

**GREAT AYCLIFFE & MIDDRIDGE PARTNERSHIP (GAMP)
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY 16 JULY 2019, 6:00PM, AYCLIFFE VILLAGE HALL**



PRESENT: **Elected Members**
Cllr Eddy Adam – DCC
Cllr Jim Atkinson – DCC
Cllr John Clare – DCC
Cllr Scott Durham – DCC
Cllr Brian Hall – Great Aycliffe Town Council
Cllr Kate Hopper – DCC

Public Representatives
Sean Barnett
Sue Cooke (**Chair**)
Carl Robinson
David Sutton-Lloyd

Partner Representatives
Daniel Blagdon – Health Rep (CCG)
Andy Coulthard – Livin Housing
T/Chief Insp Sarah Honeyman – Police (Vice Chair)
Oliver Sherratt – DCC Head of Service
Malcolm Woodward – Fire Service

OFFICER

ATTENDANCE: Brian Riley – GAMP Coordinator
Victoria Grieves – GAMP Comm Development Project Officer
Paula Stockport – GAMP Support Officer

PRESENTERS: Jenny Haworth – DCC Head of Strategy
Gillian Kirkbride – DCC Museums, Heritage & Collections Manager

APOLOGIES: Chris Cunnington-Shore, Carol Gaskarth, Cllr Paul Howell, Alan Jordan

OBSERVERS: V Crosby, S Day, J Johnson, M Wilson

a. Pre-Board Open Drop-In Session:

Durham History Centre Phase 2 Consultation

Board and Forum members were invited to view information about proposals for the Durham History Centre, which will bring into one central location the story of the history and heritage of the county, as told through historic records, photographs and objects. The proposals will bring Mount Oswald Manor House back into use, adding a high quality, visually appealing extension which will complement the existing building. The consultation on these proposals will run until Sunday 28 July 2019.

1. **Introductions & Apologies**

SC welcomed everyone to the meeting, advising observers they would be welcome to input under Items 3 and 4 on the agenda. A brief round of introductions was given. SC reminded Board members of the standard Declaration of Interest item on the agenda.

BR advised members of the public, in accordance with GDPR guidelines, they have the right to remain anonymous in the minutes should they wish.

SC confirmed that apologies for absence had been received, as noted above.

SC welcomed new CCG rep, Daniel Blagdon, to his first Board meeting.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21.5.19 – Matters Arising**

The draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 21.5.19 were circulated in advance with the meeting papers. BR confirmed there were no outstanding actions, there were no matters arising, and the minutes of the last meeting were **AGREED** by the Board as a true and accurate record.

3. **Countywide Partner Issues**

3.1 A Vision for County Durham 2035 (Jenny Haworth)

Board members received an update presentation in relation to the current consultation on the Council's Vision for County Durham 2035.

The purpose of the proposed vision is to provide a shared understanding of what everyone wants County Durham to look like in 15 years' time. It is to provide direction to key public, private and voluntary sector organisations that make up the County Durham Partnership enabling them to work together to improve the quality of life of our residents. A shared understanding of the issues we face and our vision for the future will help organisations work together, removing boundaries and co-delivering services for the benefit of our residents.

A copy of the final draft vision document was circulated in advance with the meeting papers, and all Board members were encouraged to take part in the consultation. Further information is available via the website:

www.durham.gov.uk/vision

The proposed Vision is:

"Our vision for 2035 is that County Durham is a place where there are more and better jobs, people live long and independent lives and our communities are well connected and supportive."

The Council is seeking views on whether people agree that the vision strikes the right balance of priorities and ambitions for the county, and also how we can work together to achieve our aspirations.

A Q&A took place and the following points were noted:

- OS suggested that consideration be given to wildlife and biodiversity, both of which are tremendous assets to the County, but aren't currently encompassed specifically within the document.
- Cllr JA commented that working together will be crucial to the success of the vision; understanding the different skills and experience that people can bring, and working together to improve communication.
- Meeting observer, Mr Crosby, commented that in terms of reducing emissions, manufacturers would have a role to play in reducing the cost of electric cars. He added that encouraging people to be involved in community activities isn't always easy.

