

Notes of the Weardale Area Action Partnership AGM & Board Meeting – 28th April 2022

Eastgate Village Hall



ATTENDEES

Board Members

Public Representatives: Will Wearmouth (WW)
Kevin Roddam (KR)
Adrian Holden (AH)
Richard Lawrie (RL)

Partner Representatives: Damian Pearson (DP) – believe housing-**CHAIR (Incoming)**
Adam Heslington (AH) – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
Jamie Clarkson (JC) – County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
Insp. Ed Turner (PS) – Durham Constabulary

Elected Members: Cllr Anita Savory (AS) – **CHAIR (Outgoing)**
Cllr Jeff Bell (JB) – Wolsingham Parish Council
Cllr Olive Wilson (OW) – Witton-le-Wear Parish Council

Officers

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

Presenters

Bill Lightburn (BL) – Durham County Council
Jill Essam (JE) – Harehope Quarry

APOLOGIES

Public Representatives: Ian Hirst

Elected Representatives: Cllr John Shuttleworth
Trish Chapman – Hunstanworth
Cllr Helen Barrass – Muggleswick Parish Council

Partner Representatives: Geoff Paul - Durham County Council
Julian Haynes – Voluntary Sector Representative

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented how wonderful it is to be able to meet together in person once again.

Introductions were made around the table.

Apologies are recorded above.

The Chair noted the resignations of two Board members: Parish Cllr Alison Humble who has resigned from Stanhope Parish Council and is therefore no longer their representative; and Public Representative Lindsay Warren who has tendered her resignation due to other commitments. AM advised that the WAP team have contacted the Parish Clerk for Stanhope Parish Council to request confirmation of their new representative.

The Chair requested that letters are written to both Alison and Lindsay to thank them for their service to the Weardale Action Partnership and for the expertise they brought with them during their time on the Board.

2. Area Budget Update

AM reminded Board members of the budgets that had been available during 2021/22. She advised that the unspent £17,264 of Area Budget has been rolled over into the 2022/23 financial year. A full list of the Area Budget projects supported can be found in Appendix 1 or in the Annual Report.

3. Neighbourhood Budget Update

AM shared the Neighbourhood Budget spend of both Cllr Savory and Cllr Shuttleworth. Details of the projects supported can be found in Appendix 2. AM advised that any underspend from this year can be rolled forward into 2022/23. She advised that all Neighbourhood Budget projects must be fully allocated by the end of this financial year.

4. Annual Report

AM shared that the copy of the Annual Report provided prior to the meeting is in draft format and can be amended in any way the Board see fit. The Board were invited to approve the report.

The Board APPROVED and ACCEPTED the Annual Report.

The WAP team will now complete the process to receive the final copy of the report and share this with the Board.

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

Cllr AS announced that it was time for her to step down as Chair of WAP. She stated: "The work of the AAP is absolutely fantastic for Weardale and its residents. There is a lot of networking which is in evidence through our Board members. Thank you for your cooperation during the last year. Thanks to Ed for his support as Vice Chair.

The WAP team go the extra mile – they have given hours of unpaid work to Weardale. Especially during Storm Arwen when they were everywhere. They go over and beyond helping people everywhere.

Thanks for being a part of the Weardale Action Partnership.”

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

AM explained how the position of Chair rotates through the three sectors on the Board – Elected, Partner, Public. This year the Chair falls to the Partner section. Damian Pearson is the only Partner representative to express an interest in being Chair.

Board Members **AGREED** to Damian Pearson becoming Chair of the Weardale Action Partnership in 2022-23.

AM explained that the role of Vice Chair is important as if a decision is ever required to be made quickly, a quick meeting of the Chair and Vice Chairs can be arranged to discuss. Richard Lawrie expressed an interest in being Vice Chair for the Public Sector and Cllr Anita Savory for the Elected Sector.

Board Members **AGREED** to Richard Lawrie (Public) and Cllr Anita Savory (Elected) becoming Vice-Chairs of the Weardale Action Partnership in 2022-23.

DP took the Chair.

BOARD MEETING

1. Declaration of Interest

The Chair asked for any Declarations of Interest.

Cllr AS declared an interest in Wolsingham Flower Festival
RL & WW declared an interest in Ashcroft Play Area.

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

2. Agreement of Notes from Board Meeting held on 10th March 2022 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.

3. Presentations:

Holiday Activities and Healthy Food projects with the Weardale Area Action Partnership - Jill Essam, Harehope Quarry.

