

Durham Area Action Partnership Minutes of the Board Meeting
Thursday 24 November 2022
(Virtual Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams)

Board Members

Attendance: Gary Tidbury, Cllr Bill Kellett, Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Jen Straughan-Hawley, Cllr Eric Mavin, Cllr Lesley Mavin, Sam Humble, Ian Moore, Dave Clarke, Joanne Thorns, Chris Tindale, Victoria Ashfield, Alice Wilkes, Tony Hockey, Cllr Richard Ormerod, Katie Binks (for Hannah Shepherd), Paul Howard

AAP Officer

Attendance: Craig Morgan – AAP Co-ordinator
Wendy Lavelle – Community Development Project Officer
Lyndsey Hunter – Community Development Project Officer
PJ Harding – Community Development Project Officer (Towns and Villages Team)
Marie Ainscough – AAP Support Officer

Apologies Board: Hannah Shepherd, Sarah Burns, Cllr Liz Brown, Maureen Boettcher, Rebecca Ashby

Forum Members: 9 forum members attended the meeting

1 [Welcome, Introductions and Apologies](#)

In the absence of Cllr Liz Brown, Ian Moore chaired the meeting. Everyone was welcomed to the Durham AAP Board Meeting.

Apologies for absence, [as above].

2 [Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26th October 2022. Agreement and Matters Arising](#)

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes for matters arising, actions and accuracy.

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Gordon Elliott who had attended the last board meeting commented positively; he liked the Chair's and Co-ordinator's updates and how people were interacting.

3 AAP Funding Update

A paper had been prepared setting out the funding for 2022/23 and included Towns and Villages Fund projects and Area Budget projects that the Board had approved.

Towns and Villages Fund

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Total approved: | £70,363 |
| Total being considered: | £29,549 |
| Balance to allocate: | £139,673* |

Area Budget

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Total approved: | £96,420 |
| Total being considered; | £6,385 |
| Balance to allocate: | £101,165* |

** [This figure may change depending on the outcome of the Board's decision on the application(s) being considered at this meeting – see item 4 below]*

4 Task and Finish Group Feedback and Project Approvals

Covid Recovery

- Newton Hall Dog Exercise Area

Amount applied for: £6,385

Durham County Council are applying for funding to install a fenced in dog exercising area on land at Newton Hall. The area would have disability access and allow people to let their dogs off the lead in an enclosed area. This project was previously considered by the Board in September, but more information was requested regarding consultation with the local community. This information had now been provided.

The meeting was opened for discussion and there were still reservations about this project. They were: the level of consultation; it was close to a play park; there was no parking; who was going to maintain it; there were biodiversity issues and the project had not been well thought out. There was also a concern about putting a bench in as this could potentially create an anti-social behaviour area where young people congregate, and a Durham County Council colleague asked if any consultation had been done with the Crime Prevention Officer on this. A queried was raised in relation to the area being lit up in any way.

Cllrs Eric and Lesley Mavin highlighted that they had been through this process in Belmont and the reason it had been pushed in their area was due to blind people who had guide dogs. Wendy Lavelle confirmed this was also the case with this application. Cllrs Mavin and Mavin did say that after consultation they had withdrawn the application for their area.

Although the information requested had been received and some Board members were in support, the project was rejected after a show of hands. The Board did agree that they would consider another application from the applicant if they came back in the future with a similar proposal however, all the issues would need to be answered before it was looked at again.

Improving Our Villages and City

- Project Proposal: Sherburn Hill Play area

Amount applied for: £17,000 (Towns and Villages), £10,000 (Area Budget)

Board members had had sight of the application along with questions and answers that were raised at the Improving Our Villages and City Task Group meeting held on 10 November 2022.

Durham County Council, working in partnership with Shadforth Parish Council would like to resurface and replace old play equipment at the playground at Sherburn Hill. As well as equipment for young children the area would include equipment for older children. Shadforth Parish Council has secured £10,000 from the Big Lottery towards this project.

The following questions were asked in relation to the application –

- Is there any Section 106 money that could be used as match funding?
This was not known.
- Have any comments been made in relation to community safety?
Dave Clarke to send Craig the contact details of the Liaison Officer.

The Board approved the project.

- Project Proposal: Sherburn Village Cemetery

Amount of funding applied for: £12,549.00

Board members had had sight of the application along with questions and answers that were raised at the Improving Our Villages and City Task Group meeting held on 10 November 2022.

Sherburn Parish Council would like to resurface the paths in the village cemetery they manage. The current surfacing is unsafe and as the site is well used for people visiting loved one's graves and for funerals the parish would like to make the necessary repairs.

Queries were raised in relation to who owned/was responsible for the land. If it was the church, then they would need a faculty to be able to carry out the work. It was noted that once the path was laid, it is only

guaranteed for 3 years. However the Parish Council had committed to ongoing maintenance.

The Board was happy to support this project, subject to the faculty issue being explored. (*this issue was followed up and as the land is owned by the parish council there were no CofE faculty issues to resolve*)

5 Neighbourhood Budgets

The following neighbourhood budget projects were shared with the Board -

Name of Scheme: Energy Efficiency

Councillor(s): Amanda Hopgood / Mamie Simmons / Mark Wilkes

Interest Declared: Yes, Mamie is on the Board of DCYP who meet at the centre

Amount: £3,000.00

Name of Scheme: Gents Toilet Refurbishment

Councillor(s): Bill Kellett

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £4,300.00

[Cllr Richard Ormerod declared an interest in this neighbourhood budget project]

Name of Scheme: Access to Shincliffe Park Feasibility Study

Councillor(s): David Stoker

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £2,500.00

Name of Scheme: Changing rooms/Facilities Feasibility Study

Councillor(s): Hall

Interest Declared: No

Amount: £1,000.00

The Board was happy to approve the projects and the interest as declared.