- SB commented that life expectancy and good health figures are directly impacted by employment/income. Those people living in poorer areas of the County have a significantly lower life expectancy than those in more affluent areas. Without well paid jobs, everything else is meaningless. SB added that he feels there is general disparity in County Durham, with a lot of focus on the City Centre and a lack of coordination by DCC to benefit all communities.
- CR commented there is currently a lot of house building in the GAMP area, not all of which is affordable, and asked whether there is an expectation of sufficient jobs in the area to accommodate the increased population. JH stated that DCC have recently approved a new Housing Strategy, and plans for future building are based on projections of household formation. OS added that economic regeneration is a key priority for DCC, with a number of key developments in the pipeline, including Jade Business Park, Integra at Bowburn etc, adding that housing will be very closely linked to future regeneration. Cllr JC further added that there is very close correlation between housing and jobs; central government calculate planned housing figures for all local authorities. DCC try to steer new housing towards areas of industry, e.g. the A1(M)/A19 corridor area, where there is huge economic potential. This can result in feelings of exclusion for some less affluent communities in the east of the County, as well as more rural areas in the west who would welcome new housing, but the plans are very well thought out and coordinated, with the aim to link new housing to areas where there is planned industrial growth.
- Cllr JC commented that DCC acknowledges transport is an issue, and specifically poor public transport links. The difficulty is that bus services are provided by private companies, and routes/timetables etc must be profitable. DCC cannot provide additional bus routes as the costs are too high.
- DSL commented that DCC should engage more with local communities, and particularly those who are involved with community centres. Talking to people 'on the ground' could better help to ensure that the vision is achieved.

SC thanked JH for her presentation, and JH left the meeting.

4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

4.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update (T/Chief Insp Sarah Honeyman)

T/Chief Insp SH updated Board members, outlining antisocial behaviour figures and local PACT priorities, as well as upcoming PACT meeting dates.

SH highlighted a new force-wide monthly newsletter has recently been introduced, which will include local articles and a corporate message; the mailing list is currently being put together, please let the team know if anyone would like to be added. SH added that a new website is also now up and running (www.police.uk) which will include all local information for each force area, including details of team members, PACT meeting dates etc.

The team will be attending a number of community engagement events over the holiday period, starting with a Blue Light event in the town centre in conjunction with the Fire Service and Newton News, on Wed 24 July between 11.00am and 3.00pm.

SH highlighted that June has seen a decline in antisocial behaviour, but this could potentially be due to issues being under-reported, and encouraged all to continue reporting any issues, particularly in relation to off-road and quad bikes.

SH highlighted the recent road safety week which took place around all junior schools in Newton Aycliffe. This initiative was really successful, with some great feedback, and SH thanked Cllrs for their funding contribution towards this project. Cllr EA commended the police on this project, which was a great success.

SH highlighted that the team are currently involved in a number of task groups in the Newton Aycliffe area. There is a time limited project currently running in the Western area in conjunction with Livin, DCC, Junction 7, Hub of Wishes and local Cllrs, around increasing youth provision in an effort to reduce ASB. There is a proposal to establish a community garden as part of this project, based on a successful model set up in Peterlee which saw a great turnaround for some problematic youths in the area, and SH feels this would be a great benefit.

BR highlighted that a neighbourhood issue has been submitted to the GAMP team in writing, from Simon Day of Junction 7:

“Junction 7 believe that a letter submitted anonymously to Newton News on 28 June 2019 will damage our reputation and I am aware that the email to the Task Group with all proposals on 11 June stated that the proposals ‘were confidential at this stage’. What are the GAMP board going to do about this?”

BR thanked Simon for the correspondence. BR confirmed that he has spoken to the individual, who has confirmed they submitted the article in question. BR has discussed the issue with his line manager, and an approach was made to DCC’s Information & Records Manager for advice, who confirmed that whilst the article itself would not be deemed a specific data breach, it could be deemed as a breach of protocol and expected behaviour within a group that relies on trust.

BR has a meeting arranged later this week with his manager and the author of the article, to discuss this further.

For context, BR clarified that the person in question is a Task Group member who had access to project information which was circulated by email to all members of the group, with instructions to keep the information confidential.

BR expressed his disappointment in the individual’s actions, and acknowledged the concern voiced by Junction 7. BR highlighted that 3 Board members, 1 Task Group member and 2 Forum members have also approached him separately to express concern on this issue.

BR highlighted that, in the absence of ‘formal’ regulations which address this particular scenario, it’s quite difficult to enforce any specific action and asked if Board members had any views on this.

Discussion took place and the following points were noted:

- Insp SH commented that she felt the article was derogatory towards the Police and Junction 7, and added that Sgt Boyd was very upset with the situation and has stated that he would feel uneasy sharing information at future Task Group meetings. SH supports Sgt Boyd’s stance on this.
- Cllr JA commented that reputations are very difficult to build and suggested that perhaps an article could be published on behalf of the Board to help address the potential damage caused to Junction 7.
- Cllr EA stated that the individual in question has been involved with various local community groups for many years, and knew that their actions could potentially

cause damage to Junction 7's reputation. Cllr EA further added that the individual should be asked to consider resigning from their position on the Task Group.

