

# Notes of the Weardale Area Action Partnership Board Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022



## Online Microsoft Teams

### ATTENDEES

#### Board Members

**Public Representatives:** Joan Warriner (JW)  
Kevin Roddam (KR)  
Adrian Holden (AH)

**Partner Representatives:** Insp Ed Turner – Durham Constabulary (ET)  
Julian Haynes – Voluntary Sector Representative (JH)  
Damian Pearson – Believe Housing (DP)  
Edwin Craggs – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (EW)  
Geoff Paul - Durham County Council (GP)

**Elected Members:** Cllr Anita Savory (AS) – **CHAIR**  
Cllr Helen Barrass – Muggleswick Parish Council (HB)  
Cllr Alison Humble – Stanhope Parish Council (AHu)  
Cllr David Sugden – Wolsingham Parish Council (DS)

#### Officers

Angelina Maddison (AM)  
Tracy Edwards (TE)  
Fiona Barber (FB)

#### Presenters

Bill Lightburn (BL) – Durham County Council  
Jamie Clarkson (JC) – Community Safety Responder

### APOLOGIES

**Elected Representatives:** Trish Chapman – Hunstanworth  
Cllr John Shuttleworth

**Partner Representatives:** Paul Smissen – Business Representative

**Public Representatives:** Richard Lawrie  
Ian Hirst

# **BOARD MEETING**

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She stated that she hopes for a successful year for the Weardale Action Partnership.

Apologies are recorded above.

## **2. Declaration of Interest**

The Chair asked that Board members declare any interests as they arise on the agenda.

## **3. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and Matters Arising**

The notes of this meeting, as printed and circulated, were **AGREED** and confirmed as a true record by those present. There were no matters arising.

## **4. Presentations:**

### **2022/23 County Council Revenue Budget Consultation - Geoff Paul, Durham County Council.**

GP gave a presentation to the Board – a copy of this is held on file. Copies will be circulated to Board members. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting the WAP Team at [weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk)

GP stated that although Durham County Council is in a relatively strong position, there are a number of things which can affect this status which can change quickly and create unavoidable budget pressure.

GP stressed that this is an important opportunity for the Weardale Action Partnership Board Members to have their say on the budget. It was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be forwarded to Board members to allow them time to fully digest the information and come back with any comments or queries. The WAP team will collate any comments received and forward them to GP.

The Chair thanked GP for his presentation.

### **Tri-Responders – An Introduction, Jamie Clarkson**

EC introduced Jamie who is one of two Tri-Responders in the Weardale area. EC advised that the Tri-Responder initiative had been active for approximately 6 years. They have been a big benefit not only to the Police, Fire and Ambulance services but also to the community at large. Their ability to carry out three different roles is a huge advantage and their placement in Weardale means that they are often the earliest to respond in an emergency. They have also been able to build up a greater

knowledge within the community. EC advised that he considered the initiative to be great value for money and said that he would have more if he could.

Jamie explained that the role of the Tri-Responder entails three roles within the three emergency services:

- Firefighter
- PCSO
- 1<sup>st</sup> Responder (NEAS)

Jamie talked the Board through a presentation which gave further details of their role as well as sharing some real scenarios of incidents when the presence of the Tri-Responders made a difference between life or death.

A copy of this presentation is held on file and can be obtained by contacting the WAP Team at [weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk)

The Board were invited to ask questions.

AH asked if the Tri-Responders are exclusive to Weardale. Jamie stated that they are and invited ET to comment further. ET shared that this is a very successful initiative which is seen as an example of best practice. He commented on the good relationship and support they have from the Weardale Action Partnership especially in regard to community awareness of defibrillators. ET advised that discussions are taking place with regard to expanding the programme but cautioned that the model may not be easily transferable. He also stated that the ability of the Tri-Responders to turn their hand to any of their roles proved invaluable during Storm Arwen at the end of 2021.

AM referred to the Tri-Responder role of conducting welfare checks and encouraged Board members to refer people who may need a welfare check either to the WAP team or direct to the Police/Fire Service. She also commented on the links that the emergency services have with both Linda our Rural Advice Worker and Lisa our Community Wellness Coordinator.

