

## Spennymoor Area Action Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	5.30pm - 8.00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Tudhoe Community Centre, St David's Close, Tudhoe, DL16 6TG	
<b>Present:</b>	<p><b>Elected Councillors</b>          Cllr Kevin Thompson (Cllr KT)          Cllr Judith Machin (JM)          Cllr Geoff Darkes (Cllr GD)          Cllr Neil Grayson (Cllr NG)</p> <p><b>Partner Organisations</b>          Insp Mike Sammut (Insp MS)          Mick Clark (MC)          Ian Walker (IW)          Barbara Harker (BH)          Nigel James (NJ)          Jenny Haworth (JH)</p> <p><b>Public Representatives</b>          Agnes Armstrong (AA)          Norman Vaulks(NV)          Nikki Skinner (NS)          Bill Noble (BN)          Sandra Wyper (SW)</p> <p><b>Other Attendees</b>          Michael Wilkes (MW)          Peter Henderson (PH)          Lynn Cummings (LC)</p>	<p><b>Other Attendees</b>  <b>Public</b>          Peter Yarbrough (PY)          Ian Machin (IM)          K James (KJ)          Elizabeth Jowett (EJ)          Philip Bennett (PB)          Zoe Lewin (ZL)          James Cook (JC)          George Gittins (GG)          Neil C Foster (NCF)          Sue Noble (SN)          Val Mortimer (VM)          L Jackson (LJ)          J Carling (JC)          Sara Caines (SC)</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Peter Atkinson, Kay Seymour, De Hickson and Insp Warren Edwards	

### Special Agenda Item

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>The County Durham Plan &amp; Housing Strategy</b></p> <p>James Cook (Durham County Council Principle Policy Officer) gave a presentation on the County Durham Plan Pre-Submission Draft (available on request).</p> <p>Following the presentation, it was opened up for questions.</p> <p>A question was raised asking what happened to the previous consultation. It was stated it would be available on line.</p>
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	<p>A question was raised asking what was happening with social housing development. It was stated planning policies will be developed through the submitted planning applications.</p> <p>A question was raised around RSL buildings option and what account has been taken concerning the quantity of builds. It was also thought a more forceful approach was needed when looking at this issue. It was stated requests will be made top developers to, for example, factor in optional builds for older people.</p> <p>A issue was raised concerning rogue landlords in the Spennymoor area. A question was posed asking what will be done about this problem. It was stated rogue landlord areas will be targeted moving forward.</p> <p><b>Action: MW to circulate the presentation slides.</b></p> <p><b>Action: DCC will report back to the Board once information is available.</b></p> <p>A question was raised asking if there is any provision for disabled people. It was stated yes there was provision in place for disabled people.</p> <p>Following the presentation AA thanked James Cook for the presentation on behalf of the AAP.</p>
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**Regular Board Meeting**

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Introductions &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>AA welcomed everyone to the meeting. AA stated, as the new Data Protection rules (GDPR) had come in to force and as the Board meetings are recorded and posted on the Durham County Council (DCC) website, if anyone was requesting to be anonymous when participating in discussions to state so.</p> <p>AA invited the Board to introduce themselves and introduced Nigel James as our new Business Representative and Sandra Wyper as a new Public Representative on the Board. Apologies were noted and declarations given.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Agreement of Minutes of Previous Board Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b></p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p>

	<p>4a - land opposite the Post Office – MW stated he would work with Spennymoor Town Council and DCC and report back once more information is available.</p> <p>4b – Closure of Ward 6 – Cllr KT stated DCC Scrutiny Committee was due to meet tomorrow and he would report back once more information was available.</p> <p>5a – DDES CCG – BH gave an update on the current GP shortages. She stated 24% of GP staff would be eligible to retire within the next 10 years causing a greater impact on an already stretched service. She also stated there are currently various schemes in place to look at attracting more GP’s to the areas.</p> <p><b>Action: BH will report back when more information is available.</b></p> <p>A question was raised asking how many GP’s are we were short in Spennymoor.</p> <p><b>Action: BH will forward details to MW to circulate.</b></p> <p>A question was raised asking how many GP’s will be available once the new builds are in place as currently the surgeries are not coping well. It was stated future planning will be worked on to alleviate the issues that the new builds will bring.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Local Neighbourhood Issues</b></p> <p>a) <u>Locality Policing Issues</u></p>	<p>Sgt MS gave an update on the current incidents along with statistics (available on request).</p> <p>Sgt MS stated a week of engagement is proposed utilising a retail outlet beside the Town Hall as a drop in centre and Blue Light café. Numerous issues will be addressed and it will be advertised across the town centre and on the Police website. The drop in centre will be open 28<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February.</p> <p>It was stated there are incidents/burglaries taking place in Byers Green which are not being reported. Sgt MS stated there is a great need to report all incidents as it enables the Police to build a picture around who they are looking for.</p> <p>GG stated his shed had been broken into when he was in hospital and when he reported it he was told to buy a shed alarm. Sgt MS stated he would take GG details and look into the issue and get back to him in due cause.</p> <p><b>Action: Sgt MS to liaise with GG.</b></p> <p>It was stated there is a problem with graffiti in Middlestone Moor. A recent walk</p>

