

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the
Board Meeting
Thursday 25 November 2021
(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

- Present:** Allan Blakemore, Mel Carr, Cllr Gary Hutchinson, Cllr David Brown, Kester Noble, Stuart Dunn, Angela Stobbart, Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman, Tony Cutmore, Cllr Maura McKeon
- Officer Attendance:** Jane Bellis – AAP Co-ordinator
Lyndsey Hunter – Community Development Project Officer
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer
- Presenter:** None
- Forum Members:** 1 forum member attended the meeting
- Apologies:** Cllr Jan Blakey, Cllr Chris Varty, Clair White, Peter Maddison, Cllr Chris Lines, George Storey, Malcolm Gray, Lynne Watson, Kelly Gilmore-Craze, Gordon Elliott, Kate Holmes, Louis Hurst

1 Introductions and Apologies

Allan Blakemore, AAP Chair welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership.

A warm welcome was offered to Kester Noble who had been appointed as a public representative on the board.

Everyone was reminded of the Teams meeting etiquette.

Apologies [see above].

It was noted that Clair White had not attended several board meetings due to work restrictions. The Board was concerned that there had not been any health representation/update for some time. Jane agreed to email Clair to find out if she had identified someone to cover following comments made.

The Chair highlighted that although the names of Board and Forum members are not included in the body of the minutes; advice given in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), is that the board minutes are made public, therefore should anyone wish to remain anonymous they were to state this.

Anyone present who had a conflict of interest in any item on the agenda was asked to declare an interest at the start of the agenda item to ensure this was formally recorded in the meeting minutes.

Stuart Dunn declared an interest in the Coxhoe Village Hall Association project (see item 4 below).

It was noted that a group had been set up to review the Terms of Reference which are included in the Induction Pack for new Board Members. The current Induction Pack is available for any Board Members who want it, on the understanding that it's subject to review.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2021 & Matters Arising

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy. There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3 Countywide Partner Issues:

3.1 Opportunity for Partners to update

Malcolm Gray was unable to attend the meeting. He had provided the following information for the AAP to consider/distribute to the Board.

In summary:

- Estate Walkabouts are led by Housing Support Coordinators and are conducted across most of the areas where they have a large number of homes.
- They use these to pick up a variety of issues to action such as garden and communal area condition, abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping to help ensure our communities remain tidy and attractive for everyone.
- Where the issue is relating to private land/homes they will support partner organisations by referring these issues over to them once identified.
- They encourage community stakeholders to attend and get involved.

The programme includes details of:

- The area being covered.
- Lead Housing Support Coordinator's name.
- Meeting location.
- Time, date and regularity of the initial inspection programme

On the day of the inspection, the Housing Coordinator will wait a few minutes at the meeting point before setting off on their route.

Attendees do not need to book in advance, however, if anyone did wish to take part they can confirm their intention to attend by contacting them via

feedback@livin.co.uk and this will be passed on to the relevant Housing Co-ordinator.

Jane felt it would be good for Board members and the AAP Team to get involved. **Action:** Marie to share the timetable with the Board and AAP Team.

Angela Stobbart from Believe Housing provided links for grants available -

- Large capital grant £10k-£20k
<https://www.believehousing.co.uk/in-your-neighbourhood/believe-housing-community-grants/large-community-capital-grant/>
Closing date 5th December at 4pm
- Small grant programme remains always open as long as funds last for both £500 and £1,000
https://www.believehousing.co.uk/in-your-neighbourhood/believe-housing-community-grants/500_fund/; <https://www.believehousing.co.uk/in-your-neighbourhood/believe-housing-community-grants/1000-grant/>

Areas for this AAP are Bowburn, Cassop, Coxhoe, Kelloe, Quarrington Hill, Trimdon Station/Deaf Hill.

4 Priority Updates (from Task Group and Projects)

4.1 COVID-19 Recovery Project Summaries

Action: Marie to send the Task Group timeline to Board members and the AAP team.

Three new Area Budget project call out applications, and the application that was ineligible in the last round due to insufficient supporting documents was resubmitted giving a total of four applications.

Task Group members recommended that all 4 applications were taken to the Board for agreement. Queries were raised on The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage; however, satisfactory responses from the applicant were received.

The Board approved the following Area Budget projects –

- Coxhoe Village Hall Association - Making Coxhoe Village Hall Accessible
- Rose Cottage Community Hub CIC – The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage
- Sport Works – Head, Heart, Health
- Trimdon Parish Council – Trimdon Grange Rec

With these projects agreed, and subject to technical appraisal, there is £22,103.00 Community Recovery Fund remaining, no OPSIF to allocate, and £119,902.00 Area Budget, which includes Youth Fund and Welfare Reform in the pot.

