46 people mentioned the natural beauty or scenery that Marsden benefits from, and 92 people said there are lots of natural spaces in easy reach, such as the moors, the canal, the parks and the woods. Other people said how tranquil or calming Marsden can be, that the natural spaces in are well cared for and that volunteers do a good job looking after them. Six people also said that the natural spaces draw visitors to the area.

93 people said active travel options are good, and 56 said it has a wealth of good walking options. Others said that there isn't much for cyclists or horse riders and that signage for routes isn't clear. It is also said that you can access good leaflets, maps or guided walks. 6 people thought that most paths or routes are well maintained, but 4 others complained about wet or 'boggy' footpaths. 2 people complained that paths can be blocked on occasion and 1 thought there aren't enough paths leading to natural spaces. Some people also raised concerns about cycling either damaging walking paths or considered that cycling can cause problems for other path users.

70 people said lots of positive things about the moorland around Marsden. 16 praised the moors specifically and complimented other natural spaces in the area. 2 people praised the maintenance of the moors, and 1 person for the walking options available on the moors. 8 people praised the National Trust and 1 person the community fire watch scheme. However, 3 people said the moors are inaccessible for some people and 26 people are concerned about moorland fires.

48 people really like the canal and rivers in Marsden, 5 people praised Tunnel End. 16 people praised the canal without mentioning any other natural space. 8 people praised the Canal and Rivers Trust, whilst others felt that the canal is too narrow, is overused and inaccessible for some. Disrepair of the canal towpath is also an issue.

7 people said generally positive things about the parks, with 1 specifically praising their maintenance. However, 22 people said that the parks are in a state of disrepair, are misused or can become flooded in wet weather.

47 people said accessibility is an issue. 33 said that Marsden and its natural space in particular isn't accessible for disabled people, whilst others raised specific difficulties or difficult spaces such as parking for the elderly at Tunnel End or the canal towpath. 1 person said that there are some accessible paths in Marsden.

Top suggestions:

- 9 people suggest addressing moorland fires.
- 8 people suggest improving disabled access to nature.
- 7 people suggest improving the canal towpath.
- 7 people suggest installing more seating or picnic benches.
- 7 people suggest more tree planting.

Identity and belonging

Key issues: A significant number of people talked about their feelings toward Marsden's identity and their sense of belonging in the village. 45 people said they feel part of the community or like they belong in Marsden, and 36 people sharing that there is a good, strong sense of community, or saying such things as "I love it here" or it is a "special place and I wouldn't want to move or live anywhere else". 25 people said they feel Marsden has a positive image, and 22 people said they are proud to live here. 54 people said Marsden has a strong or distinctive character and that it's a friendly, welcoming place. The main negative point that people raised is the divide between some people whose families have been based in Marsden for generations and people who have 'recently' moved here - often referred to as the 'locals vs newcomer divide'. 7 people said the perceived divide itself is damaging to the community. People gave mixed views, split between complaints about people who have moved to Marsden 'changing the village' and complaints about people whose family have lived in Marsden for years making people who have moved here feel unwelcome. 25 other people said that they had moved to Marsden and have always felt very welcome.

144 people said how they feel about Marsden. 31 people praised the range of community events and festivals that take place throughout the year, such as Cuckoo Day, Imbolc, the Jazz Festival and the Christmas Lights switch on as some of the many elements that contribute to a strong community and a sense of belonging. 32 people said the variety and quality of community groups that exist in Marsden is good, with a further 5 people expressing it's easy to get involved in 'things'. 17 people are positive about the amount of history and heritage shared in Marsden. However, there are a noticeable amount of people suggesting the events, activities, groups and heritage in Marsden need to be better promoted, to improve local knowledge of the area and what's on offer. 16 people said Marsden is a place that fosters relationships and connections between residents, with a lot of people all knowing each other and being available to help if needed. Other people said Marsden has a reliance on volunteers to build a sense of community, with some people saying it's often the same people who volunteer their time to organise things for the village. Some people are concerned about diversity in Marsden and how welcome those from non-white backgrounds might feel in the village.

Top suggestions:

- 6 people suggest more overt celebrations and signage of local history are needed.
- 2 people suggest there should be more information about how to get involved or join groups.
- 2 people suggest creating more spaces and things to do for young people.
- 1 person suggests increasing the number of volunteers supporting local activities.