about around the area undertaken by DCC members, Police and other partners was met with harassment and comments from three youths. A question was raised asking were the Police wearing a body cam and if so could the youths be identified.

**Action: Sgt MS to look into this issue and report back in due course.**

It was stated livin have a system in place to look at reported issues in the Middlestone Moor area but is in its infancy at present. More information will follow when available.

**b) County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Services IRMP**

Mick Clark gave a verbal presentation on County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Services IRMP.

Following the presentation it was opened up for questions.

A question was raised around collaborative work undertaken with the southern section of the county. It was explained there is already collaboration across the areas due to the zonal splits for the Fire Service and Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue are partly based in the south anyway.

**Action: MW will recirculate the Fire report**

**Action: A presentation will be given to the next Board Meeting around the results of the consultation exercise.**

**c) Local Neighbourhood Issues**

A question had been forwarded prior to the meeting stating '*as we will be expecting an increase in council tax is it correct that students and their landlords do not pay any council tax or do the landlords pay business rates to cover services.*' It was stated students are exempt and private landlords do not pay business rates as they are classed as private properties.

A question was raised asking does the University pay any rates.

**Action: MW will look at the issues and report back to the Board and the questioner once information available.**

It was stated the public right of way at Croxdale was very overgrown.

**Action: MW will look into it and report back at the next meeting.**

**d) Spennymoor Town Council Update**

No update available

<p><b>5. Presentation</b></p> <p>a) <b>The County Vision – Emerging Findings Document</b></p>	<p>Jenny Haworth (DCC Head of Strategy) gave a presentation on The County Vision – Emerging Findings Document (available on request).</p> <p>Following the presentation it was opened up for questions.</p> <p>A question was raised concerning Mayoral areas and whether Spennymoor areas were losing out. It was stated DCC were looking at how they do the best for County Durham and its residents.</p> <p>It was stated a Board Member had attended a recent Partnership event but felt there was an agenda around ‘outsiders’ not being welcome in villages. He felt DCC should talk about County Durham people as a whole and not mention outsiders. Rural broadband was discussed as well as transport issues in the county, particularly the issues/problems of getting from East to West and vice versa.</p> <p>A question was raised asking how much will the consultation cost. Jenny stated she would forward the cost onto the Co-ordinator for information but it was low due to it being a limited consultation exercise.</p> <p><b>Action: JH to forward information to MW.</b></p> <p>It was stated environmental and sustainability was mentioned but how is it being worked on. It was explained environmental and sustainability was being looked at but it was thought maybe the health ambition would be a best fit.</p> <p>It was stated people’s opinions on consultations are ignored, for example when people expressed their concerns around the Mount Oswald redevelopment it is still going ahead. It was questioned why council reserves are not being used more.</p> <p>It was stated £17m had been requested from the Big Lottery to fund Mount Oswald but it had been unsuccessful. It was explained the Mount Oswald redevelopment was part of an extensive consultation last year.</p> <p>It was stated the DCC Ambitions are not consistent with the County Plan and the Vision should come before the Plan. It was explained work had already been progressed on the County Plan before the Vision was looked at.</p> <p>It was stated how will the £4m be allocated to the towns and villages. It was explained that once more information is available it would be forward to the Co-</p>

