

3 Towns Partnership Board Meeting
6pm on Thursday 9 February 2023 via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT:

Partner Organisations

Gordon Elliott
Jonathan Holmes
Liz Bradley
Graham Tomaszko
Helen Ward
Jill Matthewson
Ed Turner

Public Representatives

Allan Coleman
Mary Hall
Fiona Nicol
Robbie Rodiss
David Dixon

Elected Members

Councillor Richard Manchester, Durham County Council
Councillor Patricia Jopling, Durham County Council
Councillor Anne Reed, Durham County Council
Councillor Mike Currah, Durham County Council
Councillor Fraser Tinsley, Durham County Council

Officer Attendance:

Sandy Denney	AAP Coordinator
Nicola Woodgate	Community Development Project Officer
Joanne Ashworth	Towns and Villages Community Development Project Officer
Kelly Hughes	AAP Support Officer

Public Attendance:

2 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies: Cllr Margaret Elgie, Chris Ebdon, Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Jay Conlon

A1. Welcome and Introductions

MH opened the meeting and gave introductions.

A2. Agreement of minutes from the previous meeting 10 November 2022 – Matters Arising

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Actions from the last meeting were discussed. The Board were informed a defibrillator list has now been posted online from the 3 Towns Partnership and will be posted regularly to spread awareness. Both Community Safety projects have now been approved and issued offer letters. The 3 Towns

Partnership ran another Healthy Relationships call out. One application was received and will be discussed later in the meeting.

A3. Local Neighbourhood Issues

Neighbourhood Budget Applications and Neighbourhood Budget Report

NW gave an update on Neighbourhood Budget and directed the Board to the report in their packs and said one application had been circulated to the Board electronically since the last meeting.

NW said there were 3 applications to go through at the Meeting, one of which required approval due to declaration of interest.

1. Foundry Fields Compost Toilet

Councillor Anne Reed

NB £1,300; Match £0; Total £1,300

The Board were informed that Cllr Reed has a declaration of interest on the project and as such it is for comment and approval.

The Board approved the project.

2. Bladeside DARS

Councillor Anne Reed

NB £3,095.29; Match £500; Total £3,595.29

The Board were informed that the project was for information and comment only.

No comments were made

3. Nordostinos Stage 1, Jack Drum Arts

Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley

NB £2,202; Match £4,868; Total £7,070

The Board were informed that the project was for information and comment **only**.

A query was raised regarding where the brass players for the project would be recruited from. **HW** responded Durham Youth services will be consulted and the aim is to use local players, however, it will depend on the availability of Brass players.

A4. Priorities and Action Plans

Action Plan and Project Updates

SD updated the Board and informed them on:

Towns and Villages

The Towns and Villages task group have met and were presented with a safety/traffic proposal which has been circulated with the Board papers, however, the team have been informed today that there is a potential for match funding for the Towns and Villages project from the Police and Crime Commissioner. There is a possibility of up to £20,000 to go towards the project. Without the match funding, there will be £42,700 remaining in the Towns and Villages fund, If the match funding is agreed at £20,000, there will be £62,700 remaining.

Discussions took place around the project. Concerns were raised regarding the costing of the police hardstanding area, and it being supplied by DCC. **NW** responded that the police hardstanding is not tarmac, it is a different type of material that blends into the environment, making it more

aesthetically pleasing and less obvious. The dropped curbs were discussed, and the Board were informed that this is a 3 Towns wide project and areas for these will be agreed at a later date.

BOARD AGREED TO APPROVE THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES PROJECT

Area Budget

The Board were informed that all projects for the call out in November, including community safety, have now been approved and offer letters given. There is currently £20,424 of area budget left. This needs to be allocated by 31st March 2023. There is also £42,700 Towns and Villages (potentially £62,700 if match funding is obtained) however, this doesn't need to be allocated until March 2024. The Board were given several options for the Area Budget funding:

Option 1 – A mini call out for the remaining funding. However, due to time constraints this will be a very tight turnaround and if the funding is not all allocated in the callout, it will be lost.

Option 2 – As the levelling up bid for the 3 Towns was unsuccessful, the funding could be used towards some of the components of that bid instead. However, issues due to time constraints again, but a plan B could be put in place for if this falls through.

Option 3 – To create a Community Events fund. The priority survey showed respondents would like to see more events happening within the 3 Towns, therefore a fund could be made to address these. The fund would be managed by the 3 Towns Partnership team and would have 2 levels of funding. The first for grants over £5,000, the second for grants from £1,000- £5,000, this is capped at a maximum of £10,000. There is also an opportunity to combine the remaining Towns and Villages fund with this funding.

A query was raised regarding combining the pots, if combined would this extend the deadline for Area Budget to be used by March 2024 instead of March 2023? **SD** responded this was not an option, Area Budget must be to be allocated by 31st March 2023.

A suggestion was made for an events fund for the King's coronation. The Board were informed that there is a proposal for Councillors to be given £300 each for coronation activities, there is also the National Lottery fund that can be applied for.

The Board expressed disappointment that the 5 levelling up bids were not approved however it would be useful to look at elements that the 3 Towns Partnership could take forward. . **SD** responded that the AAP team are still trying to obtain the document and will hopefully have this for the next meeting.