Social contact

Key issues: Overall, people said there are many good ways and places in Marsden to have social contact. 65 people said Marsden is good for meeting people over food or drink, commenting that the cafes, pubs and restaurants in Marsden are great places to meet people. 5 people said that the Church Café provides the same opportunities. 9 people said there aren't many opportunities for social contact in Marsden, without going for something to eat or drink. 68 people said positive things about indoor public spaces in Marsden, with 17 people praising the library and 17 the Mechanics, both for hosting good community activities. 9 people are positive about the churches'

contribution to social contact in Marsden. 7 people said there isn't enough indoor socialising space for young people in the village and two said the library is the only free space in the village. It is also said that the Band Room, Sports Hall and Mechanics could be better used by the community. 49 people mentioned outdoor public spaces, 8 saying the Skate Park is a good place to spend time, 6 praising the walking groups in the village, 6 that the parks are good meeting places, and 5 people said there are generally good outdoor meeting opportunities in Marsden. However, 7 people said there needs to be more sheltered areas (potentially with seating) outside, and 7 more said the parks need improvement to attract more people and that there needs to be more places to meet outside. 1 person said they don't feel like there are any outdoors spaces for adults.

124 people mentioned the different clubs in Marsden, 53 being praise for them and their variety. People said positive things about the youth club, the Scouts, Hanson's Music and the sporting opportunities available in the village. There is also praise for the Marsden Facebook page as a space for advertising what's happening. However, 7 people said there needs to be more things for working adults to do in the evening, and 8 said that Marsden lacks youth activities, a further 6 people said that indoor activities all require you to spend money. Other people said that Marsden needs a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community, a companion's society and that often people are not aware of what is happening in the village.

40 people said they feel included in Marsden and it has a great community, 10 of which said how friendly Marsden is as a place. 17 people said that the many village festivals or events such as Cuckoo Day, the Jazz Festival and Imbolc are great ways to support social contact.

Top suggestions

- 5 people suggest they need other things to do on an evening apart from drinking in a pub.
- 4 people suggest having an indoor swimming pool.
- 3 people suggest improving promotion and advertisement of opportunities, activities and groups.
- 3 people support the suggestion of having cheaper or cost free social opportunities

Challenges and issues in Marsden

Traffic and parking

Key issues: 118 people said the main issue is too much traffic and congestion due to on street parking, and the number of cars in the centre affects traffic flow. People also said cars parked on junctions and on double yellow lines can block others in, making it difficult for pedestrians and drivers to get about at busy times. Some people described the parking on Peel Street as turning two lanes into one, causing dangerous bottlenecks which means that buses, and on occasion emergency service vehicles, can struggle to get into Marsden. Some areas of the village are described as hazardous, for example the corner opposite the Railway Pub, corner at bottom end of Peel Street, outside the Co-op and opposite the Mechanics building, because junctions are often blocked or unsighted. It is also said that events and festivals in the village cause gridlock, with drivers taking shortcuts through the village, exacerbating the situation - in particular from Mount Road, Carrs Road, and Stubbin.

23 people said that Brougham Road is difficult, cramped and dangerous for small children, walkers and cyclists at school drop off and pick up for Marsden Infants. Specific issues mentioned are there being no school signs near the school and insufficient space on the road and pavement.

76 people said there are inadequate parking facilities in Marsden. There isn't enough convenient off street parking in the village centre for residents and visitors. Many people said there are various sites which could be used as parking areas if the owners would allow, such as the site of the former Crowther Bruce's mill on Brougham Road. It is also said that the large Old Goods Yard and National Trust carpark is free (at the time of engagement) but underused and that there are no clear parking signs, so it is poorly advertised. It is also recognised that for the disabled and elderly it is a long steep walk up Station Road to the car park. Also, there are only one or two disabled parking spaces in the village, they are always full and lowered pavements are not safe to use.