Jill gave a presentation to the Board which reported on 11 Fun and Food projects which have taken place between May 2020 and February 2022. Jill explained that each project had differed in terms of delivery and topics but that all of them had included:

- Food and activities delivered door to door, from schools, from village halls or face to face

- Activities which have encouraged families outside
- Food in the form of bags of food essentials, cooking activities, healthy snacks and packed lunches

Jill explained that some of the activities which took place while children were not at school due to the pandemic had contained educational elements as well.

Jill relayed her concerns to the Board that despite their best efforts she felt that they were struggling to reach families who are entitled to Free School Meals. This has been especially apparent since a return to face-to-face deliveries began. Additionally, the face-to-face delivery is more suited to primary age children than secondary and so many children entitled to this offer are being missed. She also identified that access to transport could be an issue – however, she also explained that transport and travel costs had been on offer and there had been no take up.

Jill shared with Board members her frustration at an increasingly complex application and monitoring process and the impression she has that some of the funding criteria does not allow for projects to meet the current needs of families in the Dale.

DP thanked Jill for her presentation and stated that the range of activities provided, and outcomes achieved by Harehope Quarry is impressive. He offered the thanks of the Board for her flexibility in delivering these projects.

AS commented that these activities have been excellent in encouraging children to spend time away from their screens.

AM stated that Jill and her team have done an outstanding job. She explained that she has already shared Jill's concerns with the Fun & Food team in terms of the complexity of the process. She advised that some of these concerns have been listened to and are being addressed.

AM advised that initial discussions have taken place to find a way of delivering the same activities but via the Area Budget instead.

4. Weardale Action Partnership Update

2022/23 WAP Budgets

AM circulated a copy of a report on next year's budgets – this will be discussed in more detail under Item 5.

Resilience Planning

AM explained that the WAP are still working on fallout from Storm Arwen. Stanhope Parish Council are developing their own Resilience Plan which can incorporate any settlement who do not wish to have their own plan in place. AM reminded the Board that Eastgate has already begun to develop their own Resilience Plan. She also stressed that the needs of each community vary greatly and so bespoke plans are crucial to enable the emergency service to have access to accurate information if needed.

Return to Office Update

AM reminded the Board that the WAP team is now back in the office for at least 3 days a week under the new hybrid working model. She stressed that team members will be in Weardale when needed as the team's first priority is the needs of the community.

5. WAP Budgets Update

AM shared with the Board the budgets available to the Weardale Action Partnership in 2022/23. These are as follows:

Area Budget	£100,000
Welfare Reform	£10,000
Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund	£25,000
AAP Youth Fund	£9,902
Young People – Healthy Relationships	£10,000 - NEW
Towns & Villages	£210,000
Total	<hr/> £364,902

AM explained that the new funding stream of £10,000 for Young People – Healthy Relationships is designed to support young people with their peers and families and has the long-term aim of preventative work around domestic violence and self-esteem.

AM advised that Teesdale Action Partnership have already approached her to ask if there is a possibility of joining forces and creating a project which will cover the rural areas of Weardale and Teesdale.

AM reminded Board members that for the past few years the OPSIF money has been used to fund the Wellness Coordinator position. AM explained that Board members are welcome to look at other ideas for this funding if they so wish.

AM also reminded the Board that the £10,000 Welfare Reform budget has been used over the past 8 years to fund a dedicated Citizens Advice Worker for Weardale – Linda Pearson. AM stressed that the Board does not know which individuals she works with but do receive reports on numbers of clients and outcomes. For example, last year she identified around £60,000 of unclaimed benefits in one quarter alone.

AM explained that the Expressions of Interest received so far for Towns & Villages funding are in excess of £800,000 – far more than is available in the £210,000 budget. AM also reminded Board members that each Councillor was given an additional £10,000 of Towns & Villages funding – Cllr AS has already committed hers to an ANPR project. AM explained that there is only 18 months left on the Towns & Villages project so we are hoping to see more development on these projects in the coming months.

AM stated that all pots of funding are widely advertised, and Expressions of Interest welcomed.

Fun & Food funding

AM advised the Board that confirmation had been received earlier that day that the WAP will receive almost £20,000 for holiday activities with healthy food projects. Additionally, WAP will receive an additional sum (actual amount yet to be confirmed) to cover the half term holidays.

