

**Progress/Final Report**  
**Teesdale Community Broadcasting**

1. **Name of Project** – The sounds of the Teesdale Dialect
2. **Funding allocation** - £3,400 for a £3,935 value project.

**3. Short introduction to the project**

It was recognised that a relatively few (and reducing) number of people continue to speak the Teesdale dialect. The project aimed to capture and broadcast examples of spoken dialect, information on the origins and history of the dialect and present it in an entertaining way. Recordings were to be kept for posterity and interested in the dialect generated.

**4. aims and objectives of the project and how they have been met**

Recordings were made of through discussion and interview with a array of people who were involved in the history and origins of the dialect, understood the dialect and spoke the dialect.

Examples of dialect were recorded in talk, discussion, song and poetry.

Edited selections of the recordings were broadcast on Radio Teesdale.

A publically available archive of recordings has been made available (on a dedicated Listen Again section of the Radio Teesdale web site)

Existing audio was reviewed and safely copied into an archive for later use/examination and inclusion in programming.

A selection of broadcast items is archived at

<http://www.canstream.co.uk/radioteesdale/podcast.php?cat=TeesdaleDialect>

A regular feature was included in the Thursday and Sunday Breakfast shows for Listeners to “guess” or “work out” what a dialect word meant. This became an interactive session with people ringing in and posting messages on social media. It was a fun and entertaining way to talk about the dialect and generated a number of spin off features (such as working out locations of places in Teesdale described in clues, features/events in the past).

As part of the project we worked with the Music for the Heart of Teesdale group and recorded information on their activities and the folk music of Teesdale and how that related to the Teesdale dialect.

Items broadcast were repeated on a number of occasions to maximise the number of people that listened to them.

The project objectives were met.

## **5. Additional achievements and legacy – community involvement/benefits**

Those involved in research and talking to individuals and groups about the dialect now have a much better understanding.

Radio Teesdale was able to interface with the Music For The Heart of Teesdale project and reference points of interest.

A lasting archive has been established. The station will continue to add to this, add in future recording and/or information and continue to seek out related recordings (particularly examples of spoken dialect).

## **6. Lessons learnt**

One of the difficulties of the project (that was recognised as a challenge from the start) was that the vast majority of those who actually speak the Teesdale Dialect are very reluctant to talk about it and “clam up” if the idea of recording it is put to them. This was even more difficult than we envisaged and prolonged the project timescale.

Please also include photos of the completed project as well as of people working on the project.