61 people said there is unsafe and inconsiderate parking, such as pavement parking, blocked driveways or parking on double yellow lines. People complain that some people are not prepared to walk from the designated car parking areas despite being relatively close to the village, and there appears to be semi-regular inconsiderate parking by commuters and visitors. Other issues raised are that cars can park too close to junctions, meaning traffic can struggle to get through or that there is poor visibility for drivers and pedestrians. On street parking makes crossing the road dangerous, especially with young children, prams and for wheelchairs. Some particularly dangerous spots mentioned were Peel Street around the Co-op, Katies Kitchen, next to the library and infant school exit, Brougham Road by St Barts to Clough Lee (emergency vehicles can't get through) and the junction of Church Drive and Clough Lane.

31 people said speeding is an issue, with key problem areas being along Carrs Road and Fall Lane, Station Road and Manchester Road by the junior school. People also said cars don't stop at pedestrian crossings and that local speed cameras don't seem to work. However, the parked cars and Mechanics bottleneck do slow traffic down to a safe speed.

53 people said positive things about adequate parking space and considerate drivers. The Goods Yard was quoted as a great space despite needing work to be an attractive place to park for more people. Others said people park respectfully and safely and that cars usually give priority to pedestrians in the village. It was also noted that parking in Marsden is free (at the time of the engagement).

Top suggestions

- 63 people suggest more public parking and car parks near the centre, utilising sites such as the Crowther Bruce Mill, the land next to the infants school or land across from the New Inn.
- 28 people suggest improving signage for parking to encourage people to use existing car parks more.
- 19 people suggest having pedestrianised areas of the village centre, potentially only at key times.
- 14 people suggest having more double yellow lines and stricter enforcement, sites mentioned were near the Swann Pub, Peel Street and Station Road.
- 12 people suggest having a 20 mph speed limit in and around the centre

Public transport

Key issues: 73 people said why they do not use public transport in Marsden, ranging from issues of reliability, frequency and cleanliness, to statements that the cost for using public transport is too high.

382 people talked about train travel in Marsden, more than anything else to do with travel. 25 people are generally positive about the trains when they run, but 138 said poor accessibility at the train station is a big issue, that it is unusable for wheelchairs, prams and bikes, because of the steep steps leading to the platform. 144 people said the issues are infrequency and unreliability of trains, with cancellations often at short notice. 24 people complained about the high price of using the train, particularly toward Manchester. 7 people complained about the behaviour of people on the Ale Trail, 8 the position of the ticket machine and 4 about the lack of signage and physical timetables.

248 people talked about the bus service. 82 said the bus service in Marsden is okay to good. However, 17 people said the cost for buses is too high and 67 said that the frequency and reliability of buses in Marsden is poor. 13 people complained about the number and quality of bus shelters, and 13 more about the quality of vehicles used.

34 people said positive things about the public transport offer in Marsden, making comparisons with other areas that show the public transport in Marsden in a positive light. 20 people said there is a lack of public toilet facilities on or near the train station and 11 said how important a good public transport offer is to rural communities like Marsden.

Top suggestions

- 12 people suggest increasing the variety of destinations available.
- 10 people suggest improving street lighting around the train station.
- 5 people suggest improving the public transport timetable so that trains and busses are better connected and spaced out.

Work and local economy

Key issues: People said there are a number of key issues, including the type and range of jobs available, commuting and public transport, the closure of the mills, volunteering, working from home and internet connectivity, opportunities for young people and skills and training development. 41 people said they were unable to comment on this theme, either because they were retired or because they worked outside of the area.

79 participants said there is limited or lack of diversity when it comes to employment and career opportunities locally. There are positive comments about the centre, but some feel that it was not thriving or on the up. Lack of variety, limited options for skilled and professional work and meaningful chance of progression is regularly mentioned. 42 people said there are lots of opportunities available in the food preparation sector, in cafes, pubs, restaurants and the retail sector. Whilst this is welcome, it is low paid with limited opportunities.

19 people said there is an active economy overall with a good range of jobs always available, a thriving village with plenty of local businesses offering employment. 57 people mentioned commuting and public transport. The majority of participants felt that there were good transport links, and the village is well connected for people to access work. Lots of people said they commute outside of the area for work and whilst 48 are positive overall about transport links being good, 19 people said the transport links were unreliable, with some opting to drive rather than use the train.

43 people talked about the impact of the mill closures, saying the shortage of premises and the potential and opportunity to develop the mill space to bring new businesses to the area and create much needed jobs. Volunteering is seen as a real asset and strength locally and 16 participants said there are lots of opportunities and roles available at key organisations in the village. Whilst this is viewed as a strength, a few people said what is needed is 'real' jobs and without volunteers there would be a lot less going on.

