

Chester-Le-Street & District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board Meeting – Minutes of Monday 18th October 2021 at 6.00pm Teams Virtual Meeting

Elected Councillors

Councillor Beaty Bainbridge (standing in for Councillor Craig Martin)
Councillor Alison Batey
Councillor Alan Bell
Councillor Bill Moist
Councillor Emma Waldock
Councillor Tracie Smith
Elsie Forrester (Parish Council Representative)

Partner Organisations

Graeme Carr (Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service)
Jon Quine (North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group)
Suzanne Jobson – Chair (Karbon Homes)
Graeme Carr (Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue)
Lee Morris (Durham Constabulary)

Public Representatives

Derek Briggs
Clare Todd
Howell Davies
Joanne Pugh

Officer Attendance:

Michael Wilkes (AAP Principal AAP Co-ordinator)
Fiona Kelly, (Principal Community Development Project Officer)
Allyson Rose (Community Development Project Officer)
Laura Sloan (Community Development Project Officer)
Bill Lightburn (Towns & Villages, Project Officer)

Presenters:

Darren McMahon (PACT House)
Jay Brewis (PACT House)

Apologies:

Janice Rokni (Public Representative), Councillor Craig Martin, Jake Rollings (Chair - Public Representative), Vicky Murray (DCC)

Public Attendance:

A number of members of the AAP Public Forum were present at the meeting.

1. Introductions, Apologies and Virtual Housekeeping Code of Conduct/Protocols
The Chair welcomed members to the virtual meeting. It was noted that Jake had submitted his apologies so Suzanne would assume the Chair for this meeting.

2. Agreement of minutes of the previous meeting, held 13th September & matters arising
The Chair proceeded to go through the minutes page by page for clarity.

The Board then agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record. **Agreed**

- 2.1 Matters Arising
Gary Jackson, Community Protection Officer at DCC – invite to a future meeting of the Board. **Agreed**

3. Neighbourhood Issues
Michael highlighted that no advance issues had been received.

4. Presentation
- 4.1 Darren McMahon & Jay Brewis – provided a background to how PACT House had been established, and work that was being undertaken currently. Darren noted that although they were located in Stanley, they would never turn anyone away. He noted work that was to take place in Chester-le-Street, for which he would link in with the AAP to find suitable venues.
- 4.2 Jay noted that the Think Positive Programme was easy to access. Within this were wellbeing courses with trained Counsellors, focussing on managing emotions, resilience and supporting anxiety. There are also social groups for clients to get peer support, make friends and access other services. The project now has three highly trained counsellors offering rapid response. suicide prevention support on a 1-2-1 support. The current waiting list for the project is 1-2 weeks. Users are both male and female. The project is currently working across Chester-le-Street and also in Sacriston, Pelton, Great Lumley. More courses will be delivered in the future as and when funding is confirmed.
- 4.3 A couple of new courses are starting soon including, the happiness hub, which supports those attending to understand their mental health, due to start in the next couple of weeks. Mindful moments – photography course to help reflect on mental health journey and part of the healing process. Life coaching courses are to start soon which will be face-to-face and via telephone. Volunteers who support the project share experiences with clients.
 - Councillor Bill Moist asked Darren and Jay ‘how would residents of Chester-le-Street be aware of their services? Darren noted that referrals come from anywhere, word of mouth, recommendations, search on google, GP referrals and social prescribers. Bill noted that satellite venues were needed across the AAP

area. Darren noted that they wanted to undertake further outreach work and further funding was being sourced.

- Councillor Bill Moist requested that PACT House provide a project proposal and costings to look at. PACT House agreed to do.
- Councillor Beaty Bainbridge asked if leaflets and posters had been circulated in the area. Darren advised that regular mail outs are sent out and promoted in GP surgeries and some libraries.
- Councillor Alison Batey advised to use elected members to promote the service and it would be helpful if a presentation could be provided for elected members, regarding their service, in the near future.
- Graham Carr noted that they would support any way they could, especially with promotion. He noted that they often refer clients to other agencies.
- Michael Wilkes advised the AAP regularly promotes activities and services provided by PACT House, both on social media and to local contacts.
- Darren & Jay noted that PACT House were to hold an open afternoon on 5th November at 12 noon – 4.00pm – to which members of the AAP Board were invited. This would give people the chance to see the new hub and have a chat face to face.