AM explained that this is a challenging budget to manage as the application and monitoring processes are constantly changing, budgets are not identified until very close to delivery and the WAP team and projects involved have no access to Free

School Meal eligibility information. AM reassured Board members that we have been able to deliver the projects we wanted to despite overspending our allocation as we have accessed underspend from other AAPs.

Fun & Food Summer Programme

AM explained that 2 organisations have submitted applications for funding during the summer holidays: Witton-le-Wear Youth Group and ATOMS.

- Witton-le-Wear Youth group propose to hold 8 sessions over 4 weeks to include 2 trips.
- ATOMS propose 2 sessions – 1 at Wolsingham, 1 in the Upper Dale.

AM explained that ATOMS is an established provider elsewhere in the county but new to Weardale. AM reminded the Board that all of these activities are open to all Weardale children regardless of which part of the dale they live in.

Depiction of Budget

Board members discussed how they would like the information to be presented regarding budgets in the coming year and agreed to keep the hexagonal graphic.

AM explained that Neighbourhood Budget allocations are kept separate to the other WAP Budget information as these are at the discretion of each councillor.

Neighbourhood Budget – Platinum Jubilee Additional Funding

AM explained that each County Councillor had received an additional £300 of funding for their local communities to help them as they celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllr AS advised that her allocation is going to Wolsingham School who are holding a tea for senior citizens who live anywhere in Weardale. These activities increase social and community cohesion as young people get the opportunity to interact with the older generations. The Chair spoke highly of the interaction between students and guests that he had witnessed at a similar previous event.

Towns and Villages Funding - £210,000

BL gave a brief update on the various projects which are being considered for Towns and Villages funding. He explained that the projects under consideration are large-scale projects which demand extensive research and development therefore progress can appear to be slow.

ANPR Cameras – AS Declared an Interest

BL advised that an offer of grant was made on 8th March 2022. This funding comes from Cllr Anita Savory's Towns and Villages allocation within her Neighbourhood Budget (£10,000).

ET spoke about the benefits of ANPR cameras. He advised that standard police use of ANPR cameras would not cover rural areas therefore contributions towards ANPR cameras in Weardale are of immense benefit to tackling crime in the area. ANPR cameras have helped to locate vulnerable people, catch criminals as they enter or exit the area and provide information relating to county lines criminal activities and drug related offences. ET reiterated that ANPR cameras are not speed cameras.

Muggleswick Church

No further update.

Witton-le-Wear Community Centre

No further update. BL advised that he had experienced difficulties in contacting the applicant. OW offered to assist him with this.

Stanhope Open Air Swimming Pool – JH declared an interest

BL advised that a site visit from Swim England (technical appraisal) took place on 6th April. The applicant has reported that the visit was positive with some good ideas resulting from it. Currently awaiting the issue of the report.

Weardale Museum

BL reported that the Museum have had two successful applications for additional match funding and are awaiting the outcome of further applications before bringing an application to the WAP.

Ashcroft MUGA / Play Area Refurbishment – RL & WW declared an interest

An Expression of Interest was circulated to Board members. AM advised that the decision for the Board was whether they would like a full application for this project to be submitted.

The project is designed to refurbish, update and upgrade the existing MUGA on Ashcroft estate. There is currently a tarmac surface which is breaking up and is loose. The surface also holds water and is not fit for purpose. The floodlighting is no longer working but the electricity supply to the lighting is intact.

BL advised that there are two similar projects in development within the county and he had taken the opportunity to bring in a sports pitch consultancy to give ballpark costings for the required works. He advised that the tarmac resurfacing would be between £12-£17,000+VAT and a further £15,000+VAT for lamps (new LED) assuming all infrastructure is sound. BL stated that these costs are indicative and based on industry knowledge – they are not firm quotations. He shared that in his opinion these costs would not be too far away giving a maximum £32,000 project.

BL advised that there are a number of options with regard to how the work is carried out – including an option to ask the company who gave the costings to run the entire scheme which would add an additional element for project management – between £4,300 and £6,400.

BL shared that this is a valuable facility for the community and asked the Board whether in principle they would support the development of a full application.

Cllr AS stated that the area is dilapidated and poorly lit. She said that it has become an eyesore and can attract Anti-Social Behaviour. Young people need somewhere to go.

The Board APPROVED that the applicant be invited to submit a full application.