17 people said they worked from home, either sometimes or the majority of the time, especially since the pandemic. 6 people said there is a need to have better internet speed. 13 people said that opportunities for young people are limited, or low paid and temporary work. 5 people said jobs in cafes, bar work are great for giving young people some work experience.

20 people said they think the range of shops and services in Marsden is good and the high street is active. Community ownership is said to be important in bringing the community together.

13 people said there is a need for adult learning, apprenticeships and more local job search support, as the nearest job centre is 7 miles away in Huddersfield.

Top suggestions:

- 9 peoples suggest using the space in the Mills for businesses.
- 5 people suggest creating a co-working space in the village.
- 4 people suggest more local authority support for Small to Medium size Enterprise's.
- 3 people suggest increasing the variety of employment opportunities through apprenticeships.

Summaries of all the themes, and the full responses from participants, are available at:

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2023/11/13/what-matters-to-marsden-results>

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2024/01/26/what-matters-to-marsden-next-steps-results>

What Matters to Marsden Action Plan

There have been several rounds of citizen engagement. Starting in 2022, followed by re-engagement in 2023 and further engagement opportunities in 2024, such as public meetings and the Marsden Business Owner Survey. Since then, the Marsden Community Trust and the Colne Valley Councillors have worked alongside local residents and community groups to identify the set of actions that make up the following local action plan. Some of the issues raised during the engagement will not fall within the scope of this action plan. However, those issues may be addressed through other engagements or development coming to Marsden in the near future.

The issues, suggestions and ideas raised that fall outside the scope of the community action plan centred around matters such as: accessibility at Marsden Train Station, improving parking and traffic flow in the village (particularly in terms of speeding, problem parking and road safety around local schools), development of the Mill on Brougham Road, improved bus services, accessibility concerns in the village centre, better utilisation of the space at the Old Goods Yard, street lighting and the condition of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal Towpath.

Accessibility at Marsden Train Station is due to be improved as part of the [TransPennine Route Upgrade](#). If you want to speak to anyone about the proposals please consider contacting the [Colne Valley Ward Councillors](#) or local rail user group, [Slaithwaite and Marsden Action on Rail Transport](#).

The condition of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal Towpath from Marsden to Slaithwaite is also due to be improved with [construction work planned to start in autumn/winter 2024](#). If you would like to contact someone about this, please consider contacting the [Canal and River Trust](#).

The West Yorkshire Combined Authority have recently closed their [consultation on bus reform](#) across the West Yorkshire Area and the West Yorkshire Mayor has taken the decision, informed by the consultation, to take bus services back in to public control. You can find out more about this decision and follow what it might mean for Marsden on the [WYCA Bus Reform website](#).

In March 2023, £5.6 million from the Governments Levelling Up Fund was allocated for the redevelopment of New Mills on Brougham Road, with an additional £11.7 million coming from private development partners to help transform the heart of Marsden, offering new spaces for shops, businesses, and homes. Residents will have the opportunity to comment and share their views on the development plans through the

[regular planning process](#) and through the coming [Marsden Blueprint Engagement](#). The Marsden Community Trust have also been meeting with the owners of the Mill, and their developers, to share the views of Marsdeners as expressed in [What Matters To Marsden](#).

Further engagement around parking, traffic flow, accessibility in the village centre, The Old Goods Yard and how well lit the streets and spaces in Marsden will be carried out as part of the [Marsden Blueprint Consultation](#). Subsequent works will be dependent on the results of this more detailed engagement, and funding for works would then need to be sought and applied for.

Independently of the Community Action Plan below, The Marsden Community Trust (MCT) has already been successful in increasing the local sense of influence and control through What Matters to Marsden as the engagement was one of the motivating factors in funding the Blueprint Consultation exercise, giving Marsdeners a voice in the changes to come.

The issues that can be addressed through community action are identified in the Action Plan below. The projects detailed to address these issues have been 'crowdsourced' throughout the engagement process (2022 to present) and during the 'Community Action Planning Workshop' on the 13th February 2024, which was widely publicised across the village and held in the Marsden Mechanics Main Hall.