ACTION – AAP TO OBTAIN LEVELLING UP DOCUMENT

Board agreed to Option 2 with Option 3 as a plan B if required

ACTION – AAP TO ACTION OPTION 2 AND REPORT BACK AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IN MARCH.

Healthy Relationships

The Board were informed following the last Board meeting, the team readvertised the Healthy Relationships funding call out. As a result, there had been one application for £2,800 submitted. This has not been appraised yet. There is currently £7,200 remaining in the fund, if this isn't used it will be lost. A proposal was made to look at the application with the Easter Fun and Food panel.

BOARD AGREED TO LOOK AT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS APPLICATION WITH FUN AND FOOD PANEL.

A query was raised as to if there were any other healthy relationship projects in the County that could be extended to 3 Towns. **SD** responded that there are currently only 2 applications from the fund at the funding team. A suggestion was made to contact local organisations; however, the Board were informed this is not possible. The AAP cannot directly approach anyone about funding as it is deemed as commissioning, this is why it is widely advertised. **SD** suggested approaching Advice in County Durham and asking to help promote the fund as well as discussing with the funding team if the criteria can be amended slightly.

ACTION – AAP TO CONTACT FUNDING POT LEAD AND DETERMINE IF THERE'S ANY FLEXIBILITY IN THE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS FUNDING CRITERIA.

Children and Young People's Small Grants

The Board were informed that a small Youth Panel has been established. The panel met in January for the first time. It consisted of 2 members, another member was ill and could not attend. Since this meeting, another young person has also come forward to join the panel. As a result of the meeting a callout was created, the team have 3 applications to date, these will be considered at the next meeting on 16 February 2023. The outcome of this meeting will be reported back in the March Board meeting.

Fun and Food

There have been 2 rounds of funding since the last Board meeting, with funding allocations being agreed for Christmas 2022 and February Half Term 2023. There is currently a callout for Easter 2023 with the deadline next week.

The AAP were allocated £44,988 to spend over the 3 holiday periods in 2022 (Easter, Summer and Christmas). £37,093 was allocated leaving £7,895 remaining, this however does not roll forward and will be returned to the Department for Education. The allocation for this year £46,772 for Easter, Summer and Christmas 2023. Half term funding is not included with DfE funding.

Half term funding is from Durham County Council's Poverty Action Steering Group. The 3 Towns have £19,557 for the 4 half terms from February half term 2023 to February half term 2024.

The opportunity is available for Board members to take part in monitoring visits of Fun and Food projects, if any member would like to visit a project, please contact the team.

King's Coronation

GE informed the Board that there has been a report sent to DCC today on what funding is available for the King's Coronation nationally. More guidance will be given in due course and a suggestion to add to the March Board agenda.

Future Board Timings

A suggestion was made to consider changing the timing of the Board meeting as other AAPs have done so since the pandemic. Issues have arisen with Board meetings over running at Crook Civic Centre. The building closes at 7pm and facilities staff finish at 7.30pm, however, sometimes it is past 8.30pm before the Board leave the building. The Board were asked to consider a 5pm/5.30pm start time. **SD** suggested creating a doodle poll with options of different times which can be circulated to receive a collective response.

An issue was raised regarding times of the meeting for those who work and a request for more information on the times that other AAPs meet. A suggestion was made to include forum members who have attended in the past for their opinion.

ACTION – AAP TO CREATE A POLL AND GATHER INFORMATION ON THE BOARD’S VIEWS FOR CHANGING THE MEETING START TIMES AND TO GATHER INFORMATION FROM OTHER AAP’S ON THEIR START TIMES.

Public Representatives

The Board were informed that **RR** and **AC** public representative terms are coming to an end. Both members are entitled to apply again, **AC** has confirmed that he will be standing down, however **RR** does intend to reapply. The positions are currently being advertised and the Board were asked to pass this information on to those who may be interested in applying.

A5. Countywide Partners

Local Policing Update

ET thanked the Board for supporting the funding of the community safety projects. It was confirmed these will commence as soon as possible and that they will make a significant difference to the 3 Towns.

The police are still continuing to tackle ASB, however, it is under control. There is a small minority of young people involved in ASB and police take action where they can. PACT meetings still going ahead in the local areas and are open for anyone to attend.

The Board were informed that crime statistics can be viewed on <https://www.police.uk>

Current statistics shows that last year there were approx. 8,000 calls to the 3 Towns in the year this has decreased to approximately 7,000. 1/5 of these calls were to report a crime. Overall crime is down by 5% in the 3 Towns.

Community Engagement Review

GE gave an update on the Community Engagement review. The report was submitted to DCC at the end of January. Staff are to be briefed on the findings 10 February 2023, along with Chairs of AAP Boards next week. This is an independent report and recommendations aren't final, there will be consultations on which recommendations are taken forward during March and April. The Board were informed that they would receive an email next week with copied of the report.

BOP Fest

The Board were informed that BOP Fest have been shortlisted for DCC Environmental awards, which was funded this financial year from Area Budget.

A6. Date and time of next meeting

6pm on Thursday 9 March 2023 at Crook Civic Centre