6 Chair and Coordinators Update

Craig was sad to announce that Trevor Atkinson from DASH (Durham Action on Single Housing) had sadly passed away. Condolences to Trevor's family, friends, and the staff at DASH.

Craig continues to work with the Community Resilience Group. The key message is that lessons are being learnt following Storm Arwen.

The AAP team continue to meet with groups and organisations. Craig, Lyndsey, and Cllr Bill Kellett had met with West Rainton Football Club helping them to look at facilities.

Craig continues to work with Lowes Barn Community Centre. The opening day had been pushed back to January.

7 Partner Updates

John Lowe – City of Durham Trust

Trust Autumn Talk - This will take place on Tuesday 6th December at 7 pm in room 201 of the Elvet Riverside building, New Elvet. Further information can be found on the website <https://durhamcity.org/2022/11/23/trust-autumn-talk/>

Katie Binks – Durham University

- Half Term – Celebrate Science and Community Fun Day
- SVO – receiving and promoting lots of requests for student volunteers. Please continue to direct enquiries to: community.engagement@durham.ac.uk
- Key dates – end of term will be on Friday 9th December, Community Response Team will be operational until 11th December (Sunday shift 8.30pm running until 4.30am Monday morning). Outside of term time please refer to the fabulous Parish Council produced 'Local Issues' leaflet.
- Student Community Wardens – we have almost finished this year's recruitment and have had some fantastic applicants. SCWs Kate and Becks are currently in post and working on projects to help with local issues like parking blocking bin lorry access and noise on specific busy foot traffic routes. They are also working on developing this year's social media campaigns. We welcome any ideas for initiatives or projects to: community.liaison@durham.ac.uk
- Community Response Team – the CRT have so far carried out 520+ patrols across their 4 patrol zones in and around the City and have made 76 visits to report locations (not all had anything going on). Their response times remain excellent with most incidents able to be attended within 10 minutes or less from the email from 101. The busiest times of the week by far are Wednesdays and over the weekend (Friday night to early Monday morning). This data is accurate to 15th November.
- Residents who want to beat the winter blues and enjoy the fantastic beauty of the changing seasons around our City are encouraged to get their copy of the Durham City Seven Hills Trail map, produced by the Parish Council, and give all or part of the 11km / 4 hour walk a go. Passing through various University locations the maps can now be picked up from the reception at Palatine Centre and Botanic Garden and we are proud to support this initiative. We have a number of publicly accessible facilities around our estate and refreshments for walkers at BG.
- Lastly what would a late November update be without a mention of the big event... Christmas! Residents are encouraged to pop up to Palace Green for the Christmas Festival. Taking place: Friday 2nd (10-5), Saturday 3rd (9-6) and Sunday 4th (10-4) it's £4 per person entry, U16s with an adult go free.

- Fancy something a bit different... Come to Clayport library for festive stories read in Italian, French, German, Spanish and Russian by MLAC (Modern Languages) students on Saturday 3 December (slots hourly 10am to 3pm).
- Looking for a Warm Space to go with friends, family or indeed by yourself... Palace Green Library, the Oriental Museum and Museum of Archaeology are all open to visitors, currently with free access for all. Why not visit our pages for more information on opening hours, exhibitions, accessibility and facilities <https://www.dur.ac.uk/attractions/>

Tony Hockey – Health Update

Tony was new to Durham AAP and asked what type of things the Board would like him to bring to the group? He is leading on the Covid Delivery Scheme and was enthusing students and the younger generation to take up on this.

He asked about Section 106 funding and how this operated. Craig agreed to get in touch with Tony after the meeting re this.

He highlighted that they were rolling out a project to help patients with serious mental health illnesses who don't visit their GP surgeries where staff can visit them at their homes to do regular health checks.

Ian Moore – Fire Update

There were no serious incidents to report on.

Paul Howard – Durham BID Update

- Christmas Light Switch on – this Sunday
- Restaurant Week starts in January
- Fire and Ice will return in 2023

Joanne Thorns – VCS Update

The VCS are struggling to cope with the huge uptake with foodbanks, debt advice/management and have increased costs themselves. They had been working on the warm hubs and 95 grants had gone out so far. There are also issues with an increase in homelessness, not necessarily on the streets but people being evicted by private landlords, they can't afford to pay their rent and there are lots of people accessing the voluntary sector for mental health support. They had also been supporting the Homes for Ukraine Scheme as many of them are coming to the end of their 6 month term and are being asked to leave.

Dave Clarke – Police Update

- Good results against off road motorcycles. Videos can be found on their Facebook page.

- There had been some river safety issues; one was a mental health case and a drunken young man decided to go swimming.
- There had been changes to the city team; 3 new PCSOs are currently being trained and there is a new Sergeant.
- Trying to push their new Twitter page. @durhamcitycops

Cllr Lucy Hovvells personally thanked Dave and his staff for the work they did in Ludworth.

Sam Humble – Believe Housing

- Housing demand continues to increase. They had received 5,500 applications to their housing register since April.
- They continue to work closely with Durham County Council in relation to refugees and this work is ongoing.
- They had financially contributed to the Wheels to Work project.
- They are experiencing huge volumes of no access to their properties in relation to compliance works.

8 Any other Business

On behalf of Parish Cllr Maureen Boettcher, Craig asked if any one was having problems with street lighting in their areas. Cllr Bill Kellett confirmed he had contacted Maureen regarding this issue.

9 Date and time of next meeting

13 December 2022, 6.00 pm, Durham Town Hall (*Now changed to an online meeting*)

Subsequent Meetings

- 26th January 2023, 2:00pm, Online
- 21st February 2023, 6:00pm, Durham Town Hall
- 29th March 2023, 2:00pm, Online

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting closed.