The Chair spoke about the Tri-Responders and shared how good they are at communicating with our young people. She thanked Jamie for his presentation and stated how great an asset the Tri-Responders are to Weardale.

KR agreed that they are a great resource and that it must be kept running.

DP commented on their brilliant work. He said that he knew how hard some jobs are and 'hats off' to them for their dedication.

### **Community Risk Management Plan – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority, Edwin Craggs**

EC gave a presentation to the Board regarding the Fire Service's Community Risk Management Plan. He advised that the consultation is open until 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

A copy of the presentation is held on file. Copies can be obtained by contacting the WAP Team at [weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk](mailto:weardaleaap@durham.gov.uk)

It was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be forwarded to Board members to allow them time to fully digest the information and come back with any comments or queries. The WAP team will collate any comments received and forward them to EC.

The Chair thanked EC for his presentation and encouraged Board members to forward comments.

## **5. Weardale Action Partnership Update**

### **Storm Arwen**

The Chair took the opportunity to share a statement she had prepared regarding Storm Arwen.

“Nobody could have predicted or planned for the ferocity and devastation of storm Arwen. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the AAP team. The dedication, compassion and humility shown to the residents of Weardale throughout this time was second to none. The team went over and beyond their duties and demonstrated the care and support to the residents of Weardale over and over again.

I feel it is only fair to include our Emergency Services, the team at Stanhope Watch, our Weardale Policing Team, the Tri Responders who were involved carrying welfare checks etc. It was truly inspiring to witness such strong working relationships promoting the highest standard of Teamwork. Thanks to all involved for their patience and their contribution.”

### **Return to Office Update**

AM advised that under the government’s Plan B restrictions, the team are now back to working from home. AM reminded Board members that the team are always available and that there is scope to meet people face to face under strict guidelines if necessary.

### **Leisure Team Apprenticeships (Sports Activators)**

AM advised Board members that the vacancies are live for the apprenticeships we have funded. She reminded them that applicants must reside in Weardale in order to be eligible to apply. She also encouraged all Board members to share this information with anyone who may be interested in the position.

### **Board Member Resignation**

AM advised that Paul Smissen, Business Representative has resigned from the Board. She asked Board members to let her know of any suggestions as to who could be approached to be the new Business Representative. The Chair asked that a letter of thanks be dispatched to Paul to thank him for his work on behalf of the Weardale Action Partnership.

### **Storm Arwen**

AM advised that there will be an investigation following the catastrophic effect of Storm Arwen. She advised that there were lots of lessons to be learned. She stated that she was proud of the AAP team who were on site for a week and a half from the

Monday following the storm. She also stated that she was disappointed by some media reports which did not show the true resilience of Weardale residents.

### **Fun & Food**

AM advised that a report is being compiled with details of the Fun & Food and Area Budget Children's Activities projects.

KR shared that he had attended one of the Christmas activities at Harehope Quarry with his 3 grandchildren and other family members. He stated that he had been very impressed with the preparation for the day. He and his grandchildren had read a story, made a reindeer, stickman and Christmas tree. They had also been fortunate enough to see two deer silhouetted across the sky.

He also shared that the activities continued with the bag of food and activities that they took away with them. He stated that it couldn't have been any better and gave a big thank you to everyone involved.

AM spoke about the Board Ambassador role and how it is opportunities to participate in projects like this that give Board members a real feel for the difference the Weardale Action Partnership makes when supporting and funding projects.

AM advised that applications are currently open for agencies to deliver activities in Weardale during February half-term. **Closing date for applications is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

## **6. Covid Recovery – Area Budget 2021-22 Overview**

AM reminded the Board of the funding streams available.

### **Towns and Villages Funding - £210,000**

BL shared how impressed he was with the work of the Weardale Action Partnership. Everything seems to be positive, and the Tri-Responders are a fantastic example of partnership working. He said that he was 'blown away' by it and that he was pleased to be involved in it. The Chair stated that although she may be biased, she firmly believes that the WAP Team and Board are the best. She reminded Board members that Weardale is often used for pilot schemes. She thanked BL for his comments.

