

East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Minutes of the
Board Meeting
Tuesday 19 July 2022
Coxhoe Village Hall, Front Street East, Coxhoe, DH6 4DB

Board Members

Attendance: Cllr David Brown, Parish Cllr Sandra Dowson, Allan Blakemore, Stuart Dunn, Cllr Gary Hutchinson, Cllr Jan Blakey, Mark Readman, Insp Sarah Honeyman (part of), George Storey

Officer Attendance: Jane Bellis – AAP Co-ordinator
Claire Craft – Community Development Project Officer
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Presenter: Jenny Wood, Principal Consultant, ERS

Forum Members

Attendance: 2 forum members attended the meeting

Apologies from

Board Members: Cllr Chris Lines, Kester Noble, Mel Carr, Cllr Chris Varty, Christine Carter, Angela Stobbart, Dave Tempest

1 **Introductions and Apologies**

In the absence of Cllr Chris Varty, Allan Blakemore chaired the meeting. He welcomed everyone to the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Board Meeting and a round of introductions followed.

A warm welcome was offered to our new Board members - Cllr Sandra Dowson from Fishburn Parish Council (Town and Parish Council representative); Mark Readman, Head of Highways (Durham County Council representative); and Dave Tempest, Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (Fire representative).

A special welcome was offered to Jenny Wood, the Principal Consultant from ERS who are leading on the Community Engagement Review. Board Members had received the Cabinet report on this subject back in March, and with the papers for this meeting as a refresher.

Apologies [see above].

The Chair highlighted that although the names of Board and Forum members are not included in the body of the minutes; advice given in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), is that as board minutes are made public, anyone who wishes to remain anonymous should state this.

Board members were referred to the Declaration of Interest statement at the top of the agenda.

Anyone present who had a conflict of interest in any item on the agenda was asked to declare an interest at the start of the agenda item to ensure this was formally recorded in the meeting minutes.

Note: No business could be formally agreed as the meeting was not quorum. The AAP Co-ordinator will seek consensus for any decisions taken in principle from absent Board members via email.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 May 2022 & Matters Arising

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy. There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3 Community Engagement Review: ERS Research and Consultancy Approach

Jenny Wood, Principal Consultant, ERS delivered a presentation on the Community Engagement Review: ERS Research and Consultancy Approach.

Once the review is complete, the recommendations and options will be consulted on, and the final report and implementation plan will go to Cabinet in December 2022.

The Chair thanked Jenny for her presentation and the meeting was opened for discussion –

- ❖ Small rural areas within the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP (EDRC AAP) could be forgotten about and could easily be overlooked without the AAP.
- ❖ Should AAPs go, it would be a big miss in our community.
- ❖ We don't want to get swallowed up with other AAPs.
- ❖ When asked if 14 AAPs are too many or too few, and are boundaries correct; a Board Member said 'it's really apparent that if we didn't have the AAP here it would be difficult to support the community as the AAP do a good job of co-ordinating the villages, projects and partners. The AAP is important here as there are so many areas. We certainly don't need less AAPs'.
- ❖ A Board member commented on being resistant to change as they like what the AAPs had been set up to do, and that we bring senior officers along to meetings to consult on subjects important to members of the community, rather than it being hidden in a piece of paper somewhere that may not be seen, and link to Town and Parish Councils and other partners. He also said that people felt closer to the district councils, and

this would have been lost when the unitary authority came about if it wasn't for AAPs.

Jenny said that it was coming through clearly already from the people she had spoken to so far that AAPs were important in moving away from the districts/boroughs, and that the money side of things and match funding attracted was invaluable.

Jenny also told Board Members that they would be in touch soon (next few weeks) with either survey links, invites to interview or focus group invites for their opinions, and said they had not been instructed to make savings.

4 Local Neighbourhood Issues (LNI)

4.1 Locality Policing Issues

Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman provided an update on local policing issues –

- They had seen an increase in anti-social behaviour in Trimdon Village and Trimdon Grange.
- There had been a problem with rubbish being left in Hardwick Park, Sedgfield, and the installation of cameras in the park was being looked at as an option.
- No Police Officers will be joining the force until March/April 2023; anyone who leaves however, will be replaced.

Discussion ensued around anti-social behaviour and the work that was progressing on that in relation to the possible roll out of re-deployable cameras following success in Aycliffe. They will be asking Durham County Council to lead on this, and Sarah said she would provide an update later.

Update from Insp Phil Carter – Peterlee Team

- Insp Phil Carter is the new Insp for the Peterlee Team, and he will be coming along to the September Board meeting.
- There had been no spike in anti-social behaviour.
- Off road bikes are still an issue; a countywide initiative will be carried out shortly.
- Received some funding for Section 59 notices and these had been ordered. [Section 59 warning notices are used in relation to anti-social behaviour use of motor vehicles. They are free to those who want to display the warning].
- Fires – several youths had been identified and working is ongoing to tackle this issue.
- Burglaries had increased in June.
- Staffing – no one is acting up and 4 x PCSOs had been welcomed.

Update from Sgt Kevin Hall - Sherburn Team

- PC Mark Ogilvie had recently left the team after working in the EDRC AAP area for the last 15 years. Mark was a valued and very community

knowledgeable member of the team who worked closely with the partners, parish, and county councillors in the area.

- They had seen an increase in anti-social behaviour within the Bowburn area and are working with their partners; Durham County Council Anti-Social Behaviour, Wardens, Councillors, social housing providers and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to address this increase.

Two forum members (one of which was present at the meeting) had raised the following with the AAP team; and this had been passed onto Sarah and Dave Tempest, the Fire representative on the Board -

I would have liked to raise the issue of fires being set in our area. There have been a number recently between Bowburn and Old Quarrington including the farmer's bales along the Old Quarrington road. There has also been damage to the OQ sign (now repaired) which may in fact be related to the fires.

