



Chester-le-Street & District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board Meeting - Minutes of Monday 29th November 2021 held via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Elected Councillors

Councillor Craig Martin
Councillor Alison Batey
Councillor Alan Bell
Councillor Bill Moist
Councillor Tracie Smith
Elsie Forrester (Parish Council Representative)

Partner Organisations

Graeme Carr (Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service)
Suzanne Jobson – Chair (Karbon Homes)
Victoria Murray – Durham County Council

Public Representatives

Jake Rollings (Chair)
Derek Briggs
Clare Todd
Howell Davies
Khaled Malki
Janice Rokni

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)
Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer)

Presenters:

Graham Smith

Apologies:

Joanne Pugh, Councillor Emma Waldock, Joanne Malki, Jon Quine, Lee Morris.

Public Attendance:

No AAP Public Forum were present at the meeting.



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1. **Introductions, Apologies and Virtual Housekeeping Code of Conduct/Protocols**
No introductions were required.
2. **Agreement of minutes from the previous meeting held on 18th October 2021 & Matters Arising**
 - 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.
3. **Neighbourhood Issues**
 - 3.1 **Emergency Planning – Role of the AAP** – It was noted that the AAP could play a greater role locally in emergency situations. Cllr Batey noted that she had written to Gordon Elliott regarding the development of a local action plan should a ‘Gold Command’ be instigated. Hopefully a local contingency plan/resilience plan could be adopted. Other AAP Board Members voiced their concern regarding co-ordination and supported Cllr Batey’s approach.
4. **Presentation - Chester-le-Street Masterplan**
 - 4.1 Graham Smith presented on the subject. Graham noted that the consultation had gone live as on 29th November. Those wanting to take part in the consultation should click on the following link www.durham.gov.uk/consultation
 - 4.2 Various issues were raised by Board Members, including the following:
 - The circulated version was a ‘draft’ with no updated comments from Councillors, even though a meeting had taken place a while ago where comments / changes had been noted, it was highlighted that these comments had not been actioned or reflected in the copy circulated.
 - It was suggested that this was a wish list.
 - No consultation had taken place with communities. It was highlighted that local meetings with communities were needed.
 - It was highlighted that there were a number of inaccuracies within the draft. No projects were noted in the plan.
 - The plan must be achievable.
 - Transport / traffic routes through Chester-le-Street were very important
 - Heritage should not be overlooked and should be bolstered, especially focussing on the signage between the Riverside and Front Street. Clare Todd noted she would like to be involved in the development of information boards as she is involved with ‘Friends of the Riverside’
 - Had anyone contacted Parish Council’s for comment.
 - Could community buildings play a role in gaining community involvement.
 - Traffic lights at the bottom of Front Street were a ‘pinch point’ around access to the town centre.
 - Nothing in the draft regarding pollution control.
 - Need more links regarding the riverside development and the leisure strategy.
 - Links to Towns & Villages funds
 - Stella Gill (CPO Fertiliser Works) could be turned into woodland trails / used for forest school activities.



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- Cong Burn Woods (dirt track) requires a proper access and parking to attract more visitors and users
- Area known as 'Canada' opposite Tesco. The site needs improving for visitors and residents who pass there every day. A planting, mosaic project could take place by working with local communities.
- Approach hotel groups regarding re-generating the Queens Head site.

4.3 AAP Board Members were again directed to the link for the consultation and were encouraged to put their views forward. Graham noted that the Masterplan for Chester-le-Street was not the 'levelling up plan' but would set the strategic context. Graham advised he would contact Councillors and respond to their queries in due course.

Action: Graham

5. Task & Finish Groups

Community Recovery

Fiona talked through the report of the COVID Restoration Fund. The total amount of funding requested was £334,302. The total amount of funding available, considering this year's Area Budget together with any underspends from previous years, is £258,593. It was noted that at least £125,000 of the £258,593 must be defrayed by the end of this financial year.

AAP Board Members thanked the panel members for their time in looking at all eighteen applications/approaches for funding. Clare noted that it had been difficult and would be helpful if, in future, more Board Members were involved with the Task Group. Cllr Alan Bell highlighted his concern that some organisations, either through lack of capacity or ability, had not applied for funding.

It was noted that twenty-one organisations had originally applied for funding. Out of this twenty-one, one organisation had withdrawn, whilst two other applicants were not ready to be taken forward. This left eighteen funding approaches, which were listed for the Board to consider. The following is a list of the organisations, their ranking by the Task Group.