	<p>ordinator for circulation.</p> <p>Following the discussion AA thanked JH for the presentation on behalf of the AAP.</p>
<b>b)</b>	<p><b>Police, Crime &amp; Victims’ Commissioner for County Durham &amp; Darlington – Precept Consultation</b></p> <p>John Carling gave a presentation on Police, Crime &amp; Victims’ Commissioner for County Durham &amp; Darlington – Precept Consultation (available on request).</p> <p>Following the presentation it was opened up for questions.</p> <p>It was stated that, although advanced technology is very important, an increased police presence on the streets was paramount.</p> <p>A question was raised around why all the four options were based around standing still or reductions. It was stated they cannot increase over 2% for Band D properties but the comment around more police on the streets would be fed back to Ron Hogg (Police, Crime &amp; Victim’s Commissioner for County Durham &amp; Darlington).</p> <p>A question was raised asking how much money is sliced off the budget locally to accommodate national projects. It was stated Ron Hogg is very aware of the situation, but every year funding is reduced for Durham as monies are relocated to national projects.</p> <p>It was stated more funds seem to go back into the Police Pension pot. It was explained it is a Government decision how much is paid to the pension pot.</p> <p><b>Action: MW will circulate the presentation.</b></p> <p>Following the discussion AA thanked JC for the presentation on behalf of the AAP</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Priorities</b></p>
<b>a)</b>	<p><b>Task &amp; Finish Group Update</b></p>
<b>i)</b>	<p><u>Safer, Stronger and Heathier Communities</u></p> <p>MW explained the report and gave a flavour of the current projects (available on request). He stated a more detail report will be taken to the March Board meeting.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: The Board agreed the recommendation.</b></p>
<b>b)</b>	<p><b>It’s Up 2 U Event Update</b></p>

MW stated the event would be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March in Spennymoor Leisure Centre 10.00am – 2.00pm. The £25,000 pot had been split this year into two groups with a pot of £15,000 in Group A and £10,000 in Group B. He stated an email would be going out next week requesting volunteers.

**c) Neighbourhood Budget Application**

i) St Charles School Community Wellbeing Garden

PH gave an overview of the report available on request. The project will provide funding towards a kitchen and wellbeing garden.

The overall cost of the project is £2,000 with Councillor Gardner providing £1,000 from his Neighbourhood Budget allocation. With the remaining £1,000 being provided through DCC Schools Edible Growing Grant scheme.

**Recommendation: The Board agreed the recommendation.**

ii) St Paul's Centre – Defibrillator Scheme

PH gave an overview of the report available on request. The project will fund a defibrillator for the outside of the school.

The application identifies a contribution of £1,002 from Councilor Darkes, Maddison and Thompson's Neighbourhood Budget allocation. The overall cost of the project is £1,800 with the remaining £798 being provided St Pauls' PCC and St Pauls Play Church.

**Recommendation: The Board agreed the recommendation**

**d) Neighbourhood Budget Application – Members Small Grant Fund**

Update Report

PH explained the report (available on request)

Inglesgarth Residents Group – Christmas Party – Councillor Maddison supported the Inglesgarth Residents Group with a contribution of £100 towards the cost of the Christmas party. The total cost of the project was £150.

Monday Tea Dance Club – Christmas Party – Councillors Darkes, Gardner, Grayson, Maddison and Thompson supported the Monday Tea Dance Club with a total of £115 towards the Christmas and New Years' parties.

DurhamGate Residents Association – Christmas Festive Activities – Councillors Maddison and Grayson supported DurhamGate Residents Association with a contribution of £300 towards the Christmas events. The total cost of the project



	<p>was £700.</p> <p>Spennymoor Boxing Academy – Penrith Boxing Tournament – Councillors Maddison, Darkes and Grayson are supporting Spennymoor Boxing Academy with a contribution of £450 towards transport and overnight stay. The total cost of the project is £800.</p> <p><b>Recommendation - The Board agreed the recommendation</b></p> <p><b>7 General AAP, Partner &amp; Countywide Issues</b></p> <p><b>a Board Vacancy</b></p> <p>MW stated there is currently a Public Representative vacancy on the Board.</p> <p><b>b) County Durham Partnership Update</b></p> <p>No update available the item will be deferred to the next Board meeting in March.</p> <p><b>c) Leisure Centre/ Witches Hat Work</b></p> <p>MW stated a lot of work has been done in and around the area with more work proposed around the Witches Hat.</p> <p>It was stated there was a huge improvement in the area but maintenance was needed to sustain it. It was explained DCC are undertaking an asset reorganisation currently and once finished the issues around maintenance contracts for sites could be looked at.</p> <p><b>d) Social Isolation &amp; Youth grant Funds</b></p> <p>MW stated the Social Isolation Fund had been allocated for the current year. The Youth Grant sub-group are due to meet next week to look at submitted projects.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Next scheduled Board Meeting Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 in Byers Green Village Hall, 1 Institute St, Byers Green, DL16 7NY.</p> <p>AA thanked everyone for attending and wished them a safe journey home.</p>