



Better for everyone

**GREAT AYCLIFFE & MIDDRIDGE PARTNERSHIP (GAMP)
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2021, 6:00PM (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS)**

PRESENT:

Cllr Eddy Adam (DCC), Cllr James Atkinson (DCC) - Vice Chair, Cllr Neville Jones (DCC), Cllr Alan Jordan (Middridge Parish), Cllr Ken Robson (DCC), Cllr Tony Stubbs (DCC), Cllr David Sutton-Lloyd (DCC), Sue Cooke (Vice Chair), Julie Dudley, Chris Hutchinson, Peter Shovlin, Natalie Whitworth, Daniel Blagdon (Health Representative), Gordon Elliott (DCC representing Oliver Sherratt), Peter Gallone (Business Representative), Carol Gaskarth (Voluntary & Community Sector Representative), Insp Sarah Honeyman (Police) – Chair, Malcolm Woodward (Fire Service), Brian Riley (GAMP Coordinator), Victoria Grieves (GAMP Community Development Project Officer), Paula Stockport (GAMP Support Officer), Joy Allen (Co Durham Police & Crime Commissioner), Vicki Booth (Police & Crime Commissioner's Office)

APOLOGIES:

Andy Coulthard, Simon Hocking, Oliver Sherratt

OBSERVERS:

Mr R Adamson, Ms K Ward

Standard Board Meeting

1. Introductions & Apologies

Insp SH opened the meeting and a round of introductions was given. BR welcomed new Business Representative, Peter Gallone, to his first Board meeting.

Insp SH reminded Board members of the standard Declaration of Interest item on the agenda. BR reminded meeting observers they would be welcome to comment under Items 3 and 4 on the agenda.

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

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 28.9.21 – Matters Arising

The draft minutes from the Board meeting held on 28.9.21 had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers. There were no outstanding actions or 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 Co Durham Police & Crime Commissioner Update (Joy Allen)

JA updated Board members in relation to her Police & Crime Plan for 2021-24. JA outlined her vision, “to make the communities of County Durham and Darlington safer, stronger and more resilient to crime and antisocial behaviour”. The Plan sets out six key themes:

- **Safer Communities** – ASB, neighbourhood crime and serious organised crime
- **Safer Business** – Strengthen engagement with local businesses to prevent crime and protect themselves and retail workers
- **Safer Online** – Work in partnership to tackle threats and support vulnerable people
- **Safer People** – Victims, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, Hate Crime, Young People, Mental Health, Drug Alcohol and Gambling Harm
- **Safer Roads** – Support Durham Constabulary and key partners to tackle the fatal 4 -speeding, mobile phones, drink and drug driving and seat belts
- **Safer Countryside** – Increase confidence and support rural initiatives

JA broadly outlined the planned approach to addressing the priorities. Questions were invited from Board members, and the following points were noted:

- Cllr JA asked about additional police officer resources for Durham. JA clarified that recruitment is ongoing, but noted that officer levels in Durham will still be lower than they were pre-2010.
- Cllr JA asked about what physical action is planned in order to achieve the Plan’s priorities, particularly in relation to prevention. JA highlighted the ‘In the Know’ service; this is a fantastic online messaging service that local people can sign up to, to help support information sharing and signposting. JA believes that more community involvement in sharing intelligence etc will be invaluable.
- Cllr KR commented that he believes incidents of crime are being ‘dumbed down’ when they are labelled as antisocial behaviour, and they should be treated as crimes. Cllr KR added that he believes the 101 system is not fit for purpose, and can deter people from reporting incidents. Cllr KR commented that he is very supportive of the Police, however questioned some of the work they are required to carry out which perhaps should be the role of other service providers, i.e. social workers, acknowledging that lack of resources will likely be a contributory factor to these issues. JA assured Cllr KR that ASB is taken very seriously, both nationally and locally. JA plans to carry out consultation to identify people’s top 3 ASB issues, and has funding available to look at potential schemes alongside partners including DCC to help address this. JA is very keen to look at local neighbourhood watch provision and how this can be improved, to help involve local communities more, both to increase public confidence and to support better information sharing. In terms of the 101 system, JA confirmed that work is ongoing to help improve how the system is used, and to introduce better signposting.
- GE asked whether community CCTV/video/phone footage is useful to the Police, perhaps where there is concern around ‘formally’ reporting incidents. JA confirmed that such footage can be used as evidence and will always be helpful. A ‘Cyber Christmas’ campaign will be circulated shortly to help promote cost effective options that people can use in this regard, e.g. dashcams, doorbell cameras etc. Insp SH added that such footage can be really helpful, particularly in relation to ASB, and encouraged Board members to pass on any relevant information to their local teams.