- CLS Neighbourhood Policing Team – Activity Week - £7,000 - Approved
- Chester-le-Street Town Centre Marketing Project 2021 - £15,100 - Approved
- *Aspire - Building running costs - £21,000 - Approved
- Pelton Community Centre – Running Costs £12,778 - Approved
- Pelton Fell Community Partnership - Youth Project - £17,550 - Approved
- Bullion Hall – Caretakers Costs - £12,480 - Approved
- Chester-le-Street CofE Primary School - £7,695 - Approved
- Sacriston Youth & Community Project - £17,200 - Approved
- *Cestria Primary School - £5,199 - Approved
- Moving on Durham - £5,285 - Approved
- *Burnmoor Cricket Club - £23,396 - Approved
- **Handcrafted - £16,495
- *Fencehouses Community Centre - £15,000 – Approved

- Live Well Northeast - £8,560 - Approved
- Durham Cricket Foundation - £25,000 - Rejected
- *Great Lumley Parish Council - £13,900 – Approved
- Woodshed Workshop - £16,169 – Approved
- RecyclLD - £18,786 - Approved

* Declaration of Interest

** Decision in principle, however this is dependent on clarification of match funding

It was noted that the Older Persons Social Isolation Funding (OPSIF) had initially been discussed as a potential contribution to the Durham County Cricket Club project. Due to this project being rejected, the potential for its use was discussed. It was noted that the OPSIF fund would need to be allocated by March 2022. A couple of potential options were discussed. It was noted that two/three applications already submitted had elements within them where OPSIF funding could be used. If this was deemed suitable, this would reduce the amount of OPSIF available. Another option was to develop a 'Call Out' for projects, either for the remainder of the fund or for the full £25,000. Michael was asked to look at potential options for use of the remaining OPSIF funds.

Action: Michael

6. Towns and Villages

Report to follow the meeting.

Action: Michael

7. Holiday Activities with Healthy Food

- 7.1 Ally talked through the report. It was noted that centrally, the Fun & Food Programme had a large amount of funding still to allocate, therefore, were able to fund further projects locally through the AAPs. This meant that, even though the Chester-le-Street & District AAP were oversubscribed, any overbid could be funded. This means that all seven approaches noted within the report could be fully funded.

8. Open Water Safety

- 8.1 It was noted that the Open Water Safety report had been provided for information.

9. Neighbourhood Budget

- 9.1 **Councillors Beaty Bainbridge, Alison Batey, Karen Fantarrow-Darby, Simon Henig, Paul Pringle, Paul Sexton & Danny Wood – Aspire – Creche Facilities**

The aim of this project is to provide creche facilities for those women with children attending courses at the Aspire centre in Chester-le-Street. This will provide extra support for women across the Chester-le-Street & District AAP area.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £7,272 (Cllrs Alison Batey, Karen Fantarrow-Darby, Simon Henig, Paul Pringle, Paul Sexton & Danny Wood committing £1,000 each, with Cllr Craig



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Martin committing £1,022 & Cllr Beaty Bainbridge committing £250)

SUPPORTED

9.2 **Councillors Beaty Bainbridge, Simon Henig, Craig Martin, Paul Sexton & Tracie Smith – Amazons FC – Winter Jackets**

The aim of this project is to provide the Club with funding to purchase a number of winter jackets for team members to utilise over the winter months. The jackets will stay in the ownership of the club and not an individual.

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Tracie Smith – Joint Patron

NB Allocation: £1,500 (each Cllr committing £300)

AGREED

9.3 **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 Cllr committing £1,000)

Match Funding: £400

SUPPORTED

9.4 **Councillors Bill Moist & Paul Sexton – Waldridge Park Sunday FC – Portable Defibrillator**

The aim of this project is to provide the Club with support funding to purchase a portable defibrillator and extra pads, which can be used each Sunday at their organised games.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £1,500 (each Cllr committing £750)

SUPPORTED

9.5 **Councillors Bill Moist & Paul Sexton – DCC Clean & Green Seating and ancillary works across Chester South Ward**

The aim of this project is to install a number of new seats Including plinths and installation costs. All work to be carried out by DCC Clean & Green.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £9,319 (each Cllr committing £4,659)

SUPPORTED

9.6 **Cllrs Alan Bell & Philip Heaviside – Great Lumley Toddler Group – Restarting Great Lumley Toddler Group**

The aim of this project is to support financial support for room hire during 2022. The group has been struggling during the pandemic and these funds will support the group to get back on their feet.