There was also a case of arson on the Integra site near the Greggs drive thru.

Stuart Dunn informed the meeting that fires had been a real problem in Coxhoe Park however, since CCTV had been installed, the number of fires had reduced.

Cllr Jan Blakey asked for an update from the Fire representative in relation to what had been discussed at this meeting in relation to the problem with fires in our area.

It was hoped that the re-deployable cameras would be funded and rolled out to help combat these issues.

[Sarah Honeyman left the meeting]

5 Priority Updates (from Task Group and Projects)

5.1 Community Recovery Project Summary

Jane reported that the next Task Group is scheduled for the 28th of July, so rather than wait until the 27th of September Board meeting, we'll email Board members for a decision on whether projects should be funded to ensure there's no hold up.

Project summaries from the applications received that will be discussed in detail at the Task Group will be provided just as they are prior to a Board meeting. 5 applications have been received.

Board members had previously received a project summary in relation to the Youth Links project from The Cornforth Partnership.

Board members had agreed funding of £17,395.84 for this project from last year's Area Budget, however due to price increases following COVID, the costs had risen to £21,395.04.

Given the circumstances with the price increase, the need for this within the AAP area and the fact that there was enough in the pot to cover it from last year's underspend; Board members were asked if they were happy to agree to the additional funding.

The Board agreed in principle to approve this project, subject to a further Board members agreement via email as the meeting was not quorate.

Action: Following a comment made by a Board member, Jane agreed to get in touch with Tony Cutmore to put him in touch with Marion Storey from Cassop Community Centre in relation to this project.

Funding Update

- With this project agreed, we have £178,779.82 Area Budget, including Youth Fund and Welfare Reform remaining. In addition, we have £25,000 Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund, and £10,000 Healthy Relationships Funding.
- We also have £210,000 Towns and Villages Fund, with several projects in the pipeline; we have recently received an application for Cassop Play Park matched with Section 106 funding which is in the initial appraisal stage.
- We continue to work with colleagues in other departments to ensure projects, or elements of projects currently in the pipeline are not already being picked up, or that there are other pots of funding available.

5.2 Easter 2022 Fun and Food Video

A video on the Easter 2022 Fun and Food Scheme was shared with the meeting and was well received.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1enclpDsu0>

5.3 Fun and Food: Current Position

The Fun and Food project call out for October Half Term 2022 was launched on 18 July 2022. The deadline for completed applications and supporting documents is 12 noon on 7 September.

Board members had received the Fun and Food Annual Report for information via email. Jane highlighted that it had been recommended that a request had been made to receive funding for each half term holiday for the next 2 years. This had been agreed in principle, however, had not had final sign off. Board members will be notified of the outcome in due course.

5.4 Coxhoe Village Hall: Update on Projects

Stuart Dunn (Public representative) delivered a presentation on projects delivered within Coxhoe Village Hall and thanked the AAP for their help with grants and attracting match funding to facilitate the improvements. The

improvements and works had transformed the building and enabled many groups to re-open.

Stuart had invited Jane and Claire to the official opening of the lift along with the lady's group who were one of the groups in need of it.

6 Co-ordinators Report including Update from County Durham Partnership Forum

There is a vacancy for a public representative on the Board. Anybody who was interested was asked to email eastdurhamruralaap@durham.gov.uk, and an application pack would be sent out to them.

Board and Forum Members may be aware of the anti-social behaviour issues surrounding the vacant former Bluebell Meadow Primary School building. It had been classified as a non-designated heritage asset, this means that although it is not a formal listed building, it is of architectural interest and cannot be demolished. The issues had been escalated to a high level within the Council, and a multi-agency approach had been adopted to tackle them.

On the issue of anti-social behaviour, Jane highlighted that a group of people from the Trimdon Foundry area of the AAP had been in touch, one of which was in attendance as a Forum Member. They're wanting to do something positive to tackle this, and Jane had agreed to speak to her following this meeting during her Coordinators Surgery to identify how she could help. The lady was also offered support and advice from Jane and various Board Members during the meeting.

Quarterly monitoring returns are available to Board members upon request for any project whose lead had submitted them.

Jane continued to represent the AAPs and feedback to the other Co-ordinators on several groups such as the Public Health Suicide Prevention Alliance, Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Steering Group, and the Health and Wellbeing Board, which is a Committee of the Council, and is within the structure of the County Durham Partnership. Other Co-ordinators do the same on other groups around subjects relating to Children and Young Peoples Mental Health as an example.

In the absence of Angela Stobbart, Vice Chair and Partner and Business Representative (Believe Housing) on the Board, Jane Bellis gave a brief update from the County Durham Partnership Forum meeting held on 17 June. Board members will be updated further on the discussions had at the Forum on the review and levelling up at the next Board meeting.

7 Countywide Partner Issues:

7.1 Believe Housing Update

Board Members decided that the Believe Housing Update should be deferred until the next meeting due to Angela having to submit last minute apologies.

8 Neighbourhood Budget Projects

The following Neighbourhood Budget project; was shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Sedgefield Rugby Club Scoreboard

Councillor(s): Chris Lines / David Brown

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £2,000.00

The Board was happy for this project to go ahead.

9 Date and time of next board meeting

Tuesday 27 September 2022, 5.00 pm – venue to be arranged

Subsequent Meetings

- Tuesday 22 November 2022
- Wednesday 25 January 2023
- Wednesday 22 March 2023

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.

Everyone was invited to take a tour of Coxhoe Village Hall to see the new improvements to the building and speak to Jane in the Co-ordinators Surgery.