Light Up The Dale

AM advised that Stanhope Market Place needs its own independent electrical supply to provide the electricity for the Christmas tree lighting. Previously the wire fed across the road. AM stated that it is important to get the infrastructure right.

The infrastructure installation is estimated to cost over £10,000 (new connection supply, feeder pillars, full set of lights and labour) with an additional £5,000 required for light fittings. It is hoped that the project could be completed in time for Christmas 2022.

AM clarified that it will be up to the organisation who takes on the liability for the equipment going forward as to whether the supply can be used for anything other than the Christmas lights. OW explained that the feeder supply box in Witton-le-Wear was only powerful enough for Christmas tree lights and wouldn't be able to supply a fairground ride for example.

The Board APPROVED that the applicant be invited to submit a full application.

WAP Small Grants Fund 2022/23

FB explained that there were some updates regarding the Small Grants Fund requiring the Boards attention.

Board Ambassadors

FB explained that the role of the Board Ambassador is to visit projects which have received funding from the SGF and to report back to the Board in order to give the Board a fuller understanding of the difference our funding makes. Projects which required Board Ambassadors were detailed and Board members put their names forward as follows.

Fusion Art – Cllr AS
Eastgate Village Hall Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – WW
Wearhead Bowls Club – AH
Zoo Lab at Stanhope Barrington Primary School – RL
Thornley Village Hall – Cllr AS

FB will liaise with the groups and the Board Ambassadors to find a mutually convenient time to arrange a visit.

Potential Application – Stanhope Barrington Primary London Trip

FB advised that she was seeking direction from the Board regarding a potential application to the Small Grants Fund. We were approached by the Head Teacher to ask if the Appraisal Panel would consider an application to the SGF for transport to London for pupils from Year 5&6. With limited information available, the panel felt that the project had the potential to exclude some pupils due to family financial constraints. FB shared that when she relayed this to the Head Teacher, she provided additional information which evidenced that no family would be disadvantaged due to not being able to afford it. The school shared that all pupils (except 2 who are on a family holiday) will be participating and currently all families have indicated they are happy to pay the full amount. This application towards transport would relieve the financial pressure on each family significantly and is therefore more inclusive than previously understood.

Board members discussed this potential project and AGREED that the applicant could be invited to make a full application

Appraisal Panel

FB advised that several applications have been received and an Appraisal Panel is required to consider them. **The Board AGREED that FB would send potential dates and times via email, and they will respond with preferred options.**

6. Neighbourhood Budget 2022-23 Overview

AM explained that councillors have been permitted to rollover unspent Neighbourhood Budget allocations from 2021/22 into this financial year. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Budgets are:

Cllr Savory

£19,400 – Neighbourhood Budget (Capital £14,000, Revenue £5,400)

£3,247 – Rolled over from 2021/22

£22,647 – Total available Neighbourhood Budget

Cllr Shuttleworth

£19,400 – Neighbourhood Budget (Capital £14,000, Revenue £5,400)

£16,000 – Rolled over from 2021/22

£10,000 – Towns & Villages Allocation

£45,000 – Total available Neighbourhood Budget

Cllr Shuttleworth has allocated funding to two projects from his Neighbourhood Budget for this year. These are:

- Stanhope Photographic Society
- High Pennine Horticultural Society

7. Weardale Action Partnership Showcase – Wolsingham Flower Festival

DP declared an interest

AS shared details of the upcoming Flower Festival – supplying a flyer for each Board member to take away with them and to display as they see fit within their local community. She explained that there is the opportunity for other events to take place during the time of the Flower Festival. AS explained her concept of using the event to showcase the work of the Weardale Action Partnership as so many people are not aware of the extent of the projects we have supported over the years. Representatives from Durham County Council will be in attendance, and it is an opportunity to show off Weardale Action Partnership.

AS asked Board members to contribute to the event by emailing details of their favourite projects – perhaps one that has made a huge difference in their local community. She stressed that without the Weardale Action Partnership over the last decade, Weardale would not have received so much benefit.

As well as the WAP showcase which will take place on Wednesday 18th May at 6:00pm, there will be a concert by Stanhope Silver Band and the Police Band on Saturday 21st May at 7:00pm and on Sunday 18th May there will be a Service of Celebration at 3:00pm.

AS asked Board members to encourage people to attend.