The Marsden Community Action Plan detailed below is an aspirational plan that details some of the things the Marsden Community want to achieve, as well as some of the things that have been achieved already. The hope is that the whole community will feel invited to take part in any and all of the actions expressed below. Please see the 'Updates' column to see how to find out more or how you can get involved.



Completed



In development



Aspirational / Not yet started

Stage of progress	What will we do? <i>Actions being progressed and agreed or expected outcomes. Maybe including proposed milestones and timeframes</i>	Leads and / or Partners <i>Who is involved and coordinating this element?</i>	Updates <i>What progress have we made? / How to get involved</i>

	<p>Marsden Dirker Park has been improved as part of the Council's Playable Spaces Strategy. You can stay up to date with these improvements here: Dirker Avenue Kirklees Council</p>	<p>Kirklees Parks Service, Colne Valley ward councillors.</p>	<p>The park is now open again following improvements. Stay up to date on the Playable Spaces Website - Dirker Avenue Kirklees Council</p>
	<p>Improve local internet speeds</p>	<p>We Fibre / Kirklees Council</p>	<p>WeFibre have recently finished installing fibre optic cabling in Marsden. Find out more here: WeFibre - Awesome internet has arrived & Future broadband in Kirklees Kirklees Council</p>
	<p>Makers Markets – set up a Facebook page to facilitate local stall opportunities</p>	<p>Marsden Business Forum and Marsden Makers</p>	<p>If you would like to support a regular local market or find out more, please email Hannah, at hannah@yourthreedays.com</p>
	<p>Produce a door-to-door booklet covering a range of topics raised in the engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ask people to identify how they might be willing to volunteer. MCA to then gather responses and put vols in touch with appropriate orgs. - Provide an update on the What Matters to Marsden action plan and the up-coming developments. - Advertise volunteering opportunities, groups and activities. - Advertise 'support events' detailed further in this place - Copies of information campaigns detailed later in this plan - Include promotion of the Marsden Matters website 	<p>Marsden Community Trust</p>	<p>The Marsden Community Trust are working with a local artist to deliver this action.</p> <p>We need to secure funding and secure content from every other action / partner.</p> <p>If you would be happy to help deliver this booklet once produced, please email Gary, at Gary@marsdenmechanics.co.uk</p>

	<p>Set up and fund a local litter picking group who will organise regular litter picking opportunities for locals to get involved in.</p> <p>Create a relationship between this group and Kirklees Council's waste collection team. This litter picking group may also be able to offer to do runs to Kirklees Recycling Centres on behalf of others who may not be able to get there alone.</p>	<p>Marsden Community Trust / Marsden Litter Pickers</p>	<p>A volunteer trustee of the Marsden Community Trust is going to facilitate / organise this group. If you would like to join the litter picking group's mailing list, find out more or suggest littering hotspots please email Tony, at tony@marsdenmechanics.co.uk</p> <p>However, if you would like to report suspected fly tipping, please contact Kirklees Council through www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/flytipping-litter-and-graffiti/report-flytipping.aspx</p>
	<p>Improve off road walking options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create more local walking leaflets. - Increase the amount of volunteers helping to maintain local footpaths. - Improve / maintain key walking routes. - Replace, repair or cleaning of local signage. 	<p>Marsden Walkers are Welcome in partnership with Kirklees Highways and PROW Team.</p>	<p>If you would like to find out more please visit www.marsdenwalkersarewelcome.org or email Marsden Walkers are Welcome, at marsdenwaw@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Investigate running a 'Marsden Matters' website that can be used as a digital platform to support locals to stay up to date, and communicate amongst each other. As well as promote events, groups, activities and local business, it could include a 'What's On In Marsden' events page, to advertise local business and upcoming events.</p> <p>This website could occupy a space that facilitates the voice of Marsden officially.</p>	<p>Marsden Community Trust</p>	<p>The MCT are running this action. If you'd like to become involved and help run the website, please send an email to info@marsdenmechanics.co.uk</p>