BL gave an update on the various projects which are being considered for Towns and Villages funding. He advised that since the last Board meeting, Stanhope Community Centre has withdrawn its application and Witton-le-Wear Community Centre have submitted an Expression of Interest.

### **ANPR Cameras**

BL advised that he had received an email earlier today advising that £2500 of direct match funding has been confirmed as well as the £5000 in-kind match funding. The applicant has now been invited to submit an online application. Once received this will be circulated to Board Members for approval.

AM advised Board members that Cllr Anita Savory will be using her Towns and Villages allocation within her Neighbourhood Budget for this project.

#### **Weardale Museum**

The applicant had been advised to re-focus their project and also to look for additional match funding. This is underway, with applications to other funding bodies in process.

#### **Stanhope Open Air Swimming Pool – JH declared an interest**

BL advised that a lot of work has been undertaken with regard to this project working alongside JH. BL shared that he is also utilising existing contacts within Sports and Leisure and has received input from Swim England as well as other DCC colleagues. He advised that there had been an offer of a visit from the National Facilities Manager of Swim England who will give advice on require capital investment which will help to inform decision making. BL stated that it is vitally important to reach an agreement on either purchasing the land where the swimming pool is situated or extending the lease. Without this, no funding will be able to be secured.

#### **Weardale Way Walkers Shelter (2 Views from a Thicket)**

BL advised that unfortunately the bid for match funding had been unsuccessful. This project is now under review.

#### **All Saints Trail Pilgrimage Centre – HB declared an interest**

BL advised that a follow up meeting had taken place last week. The project is linked to a wider North East scheme under the banner of 'Rural Churches for Everyone'. This scheme looks at rural churches as community heritage assets. More information, costings and detailed quotes are currently being obtained. Additionally, sources of external match funding opportunities are being investigated as these would strengthen their application to WAP.

#### **Killhope Museum**

Killhope is currently closed for the winter. This application will be progressed once it reopens in the spring.

#### **Witton-le-Wear Community Centre**

The application is for a range of structural / facility improvements. Work is underway to acquire quotations to support the application. EOI could be ready in a few weeks' time as the project is keen to move quickly. AM clarified that this application had gone straight to consideration for Towns & Villages funding due to the level of funding required.

AM reminded Board members that not all of these projects would be funded in their entirety. She also advised that applications are still welcome for Towns & Villages funding as there is not only our funding available but also a county-wide pot.

#### **Covid Recovery Funding - £100,000**

AM noted the small overspend on Covid Recovery and confirmed that there is scope for funding to be moved between streams.

AM stated that the Fun & Food money is not detailed on the slide due to its fluctuating nature.

AM gave an update on projects.

**Opportunities for Enrichment, £23,110 – Project Complete**

£1,530 of underspend has been returned.

**Weardale Sports Apprentices, £61,179 – Project Underway**

Recruitment is underway – see above (Item 5)

**Low Barns, £10,800 – Undergoing Appraisal**

**Walking Hockey and Walking Netball, Durham Dales Hockey £7,049 – Undergoing Appraisal**

**Budget fully allocated with an overspend of £608**

**Area Budget Funding - £100,000**

**Eastgate Christmas Lights, £21,474 – Project Complete, Monitoring Underway**

AM reported that the lights were amazing. She advised that she would like to see the same in other settlements in Weardale. As in previous projects, the infrastructure would be the priority.

**Weardale Accessible Support Service, Citizen's Advice, £9,635 + £10,000 (Welfare Reform) – Project Underway**

**Witton-le-Wear Youth Club, £3,598 + £9,902 (Youth Fund) = £13,500 Total Project – Project Underway**

**Fire Cadets and Tri-Responder Training, £8,150 – Board Approved, with Appraisal Team**

**A Close-Knit Community, £5,963 – Board Approved, with Appraisal Team**

**Weardale WordFest, £7,000 – Board Approved, with Appraisal Team**

**'HUB'ble Bubble Hopefully No Trouble - £5,300 – Requires Board Approval – AHu Declared an Interest**

This application has been circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. Any comments already submitted have been taken on board.

AH asked why laptops were needed as when someone works from home, their employer supplies the necessary equipment. AM confirmed that one laptop has been requested in order to meet the needs of people who are sharing electrical equipment at home. Only one laptop will be purchased at the start of the project and its use monitored. The second one will only be required if it is proven to be needed. AM stated that she is confident that the applicant will manage this effectively.