Declaration of Interest: None

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

SUPPORTED



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9.7 Cllrs Alan Bell & Philip Heaviside – Little Peoples Toddler Group – Soft Play Equipment

To provide funding support to purchase items of soft play for the toddler group to use. This equipment will support children to develop and enjoy their play skills.

Declaration of Interest: None

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

SUPPORTED

9.8 Cllrs Emma Waldock & Simon Wilson – Sacriston Community Association – Contribution towards a Project Development Worker

The aim of this project is to provide funding to support the employment of a new worker to assist with the 'vision' for Sacriston. The worker will develop a programme of activity within the Fulforth Centre as well as oversee the organisation and running of events.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £8,690 (each Cllr committing £4,345)

SUPPORTED

9.9 Neighbourhood Budget Small Grant Allocations

Councillor Tracie Smith – Chester-le-Street Cof E School – Outdoor Games

To support the school with the purchase of outdoor games which can be used for breakfast, lunch and after school clubs and community use.

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Tracie Smith is a school governor

NBSG Allocation: £400

AGREED

Councillors Alison Batey, Paul Pringle & Danny Wood – Durham Constabulary – Mobile Christmas Grotto

To provide a mobile Christmas Grotto which will travel around the area providing a Santa experience, with a selection box at the end.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £300 (each Cllr committing £100)

SUPPORTED

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: Both Cllrs Alan Bell & Philip Heaviside are Parish Councillors

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

AGREED



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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: £781 (Councillor Moist and Councillor Sexton committing £390 each) **SUPPORTED**

Councillors Beaty Bainbridge, Alison Batey, Karen Fantarrow-Darby, Simon 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**

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

To purchase two gazebos for a community event planned for the end of October. These can be reused for other events locally.

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

NBSG Allocation: £902.40 (each Cllr committing £301) **AGREED**

Councillors Alison Batey, Paul Pringle & Danny Wood – Ouston Parish Council – Bulbs

The aim of this project is to provide Ouston Parish Council with funding to plant various bulbs across the parish area. This will support efforts to bring a splash of colour to the area.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £100 (Cllr Alison Batey contributing £40 and Cllrs Paul Pringle & Danny Wood committing £30 each) **SUPPORTED**

Councillor Karen Fantarrow-Darby - Durham Christian Partnership – PadB – Ladies Group & Christmas Dinner Project

The aim of this project is to support the development of the Ladies Group within PadB to undertake arts and crafts. Also, funding will support a Christmas Dinner for those at PadB.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £999 **SUPPORTED**



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Councillors Alan Bell & Philip Heaviside – Little Treasures – Sensory Sessions

The aim of this project is to provide funds to support room hire so that sensory sessions can be held for children and parents.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £999 (each Cllr committing £499)

SUPPORTED

10. [Pre-Notified Partner Updates – Key issues that need to be communicated at the meeting on any initiatives relevant to the AAP area.](#)

Fire & Rescue Service

Graham notified Board Members of the Community Risk Management Plan consultation that had started and was open until on 7th February 2022. Allyson had circulated the link to this already. Also, that he would be presenting this at the January AAP Board Meeting.

Voluntary Sector

Michael noted that this action was still outstanding from the previous meeting. He would contact those who put their names forward and the AAP Board will be informed in due course of the new representative. Janice Rokni noted that Aspire had been awarded £100k for their highly commended Self-Care Project.

11. [AAP Co-ordinators Update](#)

Future Agenda Items – Michael noted that there was still an outstanding issue of Community Safety needing to attend a future Board Meeting. Michael Also noted, the AAP priority setting consultation was going live in the new year so an update would be provided on this at the next Board Meeting.

Walk and Cycle Routes – Michael noted that he would circulate information on this.

Facebook – Michael noted that a report would be produced, every couple of months, to update AAP Board members of headline information that we share on Facebook. This has become a very important information sharing tool during the pandemic, which needs to continue.

Merry Christmas – Michael noted that this would be the last meeting before Christmas and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Next Meeting – 6pm - Monday 24th January 2022 Via Teams