

Shaping Next Steps for Uredale



Shaping Local Change Together

Culture & Green Space Working Group Workshop

Ripon Arts Hub · 3 February 2026 · 17 Participants



What we workshopped

1

Mapped cultural assets

Identified physical venues, organisations and creative practitioners across Uredale on large-scale maps.

2

Identified issues, barriers & gaps

Explored what holds culture back, from transport to funding to attitudes, across three focused discussion questions.

3

Action planned together

Generated quick wins, medium-term and long-term actions across six issue themes, noting potential leads and collaborators.

Uredale's cultural landscape

We mapped a rich and varied cultural ecosystem across the area

Ripon

Largest concentration
of cultural assets

Masham

Second hub with an
active arts community

17+

Villages with cultural
assets mapped

What was mapped:

Physical Assets

- Event spaces & venues
- Village halls
- Cathedral, churches & heritage buildings
- Museums & galleries
- Parks & outdoor spaces

Organisations & Groups

- Musical societies & choirs
- Theatre companies
- Film & photographic societies
- History & heritage groups
- Arts festivals & events

Creative Practitioners

- Visual artists & sculptors
- Musicians & conductors
- Ceramicists & heritage crafts
- Producers & directors
- Writers & poets

Key issues, barriers & gaps

14 themes identified most frequently across all discussion groups



Public transport issues



Ripon & Masham as cultural focal points



Small, under-resourced venues



Lack of arts for young people



Volunteer networks under strain



Affordability concerns



No mid-sized performing arts venue



Lack of visual arts gallery



No cinema provision



Patchy disabled access



Need for better marketing



"Arts are not for me" attitude



Little arts education/work opportunities



Culture & visitor economy potential

10 key actions



Actions supported by more than one participant, spanning all six issue themes

A Research & understand current venue facilities across Uredale

B Develop intergenerational projects and events

C Lobby for better public transport in Uredale

D Use private bus solutions to bring audiences to events (and vice versa)

E Lobby for better parking options during cultural events in Ripon

F Co-design programming for and with young people

G Work with young people on culture marketing (e.g. TikTok, social media)

H Create a shared resource and skills database

I Share equipment, resources and skills between venues and organisations

J Create work experience, apprenticeships and placements for young people

From today to the future

Quick Wins

Lobby for a Thirsk Station–Ripon shuttle bus

Campaign to reopen or replace the Curzon cinema

Audit all venues and publish findings online and at the library

Consult different audience groups to learn what they want

Establish a young people's programming group

Medium Term

Develop intergenerational projects and events

Build a skills and resources database

Explore private bus solutions for audiences

Expand the Working Group; form a wider Culture Network

Set minimum venue standards and share best practice

Long Term

Secure a mid-sized performance venue in Ripon

Develop work experience and apprenticeship programmes

Commission participatory research with young people

Pursue community asset transfer of Curzon (or touring cinema)

Link culture to Uredale's visitor economy strategy

Recommendations & next steps



1

Prioritise the 14 themes

The Working Group should agree which themes to tackle first – not all can be addressed at once.

4

Explore apprenticeships

Pursue links with York St John University and local colleges for events/arts placements.

2

Form a Culture Network

Expand membership to include village halls, pubs and community venues. Also engage with visual arts. Host quarterly get-togethers.

5

Support rural touring

Engage organisations like Rural Arts and Blaize to bring culture to smaller rural venues.

3

Listen to young people

Commission participatory research into what young people want from culture in Uredale. Highly fundable.

6

Clarify Uredale's identity

Undertake positive communications work to make the area's boundaries and cultural offer widely known.