	Support and fund the creation of a local maintenance group in Marsden who will undertake low skill public realm interventions such as painting railings and washing village centre signage. This maintenance group could be led and coordinated by a local tradesperson who would train the volunteers as they go.	Marsden Maintenance Group	To join the group, find out more or suggest locations for work, please email Gary, at Gary@marsdenmechanics.co.uk
	Create a Community Garden / growing / plant nursery space that will also operate as an advice and support group for environmental projects and planting across the village: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant nursery - Advice and support for individuals who want to do some planting locally (on their doorstep or around the village) - Provide support in liaising with council services 	Marsden Community Garden	To join the community garden group please email Robin Meade, at robin.meade@outlook.com
	Create a public toilet	National Trust	The National Trust are looking to install a public toilet at their office on the Old Goods Yard.
	Create a community orchard and allotment	Mount Pleasant Community Orchard	If you would like to become involved in the community orchard / allotment, please email Chris, at chris.herring@myphone.coop
	Increase the number of artistic / creative groups in the village, particularly for young people	Hanson's Community Arts / The North of England Centre for Music and Arts	If you would like to join an artistic / creative group, or facilitate one in partnership with Hansons, please email Alastair, at alastair@hansonarts.org or find out more on their website Timetable Hanson Arts
	Repair the board walk on the Cupwith Reservoir Walk	Kirklees PROW Team	Kirklees Council have bid for funding to repair the Cupwith Reservoir Boardwalk to make the PROW accessible to walkers again.

	Install staggered fences on the roads running down from Stubbing and Lane Ings, to slow the speed of young people coming down the hill in approaching Manchester Road to stop them spilling onto the main road.	Colne Valley Ward Councillors and Kirklees Highways Dept.	We have a quote from Kirklees Highways Department. The next step is to secure some funding.
	Offer a free to access training program for community groups in Marsden to help them improve their ability to apply for funding, promote themselves, manage volunteers, attract volunteers etc	Marsden Community Trust & Valleys Anchor	A training course has been curated by the Valleys Anchor. Next steps are to secure funding and build a cohort. If you would like to express an interest in taking part, please email Luc, at luc.bride@kirklees.gov.uk
	Try to tackle dog fouling by installing free dog poo bag dispensers at key sites and moving public waste bins identified by the community.	Marsden Community Trust	If you would like to offer to replenish a dispenser when it runs low in a site that matters to you, please email Gary, at Gary@marsdenmechanics.co.uk
	Set up a 'Caught Short Scheme' that uses physical posters to promote free toilets for public use that local pubs and cafes can opt to place in their windows.	Marsden Community Trust, local businesses	You should begin to see these posters in supporting café and pub windows from spring 2025 onwards.
	Engage further with local businesses to see how we can better support the local business community – potentially through a local employment and skills event or a local business information and support event	Marsden Business Forum	To find out more about the Marsden Business Forum please email Hannah, at hannah@yourthreedays.com
	Distribute a sticker to all volunteer households in Marsden that are happy for people to leave bagged dog waste in their domestic bins.	Marsden Community Trust	To find out more about this please email Gary, at Gary@marsdenmechanics.co.uk
	Support the growth of local youth activities to create more open access youth opportunities. Particularly looking for more	Marsden Play and Thrive Hub CIC	To get involved and support the youth club please email Sadie, at sadiec955@gmail.com

	volunteers and funding to deliver more interesting activities for local young people.		
	Tackle the invasive Rhododendrons in Marsden	National Trust	To join a Rhododendron removal event, please keep an eye on the National Trusts upcoming event page (Events at Marsden Moor), the Marsden Facebook page and the Marsden Matters website
	Tackle the invasive Himalayan Balsam in Marsden	Canal and Rivers Trust	To join a Himalayan Balsam removal event, please keep an eye on the Canal and Rivers Trust volunteering page (Volunteering Opportunities Canal & River Trust Volunteering), the Marsden FB page and the Marsden Matters website. If you can safely access Himalayan Balsam independently, please feel free to simply pull the plant up, bringing the roots with you. You can find out more about Himalayan Balsam here: Himalayan balsam Invasive species
	Increase awareness of how to report a fire and the on-call phone numbers by making posters stating who to call and when. Display these in the National Trust information room, village notice boards, train station, church, shop windows etc	Marsden Community Trust and National Trust	This information will be included in the What Matters To Marsden booklet being produced, and it will be shared on the Marsden Matters Website
	Approach shops selling disposable BBQs and ask them to stop or at least advertise that they cannot be used on the Moor.	Local ward councillors	Ward councillors are having these discussions on an ongoing basis

