

Chester-le-Street & District Area Action Partnership (AAP) Board Meeting Minutes of Meeting held Monday 10th October 2022.

Present:

Councillors: Councillor Cllr Craig Martin, Councillor Alison Batey, Councillor Phil Heaviside, Councillor Emma Waldock, Councillor Tracie Smith,

Partner Organisations: Graeme Carr (Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service), Joanne Malki (Business Association Representative) and Insp Lee Morris (Durham Constabulary).

Public Representatives: Clare Todd, Khaled Malki, Mick Rodgers, Howell Davies Chris Hoy.

Officer Attendance: Pete Garrod (Principal Community Development Project Officer) Allyson Rose (Community Development Project Officer), Laura Sloan (Community Development Project Officer) and Lesley Lines (AAP Support Officer).

Apologies: Colin Stephenson (NHS). Janet Ford-Davidson (Public Representative), Suzanne Jobson (Karbon Homes), Aaron McCormack (Public Representative), Bill Moist (Durham County Councillor), Ian Heaviside (Public Representative), Elsie Forrester (Parish Council Representative), Vicky Murray (Durham County Council).

Public Attendance: Two members of the AAP Public Forum were present at the meeting.

Introductions, Apologies and Virtual Housekeeping Code of Conduct/Protocols

Clare Todd (Vice Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Housekeeping arrangements were noted. Apologies were also noted as above.

Agreement of minutes from the previous meeting held on 18th July 2022 & Matters Arising

The Chair went through the minutes page by page.

Matters Arising

Page 2 – Pete advised this invitation was ongoing.

Page 2 – Pete advised that Michael had completed the action regarding Leisure Transformation, further details would be circulated as appropriate.

Page 3 – Pete advised the Healthy Relationships Funding Criteria had been circulated.

The minutes were then agreed as a true record.

Drug and Alcohol Service Presentation

Katie Bewick (Public Health Practitioner) and Phil Ransome (Humankind) gave a presentation giving details of the work they do within the Chester-le-Street area.

Katie and Phil gave the Board the opportunity to ask questions. The following comments were noted:



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- What timeframe is a person in the system?
There is no average, too many factors.
- What communication do you have for Councillors. It would be useful to know who you are working with, within each of the Councillors areas?
Yes, work could be done to inform Councillors.
- What daily allowance does an alcoholic get?
No daily allowance.
- Do you work in partnership with Howden Treatment Centre?
Yes, we do work in partnership with them.
- Drop-in centres, what is the take up? Is there a discussion to be had about a permanent site?
This is something we are currently looking at.
- What can we do about rough sleepers?
We have a dedicated team. Information needs to be fed to the Team so they can work with these individuals.

The Chair thanked Katie and Phil for their presentation. The full presentation provided at the meeting is available on request.

Pete advised he would forward the presentation on to Board Members. **Action: Pete**

Board Champion Report

The report highlighted the visits undertaken by Board Champions and AAP Staff. Since July 2022, 14 projects of the 19 current projects funded via Chester-le-Street & District AAP have been visited.

- Back from the Edge
- Bullion Hall Caretakers
- Market Activity Week
- Fence Houses Covid Recovery
- Restoring Aspirations
- Moving on Durham
- First Steps
- Going for Gold
- Aspire – 50 & Beyond
- Activities for Older People
- Chester-le-Street PALS
- Kimblesworth & Nettlesworth Community Centre
- Knocking on Wood
- Pensioners against Loneliness

It was highlighted that the visits had proved successful with projects and Board Members alike.

Aspire Presentation

Jan Vincent and Janice Rokni from Aspire, attended the meeting to showcase the work they do with women. This included the Fifty & Beyond scheme which had been showcased as one of the Older Peoples Social Isolation funded projects.



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Janice highlighted that the project had 27 people taking part and that it was currently oversubscribed.

Following the presentation, the subsequent questions were asked:

A Board Member highlighted that her thoughts were that funding from the NHS should support the group.

A Board Member asked if Aspire worked with agencies offering financial support?

It was highlighted that Aspire worked with Credit Union NE.

A Board Member highlighted that some Syrian families within the area could use some extra support.

Aspire highlighted they would be happy to speak to these families.

The Chair thanked Jan & Janice for their presentation.

Project Appraisals

Waldridge Village Parking/Traffic Circulation (Town & Villages Programme)

A lengthy discussion took place with regards the project application. Board Members highlighted that they had issues with the overall process with regards the allocation of Towns and Villages funding. It was highlighted that the outline process of allocating Towns and Villages funding to one project per Electoral Ward had already been agreed by the Board.

The Chair asked Board Members to vote. **The project was agreed.**

Durham County Council (DCC) Camperdown Avenue Pocket Park Refurbishment – (Towns & Villages Programme)

A discussion took place. Board Members came to a consensus in favour of the project. **The project was agreed.**

Task & Finish Group Reports/Updates

Pete Garrod updated the Board on the progress and process of the work of the Task Groups.

Pete thanked Board Members for aligning themselves to Task Groups and for visiting projects as Board Champions.

Cost of Living Task Group – Next meeting – Tuesday 11th October, 5pm at Bullion Hall

Pete advised the group had already received a number of expressions of interest to apply for funding for Warm Space Venues.