- Cllr DSL commented that local Cllrs are well aware of the problems affecting our communities, adding that multiagency action and better use of available resources is needed. JA commented that the local meetings taking place between the Police and Cllrs are really encouraging, and will be a great way to help communicate messages and share information locally. JA reiterated the 'Keep in the Know' service and again encouraged people to sign up.
- Cllr EA asked how JA plans to increase community confidence, particularly in relation to intelligence sharing, and also for further detail on plans to engage wraparound services. JA has had discussions with DCC in relation to neighbourhood watch coordinators, which had previously been funded by local district councils but subsequently lost. Work will need to take place to understand how best to coordinate various agencies to avoid duplication of effort and improve signposting.
- Cllr TS highlighted an issue that had been raised at a recent meeting in relation to reduced powers for PCSOs. DCC made changes in relation to enforcement powers for areas such as littering and parking, and Cllr TS had been asked to find out whether any powers could be reinstated to PCSOs. Insp SH commented that initially this decision was taken to help share workloads when the remit of the PCSO role changed. GE agreed to pick this up with the relevant DCC department and feedback (**Action 1: GE**).

[Cllr KR left the meeting]

BR confirmed that a copy of Joy's presentation slides will be circulated with the minutes (**Action 2: BR**).

BR confirmed, for the minutes, that the following information had been circulated to Board members by email since the last meeting:

- information on the Council's new Local Bus Board, at which Cllr Neville Jones has kindly volunteered to represent GAMP;
- information on the DCC Leisure Transformation consultation – for reference, the site at Newton Aycliffe will be part of the Stage 2 consultation, currently planned for Spring 2022;
- information on the Greenfield Community College consultation;
- information in relation to Livin's estate walkabouts in GAMP area;
- information on the 'Seriously' antibiotic resistance awareness campaign/World Antibiotics Week from the Co Durham Clinical Commissioning Group.

There were no additional partner updates. BR reminded partners to get in touch if they need space on a future meeting agenda.

4. Local Neighbourhood Issues

4.1 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Insp SH updated Board members in relation to ongoing antisocial behaviour issues, local PACT priorities and meeting dates, crime data, as well as current and emerging issues.

Insp SH also highlighted the following points:

- The GAMP-funded ANPR cameras had proved useful in connection with some recent 2-in-1 burglaries.
- Use of a mobile CCTV camera will be trialled later this week in the town. The local police team, with support from GAMP, local Councillors, DCC and Livin

Housing, are working on a funding bid for mobile cameras for use in the GAMP area, which it is hoped should help in reducing ASB.

- Santa and Mrs Claus will be welcomed back to the Town Centre at the Community Grotto on Saturday 27 November and again on Saturday 11 December, thanks to a funding contribution from local Cllrs.
- Insp SH reminded Board members about the “Keep in the Know” online messaging service, and encouraged everyone to sign up: www.keepintheknow.co.uk

JD asked whether the Police doubling up with fire crews around Bonfire Night had proved successful. MW clarified that the number of deliberate secondary fires had been lower this year than last, with no major incidents.

BR confirmed a copy of Insp SH’s update report will be circulated with the minutes.

5. GAMP Coordinator’s Update

5.1 2021-22 Area Budget Project Callout Update

BR updated Board members in relation to progress with this year’s ‘Community Recovery’ Area Budget project callout. We are now nearing completion of the 20 x funding applications that were supported from our recent Project Callout. To summarise, there are currently 16 project applications now with our Funding Team for technical appraisal, with 4 more projects still to be finalised; once these have been processed, this will see our Area Budget process for this year fully concluded.

BR thanked VG and PSt for their work on this year’s callout, in coordinating all the project applications, and also thanked Panel members for their input.

5.2 Towns & Villages Funding Update

BR updated Board members in relation to this year’s additional £210k funding allocation to support Towns & Villages schemes. We have a subgroup of Board members who are meeting regularly to review potential project proposals and also looking at project development, in conjunction with GAMP’s Towns & Villages Link Officer, Angela Blanchard.

BR clarified that we have submitted 3 x project applications to our Funding Team for technical appraisal, and we have an additional project still in the development stage.

BR reminded Board Members that Elected Members also have an additional £10k to enhance their Neighbourhood Budget this year, for T&Vs schemes – and are being supported by Angela on this.

5.3 2022 GAMP Board Meeting Dates

BR confirmed that a list of 2022 Board meeting dates had been circulated in advance with the meeting papers, for information and to note. BR clarified that Board meetings will continue to take place via Teams until further notice.

BR confirmed that the GAMP team will be commencing their return to office/home hybrid working from this week, after some ongoing IT issues have been resolved.

To adhere to DCC guidelines in relation to room capacity/desk ratios, the team will be in the office on a rota basis, and we will be unable to accept unannounced visitors to the office. Should any Board member require a face-to-face meeting with a member of the team this can be arranged.

Items not on the Agenda

- BR advised Board members that a number of areas across the County are in the process of developing Masterplans, including Newton Aycliffe, and some public consultation events have been arranged. The local event for the GAMP area is arranged for **Wed 8 Dec, 4.00-7.00pm** at the Library, and BR encouraged anyone interested in giving their views to go along to the event. Information will also be circulated once the consultation has officially launched.

6. Date/Time of Next Meeting
Tuesday 25 January 2022, 6:00pm (venue/Teams tbc)

Insp SH/BR thanked all attendees, and the meeting was closed.