Of the £210,000 Towns and Villages Fund allocation, there is a total of £352,005.00 left to allocate.

Jane thanked Board members, task group members, the AAP Team and Emma for all their hard work.

4.2 Christmas Holiday Activities with Healthy Food

Task Group members recommended that the following two applications be brought to the Board for agreement.

1. Fishburn Youth and Community Centre – Fun and Food Christmas Holidays 2021
2. Rose Cottage Community Hub, Trimdon Grange – Elves Craft Workshops)

The Board approved the two Holiday Activities with Healthy Food Fund applications for the Christmas Holidays 2021.

The first meeting of the Towns and Villages Fund Task Group had been held and the group began to discuss projects that had been raised by Board members. Emma is currently working with colleagues in other departments to ensure these projects, or elements of these projects are not already being picked up, or that there are other pots of funding available. Once progress has been made on this work, another Task Group meeting will be arranged, and Board members will be updated on progress in due course.

Future Task Group Meetings

- ❖ Tuesday 18 January 2022 @10am
- ❖ Thursday 17 March 2022 @10am

5 Co-ordinators Report including Quarterly Performance Management

Members of the public are being invited to apply to become a public representative on the Board of the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership. For an application pack or for more information, please contact the AAP team via email eastdurhamruralaap@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 261128. Information continues to be advertised via our usual routes; however, Board members were encouraged to get the message out in the community.

For information, the AAP Team are now working on a hybrid basis between home and The Manor House in Sedgefield. We are also out and about in the community at meetings etc.

Jane said she had been contacted by Veronica Benn, the Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) & Community Cohesion Officer at the Council, who is currently in the scoping phase of creating an East Durham Forum, which aims to identify suitable areas in the County that can be used as Temporary Stop Over Areas for the GRTs community visiting the area during the busy migration period of Spring to Autumn.

Allan Blakemore has experience of this, so had kindly volunteered to attend the Forum meeting on behalf of the AAP. Allan will feedback anything of relevance.

Angela Stobbart, Business and living representative on the Board queried whether social housing organisations had been involved in this process as the TSOAs could very well be on their land. Jane said she would contact Veronica and ask if she could contact Angela direct, to find out if they had been involved or not.

Quarterly Monitoring

With regards to quarterly monitoring of Area Budget projects the AAP had funded, Marie had sent the quarter 2 forms out and some had been returned. There were no project leads available to give an update on progress at this meeting; however quarterly returns excluding any personal contact information are available upon request.

6 Local Neighbourhood Issues (LNI)

6.1 Locality Policing Issues

Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman provided an update on local policing issues.

Update from the Peterlee Team

There had been 9 incidents in Trimdon and Deaf Hill.

There was no update from the Durham City Team. Dave Clarke is the new Inspector.

Sgt Alex Clarke is suffering from ill health and will be retiring in March. Dan Lake has taken over from him. Jane asked Sarah if she would pass on our very best wishes to Alex.

Trimdon Village Hall has had the windows smashed and the CCTV is being looked at to see if anyone can be identified in connection with the vandalism. Lyndsey advised Sarah that Cllr Lucy Hovvels had been in touch re. using Neighbourhood Budget.

There had been a few burglaries on the Industrial Estate in Sedgefield; the Police have good contacts.

Discussion ensued around the anti-social behaviour problems around the area and Sarah explained that this was a problem across the whole of the County.

Sarah said she had a meeting with Joy Allen on anti-social behaviour and she is keen to focus on high harm. Unfortunately, anti-social behaviour is not usually classed as high harm, however Sarah wanted to reassure the meeting

that Joy's focus is on anti-social behaviour, and her drive is around pulling the community together.

Sarah encouraged everyone to consider signing up to 'Keep in Know', an online messaging service where the Police send out local alerts to keep you up to date on what is happening in your area of County Durham. It is completely free; and you can receive crime updates, road closures and see what the Neighbourhood Team is up to. For a simple sign up please visit; www.keepintheknow.co.uk **Action:** Marie to promote.

Tony Cutmore posted in the chat function - *We are in the process of linking in with NE Youth to look at a regional way of addressing the youth work gap. We are also in the process of trying to secure funds to train new Youth Workers and create a bank of them for County Durham.*

7 Neighbourhood Budget Projects

The following Neighbourhood Budget project was shared with the board.

Name of Scheme: Making Coxhoe Village Hall Accessible

Councillor(s): McKeon / Hutchinson / Blakey

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £15,000 (£5,000 each)

The Board was happy to approve the project.

8 Date and time of next board meeting

The next board meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 1 February 2022 has had to be changed to Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 9.30 am via Teams. Board members had no issue with this.

Subsequent Board Meeting Dates

- Wednesday 30 March 2022

Meetings will take place via Teams until further notice and will move back to the traditional 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm meeting time as soon as possible.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.