Community Support Task Group – Next meeting - Wednesday 2nd November, 3pm via 'Teams'. It was noted that the call out for Older Peoples Social Isolation Fund would be closing 8th November. It was also noted that the group are looking to elect a Vice Chair.

Town & Villages Task Group – Next meeting – Monday 7th November, 6pm at Cornerstones. Pete advised the group were in the process of developing a action plan and working on developing a number of projects.

Neighbourhood Budget Report

Neighbourhood Budget Towns & Villages Allocations

Councillors Bill Moist and Paul Sexton – DCC Highways – Waldrige Village Parking/Traffic Circulation – Neighbourhood Budget Town & Village Fund

The aim of this project is to construct twenty parking bays on the open space land to the rear of Oak Street, Waldrige, to encourage off street parking. There is currently a major issue with cars blocking the highway. This project should alleviate parking issues and thus free up space, making it easier to access streets and safer for emergency vehicles to gain access to the surrounding streets.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £10,000 (each Cllr committing £5,000 of their NB Town & Villages Fund)

Board members agreed to support this project.

Supported

Neighbourhood Budget Small Grant Allocations

Councillor Beaty Bainbridge – DCC Clean & Green – Queens Jubilee Rose Garden and Ancillary Environmental Works

The aim of this project is to provide a Queens Jubilee Rose Garden with ancillary planting and environmental works. This will now become a remembrance garden due to the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £999 (£100 Queens Jubilee Fund and £899 NBSG)

Councillors Alison Batey, Danny Wood & Paul Pringle – Ouston Community Association – Books for October Half Term

The aim of this project is to purchase books for children taking part in their October Holiday Activity with Healthy Food Fun project. This will add an extra special element for all of the children attending.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £375 (each Councillor committing £125)

Councillors Beaty Bainbridge, Karen Fantarrow-Darby, Craig Martin, Bill Moist & Paul Sexton – Community Fitness Chester-le-Street – Fun & Fitness

The aim of this project is to provide match funding to accompany their Holiday Activity with Healthy Food fund project of the same name. Fitness sessions will be undertaken with information regarding nutrition, including create your own cookbook sessions.

Declaration of Interest: None

NBSG Allocation: £999 (each Councillor committing £199)

Neighbourhood Budget Allocations

Councillor Craig Martin – DCC Leisure – Camperdown Pocket Park Refurbishment

The aim of this project is to refurbish the existing pocket park and will include the installation of a new wooden trim trail and the replacement of existing floor games and flooring across the site.

Declaration of Interest: None

NB Allocation: £2,900

All the above small grants were supported by Board Members

Holiday Activities with Healthy Food (HAWHF) Funding Report

Ally highlighted that the Government/ Department for Education, Public Health, Fun & Food Programme covers the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays, but unfortunately the half-term holiday periods are not covered. Therefore, Durham County Council have taken the decision to support half-term provision during 2022.

The Chester-le-Street & District AAP, for the October half-term period, had a confirmed amount of £6,255 to allocate. Ally advised the HAWHF Task Group met on Monday 12th September to discuss the approaches to the fund. A total of eleven applications were received and assessed, totalling £17,162. This meant that there was a £10,907 overbid. Unfortunately, funding from the main Department for Education fund could not be used to support any of the overbid.

Board Members highlighted that they were disappointed by the amount of funding for the October Holidays.

Partner Updates

Police – Insp Lee Morris highlighted the Business Community were experiencing a spate of burglaries in the Town Centre. A number of suspects were under investigation.

Insp Morris noted that officers were working with Drug Dogs targeting pubs in the area. So far, eleven stop/ searches had taken place. Insp Morris added that the Police were working with Humankind on such initiatives.

Insp Morris highlighted that up to 20,000 people had attended the Market Activity Week. Insp Morris advised the event was getting more and more popular. Insp Morris highlighted he would arrange a meeting with Michael Wilkes to discuss the future of Market Activity Week.

Health – No report

Fire & Rescue Service - Graeme Carr noted that the Community Safety Officers had been dealing with vulnerable people within the area checking that smoke alarms were working and advising on general safety measures. Graeme highlighted that the Tactical Exercise at the Riverside had recently taken place, and that it was well attended by the public. Graeme highlighted the team were happy to speak to the public and encouraged people to do so as some people had asked if they were allowed to speak to the Fire Officers. Clare advised the exercise had been well received.

Karbon Homes – No report



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Business Sector – Joanne highlighted that the Christmas Event would be held on Saturday 26th November. It was noted that the winner of the schools colouring competition would switch on the lights.

Voluntary Sector – No report

AAP Co-ordinators Update

Future Board Meetings – Pete advised the Team were looking to move the meetings around the area, however this was proving problematic as the community centres were being well used and booked in advance. However, Pete advised that the next meeting had been booked at the Cricket Club, Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street.

Healthy Relationship Funding & OPSIF Funding – Pete advised this was open as a project call-out with a closing date of 8th November.

The Chair advised of the sad news that Mandy Hall (previous Board Member) had passed away suddenly. Cllr Batey added that the funeral would take place Monday 24th October, 2pm at Sunderland Crematorium.

Date and Time of the next meeting

Monday 14th November, Chester-le-Street Cricket Club, Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street.

The Car Park is accessible from Ropery Lane.