Action - AAP to provide a list of potential venues within the area. If Board Members are aware of any rooms PACT House can access to contact them directly.

AAP to share PACT House contact details with board members.

5 Task & Finish Groups

- 5.1 Community Recovery – Covid Restoration Project Call out is now closed. The Task Group had met to undertake an initial assessment of projects. Twenty applications had been submitted. Task Group members had undertaken an initial scoring of all approaches. More information was required from seven applicants, with whom the AAP would work, to enable these to be further considered. A further meeting of the Task Group was planned for 1st November. A recommendation report will then be produced for the November AAP Board meeting.

Vice Chair Suzanne noted that there were interesting projects coming through this process.

- 5.2 Towns & Villages – No written report was available for this meeting as it was after the Board Meeting papers had been sent out. The Chair of the group is now confirmed as Derek Briggs.

The Task Group were provided with an update on existing projects including the A167 public art project, which will now be led by DCC Clean and Green Team

Defibrillator Project – Two of these will be in place by Christmas, locations are the library and One Point Hub. The third is still being discussed, but will potentially be at the site of the Newcastle Building Society.

Councillor Bill Moist asked if it would not be best placed in the Leisure Centre where it would be more beneficial, but Fiona advised that the defibrillator required 24/7 access so therefore needed to be placed on an external wall. Fiona will raise locations this with the applicant (Red Sky Foundation). Councillor Beaty Bainbridge also suggested Mile House as an option.

Action – AAP will circulate a link to the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), where the location of working defibrillators are registered and updated.

Councillor Alison Beaty noted the Councillors had been invited to a levelling up meeting. Documentation was awaited but all of this should link to the Towns & Villages Fund.

- 5.3 Holiday Activities with Healthy Food – Christmas holiday funding was launched with a closing date of Monday 15th November. This has been promoted through all AAP networks/schools and groups/parish councils.

In the main, this funding allocation is for those children and young people who access free school meals.

It was noted that Lindsey Davison, who manages the Fun & Food Programme, works directly with local schools wanting to apply.

- 5.4 Open Water Safety Task Group – This group was established following a neighbourhood issue raised by Inspector Morris. Suggestions to increase awareness of the dangers from the river have been raised.

Kevin Lough, Health and Safety Manager (DCC) attended the Task Group, as he leads on health and safety both locally and nationally with regards open water safety. Kevin advised the group that all risk assessments are up to date. Actions from the group are around access to schools and increasing safety sessions. A lost and found spot was suggested and this has been taken forward by the Clean and Green Team.

Action - Michael to report at the next board with the groups action plan.

It was advised that the gates on the playground are been reviewed, with new parts on order.

Councillor Bainbridge advised that she did a walkaround with Ian Harland and it was agreed that a number of signs will be replaced.

6. Neighbourhood Budget Report

6.1 Councillor Craig Martin – Durham County Council Longdean Park, Chester-le-Street - New Street Lighting Column

Installation of a 5-metre mounting height tubular steel lighting column with a new LED lantern between numbers 72 and 66 Longdean Park which will include the associated new Northern PowerGrid underground service connection and reinstatement works.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £1,868

Supported

6.2 Councillors Alan Bell and Phil Heaviside - 1st Great Lumley Scouts - Scout Hall Garden COVID Recovery project

Various earthworks to level the garden area to make the premises more aesthetically pleasing and fit for use by the community.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £2,000 (each Councillor committing £1,000)

Match Funding: £400

Supported

6.3 Councillors Beaty Bainbridge, Karen Fantarrow-Darby, Simon Henig, Craig Martin, Bill Moist & Paul Sexton – Friends of Chester-le-Street Riverside Park – Waiting for the Ferry Sculpture

The aim of this project is to supply and install a new sculpture at Riverside Park called 'Waiting for the Ferry'. This will replace the current boat, located to the front on the café area, which will return to its owners, the Chester-le-Street Sea Cadets. The sculpture will be in line with those currently in place across the park and work will be overseen by DCC Clean & Green.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £8,000 (Cllr Beaty Bainbridge £2,500, all other Cllrs £1,100 each)

Supported

Neighbourhood Budget Small Grant Allocations

6.4 Councillors Allan Bell & Philip Heaviside – Great Lumley Parish Council – Great Lumley Parish Council Remembrance Project