HB raised the question of security of software. AM confirmed that all relevant security software will be installed. The computer itself will be logged in and out.

**AM confirmed that as Coordinator she supports this project.**

**The Board APPROVED the application.**

**Welfare Reform Funding - £10,000**

**Weardale Accessible Support Service, Citizen's Advice, £10,000 + £9,635 (Area Budget) – Project Underway**

**Budget fully allocated.**

**Youth Fund - £9,902**

**Witton-le-Wear Youth Club - £9,902 + £3,598 Area Budget – Project Underway**

**Budget fully allocated.**

**Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund - £25,000**

**Community Wellness Coordinator, Weardale Community Partnership, £25,000 – Project Underway**

AM spoke about the invaluable assistance Lisa had given during the aftermath of Storm Arwen. She was the 'eyes and ears' on the ground and was able to provide real-time information and enable the correct support to be given. Her local knowledge of vulnerable residents not on NPG's vulnerable register was crucial in ensuring everyone received help that needed it. The Chair agreed that Lisa's knowledge of local addresses especially those off the main roads was crucial.

**Budget fully allocated.**

**Expressions of Interest / Projects In Development**

**Music at the Heart of Teesdale**

Costings have reduced when joining the project with Teesdale AAP. Awaiting confirmation of TAP Board decision.

**Empowering People**

Discussions are still underway.

**Frosterley Village Hall**

Requirements are currently being assessed.

**Wearhead Village Hall**

New EOI. Potential refurbishment project – requirements currently being assessed.

**Norman Wright Pavilion, Wearhead**



New EOI. Repairs and renovation work.

AM reminded Board members that new ideas for projects are always welcome. She also confirmed that any remaining Area Budget can be rolled over into 2022-23.

## **6. Neighbourhood Budget 2021-22 Overview**

### **Cllr Savory Neighbourhood Budget**

- Running Costs and Referee provision - Wolsingham Football Club – with Appraisal team
- Benches in Wolsingham – Durham County Council – with Appraisal team
- Rights of Way Improvements - Wolsingham Wayfarers – with Appraisal team

### **Cllr Savory Neighbourhood Budget - Small Grants Fund Element**

- Transport to RHS Flower Show – Weardale Flower and Garden Club
- Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch – Wolsingham School

Cllr AS explained that the Seniors lunch is open to all elderly members of Weardale. Community Transport is used to bring them to the school. All who attend get so much from attending the event.

### **Cllr Savory Neighbourhood Budget – Towns and Villages Element**

- ANPR Cameras – Durham Police (In Development)
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### **Cllr Shuttleworth Neighbourhood Budget**

- Wolsingham Football Academy

AM confirmed that it is possible for councillors to roll their budget into 2022-23 but not into the year after that.

The Chair thanked AM for the budget update and commented that it showed a lot of fantastic work and fantastic projects.

## **7. Countywide Partner Issues**

AM drew the Boards attention to two consultations which were detailed in the agenda. She encouraged Board members to have their say:

### **Libraries consultation**

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/26791/Council-seeks-views-on-what-library-services-people-want-for-themselves-their-family-and-their-community>

### **2022 Police & Crime Commissioners precept consultation**

<https://DurhamPCC.welcomesyourfeedback.net/x3xzq9>

DP mentioned Believe Housing's Large Community Revenue Grant between £5,000 - £10,000. It is open for applications from 14<sup>th</sup> January. The grant is open to all not-for-profit groups that operate where Believe Housing has properties.

The grant closes on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. Full details are on their web site <https://www.believehousing.co.uk/in-your-neighbourhood/believe-housing-community-grants/large-community-grant-5000-10000/>

## **8. Dates and Times of Future Meetings**

The next Board meeting will take place on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 6:00pm** and will take place online via Microsoft Teams.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions.

She offered her thanks to Angelina, Tracy and Fiona for the amount of work which takes place in the background – especially the details required to prepare applications for submission to the funding team. She reminded Board members that the WAP team are always at the end of the phone for any queries.

The Chair closed the meeting.