

## East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Board Meeting

25 January 2023

### Key Messages

The following are the key messages from the Board Meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2023:

- In the absence of Cllr Chris Varty, Allan Blakemore chaired the meeting. Everyone was welcomed to the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership Board Meeting.
- The Christmas Fun and Food video is now live on the Durham County Council webpage [Videos of previous fun and food activities - Durham County Council](#) and was played at the meeting.
- Angela Stobbart from Believe Housing shared information on the funding pots currently open and explained how to apply.
- Neighbourhood Insp Sarah Honeyman provided an update on local policing issues.
- We received four Fun and Food applications for February Half Term 2023, and these were approved by the Board.
  1. Bowburn Youth Project, Feb Half Term 2023 - £900.77
  2. Learning a New Way CIC, Wellbeing for all - £575.00
  3. STARS Community Learning CIC, Eat Well, Keep Fit - £2,362.00
  4. Trimdon Community College Association, TCCA February Half Term 2023 - £2,476.00
- Fun and Food for Easter 2023 was launched on Monday 23 January 2023. The closing date for completed applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 15 February 2023.
- The Board approved the following Area Budget applications –
  - ❖ Sedgefield Methodist Church, Sedgefield Methodist Church Hall – Boiler Replacement - £6,000
  - ❖ Fishburn Youth & Community Centre, Community Events Co-ordinator - £17,541
  - ❖ Fishburn Park Upgrade (DCC), Fishburn Stobart Terrace Play Space Refurbishment - £20,000 (Area Budget) and £20,000 (Towns and Villages Funding)
  - ❖ OASES, Forest Bathing Nature Therapy - £22,863
  - ❖ Rose Cottage Community Hub, The Wellbeing Project at Rose Cottage - £13,675
  - ❖ From Loft to Loved CIC, Craft Club - £1,523.26

There is no Area Budget remaining from this year's budget.

- The Board approved the following Towns and Villages Funding applications -
  - ❖ Fishburn Parish Council, Fishburn Cemetery Phase Four Improvements – £11,760
  - ❖ Sedgfield Town Council, Active Travel – Sedgfield – Bike Racks - £10,000
  - ❖ Trimdon Grange Community Association, A place to meet and for meetings – £11,161.39

There is £45,559.61 of the Towns and Villages Funding left to allocate.

- Review of Community Engagement: the report from the consultants will be progressing through the relevant process. Board members will be updated in due course.
- The Durham Savers project which had been withdrawn by the applicant left the EDRC AAP with £10,000 for a project in keeping with it. Following a conversation with colleagues from East Durham AAP, a proposal had been received for a Credit Union Business Development Officer, dedicated to working with East Durham Rural and East Durham communities, for a 2-year period on a full-time basis. This will be provided by NEFirst Credit Union, which is a co-operative financial services social enterprise dedicated to making people and neighbourhoods across the North-East better off by working together to provide ethical savings and fair loans. The cost for the post including overheads is £85,540, and the contribution from this AAP would be £18,818.80 based on 22% population.

Board members agreed to use the £10,000 for this project, with a view in principle to the remainder being funded from next year's pot.

- Several consultations had gone live, and everyone was asked to respond and/or share. They are:

[Review of Customer Access Points](#) We are reviewing our Customer Access Point (CAP) Services including looking at locations and services offered. We are also proposing to change the opening hours in the least used CAPs at Barnard Castle, Chester-le-Street, Consett and Stanley. The consultation is open until 5pm on 6 March 2023.

[Review of the Public Space Protection Order \(PSPO\) for dog ownership 2023](#) We are currently reviewing the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog ownership, which we have in place to deal with issues arising from irresponsible dog ownership. Despite improvements, following the PSPO's initial introduction in 2017, dog fouling and other dog related issues remain a key concern for communities across the county, so we are proposing to expand the PSPO to help. There are five countywide proposed additions to the PSPO and one location specific related to the 'slope' beach in Seaham. The consultation is open until 5pm on 13 March 2023.

[Review of traffic sensitive streets](#) We're currently reviewing our list of traffic sensitive streets following reforms to criteria made by The Department of Transport. Any roadworks on streets, or parts of streets, which are designated

as traffic sensitive will have a bigger impact, so anyone wanting to carry out works must give a greater amount of warning and apply for permission. We are talking to businesses, contractors and other people who carry out work that may affect the use of these roads and footpaths eg need to dig them up. We are also interested in hearing the views of local businesses, organisations and those involved in organising major events or attractions in the county. The consultation is open until 5pm on 24 February 2023.

[Development of a new play area at Hardwick Park](#) Investment is currently being made to improve Hardwick park's play facilities. We're asking residents and visitors to tell us what they would like to see in a new play area for children aged seven and above. People can visit the park from today (23 January), through the half term holiday, until 26 February, to see what might be available in the play area and fill in a survey, which is also available online.

- The following Neighbourhood Budget projects were shared with the Board –

Name of Scheme: Fishburn Stobart Terrace Play Space Refurbishment  
Councillor(s): Chris Lines / David Brown  
Interest Declared: No  
Amount: £10,000 (£5,000 each)

Name of Scheme: Craft Club  
Councillor(s): Chris Lines / David Brown  
Interest Declared: No  
Amount: £4,063 (£2,031 Cllr Brown & £2,023 Cllr Lines)

The Board was happy for these projects to go ahead.

- Date and time of next meeting – Wednesday 22 March 2023, 5.00 pm at Cassop Community Centre

*Subsequent Meetings*

- TBC

Please make every effort to attend and promote amongst your contacts.