Funding for installation of commemorative poppies on 90 lighting columns and for the purchase of a wreath to be laid at the remembrance service.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £300 (each Councillor committing £150)

Supported

6.5 Councillors Bill Moist & Paul Sexton – Chester-le-Street Town Football Club – Chester Moor Colliery Banner Display

Funding the display Chester Moor Miners Banner in an enclosed casing on a wall in Chester-le-Street Town Football Club’s club house/community hub.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £780.73 (Councillor Moist and Councillor Sexton committing £390 each) **Supported**

6.6 Councillors Beaty Bainbridge, Alison Batey, Karen Fantarrow-Darby, Siimon Henig, Bill Moist, Paul Pringle, Bill Moist, Paul Sexton, Tracie Smith & Danny Wood – Refuse Café – Christmas Day

The aim of this project is to provide staff to organise a Christmas celebration on Christmas Day for those in need, including homeless, refugees etc.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £999 (Each Councillor committing £111) **Supported**

6.7 *Councillors Alison Batey, Paul Pringle & Danny Wood – Pelton Parish Council – Gazebos for a Community Event

The aim of this project is to purchase two gazebos for a community event planned for the end of October. These can then be reused for other events locally by the Parish Council or other organisations.

Declaration of Interest: Paul Pringle & Danny Wood are both Parish Councillors

NBSG: £902.40 (each Councillor committing £300.80) **Agreed**

6.8 Towns & Villages Councillor Allocations

6.8.1 None currently.

7. Partner Update

7.1 Durham Constabulary – The police are continuing to drive on the ‘Keeping in the Know’ project. This has informed activities on violence / women and girls to address issues where these groups feel vulnerable. It was noted that these issues do apply to males but disproportionately women and girls. The Police are also focusing on the night-time economy.

7.1.1 Work has been completed on the 101 system and the public should be seeing an improvement.

7.1.2 CASBRAC system – to improve multi-agency working in place to provide a safer mechanism to partners.

- 7.1.3 Lee advised the Police are using e-bikes to access hard to reach walking routes in vulnerable areas.
- 7.1.4 Councillor Alison Beaty raised the issue of females/young people using walking routes instead of the bus to get school/work, as buses are unreliable in the area. Lee advised this work has been developed in school.
- 7.2 Clinical Commissioning Group - John advised that through him being a member of the AAP, he had been put in touch with Joanne from the parish council regarding the fun day in Pelton. All the money from the fun day will be donated to NHS Charities which is hugely appreciated by all concerned.

Action – AAP to circulate fun day poster

- 7.3 Fire & Rescue Service – It was noted that the Fire Service are working on joint protocols around Bonfire Night.
- 7.4 Karbon Homes – The Chester-le-Street hub has now reopened. Karbon will be focussing on employability support, with a money works course running at Pelton, and a digital support course in Sacriston.

The money matters team is a new service, looking at the wider issues including, energy costs and debt.

Michael advised that David Timmouth from DCCs Employability Team, has contacted all AAP's about the energy crisis and has offered to attend future AAP Board meeting to update on the proactive work taking place.

- 7.5 Business Sector – Nothing to update
- 7.6 VCS Sector – The deadline for a call out for a VCS Representative had closed. Interviews would take place in due course.

8. AAP Co-ordinators Update

- Funding Workshop – Michael noted that the AAP are looking to run funding workshops in the new financial year, working with Karbon and the County Durham Foundation for groups to access support locally.
- Future AAP Consultations – The library consultation is set for the November Board meeting
- Northumbria in Bloom – Chester-le-Street was voted the best town and the certificate is on show in the library. The Chair would like to put on record the AAPs thanks and a big well done to all those involved.
- Walk and Cycle Routes – PR release from DCC looking at improvements. Chester-le-Street is a pilot area. Michael offered to invite officers from the project to present to the board.

- 8.1 Michael advised the board that Vicky Predergast has been working on the Outbreak Management Fund for community centres. AAP officers have chased up the centres who have not applied to make sure they are not missing out.
- 8.2 A discussion took place around the masterplan consultation. It was noted that Fiona was working on this, which will then be taken to DCC Cabinet.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 22nd November 2021 (6pm – 8pm) Virtual Board Meeting

This date has subsequently been amended to Monday 29th November, same time.