	Develop the Moor in Marsden Scheme to help people engage with and access plant life from Marsden Moor without needing to travel out of the village centre.	National Trust	You can find out more about the National Trusts 'Moor in Marsden' scheme here: Moor in Marsden National Trust
	Host a local 'Careers Fair' to advertise the local employment landscape, available apprenticeships and job openings. This could potentially be valley wide and link into a regular employment support offer.	Colne Valley ward councillors, Kirklees Council Employment and Skills Team	The Marsden Business Forum and The Marsden Community Trust are working in partnership with the Kirklees Council Employment and Skills Service to deliver this action. If you would like to find out more or become involved, please email Luc, at luc.bride@kirklees.gov.uk
	Try to run a village wide Traffic Regulation Order to engage further on parking management options on key roads in Marsden. This may result in double yellow lines or time restricted parking. Key locations mentioned in the engagement and in subsequent conversations are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outside the swan - Clough Lea - Waters Road - High Lea 	Colne Valley ward councillors, Kirklees Highways Department.	To be addressed by the Colne Valley ward councillors alongside the Marsden Blueprint engagement and the New Mills development, as part of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order consultation that will be required for development of this scale.
	Improve road safety around the two schools in Marsden, potentially through installing 'School Streets' in Marsden to close the roads on Carrs Road and Brougham Road at school pick up and drop off times, or consider installing 'School Safety Zones', which is a different but similar type of intervention also focused	Colne Valley ward councillors, Kirklees Highways Department, Marsden Junior	To be address by Colne Valley ward councillors alongside the Marsden Blueprint engagement and the New Mills development as part of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order

	<p>on improving road safety around schools. You can read more about School Street Interventions here:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-streets-how-to-set-up-and-manage-a-scheme/school-streets-how-to-set-up-and-manage-a-scheme</p>	School and Marsden Infant School	consultation that will be required for development of this scale.
	<p>Increase the amount of planting and flowers across the village through the creation of a 'Marsden in Bloom' group to support local community action around bio-diversity and planting. Key sites suggested for community planting projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argyle Street - Old Church Green - Fall Lane Roundabout - The space behind the 'turning circle' bus stop at Dirker Avenue - Around playing fields - The land behind Marsden sports hall - Create a nature trail in the land behind the old Fire Station 		<p>This is an aspirational action that was expressed by residents of Marsden during the What Matters to Marsden public engagement. If you are interested in getting involved or kickstarting a group like this, please email Luc, at luc.bride@kirklees.gov.uk</p>
	<p>Support the Friends of Marsden Park to maintain Marsden Park. Issues identified are littering, graffiti and waterlogging.</p>	Friends of Marsden Park	<p>This is an aspirational action that was expressed by residents of Marsden during the What Matters to Marsden public engagement. Friends of Marsden Park would like to grow their volunteer team. To get involved please send an email to friendsmarsdenpark@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Support Marsden Sports Hall to increase their offer and opening times.</p>	Marsden Sports Hall	<p>This is an aspirational action that was expressed by residents of Marsden during the What Matters to Marsden public engagement. The</p>

			Marsden Sports Hall committee would like to grow their volunteer team. To get involved please email mshbooking1@gmail.com
	Support local shops to improve the appearance of their shop fronts, where they want to.	Marsden Business Forum	To find out more about the Marsden Business Forum please email Hannah, at hannah@yourthreedays.com
	Set up and run community partnership meetings that brings together community groups and engaged residents for information sharing purposes.	Marsden Community Trust to organise and run, with support from Kirklees Democracy Service.	If you would like to help the Marsden Community Trust set up and facilitate a regular Marsden Community Partnership meeting, please send an email to info@marsdenmechanics.co.uk
	Install Welcome to Marsden road safety signs at either end of the village, potentially designed by local school students.	Local ward councillors	You can contact your local ward councillors through the contact details published on the Council website: Councillors Kirklees Council

Get Involved

To get involved or to find out more, please contact:

Organisation: Marsden Community Trust

Name: Gary Godolphin

Email: Gary@marsdenmechanics.co.uk

Website: [Marsden Community Trust - Marsden Mechanics, West Yorkshire](#)