- SB stated that he feels this individual should have no further involvement with the AAP.
- Cllr KH commented that the article was factually inaccurate, specifically in relation to the consultation that has taken place.
- Cllr SD suggested the individual could be asked to provide a written apology and explanation for their actions.
- AC suggested Board members could consider taking a vote on whether this individual should be permitted to have any future involvement with the AAP, which could potentially carry more weight given the lack of opportunity to enforce any action via the AAP's governance arrangements. OS commented that he would be uncomfortable forming a fair judgement without all the relevant facts.
- DSL stated that the individual will have been made fully aware of the AAP Code of Conduct at their initial induction, and believes their actions are a breach of confidence.

BR will take forward Board members' comments for consideration at the meeting taking place later this week, and will keep Board members (and Junction 7) updated accordingly (**Action 1: BR**).

BR confirmed, for the minutes, that Board members have received the following correspondence from the GAMP team since the last meeting:

- Vision consultation information, circulated by email 24.6.19;
- Information on DCC's polling district, place & station review, circulated by email 2.7.19;
- GAMP ebulletin circulated 5.7.19;
- Repeat prescription ordering information, circulated by email 11.7.19.

If any Board member would like information on events, activities, projects etc circulated to the GAMP database via our ebulletin or Facebook page, please contact the GAMP team.

5. **Neighbourhood Budget Applications**

BR confirmed there are no project applications to bring to this evening's meeting. Cllrs have recently been updated on their current balances, and asked to give consideration to potential future schemes to allocate their funding. BR highlighted, for information, that Cllrs are permitted to carry forward any uncommitted NB at the end of each financial year, but all funding must be committed before the end of the election term – so this means that all NB funding must be fully allocated by March 2021.

6. **GAMP Coordinator's Update**

6.1 2019-20 Area Budget Project Callout Update

BR updated Board members in relation to this year's AB callout. There were 28 Expressions of Interest submitted (one subsequently withdrew from the process). The totals under each priority are:

- Children, Young People & Families – 17 projects submitted, totalling £153,705
- Older People – 5 projects submitted, totalling £63,035
- Community Safety – 5 projects submitted, totalling £52,829

The total funding request is £269,569, again heavily oversubscribed for the £100k available funding, and another great response.

BR outlined the next steps in the process, which will see ranking panel meetings taking place next week (23 & 24 July), to review and rank projects.

After the panel meetings, all applicants will be notified of the outcome, and successful projects will be asked to transfer their project proposal to a full AB application form. All successful projects will be circulated to the full board for formal ratification and then passed to the Funding Team for technical appraisal.

Support and advice will be available for unsuccessful projects.

6.2 2019-20 Welfare Reform, Youth Fund & Older Persons Social Isolation Fund Allocations

BR reminded Board Members about this year's remaining funding allocations:

- Welfare Reform - £10k
- Youth Fund - £9,902
- OPSIF - £25k

Board members have previously agreed to launch a separate callout for all three funding streams some time in September, giving sufficient time to complete the main AB callout. Prospective applicants would be asked to complete an initial EOI, and the ranking panel would be reconvened to review all eligible applications in order to allocate this funding.

CR asked for clarification on the grant limits for the three funding streams; BR clarified they are £5k-£10k for Welfare Reform, £1k-£3k for Youth Fund, and £5k-£25k for OPSIF. All three funding streams will have their own criteria. CR expressed concern that the minimum grant limit of £5k could potentially be off-putting for some smaller groups, and BR highlighted that Cllrs' Neighbourhood Budget Small Grant Fund is aimed towards smaller groups/grants.

6.3 Public Rep Recruitment

BR confirmed that Hannah Siddle has recently submitted her resignation from the Board; BR thanked Hannah on behalf of the Board for her contribution. BR added that Chris Cunnington-Shore's four-year term will end in November. BR therefore proposes to launch local recruitment for two reps in early August, hopefully filling both vacancies at the same time. The recruitment will be open for 6 weeks, and will be promoted via all the usual channels. BR asked Board members to signpost any prospective reps to the GAMP team, and also to promote the vacancies through respective networks following the launch.

BR reminded Board members that the AAP guidance for public reps states that preference will be given to new candidates who haven't previously sat on the Board, to help keep the AAPs fresh and encourage new people to get involved.

7. **Date & Time of Next Meeting:**

SC confirmed the next Board meeting is arranged as follows:

Tuesday 24 September 2019, 6:00pm at Middridge Village Hall

BR highlighted there are currently no agenda items planned for this meeting, and advised Partner reps to contact BR if they would like space on the agenda to give any specific updates.

SC thanked all attendees, as well as Aycliffe Village Hall for hosting the meeting, and the meeting was closed.