

**East Durham AAP Board Meeting**  
**6pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 6pm via Teams**

**PRESENT:**

**Elected Members**

Cllr Angela Surtees (AS) (Chair)  
Cllr Julie Griffiths (JG)  
Cllr Terry Duffy (TD)  
Cllr Chris Hood (CH)  
Cllr Jake Miller (JM)  
Cllr Isabella Roberts (IR)

**Partner Representatives**

Rona Hardy (RH)  
Danny Dickinson (DD)  
Alison Paterson (AP)  
Jim Shand (JS)  
David Blackwell (DB)  
Andy Cammiss (AC)

**Public Representatives**

Rona Hardy (RH)  
Insp Gary Smith (GS)  
Insp Joanne Eales (JE)  
Ian Porter (IP)  
Joanne Angus (JA)  
Rachel Payne (RP)

**Co-opted Members**

Edna Connor (EC)  
Amanda Moon (AM)

**Officer Attendance:**

John Murphy (JMurphy) – AAP Coordinator  
Wayne Gibson (WG) – EDAAP Community Development Project Officer  
Ian Moran (IM) – EDAAP Community Development Project Officer  
Jane Jack (JJ) – EDAAP Community Development Project Officer  
Laura Towers (LT) – EDDAP Support Officer  
PJ Harding (PJH) – Towns & Villages Community Development Project Officer

**Presenters:**

Glenn Martin, Regeneration Policy Team Leader, Durham County Council  
Inspector Gary Smith, Durham Constabulary

**Public Attendance:**

9 members of the public were in attendance

**Apologies:** Cllr Stacey Deinali, Graham Easterlow, Chris Williams, Bill Smithson

### **1. Introductions & Apologies**

AS welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Andy Cammiss, a new Public Board Representative, and also Jane Jack, the new Community Development Project Officer with East Durham AAP.

Introductions were made amongst all in attendance.

AS also updated that Malcolm Woodward (CDD Fire and Rescue) has now moved on to a new role and Chris Williams would be returning as Partner Board Representative for the Fire Service.

AS ran through meeting etiquette and asked that all questions were raised through the Chair. Additionally, it was noted that the chat function would remain disabled during the meeting, so that the discussions within the meeting could be focused on.

### **2. Co-option**

JMurphy updated that two applicants were shortlisted for the Public Representative vacancy – Andy Cammiss and Bill Smithson. As per the terms of reference, the opportunity was given to a new applicant, however, the proposal is to retain Bill Smithson on the Board as a Co-optee for another year.

JMurphy asked whether the Board were in agreement with co-opting Bill Smithson to the Board.

**Fully supported by the Board.**

### **3. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were accepted by the Board as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

No matters arising.

### **4. Police & Fire Reports**

Cllr Surtees handed over to Inspectors Joanne Eales and Gary Smith to provide their police reports. It was noted that Chris Williams had given his apologies for this month's meeting, so there would be no fire report.

#### **Insp Joanne Eales - Seaham**

There has been an increase in the number of inquisitive crimes, including shed burglaries, in Murton. One person has been charged and is awaiting jail and another has been charged.

Two people have been charged with an armed robbery in Seaham and have been remanded.

Rates of crime have gone down since these arrests.

Please contact JE if you are interested in volunteering to assist in preparing allotments for a community day.

Insp Eales reported that the mechanics project at Seaham has been a success, with the participants completing the course and moving on to other things. This is a good diversionary activity.

#### **Insp Gary Smith - Peterlee**

GS asked for any information on events planned for the Queen's Jubilee to be shared with himself or JE.

Operation Omega was launched in response to an increase in burglaries through December and January. 22 people were arrested last month. 13 vehicles were seized – 8 in one incident. This will continue over the next couple of months.

There has been increase in the use of off-road bikes. A pilot of the Section 59 Notice under Operation Endurance is underway in East Durham, which aims to crackdown on nuisance riders and motorists. The areas identified for the signs are Peterlee, Shotton Colliery, Wingate and Darlington.

There has also been a week of action as part of Operation Endurance with a pre-op last week. There will be a briefing this Friday to share the results. This is in relation to seizing bikes and getting them off streets.

Embedding days of action is important to make them a regular occurrence.

**Action: GS to share any press releases with LT for circulation to the Board.**

A large cannabis farm was located in the old council buildings in Peterlee worth approximately £1m. Five people have been arrested for the offence.

An offender from Shotton is now back in jail as a result of a Criminal Behaviour Order.

AP asked when a PACT Meeting for Blackhall would take place.  
GS to contact AP directly with a date.

JE updated that the police now have the go-ahead for face-to-face PACT Meetings.

TD highlighted that speeding is becoming a problem again. TD to contact GS directly.