8. Countywide Partner Issues

Community Speedwatch

ET spoke about the Community Speedwatch Van. The police often receive complaints about speeding. ET explained that there are three categories of speeding:

1. Real speeding – either accidental or deliberate
2. Perceived speeding
3. Inappropriate speeding

ET explained that the Community Speedwatch Van will help to deal with community-based complaints. Utilising the van means that work can be carried out in all weathers. The vans will be staffed with PCSOs and Tri-Responders as well as volunteers from the local community who are trained to use the equipment. The information gathered helps to decide whether to increase enforcement work within the area. Education is more effective than enforcement.

ET invited Board members to the launch of the Community Speedwatch Van which takes place on Thursday 5th May – Staindrop (AM); St John's Chapel (PM).

believe housing Capital Grant

DP advised that believe housing's Large Community Capital Grant fund which considers applications between £10,000 and £20,000. The fund closes on 13th May. Any community group can apply. Details can be found on their website <https://www.believehousing.co.uk/in-your-neighbourhood/believe-housing-community-grants/large-community-capital-grant/>

9. Dates and Times of Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Weardale Action Partnership Board will take place on **Thursday 9th June, 6:00pm. Board members suggested using** Eastgate Village Hall as the venue again.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Appendix 1

Covid Recovery Funding - £100,000

Monitoring Complete

- Opportunities for Enrichment – Weardale Adventure Centre – £23,110
Note: (£1,530 underspend returned)

Projects Underway

- Weardale Sports Apprentices - £61,179
- Low Barns Volunteers - £10,800
- Durham Dales Hockey – Walking Hockey and Walking Netball - £7,050

Budget fully allocated with an overspend of £609

Area Budget Funding - £100,000

Monitoring Complete

- Eastgate Christmas Lights - £21,474

Projects Underway

- Weardale Accessible Support Service – Citizen's Advice - £9,635
(Jointly funded with Welfare Reform budget + £10,000 = £19,635 Total)
- Witton-le-Wear Youth Club - £3,598
(Jointly Funded with Youth Fund budget +£9,902 = £13,500 Total)
- A Close Knit Community - £5,954
- Fire Cadets and Tri-Responder Training - £8,150
- Weardale WordFest - £7,128
- 'HUB'ble Bubble Hopefully No Trouble - £5,300
- Music in the Durham Dales - £4,086
- Teesdale and Weardale Mountain Search and Rescue Team – £11,418

Projects Approved by WAP Board and currently with Appraisal Team

- Empowering People - £5,384

Overspend to Covid Recovery Budget - £609

Area Budget Allocated £82,736

Area Budget Remaining £17,264

Remaining budget will be rolled over into 2022/23 financial

Welfare Reform - £10,000

Project Underway

Weardale Accessible Support Service – Citizen's Advice - £10,000
(Jointly funded with Area Budget + £9,635 = £19,635 Total Project)

Budget fully allocated

Youth Fund - £9,902

Project Underway

Witton-le-Wear Youth Club - **£9,902**

(Jointly funded with Area Budget + £3,598 = £13,500 Total Project)

Budget fully allocated

Older People's Social Isolation Fund - £25,000

Project Underway

Community Wellness Coordinator – Weardale Community Partnership - **£25,000**

Budget fully allocated

Appendix 2.

Neighbourhood Budget

Neighbourhood Budget (NB) Allocation per councillor - £19,400

- **Capital £14,000; Revenue £5,400**
 - of which £3,000 can be used on NB small grants in 2021/22
- **Town & Villages -£10,000**

Cllr Anita Savory

Neighbourhood Budget

- Running Costs and Referee provision - Wolsingham Football Club
- Benches in Wolsingham – Durham County Council
- Rights of Way Improvements - Wolsingham Wayfarers
- Flower Festival – WRECASS **(DOI - Board Approved 10/02/2022)**

Small Grants Fund

- Transport to RHS Flower Show – Weardale Flower and Garden Club
- Senior Citizens Christmas Meal - Wolsingham School
- Keeping Fit and Active – Blind Life

Towns and Villages

- ANPR Cameras – Durham Police **(DOI - Board Approved 10/02/2022)**

Cllr John Shuttleworth

Neighbourhood Budget

- Wolsingham Football Academy
- Frosterley Newsletter – Frosterley Village Hall

Small Grants Fund

- Jubilee Celebration - Barrington Bites
- Wool – A Close Knit Community