AS noted that unannounced days of action are useful. GS agreed and is keen for the Cllrs to get involved.

## **5. Presentations**

### **Inclusive Economic Strategy - Glenn Martin, DCC**

100 responses have already been received to the survey and some initial feedback was around ASB, need for investment, litter, more social housing needed, more school places needed and better public transport.

People can get involved in the Big Econ-versation and put forward ideas between 31 January – 22 April:

Website: [www.durhamecon-versation.co.uk](http://www.durhamecon-versation.co.uk)

Surveys@ **General** | **Businesses** | **Youths**

Email: [Econ-versation@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Econ-versation@durham.gov.uk)

Post: **Freepost ECON-VERSATION**

Telephone: **03000 260 000**

Discussion took place around the use of jargon and the language used in the survey. AS noted that it is important to look at what 'economy' means and it is important to have key indicators. This can be a very valuable piece of work.

AP highlighted that it would be useful to involve the voluntary sector and community centres. AS agreed that this is a key point as there are a lot of hubs in East Durham.

RP asked whether there was an easy read version of the survey for people with disabilities and a survey for young people.

GM noted that the young people's survey was going to be amended as little response had been received. GM highlighted the importance of engaging the harder-to-reach groups. Please contact GM directly if GM can attend any meetings or events.

DD noted that it would be good to be kept up-to-date with the findings and development of this. Once completed, it will be influential in shaping the county deal. Workshops would also be valuable.

GM highlighted that there is a long period for conversation, so it can be adapted as needed.

AS thanked GM for the presentation and noted the importance of East Durham's inclusion in any Economic Strategy.

**ACTION: LT to share information with the wider Forum.**

**Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (CASBRAC) – Inspector Gary Smith, Durham Constabulary**

CASBRACs were introduced to increase information sharing between partners in the Safe Durham Partnership.

Community Safety Partnerships were set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Representatives from the police, local authorities, fire and rescue, health, housing and youth engagement are included with the overall aim of trying to keep people safe.

CASBRACs are held via Teams to address high-harm issues quickly. They are chaired by the local Inspector and ensure information is shared and there is a clear outcome from the meeting for each partner to deal with in a timely manner

The key elements of CASBRAC are collaboration, recognising when an offender is a victim and addressing the issue in a timely manner. The timeframe is urgent and it is identified as a high-harm incident requiring a multi-agency response which could have an impact on community confidence and a detrimental effect on the community.

AS thanked GS for the presentation and asked what the difference is between CASBRAC and MAPS (Multi-Agency Problem-Solving)?

GS noted that MAPS is looking at the same issues, but CASBRAC is dealing with the issue immediately for high/immediate harm whereas MAPS is a monthly meeting. CASBRAC feeds into the MAPS process.

JM noted that Cllrs aren't included in the meetings. What is the logic behind the decision of which partners are included? The local Insp is holding people to account, but who is holding the police to account? How is a high-harm issue in the community identified?

GS advised that it is chaired by the Inspector who will try to address that issue with a very clear focus on problem-sorting. Information comes from the community and victims. Issues would be raised through a PCSO or Sergeant. Local Cllrs don't usually attend due to confidentiality and data protection around sensitive issues.

AM asked whether local schools are included as one of the CASBRAC partners as they are often the first point of contact. GS confirmed they would be, for example through TAP Meetings where valuable information can be gathered.

AS noted that it is a shared triangle and the people on the ground are likely to be aware of what is going on. DCC is part of the Safe Durham Partnership, so it would be useful to have community champions in meetings where appropriate.

JM added that Cllrs could use their funding to help address issues if they were included.

It was noted that JMurphy is invited to some CASBRACs.

**Action: GS to review the presentation and share if possible.**

## **6. Priority Group Updates**

### **Towns & Villages (T&V) - Ian Moran, Community Development Project Officer, DCC**

IM updated that a T&V meeting took place on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

A presentation was delivered at the meeting on proposed 'Green Grants' originating from the MSFOOC group. A request of £26,000 from the T&V Fund to match with funding from Area Budget was put forward to the group. The fund would be for a minimum of £5,000 to provide environmental improvements to community centres. The group agreed the scheme in principle and has requested additional information on the proposal. The proposal, with additional information as requested by the group, will be tabled to the MSFOOC meeting in March.

The group agreed to set up a subgroup to investigate village connections and coastal access. This subgroup will focus on connectivity and wellbeing. A meeting was arranged on 10<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm.

The group received information from DCC Community Safety on the rise of issues related to off road bikes and quad bikes. GE will continue conversations outside of the group which may include requesting the AAP Board write to the Safer Durham Partnership.

GE and IM met with Cllr Deinali (AAP rep on the Local Bus Board) regarding public transport. Cllr Deinali has requested information on services with East Durham. This work will feed into discussions around access to work.

### **Children, Young People & Families (CYPF) - Rona Hardy (Priority Group Chair)**

RH updated that a CYPF Meeting took place on 27<sup>th</sup> January and noted that the Youth Council presentation had been postponed until March's meeting.

Just over £12,000 of Fun and Food funding has been allocated for the February Half Term Holiday.

£163,000 of funding is available for the Easter, Summer and Christmas Holidays 2022. It is hoped that additional funding will be available for the half term holidays also.

The Fun and Food application forms may be changed to cover all three holidays.

AS commented that the Fun and Food funding is very welcome. A form to cover the three holidays would be better as the forms can be challenging.

## **6. Neighbourhood Budget (NB) & Area Budget (AB) Update**

### **AB**

JMurphy updated that £171,543 of Area Budget funding has been allocated across five projects leaving a balance of £73,359 remaining.

### **NB**

JM highlighted that a list of all NB schemes is available on the County Councillor website.

[Your Councillors - Durham County Council](#)

#### **Project Name: Target Hardening**

**Councillors:** Cochrane & Hood

**Project Cost:** £24,962

**NB Amount:** £8,000 (each Cllr £4,000 contribution)

**Description:** South Hetton Parish Council to install a number of target hardening device, gates, boulders, etc. to reduce off road vehicle access and to improve the quality of life for residents in South Hetton.

**No conflict of interest.**

#### **Project Name: South Hetton Primary School**

**Councillors:** Cochrane & Hood

**Project Cost:** £25,665.90

**NB Amount:** £6,887.50 (each Cllr £3443.75 contribution)

**Description:** As part of a project in increase IT skills in South Hetton the Cllrs contribution will be towards the purchase of iPad that will be used before and after school and during holiday periods for the wider community.

**No conflict of interest.**

#### **Project Name: Horden Grandstand Roof**

**Councillors:** McLean & Roberts

**Project Cost:** £152,337.00 (each Cllr £13,750 contribution)

**NB Amount:** £27,500

**Description:** A contribution to a large-scale capital project to replace the main grandstand roof of the football ground at Horden Welfare Park. The old roof is no longer fit for purpose and requires replacing.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr McLean & Cllr Roberts. Both Cllrs are Horden Parish Councillors and the Parish is the Applicant. The Board agreed to/approved this project.**

#### **Project Name: Bruce Crescent Target Hardening**

**Councillors:** Higgins

**Project Cost:** £2,385

**NB Amount:** £2,385

**Description:** Installation of target hardening equipment to prevent off road vehicles accessing tracks and trails and to reduce anti-social behaviour.

**No conflict of interest.**

**Project Name: Easington LNR Improvements**

**Councillors:** Boyes & Surtees

**Project Cost:** £3,000

**NB Amount:** £3,000

**Description:** Durham Heritage Coast are applying for funding to carry out work in the Local Nature Reserve.

1. Tree and shrub planting in autumn 2022. Not in blocks and focussing on the area to the north of Crawlaway Avenue
2. At the end of Office Street the wooded area needs damaged trees removed and fly tipping removed. Damaged fencing here is to be repaired by Clean and Green
3. A disabled access assessment and promotion including recommendations. Promotion is directly to the specific user groups.
4. Installation of an A frame or similar at the north end of the site
5. Provision of threshold markers

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Surtees. Cllr Surtees is a member of the Durham Heritage Coast Steering Group. The Board agreed to/approved this project.**

**Project Name: Dene Academy DoE & Mayor's Award Scheme**

**Councillors:** Crute, Deinali, Duffy, Howarth, McLean, Roberts

**Project Cost:** £19,883.56

**NB Amount:** £9,000 (each Cllr £1,500 contribution)

**Description:** Duke of Edinburgh Award training and expedition and the Mayor's Award Scheme (purchase of equipment, purchase of storage facility materials to house equipment and labour costs for building the storage facility).

**Conflicts of interest declared by Cllrs Duffy & McLean. Cllr Duffy's wife is a school governor at Dene Academy. Cllr McLean is a parent governor at Dene Academy. The Board agree to/approve this project.**

**Project Name: Eden Lane Community Facility Access Road Improvements**

**Councillors:** Howarth

**Project Cost:** £3,660.55

**NB Amount:** £3,000

**Description:** Road surfacing of access road to multiple community facilities.

**Conflict of interest declared by Cllr Howarth. Cllr Howarth is a Peterlee Town Councillor. The Board agree to/approve this project.**

## **7. Any Other Business**

No other business raised.

AS thanked all for attending and noted that the next Board Meeting would be likely to take place via Teams unless otherwise notified.

## **8. Time & Date of Next Meeting**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 6pm**